

Repair of roads: State to seek ₹2,900cr central aid

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Patna: Although Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announced immediate central aid of Rs 500 crore for flood-hit Bihar, the state road construction department (RCD) has decided to submit a memorandum to the Union ministry of road, transport and highways (MoRTH) seeking funds to the tune of Rs 2,900 crore for repair and restoration of 512km of roads da-

DELUGE EFFECT

maged by the recent floods in north Bihar.

The RCD has proposed to construct Bailey bridges – temporary bridges constructed mostly in military operations – where roads have been completely destroyed.

RCD principal secretary Amrit Lal Meena said a delegation of senior state government officials will visit New Delhi on September 4 to meet senior MoRTH officials.

“We had initially estimated an expenditure of Rs 1,700 crore for repair of roads da-

As per data available with RCD, maximum damage to state highways and major district roads has been reported in Purnia, Katihar, Araria, Kishanganj, East Champaran and West Champaran districts

maged by floods, but it was later revised to Rs 2,900 crore. A memorandum in this regard would be submitted to the Centre soon,” Meena added.

As per data available with RCD, maximum damage to state highways and major district roads has been reported in Purnia, Katihar, Araria, Kishanganj, East Champaran and West Champaran districts. Sources said around 200 state highways and major district roads have been damaged.

Besides, National Highways (NHs) have also been damaged at several places, while approach roads to several

NHs have been away washed at six places in the state. Sources said the funds being sought for restoration of roads do not take into account the damages to NHs as it falls under the purview of the Centre.

RCD minister Nand Kishor Yadav said Bailey bridges would be constructed at six places in the state. Besides, the state government has targeted to complete all repair and restoration work on the roads by March next year.

Roads apart, the state government would also submit a detailed memorandum to the Centre for funds required for relief and restoration measures in the flood-affected districts in the state. A decision in this regard was taken following the aerial survey of flood-affected areas of Purnia, Katihar and Kishanganj by PM Modi on August 26.

A central team is expected to visit Bihar for physical verification of the damages. The Centre would finally sanction more funds for flood relief measures based on the report submitted by the central team.