

Mumbai rains: Rise in pothole complaints, Western Express Highway worst hit

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MUMBAI: With heavy rains lashing Mumbai over the past few days, complaints of potholes on roads have surfaced again this year. Motorists have said that the Western Express Highway has been one of the worst hit. According to civic data, complaints received by the BMC in the period between June 1 and 30 has been 93, of which around 49 have been attended to.

The BMC allows ward-level officers to attend to potholes, as well as central agency staff who have been making use of rapid gardening concrete and reactive asphalt techniques for filling up craters. BMC said that by making use of reactive asphalt the road can be opened up to traffic in merely two hours.

The same was used for filling up of potholes in the Khar subway area. In reactive asphalt technology, potholes can be fixed during a wet spell, while in rapid hardening concrete technology, the road can be opened up for traffic in six hours after filling up the potholes.

Additional municipal commissioner P Velrasu said, "All efforts are being made to address complaints of potholes lodged with the BMC and there have been ward-level officers also nominated to ensure that no complaint is unattended." Advocate Godfrey Pimenta said that on Western Express highway near the domestic airport there are potholes which need to be repaired. To address the issue of potholes on Mumbai roads, chief minister Eknath Shinde in July last year announced the concretisation of all road. However, Milind Mhaske, CEO of NGO

Praja Foundation, said that there is no guarantee that concrete roads would ensure that there are no potholes.

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