

Work on Metro rail to begin in 3 mths

First Depot To Come Up At Danapur

Archí Rani

Patna: Patna Metro Rail Corporation (PMRC) has targeted to begin work on the much-awaited metro rail project in three months.

The first metro rail depot will be developed at Danapur. A senior PMRC official said the bidding process for acquisition of land for the metro rail project has already begun.

Sanjay Dayal, special secretary in the urban development and housing department, told this newspaper on Tuesday that the project progress report (PPR) for Patna metro rail has been submitted to the state finance department. "We are awaiting approval of the PPR and release of funds by the government to start construction work. Five officials, including the project director and general manager (works), have already joined PMRC. We will also hire consultants for

₹50cr allocated for project: SuMo

Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi, who also holds the finance portfolio, on Tuesday said Rs 50 crore was allocated for Patna metro rail project in the ongoing fiscal (2019-20). He said the Appropriation Bill for the same was approved by the state assembly on Tuesday. **TNN**

technical and legal assistance," Dayal added.

He said, "The objective is to improve mobility in the city for all socio-economic groups and genders. We have even updated metro locations on Google maps via geocoding."

Vijaysheel Kashyap, general manager (works), PMRC, said officials recently visited places to finalise locations for the two metro depots. "The first depot will be constructed at Danapur and another near the proposed Interstate Bus Terminal (ISBT) near Aitwarpur on Patna-Gaya road. We have also identified a government land for building PMRC headquarters," Kas-

hyap added.

The foundation for Patna metro rail project was laid by PM Narendra Modi through remote control from Mokama on February 17. It will take five years to complete the project in three phases with an estimated expenditure of Rs 13,365.77 crore. The state government will bear the cost of land acquisition for the project.

PMRC sources said work would be first taken up on the 16.94km east-west corridor that will connect Danapur with Mithapur bus stand via Saguna Mor, Bailey Road and Patna Junction. The 14.45km north-south corridor, on the other hand, will connect Patna Junction with the proposed bus stand at Bairiya via Ashok Rajpath, Gandhi Maidan and Rajendra Nagar terminal. The east-west corridor will mostly be underground (11.20km). The 9.9km stretch of the north-south corridor will also be underground.

"The metro rail project is vital. The problems we face on a daily basis due to heavy traffic needs to stop," said Shruti Prasad, a resident of Bailey Road.