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Title: Request the government to expedite the work at National Highway-79 to prevent the loss of unfortunate lives in road accidents.

SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON (KALLAKURICHI): Sir, I wish to bring to the knowledge of hon. Minister for Highways and Road Development about the very unfortunate condition of the National Highway connecting Ulundurpettai and Salem. The very formation of the road is incomplete. As a result, there have been 712 deaths in the last seven years. These numbers increased in hundreds from 2017 onwards. The accident casualty data is mindboggling and tragic.

The Highway project was started in July, 2008 and was completed in September, 2013 but the work was thoroughly incomplete. Eight bypass roads at congested towns like Aathoor, Vazhapadi, Udaiyarpatti, Chinna Salem, Kallakurichi, Thiaga Durgam, Elavarasanoor and Ulundurpettai were left as two-way roads. This was protested by the people. Even then, no action had been initiated to widen the road to thorough four ways right from Ulundurpettai to Salem.

Salem-Ulundurpettai corridor has many educational institutions, mostly higher secondary schools, catering to these backward districts.

Hence, I would request that the Government should urgently speed up the work at NH 79 road connecting Salem and Ulundurpettai which is lying unfinished for several years now and prevent the loss of unfortunate lives in such accidents.

