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Title: Need to include Thirupunithura bypass under Bharatmala scheme of the Government of India.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Respected Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to bring to the notice of the House as well as the Government, a matter of urgent public importance, connected with three Parliamentary Constituencies in Kerala.

Sir, National Highway 85, that is, from Kochi-Dhanushkodi passes through the Parliamentary Constituencies of Kottayam, Ernakulum and Chalakudy. The stretch of this National Highway from Mattakuzhy to Thrippunithura has regular traffic jams every day for hours. Hundreds of vehicles are held up for hours, and thousands of passengers are affected. This part of this road is very narrow and has several curves. There are hundreds of residential and commercial buildings. There is no scope for widening the existing road. Hence, a proposal for a Bye-Pass of a total length of 8.23 kilometres is pending for more than 35 years, that is, more than three decades. Land acquisition is partially complete. A proposal for an estimated cost of Rs. 552 crore was submitted to the Government of India, but it has not yet been sanctioned.

Sir, NH-85 is included in the Bharatmala Scheme of the Government of India but the Thrippunithura Bye-Pass which is a Bye-Pass to NH-85 is not included in it.

Therefore, through the medium of this august House, I request the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India to also

include Thrippunithura Bye-Pass under the Bharatmala Scheme of the Government for the redressal of the grievances of thousands of people at the earliest. Thank you very much.