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Title: Need to expedite construction of four laned National Highway No. 79 between Ulundurpetta and Salem.

SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON (KALLAKURICHI): Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to mention about a terrible accident that has occurred in my Kallakurichi Constituency today. Nine people have died and several others have been grievously injured. This is not an unusual happening there. There have been 712 deaths in the last seven years.

The cause of this tragedy is due to incomplete four-laned National Highway No. 79 between Ulundurpetta and Salem. This highway project was started in July, 2008 and was completed in September, 2013. But the work was thoroughly incomplete on eight bye-pass roads at congested towns like Aathoor, Vazhapadi, Udaiyarpatti, Chinna Salem, Kallakurichi, Thiaga Durgam, Elavarasanoor and Ulundurpetta. These roads were left as two laned roads. This was protested by the people, but even then no action had been initiated to widen the road to make it four lanes right from Ulundurpetta to Salem.

While the proposal and estimates were for a four lane between Ulundurpetta and Salem, the contractors gained undue money through this intermittent two laned roads. The heavy traffic points where the road shrinks into two ways become the cause of these terrible accidents and loss of valuable lives.

Sir, at this moment of great tragedy, I want to press for an early completion of the four laned National Highway lying incomplete for

more than ten years and to prevent the loss of unfortunate lives in such accidents.

21.00 hrs