

**Re: Construction of a bridge to connect Chatham Island and Bamboo Flat Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ? laid**

**SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA (ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS):** The Chatham-Bamboo Flat Bridge-Andaman and Nicobar Islands involves the construction of a 1.6km bridge worth Rs. 2,000 Crore to connect Chatham Island and Bamboo Flat Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which belong to Port Blair group of islands. At present, people need to travel about 48 kms to reach from one point to other through land. The construction of a bridge will bring the two regions closer. The task for implementing it has been given to National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. The ground works for the proposed Chatham-Bamboo Flat Bridge was on halt during the corona pandemic which affected the progress of DPR preparation. The delay in the construction of the Chatham-Bamboo flat Bridge are causing great concern among the residents of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Draft DPR has been forwarded to HQ, NHIDCL on 25.02.2023, which is under examination for obtaining sanction from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. I request the Government to intervene and pass necessary orders to speed up the construction of this bridge which will bring a sea change for enabling convenient vehicular traffic movement from a major part of the South Andaman region to Port Blair City and reduce the travel time for the commuters from several villages.