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Title: Need to sanction proposals for connecting minor ports with nearest national Highway in Andhra Pradesh and also allocate funds for the purpose- Laid.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister, the nation is making rapid strides in modernizing and strengthening the road network. A policy to develop road connectivity to 12 Major Ports from the nearest National Highways has been evolved. It will be appreciated to extend the policy to the Minor Ports as well.

Andhra Pradesh have started developing four minor ports at Krishnapatnam, Kakinada, Gangavaram and Vodarevu to handle cargo of 40/50 million tonnes each. For healthy development of these four ports, road connectivity is essential. As the projects are poised to take off, I request through you to the Government of India to kindly allocate adequate funds on a priority basis for taking up the road connectivity to the above minor ports of Andhra Pradesh from the nearest NH-5.

For Kakinada Port, 60 KM road connectivity was developed to NH-5 at Rs. 60 crores expenditure (ADB Loan) from 1993-95. This road takes care of 50% of the cargo to and from Kakinada Port. Regarding Gangavaram Port, four lane road connectivity is to be given from NH-5 which is estimated to cost about Rs. 29.76 crores. Regarding Krishnapatnam Port, four lane road connectivity from Venkatachalam to Kishnapatnam Port is to be given from NH-5, which may cost about Rs. 30 crores. Regarding Vodarevu port also a four lane road is necessary from Chirala which may cost about Rs. 25 crores.

An early sanction to the above proposals will be in the overall interest of economic development in the country.