

**Title:** Expressed concern over the problems in the development of National highway 47 and urged upon the Government to adopt some criteria for granting funds for the States on population basis.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding the problems facing the developments of Karakuttam and Chiwla, that is, Trivandrum National Highway 47 in my constituency. Construction of Karakuttam and Chiwla bye-pass having a distance of 42 kms. parallel to National Highway 47 is an ambitious scheme implemented with the aim of overall development of whole of the Southern State of Kerala.

NH 47, which connects the Kerala State to Tamil Nadu is one of the roads in which heavy traffic is recorded. NH is the main entry for the traffic between Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The construction of the bye-pass was started in 1980. The construction of the bye-pass from Karakuttam to Valzamuttam, having a distance of 20 kms., is already over. Even though, further construction of the bye-pass from Valzamuttam to Kovalam has already started, the construction is now stopped for unknown reasons. By stopping this work, even the existing road also cannot be used. This causes untold miseries and hardship to the people of my constituency. The entire traffic has to be diverted to NH 47, which causes heavy traffic jam between Parasalam and Trivandrum city every day.

It is pertinent to note that even the preliminary work to start the land acquisition of the bye-pass from Kovalam to Inchiwada is also over. The proposal for Rs.12 crore in this regard is pending before the Ministry. I would request the Government that clearance may be given for this without delay. I would like to bring to the notice of the house that funds allotted for the State of Kerala is very low compared to other States. So, I would urge upon the Government that a criteria be adopted for granting funds for the States on population basis.

I would request the hon. Minister to personally look into the matter and immediate steps may be taken in this regard.