

Title: Need to allocate funds for construction of strategic bridges in Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (BARAMULLA): Madam Chairperson, the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been reeling under disturbances for the last twelve years. The era of death and destruction, while taking the toll on human lives, has heavily damaged the infrastructure, schools, colleges, Government buildings, roads and especially bridges. My constituency that comprises two districts of Baramulla and Kupwara bore the brunt of this destruction immensely.

I want to draw your attention to a very important bridge on the Srinagar-Baramulla national highway on the Sukhnag *nallah* near Hartreth Singhpora that connects the Line of Control with Srinagar. For the past many years, such a strategic link is being maintained with just a makeshift bridge causing problems for civilian as well as military traffic. I request the Government, through you, that a durable system be put in place of this temporary structure.

Also, another bridge that connects two halves of Sopore town, a major trade centre of North Kashmir is craving for attention. This important bridge was burnt a few years ago, but nothing has been done practically so far to restore this important lifeline. This bridge serves as an immediate alternative to the national highway link.

There are certain other important links and bridges on different *nallahs* in the border district of Kupwara like Wodapore, Maqam and Chawkibal etc. that demand immediate construction and replacement. Keeping in view the security scenario and strategic location of my constituency, these bridges and roads should be repaired on a priority basis.

I request the Central Government to immediately allocate funds and ask both the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Ministry of Defence to take immediate action in this regard.