

**Title:** Need to take suitable measures for proper maintenance of National Highways in the country, particularly in Bihar.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the appalling condition of the highways, both national and the State of Bihar, which on the one hand bring untold miseries to our people and on the other negate the so-called liberalization and development.

The recent rise in diesel price is a direct consequence of the neglect of the road section. It may be fashionable or even sound economics not to subsidize consumption any longer. However, it must not be forgotten that India is a country moving from a socialist economy to a free market economy and adequate care must be taken to lessen the burden on the common man. Diesel consumption in India for every ten kilometer of goods movement is the highest in the world. This only means that if road conditions had been good, a much lesser number of trucks consuming a much lesser amount of diesel would have been able to move the same amount of goods much safer and quicker.

The Government should pay more attention to proper maintenance of National Highways. The hold up of traffic at check post is something which encourages corruption. This method must be made to stop. All impediments in the implementation of highway development should be removed. Quality of good roads is an essential part and maintenance is very important. Close monitoring and highest standard of work needs to be done. Goods movement through heavy vehicles benefits the common man, essentials must reach them fast.

I would request the Minister of Surface Transport, since he belongs to the State of Bihar, to take note of the appalling conditions of the National Highway-I and take adequate measures to remedy the situation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have to go out for a short while. If the House agrees, Shri Yerrannaidu may occupy the Chair.