

Title: Need for proper maintenance of National Highway No.65 in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (KARUR): Nagapattinam-Gudalur-Mysore road covers eight districts in Tamil Nadu, namely, Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Thanjaur, Trichirappalli, Karur, Periyar Erode, Coimbatore and Nilgiris Hill station with 400 kilometres of distance, beyond that it goes to Mysore. These districts have great economic potential due to the rich agricultural production, sugar belt, industry and tourism.

The road was declared as National Highway No.65 four years ago. The condition of the road is very poor. There are indiscriminate encroachments alongside the road. There are many curves and narrow bridges on both the sides, particularly, in Thanjaur, Trichy and Karur areas.

According to the authorities concerned, adequate funds are not available for the development of road and removal of encroachments.

I urge upon the Government to remove the encroachments and take necessary steps to widen it as per norms of National Highway and release funds for proper maintenance. Similarly, a parallel road between Namakkal and Trichirappalli *via* Musiri-Thottiyam is still under the State Highways. It is most urgent that this road may be declared as National Highway.