

**Title:** Need for proper maintenance of roads and strict adherence to traffic rules in order to reduce the number of road accidents.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): I would like to draw the attention of the House to a tragic matter which has become a daily occurrence. When we see the morning newspaper daily we come across reporting of a number of road accidents in which entire families are lost.

In Kerala it has become a daily occurrence. We lose all the members of a family in a road accident everyday, especially in NH 47 and NH 17. These roads are not properly maintained. There is no traffic regulation or traffic laws being implemented properly. The net result is that many very highly placed persons are becoming victims of these accidents. Many Ministers are involved. An ex-Minister is lying in the hospital unconscious. We are losing so many precious lives everyday.

I would request the Central Government to take immediate action for maintaining the roads properly, National Highways in particular. Otherwise we cannot go through the newspapers in the morning. Dozens of people are losing their lives for no fault of theirs for the simple reason that they travel in a car or in some other vehicle on a road and meet with accidents. We see ex-MLAs, Ministers, and other high dignitaries involved in these accidents. This is a very serious issue and I request the Central Government to see that roads are properly maintained and traffic rules are strictly adhered to. Otherwise, there is no end of the matter. The hon. Minister is sitting on our left side today!

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: On this issue people should keep left!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I think he is with the Left. The Left is also very much afraid of him!

I request him to take a serious view of the matter and see to it that whatever is possible is done, so that the number of accidents is reduced.