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Title: Need to expedite East Coast Road Project between Cuddalore and Tuticorin.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Sir, Ramanathapuram district from which my major Parliamentary constituents lie, happens to be not only the most backward in every respect but also chronically drought prone, despite its age old cultural and historical heritage and background. It needs all round development.

In this connect, (i) the second phase of East Coast Road Project from Cuddalore to Tuticorin *via* Tiruvadana, Thondi, Ramanathapuram, kilakkarai, Kadaladi, which is in snail pace now has to be expedited; (ii) the proposal bypass road of Ramanthapuram connecting the National Highway may be speeded up; (iii) the State highways from Trichy to Rameswaram *via* Pudukottai, Tirumayam, Thondi, etc. may be upgraded as National Highway so that pilgrims to Rameswaram will have direct access from Trichy apart from the direct access through Madurai.

I request the Government of India to make extra efforts to complete the East Coast Road Project by sanctioning the entire allocation at one stroke and fixing time for completion, besides taking up the other proposals mentioned therein.