

Title:Need for early construction of Dharmadam bridge on National highway no. 17 in Badagara Parliamentary Constituency, Kerala.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): The construction of Tellicherry-Mahe bypass on NH-17 including the construction of Dharmadam and Anjarakandy bridges was included in the annual plan for 1999-2000 of the Ministry of Surface Transport. But now the Ministry has informed the State Government that as per the present policy of the Government, the project of the bypass and over-bridges are to be taken up under BOT schemes. The Ministry of Surface Transport has suggested that the State PWD examine the viability of this project under BOT, entrusting it with a consultancy service. The entire area of this project falls within my Badagara Parliamentary Constituency. In this connection, I may submit that the present Dharmadam Bridge which is more than 60 years old is in a dilapidated condition. The matter has already been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Surface Transport. As the bridge is on the NH, connecting two important cities, Kannur and Tellicherry, the pressure of traffic especially heavy vehicles is very high. Taking into account the very dangerous condition of the bridge, the National Highway wing of Kerala State PWD has submitted a separate project for the construction of this bridge with a rough cost-estimate of Rs.5.8 lakh. I request the hon. Minister of Surface Transport to examine this and take urgent necessary steps for the construction of Dharmadam Bridge.