

Title: Need for early clearance of the proposal for construction of Dharmadam bridge on proposed Telichery-Mahe bypass in Kerala-Laid.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : The Government of Kerala has submitted a project for the construction of Tellicherry-Mahe Bypass on NH-17, at an estimated cost of Rs. 3710 lakhs. This project includes the construction of two bridges namely Dharmadam and Anjarakandy Bridges. But on the basis of feasibility Study Report regarding the construction of the Project in BOT Scheme (Build, Operate and Transfer), the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has kept this project in abeyance. In this connection, I submitted that the Dharmadam Bridge on the NH-17 is more than 60 years old and is in a very dilapidated and dangerous condition. As the bridge is on the NH, the pressure of traffic, especially from heavy vehicle is very high. After the Kadalundy Rail Bridge Tragedy, Dharmadam Bridge has become a nightmare for the people who travel through this bridge. Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to take up the construction of Dharmadam bridge as a separate project and execute the work at the earliest.