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Title: Need to consider the alternative proposals of the Government of West Bengal for construction of East-West Corridor of the National Highway running through northern part of Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal- Laid.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI) : According to the present planning, Government is to construct a new East-West Corridor of the National Highway, running through the mountainous region of Northern part of Jalpaiguri District in West Bengal along the Metre Gauge Railway Line parallel with a number of Railway bridge over the mountainous rivers and jhoras.

It is apprehended that a large number of forestlands and tea gardens will be adversely affected, entailing a blow to the State's economy too. More alarming is that the alignment will run through the flood-prone areas of Dooars and Terrai regions without having any remedial measure to weed out dislocations and disruption in both the road and rail transportation, due to water-logging as experienced for a decade. It is reality that cost of this project will be much more higher than the estimated cost.

In consideration of the problems to be faced, an alternative proposal was sent to Government highlighting the starting point of the proposed road, advantages for transportation of agricultural products, minimization in the number of bridges and culverts, avoidance to damage to the Forest Lands and Teas Gardens and the facilities of the bilateral trade agreement between India and Bangladesh.

I request the Government to look into the matter.