

Title : Regarding alleged use of sub-standard material in construction of road between Hubli and Harihar in Karnataka under the Golden Quadrilateral project.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (DHARWAD SOUTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways, through you, to a matter relating to laying of a road stretch of 110 kms. between Hubli and Harihar on National Highway No. 4 in Karnataka, as part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project, for which work is going on in my constituency. It has come to my knowledge that instead of the prescribed and standard soil (moram) which is usually used for laying of road in National Highways, the contractor has been using soil from the tanks throwing safety measures in the wind. This has resulted in bad patches in most of the places. During the monsoon season water gets clogged and the bad soil used by the contractor gives way with the result innumerable potholes can be seen in the entire stretch of 110 kms. Initially the deadline for completion of this stretch of the road was September, 2003. This was repeatedly extended upto 2004 and 2005 and again now they have extended upto 2006. There is a *prima facie* case that the officials of the National Highways Authority of India have not only colluded with the contractor in not completing the laying of the road in time but also getting repeated extensions. The delay in completion of the work has resulted in a number of accidents. Therefore, I earnestly request the hon. Minister, through you, to complete the laying of this road stretch immediately.

Secondly, there is a Bus Stand at Shiggaon town in my constituency. A flyover is coming up near the Bus Stand. There is no Cattle Pass or Under Bridge crossing through that road near the Bus Stand. The people of Shiggaon town have been demanding construction of an Under Bridge and Cattle Pass for a long time. They have resorted to strikes also for this purpose. In this connection, I have written to the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to supply copies of the tender agreement and the design. They have not been supplied to me. So, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, to supply the same immediately to me and also request that the work should be executed immediately.