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Title : Need to give adequate compensation to persons whose lands have been acquired under the provisions of the National Highways Act, 1988 in Kerala for widening of NH-47.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (MUKUNDAPURAM): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity given to me.

For the first time since it came into effect, the provisions of the National Highways Act, 1988 are being enforced in Kerala to acquire land for widening of NH-47. However, the compensation offered to the affected persons is very meagre which is not at all sufficient to meet the demands of livelihood. Till the formation of the National Highway Authority, land for widening of highways was acquired under the provisions of the Central Land Acquisition Act, 1894. When land is acquired under the National Highways Act, the affected land-owners are not given adequate compensation as provided under the Central Land Acquisition Act.

Under the CLA Act, the land owners are entitled to get solatium at the rate of 30 per cent of the market value, which is denied under the Highways Act. Again, under the CLA Act, additional 12 per cent of the land value is given to the land owners either from the date of notification to the date of declaration of the Award or till the actual acquisition of the land. Under the Highways Act, even this compensation is not given. Under the CLA Act, the land owners are free to approach the courts to get additional or better cost for their land. Under the Highways Act, even this natural right is denied. The only grievance redressal forum is arbitration.

I would, therefore, request that the land owners, whose land is acquired for widening of the NH-47 should be given fair and adequate compensation as per the Central Land Acquisition Act. I would also request the Government to relax the existing rules and allow the affected persons to construct their buildings in the remaining portion of the land left after acquisition, allow six months' time to hand over the building or house, disburse the full amount of compensation without levying taxes, make one-time payment of the entire amount of the compensation and take urgent action to rehabilitate the displaced persons/families at suitable places.