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Title: Regarding Golden Quadrilateral Project on NH-4 linking Harihar, Haveri and Hubli in Karnataka.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (DHARWAD SOUTH): Yes, Sir.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important subject. I had also spoken in this regard about two years back in this very august House. It is regarding Centre's interference on the 4-Lane Road Project on NH-4 between 282-340 kilometres and 340-404 kilometres, between Harihar- Haveri, and Haveri-Hubli. The project on this road was taken up by the Government of India under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme. As per time schedule, it was to be completed in September, 2003. But later on, it was extended up to the year 2006.

But till now, there is no trace of its completion in the near future as the contractor, the ESSAR Company has terminated the work on this stretch on NH-4 in Karnataka. But there is an urgent need to speed up the work of this 4-Lane road on NH-4.

On this stretch, a number of accidents have been taking place all the time, resulting in loss of lives and property; and no safety measures have been followed while laying this part of the road earlier. There are many deviations, curves and potholes on this stretch of NH-4. It is causing a great amount of inconvenience to the people. Thus, throwing the safety measures in the wind, it has resulted in bad patches in most of the places. Water gets clogged and roads become bad due to heavy rains and innumerable potholes can be seen in the entire stretch.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to take up the task of completing this project on NH-4 on war footing.

Sir, I may also bring it to your kind notice that the hon. Deputy-Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council has met with an accident just on this road and his spinal chord has been broken.

MR. SPEAKER: So sorry.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : He is now under treatment. It is all because of this bad road that he had an accident.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry about the injury to him.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : Sir, this stretch has not been taken care of. I would, once again, urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps to complete this road.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry about his accident. I hope, he will recover soon.