

Title: Need to construct a road bridge over river Kollidam at Anaikarai on N.H. 45 in Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI O.S. MANIAN (MAYLADUTHURAI): I bring to the notice of the Government the urgent need to construct a new road bridge across Kollidam river at Anaikarai on NH 45 in Tamil Nadu. This road is the life-line of passenger and vehicular traffic of Tamil Nadu. Kollidam bridge also serves as reservoir for irrigation and drinking purposes. The existing bridge is maintained by National Highway Authority of India. This 150 year old bridge has been closed for traffic except for two wheelers because of cracks in the bridge. Now, vehicles have to travel 100 kms more through circuitous route via Mayiladuthurai and Chidambaram to reach Chennai. The traffic is also moving at a very slow pace on this route due to congestion. It is estimated that an amount of Rs. 128 crores is required for constructing a new bridge at Anaikarai. I appeal to the Government to sanction this amount immediately. Meanwhile, a causeway should be constructed near the bridge for free flow of traffic.

* Treated as laid on the Table.