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Title: Need to ensure expeditious completion of four laning of Indapur-Zarap stretch in the Mumbai-Goa section of the National Highway No. 17.

SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Mumbai to Goa section of NH 17 is prone to accidents. Sharp twists and turns on the Highway have resulted in several accidents. Over a six-year span, there have been over 6200 accidents with 1500 people dying and nearly 2500 injured. Widening of this entire highway by making it four lane is of paramount importance. However, there has been a tardy progress in the four-laning of the Highway between Mumbai and Goa. The work relating to four-laning of the 84 Km. long Panvel-Indapur Section of NH-17 in Maharashtra has started. However, the project is running behind the schedule. But, the work in the vital stretch between Indapur and Zarap has not commenced, though the Deputy General Manager of National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, invited tender for four-laning of Indapur - Zarap section from 84 km to 454 km of NH-17 in Maharashtra in the year 2010 to be executed under BOT. Since this is a vital section providing connectivity to the visiting tourists to the three important districts of Maharashtra Konkan such as Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg, the four laning of this section assumes extra importance. The widening of the NH-17 is bound to create positive spin-off effect on connectivity, traffic movement, development of tourism and business in this region. Three years have already been elapsed. But, the project is yet to make any significant headway. This has caused considerable frustration among the people of the region, especially in the context of frequent road accidents on NH-17.

I urge the Government to ensure expeditious completion of the four laning of Indapur-Zarap stretch in the Mumbai-Goa section.