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Title: Need to construct an alternative bridge over river Teesta to replace the Coronation Bridge at Sevoke near Siliguri on NH-31C in West Bengal.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI): I want to raise the matter regarding proposal of construction of a second alternative bridge Over river Teesta near Coronation Bridge at Sevoke near Siliguri on NH 31C submitted to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways by the Executive Engineer, NH-IX Division, Siliguri dated 24.08.09.

The existing bridge was constructed as far back as 1938 and functioned as a lifeline between Siliguri and the rest of North India both from Civil and Military point of View. It has become an imperative point to note that the construction of new alternative bridge is urgently needed in view of natural, political and strategic point of view in the present turmoil created by the separatist and terrorist activities in this strategic parts of India.

The bridge was constructed in the period of British-India with a view to connect Eastern Dooar & Western Dooar as well as Assam. At that time there were no bridges over Teesta to connect North-East India vis-à-vis Dooars. Now the bridge is in dilapidated condition and not fit for regular traffic. It should be kept as Heritage Bridge.

I, therefore, urge upon you to explore its feasibility and take necessary action so that the construction of second alternative bridge may be taken up at an early date.