

Title: Need to expedite the completion of single span bridge across river Chambal near Kota, Rajasthan.

SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH (KOTA): On 24th December 2009, a portion of the single span bridge under construction over the Chambal River, very near the city of Kota, collapsed. The bridge was being constructed jointly by Hyundai Engineering and Gamon India. Forty eight workers died in the accident and many were injured. This is a critical bridge – this is a part of the by-pass of the city of Kota of the National Highway 76 of the East West Corridor, which is a part of phase-2 of the National Highway Development Project. The construction of this is being managed and implemented by the National Highway Authority of India. Currently, in the absence of this by-pass, all the traffic on this important East West Corridor National Highway passes right through the heart of the city of Kota is using the existing bridge. Over the years, this has resulted in many vehicle accidents in the city as well as instances of citizens of Kota being run over by heavy vehicles and other traffic. In addition, certain main thoroughfares of the city get unnecessarily clogged. Completion of the bridge will put an end to all these problems.

Several steps have been taken by the Government. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has constituted an expert committee to look into the causes of the bridge collapse. Another administrative committee has been constituted under the Divisional Commissioner of Kota. Senior Managers in charge of the construction work on the bridge have also been taken into judicial custody. However, till date, no finding has been made public.

Naturally after the collapse, all work on the bridge was stopped. Until the cause of the collapse is determined, further progress is not possible, as one does not want the same problem or technical fault to recur. More than four months have elapsed since the bridge collapse. Therefore, it is necessary that the expert committee submits its findings as soon as possible for the bridge construction work to re-start and progress. The completion of the bridge is very important for the citizens of Kota.