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Title: Regarding collection of toll tax by NHAI for using four lane road between Purna More and Silliguri in West Bengal.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT): In BENGALI

Hon. Chairman Sir, the people of the districts of Dinajpur and Siliguri wholly depend upon bus transport. Government buses, private buses and mini buses ply on these routes in large numbers. A part of the road on which the vehicles ply is state highway and the other part is National Highway No. 31 with four lanes. Meanwhile the National Highway Authority of India has flashed a notification in the newspaper according to which it has started collecting toll tax w.e.f. 19.08.2010 for the use of that four lane highway. The rate at which toll is collected is also extremely high. On one hand, the prices of petrol, diesel and automobile parts have increased exponentially; cost of maintenance has also risen steeply and on the other hand, such high rate of toll tax has been imposed on the transport vehicles. This has become a big problem for everybody. The bus owners will shift the excess burden on the passengers. Thus through you I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Transport and urge upon him to immediately call a meeting of the district authority, National Highway Authority, bus owners' and the workers' unions. A tripartite agreement must be signed by all parties so that the toll tax can be brought down and the concerned persons get some respite. The tax should be slashed down by about fifty per cent to help the commuters and the ordinary people of the district. With these words, I thank you for allowing me to raise this urgent matter of public importance in this House and conclude my speech.

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.