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Title: Need to expedite approval for four laning of stretch of N.H. 17 between Poladpur and Patradevi in Maharashtra.

SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): I would draw the attention of the Minister of Road Transport and Highways on the problems faced by citizens regarding National Highway No. 17 running through the State of Maharashtra.

The NH-17 which passes through three districts of Maharashtra in Konkan region and has a length of 578 Kms is the main artery and backbone of economy of Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurga districts. Presently this road is of only two lanes. Expansion of NH-17 to four lanes has been sanctioned for the stretch between Panvel and Poladpur. The remaining part of NH-17 runs from Poladpur to Patradevi through Maharashtra. Expansion to four lanes from Poladpur to Patradevi is still under consideration.

During the year 2009-2010, 2357 accidents were reported on this NH running through Maharashtra and 517 passengers were reported dead and 1,778 were seriously injured. The stretch between Poladpur and Patradevi is notorious for its blind spots and very narrow stretches. Urgent attention is needed to maintain the National Highway in perfect order to avert accidents.

I request the Hon'ble Minister to look into the matter immediately and expedite approval for expansion of the stretch between Poladpur and Patradevi of NH-17 at the earliest.