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Title: Need to accord approval to the proposal of Government of Kerala to widen the Wayanad pass and undertake construction of alternate roads from Wayanad to rest of Kerala.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (WAYANAD): Wayanad pass is a British engineered pass, located in the vital Calicut-Bangaluru NH 212, and its structural rigidity is at stake owing to impact of repeated natural calamities, including a massive landslide in the year 2009, severely affecting its structural integrity. Several State agencies, including Kerala State Remote Sensing Agency, and Centre for Water Resources and management have studied in depth about the Wayanad pass and found that it is becoming weak. Due to the night ban on traffic in the NH 212, numerous large haulers and heavy duty container carriers weighing more than 36,000 kilos are plying through the Wayanad pass, multiplying the chances of the pass collapsing, which if happens, would cut off the people of Wayanad from the Kerala. There are several alternate routes proposed by the Government of Kerala with funds allocated for the purpose, but the clearance from Union Ministry of Environment and Forests is yet to be granted, thereby making the realization of proposed alternate roads difficult to achieve. Therefore, I would request the Government to hasten the procedures to widen the Wayanad pass and interlock the turns in the hairpin bends. I would also urge the Government to mitigate all administrative delays in granting necessary sanctions and expedite all essential clearances from the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for the existing alternate roads to be operational as early as possible to facilitate the people of Wayanad not be disconnected from the rest of Kerala.