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Title: Need to repair the stretch of NH 53 at Panchgram along the river Barak in Assam.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (KARIMGANJ): NH 53 is of great commercial importance as it connects Guwahati with Tripura and Mizoram by going through Hailakandi and Cachar districts. But a portion of this highway at Panchgram that runs along the river Barak gets damaged regularly due to erosion resulting in complete suspension of trade and commerce.

Since 2004, I have been making every effort by letters and personal meetings with Ministers and BRO officials for a permanent solution, which has not yet been achieved. Last year, this road collapsed completely. Again, following the same exercise, I emphasized to the concerned authorities the need for taking experts' advice for a permanent solution as has been done on NH 44 at Sriugouri by using river bed protection technology. As usual, due to the hue and cry, the road was repaired which has already given in. The ensuing rainy season will further worsen its condition.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government that considering the public interest immediate action be taken to develop the relevant portion of NH 53 into an all weather road.