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Title: Need to upgrade Coimbatore by-pass road.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Sir, I come from Coimbatore. Coimbatore is an industry-oriented city. Moreover, this city is an educational hub and a medical tourism destination next to Chennai. Therefore, the role of Highways Department in this region needs no emphasis.

Coimbatore is well connected by NH-47, NH-67 and NH-209. NH-47 is the most important stretch connecting western and northern Tamil Nadu with Kerala. A stretch of 100 kilometres from Salem-Chengappalli has been developed under Phase II as 4-lane road and the balance stretch from Chengappalli to Walayar from Kilometre 100/00 to kilometre 182/400 has been awarded recently for 6/4-laning to IVRCL Infrastructure and Projects Ltd. This project stretch also includes the Coimbatore bypass on the eastern side.

The Coimbatore bypass was originally constructed under B.O.T. scheme as per the agreement dated 03.10.1997 and came into existence with effect from 19.01.2000, with the L & T Infrastructure having a construction period of up to 30 years, that is, 02.10.2029. When the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued a termination notice of contract to this L&T Infrastructure in November, 2009, the L&T is reported to have approached the hon. High Court of New Delhi. To my knowledge, the Government of India is reported to have not filed any counter affidavit till this day, opposing the writ petition, with the result that the Coimbatore bypass lane for a length of 27 kilometres could not be taken up by the IVRCL Infrastructure and Projects Ltd.

The hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways has been apprised of the urgency of the matter for several times in the past nine months, but no positive reply has emerged. The hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways may please take up the matter seriously at least now and arrange to file a counter affidavit and get the writ petition disposed of as quickly as possible so as to find some solution in getting the Coimbatore bypass road upgraded with 4-lane capacity. Thank you.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): Sir, I also associate with him on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.