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Title: Need to sanction a special package for construction of a parallel bridge over river Zuari in Goa.

SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (SOUTH GOA): There is a bridge called Zuari bridge over river Zuari connecting South and North Goa. This was built in 1983. It is quite in a bad shape and every six months it is closed for half a day for repair and maintenance. It is the lifeline of Goan economy. Goa is a very important tourist destination. By any chance, as I said, God forbid, if anything goes wrong with the bridge and the bridge collapses, Goan economy will be shattered. This I brought to the notice of the Government, maybe a year or a year and a half back. At that time, the NH-14 from Kanakula to Panvel was tendered and this bridge was included in that tender. The alignment was not fixed by the State Government due to unforeseen circumstances, the work order which was issued, was cancelled after that. Now, this important ridge connecting South and North Goa is the Zuari bridge. By any chance, if something goes wrong, I tell you, Sir, Goa will be shattered; the whole Goan economy will be shattered.

This year, we are celebrating 50 years of Goan celebrations. So many colleagues in this House took part in the discussion. Then, this issue was raised on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

So, Sir, I would urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to give a package in the name of this Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Forget about NH-14, to build this bridge because if this existing bridge, which is old, collapses as I said, I reiterate, the whole Goan economy will be shattered. Before this thing happen, to pose faith in the public, in the citizens of Goa, immediately I would request the Prime Minister to give us a package to build this bridge over river Zuari.