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Title: Need to construct road over-bridges and underpasses on National Highways No. 7, 47, 68 in Salem city, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): In Salem City, Tamil Nadu, three National Highways viz NH-7, NH-47 and NH-68 criss-cross and pass through the interior part of the city causing potential threat to the vehicle users resulting in road accidents. It has been found that there are more road accidents in some important places. NHAI itself has identified some accident prone zones on the three National Highways at Mallur, Sivathapuram cross, Thoppur on NH-7, Vembadithalam, near Kakkapalayam, Ariyanoor on NH-47, Erumapalayam on NH-68, due to absence of provision of road over bridge and underpass. In addition to that on NH-7 at Salem Junction rountana and Thiruvagoundanoor rountana, over bridges are also needed. To avoid accidents at these spots, it is essential that, road over bridges or subways have to be constructed depending on the feasibility. Though there is a proposal to construct a ring road around the city, it may take longer time to fructify. The authorities have accepted in principle the need for such facilities on the NH-7, NH-47 and NH-68. But execution of these works is getting delayed. Therefore, the need of the hour for the NHAI is to rise to the occasion and expedite the execution of works in the above places without further loss of time.