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Title: Need to expedite the construction of bridge on Buckingham canal on State Highway No. 58 in Sadurangapattinam in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN (KANCHEEPURAM): Sadras or Sadurangapattinam in Chengalpattu is about 35 miles south of Chennai City and is connected with Buckingham Canal. Kalpakkam City and Sadurangapattinam are adjacent to each other. The State highway No. 58 is connecting Mamallapuram and Tirukalukunram via Sadurangapattinam. This is one of the major Highways. In Sadurangapattinam, Buckingham Canal is crossing the said main highway. The existing bridge is more than 100 years old and requires repairs and renovation. NABARD under its Rural Road Scheme is financing a New Bridge after demolishing the old bridge at a cost of Rs.4.95 Crores. The proposed new bridge is having a length of 56.4 meter, 12 meter wide and 8 meter height. The Project was approved during the year 2010 and contract has been awarded.

Taking into consideration movement of boats under the bridge, the bridge was designed to have 32 meter gap between the pillars and 5 meter depth to have trouble free water transportation. The tentative cut off date to complete the project was fixed November, 2011 at that time. It was reported that the project had been delayed due to substandard materials, faulty design of the pillars. The project monitoring authorities have not taken any steps to supervise the work due to which the construction of new bridge has been delayed till date. Due to the delay in the construction of bridge, the traffic has been diverted which resulted in traffic jam and a lot of inconvenience to general public in my Constituency.

NABARD should take immediate steps to finance the project without any further delay since the project is behind schedule for more than 16 months approximately.