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Title: Need to construct Salem-Cochi-Kanyakumari National Highway (NH-47) in Tiruppur Parliamentary constituency.

SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue concerning my Tiruppur Parliamentary Constituency. I thank our hon. Chief Minister, Amma, who has given me an opportunity to speak in this House.

Madam, this is my maiden speech. The Salem-Cochi-Kanyakumari Road (NH-47) is an important National Highway in Tamil Nadu. In Tiruppur Parliamentary Constituency – the above road is from kilometer 59/0-102/0 that is from Bhavani (Lakshmi Nagar) to Chengapalli – the work of four-laning of highway had been taken up by NHAI and toll operation was commenced from August, 2009. The total length of this stretch is 43 kilometers but, on this stretch, service road has not been provided for 18 kilometers. There are 22 major and 15 minor junctions on this stretch. Out of 22 major junctions, only eight junctions had been provided with road over bridges and 14 major junctions had been left without any type of bridges. Even for the eight major bridges constructed, except for one at Lakshmi Nagar and another at Chengapalli, all other bridges have not been provided with approach roads on either side.

Hence the motorists have to circumnavigate through the old bypass roads and reach the intersecting major roads. The infrastructure for the project is totally incomplete on field. Due to incomplete nature of the project, more than 300 cases had been filed in police stations during the last three years. There were a lot of minor accidents which occurred in this stretch but those were not accounted for. These accidents threw a lot of families into pathetic situation and those who lost their family head in these accidents were left out unsupported like orphans.

As a remedial measure to the frequent fatal accidents, the left out portion of service roads, approach roads to bridges and over bridges at the above vulnerable junctions have to be constructed.

During the formation of four-laning, a lot of trees had been cut down. To minimize pollution, a large number of trees have to be planted along sides of the road.

So, I would request the Union Government, through this August House, to take an early action for avoiding road accidents.