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Title: Regarding construction of rural roads in Kerala under PMGSY.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the discrimination meted out by the Central Government in allocating funds to the State of Kerala under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

Under PMGSY the State of Kerala has been sanctioned 1430 road works covering a road length of 3,358 kilometres whereas under Part-I of PMGSY more than 5.5 lakh kilometres of road has been constructed all over India. Allocation to the State Government includes 450 road works sanctioned in the year 2014 under Phase-8. The State has so far completed 876 road works covering 980 kilometres of road length. Kerala is having wide road network which needs to be converted into all weather roads to improve the rural connectivity. Now the Central Government has prepared the indicative annual allocation for 2015-16 whereby Kerala has been allocated only Rs 51 crore whereas the previous year the allocation was Rs 152 crore. In States like Bihar, the annual allocation in 2014-15 was only Rs 1050 crore whereas this year it is Rs 2,281 crore. The total estimated cost for 415 road works sanctioned under Phase-8 is Rs. 1,582 crore and the amount released only Rs 813 crore. An amount of Rs 6,714 crore is due to the States under Phase-8. Now the State has invited tenders for entire works and the works are in progress. Due to lower allocation, the State will be finding it difficult to pay the contractors and this will jeopardize the construction and development of rural road works in Kerala. Hence I request the immediate interference of the Government and to do the needful as early as possible.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju and Shri P. Karunakaran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Joice George.