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Title: Need to expedite the process for upgradation of Vijaywada Ranchi corridor (NH No. 326).

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, there is a very important roadway, especially the Vijayawada-Ranchi corridor which is a very prospective roadway, which is essential for the development of the border districts of Odisha, especially the Southern and Western districts of Odisha. We have been repeatedly asking the Central Government, especially the Road Transport and Highways Ministry for the upgradation of that national highway. The Vijayawada-Ranchi corridor bisects Odisha. As this road runs through the left-wing extremism affected areas, its improvement will not only boost the socio-economic conditions of tribal areas but also will help in effective administration.

While reviewing the progress of the work under this corridor, it was observed that one tender was received in March, 2015 and two tenders were received in the first week of June, 2015 pertaining to the national highway 326, namely, Tandikona to Amlabhata, Koraput Laxmipur-Rayagada, Jeypore-Kota-Malkangiri covering a total length of 186.75 kilometres are yet to be finalized, as a result, the work in this stretch is badly delayed. As all these roads are on the Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi region and are extremely important for the completion of the corridor, I would request, through you, Madam, the Government's intervention for an early finalization of the tenders so that work can commence without further delay.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey is allowed to associate himself with the concern expressed by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab in 'Zero Hour' today.