

an>

Title: Need to reduce toll tax on National Highway No. 46 between Walajahpet and Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): Madam Speaker, the National Highways Authority of India (Fee Collection and Determination) Rules prescribe that the distance between two toll booths must at least be 60 kilometres and the fee collected should be in accordance with the norms laid down in the rules.

It appears that the L&T Krishnagiri-Walajahpet Toll Way Limited which is operating two toll booths on National Highway 45 is situated within a distance of 50 kilometres and is collecting exorbitant fee from the road users. The Tamil Nadu Transport Corporation buses which ply across the road are particularly charged much more. Earlier, the monthly passes that were issued at Rs.8,230 per month for any number of crossings, have been limited to just fifty, which is used by the Transport Corporation Department in a matter of four days. For the entire month, it costs around Rs.82,000 and odd. Therefore, it is placing a very huge financial strain on the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation.

I would request the Ministry concerned to look into the matter because there appears to be a collusion or connivance between the NHAI and the concessionaire who is operating the toll booths.