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title: Need to repair and maintain the roads and highways in Barak Valley of Assam.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Madam Speaker, I seek your permission to speak from this seat.

HON. SPEAKER: All right.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: Madam Speaker, today I would like to raise a very burning issue that is affecting my district, Cachar and the Barak Valley region which are in Assam. Cachar and Barak Valley, as a region, has national highways that connect us to Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya. To go from Silchar to my own Capital, I have to go through Meghalaya. In this light, I have seen that the Government of India has set up the National Highway Infrastructure Development Company.

I would request the Government of India to first of all make it functional because till today there are no engineers there. Secondly, if an office can be set up in any of the districts in Cachar, I believe all these States will gain. Just to give an example, today the Highway from Silchar *via* Karimganj to Churaibari which takes us to Agartala is in very bad condition. I have heard that the Government of India is planning to rectify it. I would request them to expedite that.

Today, the Highway to Guwahati is in a dismal condition till Malidore. I would request that the Gamon Bridge be rebuilt. Most importantly, it is our dream to see that Silchar is connected to Saurashtra, which was sanctioned during Vajpayee's time. Later it was brought to Silchar Constituency, which is my Constituency during the UPA Government.

Environmental clearances are a big issue with this project. Very briefly I would like to say that there are 24 hectares within Borail Wild Life Sanctuary; 59 hectares of unclassed State forests; and 12 hectares in Dima Hasao District. I appreciate that the Supreme Court has a say. So, it is not entirely upon the Government of India to do it. जितना जल्दी हम ये फॉरेस्ट और वाइल्ड लाइफ विलयर्स कर सकते हैं, मैं मानती हूँ कि यह प्रोजेक्ट हमारे लिए बहुत लाभदायक रहेगा। मैं गड़करी जी से मिली थी, and he has assured me that he will help us with the alternative highway, which will go through Harangjao and Turuk through Guwahati.

I would request the Government, on behalf of the people of Barak Valley, to grant that highway. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Radheyshyam Biswas, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Rajeev Satav are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Kumari Sushmita Dev.