

Title:Need to include Kerala in the proposed National Express Highway Project covering the route from Kanyakumari to Trivandrum-Chennai.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I may be permitted to bring to the notice of this House the very stepmotherly treatment given to the State of Kerala.

Kerala is one of the few States which earns a major chunk of the foreign exchange for this country. But when it comes to the question of any development projects, the State of Kerala is pushed to the background and is discriminated. Here is the latest example of this discriminatory treatment by the Central Government which has no justification.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you cannot read during the Zero Hour. Please understand it.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : From the proposed National Express Highway Project, Kerala has been dropped out. The original proposal consisted of four sectors, namely, (i) Kanyakumari-Trivandrum-Chennai-Mumbai via Bangalore; (ii) Mumbai-Ahamedabad-Delhi-Lucknow-Calcutta; (iii) Chennai-Calcutta; and (iv) Delhi-Pathankot.

But now, instead of Kanyakumari-Trivandrum-Chennai sector, it has been changed to Tuticorin-Calcutta via Chennai. For the entire 13,000 km. long Express National Highway Project, the Government have decided to give subsidy of Rs. 3 crore per km. The scheme is proposed to be executed by private companies on BOT basis and global tenders have already been invited. But at the last moment, the Kerala sector has been dropped out.

I urge upon the Government, especially the Minister of Surface Transport, to look into this matter and include the route from Kanyakumari to Trivandrum-Chennai.

I also take this opportunity to express a sense of protest on behalf of the people of Kerala against this Government.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALAKKAD): Sir, I would like to say something.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you also supporting the same matter?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : It is the same matter.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Do you want to speak?

>**SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :** Yes, on the same matter. ... (Interruptions) The concerned Minister is here. I fully support the matter. ... (Interruptions) I want a clarification from the Government. ... (Interruptions) Kerala has been excluded from the whole project. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): There should be an Half-an-hour Discussion on this. ... (Interruptions) There is no criterion. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have brought it to the notice of the Government. Please understand it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): No. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the issue. Please understand it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : It is an important issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Zero Hour. Please understand it. Mr. Minister, would you like to have an Half-an-hour Discussion?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Sir, the Chief Minister of Bihar has made derogatory remarks against the Governor of Bihar. ... (Interruptions) She should apologise. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to respond?

>DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: Sir, the Prime Minister has already announced that the Express Highway will be from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and from Saurashtra to Silchar. Apart from that, we have taken some other areas. We have identified the areas where Kerala is included. We have also included Cochin and Chennai for the Express Highway. ... (Interruptions) We have taken that into consideration. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Now, Prof. Rita Verma.

... (Interruptions)