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Title: Regarding stoppage of construction work on National Highway 60 (old NH50).

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (SHIRUR): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your kind attention to the complete stoppage of work on the National Highway NH-60 from Khed to Sinnar. This important project has been lying in limbo for more than one year.

The ground breaking ceremony to start the pending work of six bypasses on this Khed-Sinnar Highway, namely, Khed, Manchar, Kalamb, Narayangaon and Alephata was held in Pune exactly one year ago in the presence of the hon. Road and Transport Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkari. During his speech, the hon. Minister had promised that the work of these bypasses would positively start by October, 2017 and will be completed by August, 2018. But the sad state of affairs is such that more than a year later, the site has not yet seen any activity.

The connecting roads have been constructed but due to non-completion of these six bypasses, the traffic problems still persist. The construction of this project began on 12th February, 2014 and the toll collection commenced in February, 2017 since 75 per cent of the project length was completed. In spite of the toll being collected, the concessionaire has not yet completed the bypasses at these six locations.

The concessionaire IL&FS make excuses that the non-acquisition of land and resistance from the farmers are obstructing their work. But in

reality, no such opposition exists for this project. The NHAI officials also have shown no urgency whatsoever in implementing this project. The construction of these roads is extremely essential as the said area is facing severe problem of traffic congestion and pollution. The distance of just 50 kilometres from Khed to Alephata takes more than five hours to travel, and many times, ambulances rushing to the hospitals with critically ill patients are holed up in the traffic for very long.

While the hon. Minister himself had publicly given the assurance that this work would be completed before August, 2018, but no work has yet started.

Madam, as a Member of Parliament and being the representative of that area, I have to take the blame from the public for non-completion of work. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister. No NHAI officials or the Government officials are taking any interest in completing the work. So, it is the responsibility of the Ministry to fine or penalise the concessionaire and make him to complete the work. It is a very important matter because six accidents have already taken place; and six people have died in the ambulances.

So, it needs to be taken up immediately. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Dr. Kulmani Samal are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao.