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Title: Regarding construction of service road between Palpannai and Thuvakodi on N.H. 67 in Tamil Nadu.

\*SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. In my Tiruchirappalli Parliamentary Constituency, on the National Highway No 67 between Tiruchy and Thanjavur section especially the two lane road for a stretch of 14.49 km between Old Palpannai and Thuvakkudi which is very much in the urban limit, was converted into four lane road in a hurried manner during the regime of the then DMK government in the year 2008 without having consultations with the stake holders and without building over bridges and road underpasses, keeping in view the traffic congestion. Work relating to road construction was completed on this stretch of 14.45 kms and user charges were collected without even laying the service roads. The then Leader of Opposition in the State of Tamil Nadu, Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma, showing strong opposition to the then DMK Government, had staged a demonstration on this issue, on behalf of AIADMK party. When AIADMK came to power in Tamil Nadu in the year 2011, under the guidance of the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma, and on the orders of the then State Minister for Transport and the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who is the pole star of the people of Tamil Nadu and of AIADMK Party, Shri Edappadi K. Palanisamy, an amount of Rs. 84.50 Crore has been allocated in the year 2014 for acquisition of land for laying the service road on both sides on the Thuvakkudi-Old Palpannai stretch. But since then the Union Government

has been lethargic on this issue. At a recent meeting held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Hon. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, a decision has been taken to restrict the Right of Way for four lane road as 45 m instead of 60 m. Moreover orders have been issued to acquire land for Right of Way for 45 m instead of 60 m. As per the plan schedule received from the Project Director, NHAI, Thanjavur, a Gazette notification under 3D(1) has been published on 21.5.2014 under the National Highways Act for 60 m Right of Way. The Divisional Engineer Tiruchy has also deposited a sum of Rs.84.50 Crore with Special District Revenue Officer (Land Acquisition-National Highway) on 22.5.2014. Based on this, an amendment has been made to the G.O. MS No 57 Para-5 for laying of 5 m width of service road and to acquire land for 45m (ROW) as per site conditions or laying 7.5 m service road whichever is less to a cost of Rs. 84.50 Crore. The Project Director , NHAI, Thanjavur had stated that after the issue fo Gazette notification ,the land shall vest with the Union Government free from all encumbrances and it is impossible to reduce the width from 60 m to 45 m. Moreover an amount of Rs.196 Crore may be required for land acquisition. A Right of Way of 45 m is adequate for forming four lane road with service road on both the sides from Thuvakkudy to Old Palpannai instead of the 60 m ROW. The land acquired in such a way for 60 m Right of Way may be useful for NHAI only in future. Therefore NHAI has been requested to bear 50 percent of the land cost. Further it is apt to mention the land cost may escalate due to the provisions of the new Land Acquisition Act. I therefore urge upon the Union Government that NHAI should bear the 50 percent cost of the land that is to be acquired for execution of the said work. Moreover I urge that the laying work relating to the semi-circular road between Tuvakkudy and

Jeeyapuram for a length of approximately 25 kms should be expedited.

Thank you.