

## Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding quality of construction on Vadakkancherry-Mannuthy stretch of NH- 544 - Laid

DR. P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): The NH-544 is one of the busiest in the Indian highway system. It connects the Vallarpadam Shipping Terminal with Coimbatore. Thousands of trucks carrying consumer goods and construction material, and container Lorries run along the road every day. About 8,000 Lorries reportedly use the highway to reach Coimbatore every night. The condition of the stretch is deplorable with potholes and caved in sidewalks causing frequent accidents leading to loss of lives and property. In case of any mishaps on the highway, the emergency services usually get delayed by at least 3—5 hours, due to the long traffic jams.

A spate of incidents of major damages have been reported in a number of overbridges constructed in Vadakkancherry-Mannuthy stretch which raises an alarm. The Vadakkancherry- Mannuthy stretch requires immediate completion with the urgent works such as required signals, drainage, levelling of road, filling the potholes, repairing of edges of the road etc. Alleged corruption and low quality of construction is the major reason behind the sad plight of the road. The NHAI Cochin is apathetic to the successful completion of the project.

I request the Government to order an enquiry and take necessary steps to repair the road as early as possible and ensure the quality of construction and other facilities on Vadakkancherry-Mannuthy stretch of NH-544.