

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding closure of Toll Plazas in Tamil Nadu

DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S. (DHARMAPURI): *Vanakkam* Chairperson, Sir In this very House on 22nd March, this year, the Union Minister for Road and Surface Transport had assured this House that all toll plazas within sixty kilometres of each other would be closed within three months.

Sir, generally, three months is around 92 or 93 days. I do not know how does the BJP Government calculate three months and how many days does it require to remove those toll plazas. It is because it is almost nine months now and no action has been taken.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu alone, it has the largest number of toll gates. That is 57 toll plazas are there and by March, 2023, it is going to be increased to 60. Actually, by this rule of one toll plaza for every sixty kilometres, Tamil Nadu is supposed to have only 16 toll plazas.

I urge upon the Union Minister to implement this at the earliest.

Sir, on the Ulundurpet – Salem National Highway No. 79, there are three toll plazas which are operating for eleven years and there are 26 places where the four-lane road suddenly becomes two lane which causes fatal accidents. It is illegal to collect tolls from those places where the road is not completed.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to take steps.

And the last point I would like to say is this. There is a general rule of 10 seconds at plazas and 100 metres rule, that is, if you are made to wait in a queue of 100 metres, you are not supposed to pay toll. During holidays, during weekends and during long queues, they are supposed to allow passengers to go without collecting fees. But none of the toll plazas is following this.

I urge upon the Government to give a directive to all the toll plazas to follow the 100 metres rule or the 10 seconds rule.

Thank you, Sir.