

Regarding need to expedite the disbursal of compensation to people whose land and property have been acquired for construction of four-lane Palakkad-Kozhikode Greenfield Highway-laid

SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): The 121 km four-lane Palakkad-Kozhikode Greenfield Highway involving Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode districts, is in the implementation stage at a cost of over Rs. 10,000 crore. This will reduce travel time by two hours between these two places. Out of 121 kms, 61 kms falls in the district of Palakkad alone. The total cost for land acquisition in Palakkad district alone is estimated at Rs. 1,799 crore. 90 percent of land acquisition is already over and a sum of Rs. 450 crore has already been disbursed to people whose land or properties have been acquired and many people are yet to get compensation amounting to a total of nearly Rs. 1,300 crore. The delay in disbursing compensation is causing mental agony among them as they are not able to buy property for their living or establish again the lost commercial shops somewhere else. The authorities are aiming to award the work during this current financial year itself. Therefore, it is urged that the authorities may take immediate steps to disburse the compensation to people who have not been paid so far so that they can settle, as well as complete the remaining land acquisition at the earliest so that the work can be awarded as planned.

