

**Need to introduce new tunnel projects to ensure uninterrupted road connectivity to Aut, Pandoh and Bhuntar in Himachal Pradesh.-laid**

**SUSHRI KANGNA RANAUT (MANDI):** I would like to bring the issue to Government's attention regarding the commendable progress in infrastructure development in Himachal Pradesh, particularly in the Mandi region. As a key transit hub on National Highway-3 (Chandigarh-Manali Highway), Mandi plays a crucial role in facilitating travel to Kullu, Manali, Lahaul-Spiti, and Leh-Ladakh. However, to enhance connectivity and address growing traffic congestion, further road infrastructure improvements are essential. The successful completion of tunnel projects under the Kiratpur-Manali Highway and the Pandoh-Takoli bypass has significantly improved travel conditions. Yet, congestion persists at Aut, Pandoh, and Bhuntar, particularly during peak tourist seasons. The region's geographical constraints, coupled with frequent landslides and harsh weather, necessitate additional tunnel alignments and alternative road corridors to ensure uninterrupted connectivity. Given the Government's commitment to modernizing infrastructure, I strongly urge the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to explore new tunnel projects, expand road widening measures, and strengthen maintenance protocols. These steps will enhance tourism, benefit local businesses, and ensure seamless emergency services. I appreciate the Government's efforts in improving road infrastructure and request further necessary action to strengthen connectivity in this vital region.