

Regarding exemption of toll tax for persons residing near Panniankara Toll Plaza on National Highway No. 544 in Kerala.-laid

SHRI K. RADHAKRISHNAN (ALATHUR): A serious concern affecting thousands of residents near the Panniankara toll plaza at National Highway-544 in Kerala. The residents of six panchayats—Vadakkuncherry, Kannambra, Vandazhi, Kizhakkancheri, Puthukode, and Panancheri—are facing severe financial hardship due to the toll charges imposed on their daily commute. These are not long-distance travelers but local residents who rely on this route for essential travel, including work, education, and healthcare. With no viable alternative roads, they are compelled to pay toll charges repeatedly, leading to widespread resentment. This is unjust and places an unnecessary burden on ordinary citizens. I urge the Hon?ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways to intervene immediately and grant an exemption for these local commuters. The Government must review the toll policy to ensure that residents living in the vicinity of toll plazas are not unfairly taxed for essential travel. I request urgent action to provide relief to these people and ensure that the toll system does not become an undue financial burden on local communities.