

## **Need to expedite construction of alternative highway to Darjeeling and Siliguri Ring Road Projects in West Bengal-Laid**

**SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING):** Darjeeling is one of the most important tourist destinations in India. Sadly, the National Highway 55, which connects Darjeeling to Siliguri is highly congested, and there is limited room for the expansion of the highway. Because of this, there is an urgent need to construct alternative highway to channelize vehicles travelling to Darjeeling town. A proposal for the construction of a new highway connecting Darjeeling town to Teesta via Lebong and Dabai Pani is already under consideration of the Ministry. Additionally, the Ministry is also examining the construction of an alternative highway connecting Matigara to Balason, Dhotrey and Ghoom. Additionally, Siliguri is growing exponentially, but due to the absence of proper road infrastructure, the most important city in North Bengal region, is facing massive congestion problems too. Because of these businesses, trade and commerce in North Bengal region is becoming stagnant. Construction of a Ring Road will ease trade and commerce, as well as aide in the development of the city. I therefore request the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to kindly expedite the construction of Alternative Highways to Darjeeling, and the Siliguri Ring Road projects.