

Title: Requested to discontinue the collection of toll tax by the Department of the National Highway on the Kalibridge on National Highway No. 17 between Kodibaugh and Karwar in Karnataka.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA): Sir, the Kali bridge on National Highway No. 17 between Kodibaugh and Karwar was declared open in 1984. Ever since then, the Department of the National Highway is collecting toll on all commercial and non-commercial vehicles on this bridge. The total expenditure incurred on this was Rs. 391.22 lakh and the total collection, by way of toll, has more than covered all the costs and investments on the bridge.

Sir, the local people there have been repeatedly requesting that the toll be discontinued because road tax is also being collected and the maintenance of the bridge can be done without the toll. I, on behalf of the local people, would appeal to the Department that immediate decision be taken to see whether the costs have been recovered and the collection of toll be discontinued to help the local people.