

Title: Need to declare the road between Ettaiyapuram and Rajapalayam in Tamil Nadu as a National Highway.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (SIVAKASI): The world famous Pearl city of Tuticorin has the busiest commercial port situated in the Southern part of Tamil Nadu. The State road between Tuticorin and Rajapalayam, via Ettaiyapuram (the birth place of great freedom fighter Subramania Bharathi) on Kovilpatti-Thiruvengadam route bears heavy traffic because of to and fro movement of goods carriers from Tuticorin to Rajapalayam, which is another famous cotton business city in my constituency. There are more than 100 container lorries, tempos and around 100 State transport buses plying everyday on this State highway. Since the road is very narrow and congested, accidents are becoming a regular feature on this route.

I urge upon the Union Government to declare this route, i.e. Ettaiyapuram to Rajapalayam, as a National Highway and allot Central funds for strengthening and widening of the road. This would facilitate an alternate route to the commercial towns of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu and Quilon in Kerala.

---