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Title: Need for four laning of Hubli-Dharwad Bypass linking NH-4 in Karnataka.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. A bypass road has been constructed on NH-4 in my constituency, Hubli-Dharwad, which is the second biggest city after Bengaluru. This bypass is a 30-kilometre stretch which has been constructed and this has been constructed under BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer). This bypass was constructed well before the Golden Quadrilateral between Bengaluru and Pune, that is, on National Highway 4. But after conversion, during Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji's period, into four-lane of this National Highway 4 between Bengaluru and Pune, this bypass remained as a single lane. That has become a bottleneck. From the outskirts of Hubli, from a place called Gabbur, to Narendra at Dharwad outskirts, it is a single lane. Bengaluru to Pune, it is a six-lane highway, but between Hubli and Dharwad bypass, since it is under BOT, still it is remaining as a single lane and it has become a bottleneck.

Now, the traffic has increased manifold. After completion of the work by 2004 end, till now this bypass on the National Highway itself has remained a single lane. It is causing a lot of traffic hazards, and a lot of accidents have already taken place. That is why, many a time, I have met the Minister and requested him to convert this bypass into a four-lane or a six-lane as the NH-4 is under consideration for conversion into a six-lane. The Government should convert the bypass or persuade the BOT holder to convert it into a six-lane. Otherwise, people are already agitating. Many people have died in accidents.

I urge upon the Government to immediately to look into the matter and either persuade the BOT holder or to take over from the BOT holder after due payment to him and convert it into a six-lane. Thank you.