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Title: Need to take effective steps to regulate the functioning of toll plazas in the country particularly on NH-7 & NH-47 in Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): People in the country are facing lot of difficulties at toll plazas on various National Highways. At many places, toll plazas are located near the cities and due to urbanization, people quite often have to cross the toll plazas and forced to pay the toll tax. The toll plazas run by private parties are mismanaged. They often over-charge of the prescribed rate causing much inconvenience to the public like the situation prevailing at NH-7 & NH-47 in my Krishnagiri District. Apart from steep hike in toll charges, they have also reduced number of trips on monthly passes. There is large queue at many toll plazas and one has to wait for longer time for passing out of the toll gates. Moreover, the toll charges are not uniform in the country.

The mismanagement of toll plazas has resulted in huge revenue loss to the Government. In order to provide relief to the people from harassment of private contractors at toll plazas and to curb the revenue loss, NHAI should take over the management of toll plazas in its hands. Apart from that, Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) System should be introduced country-wide. Further, Government may consider introduction of pre-paid system of toll collection likewise the pre-paid telephone cards which will greatly help the commuters.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take effective steps to streamline the functioning of toll plazas particularly at NH-7 & NH-47 and to relieve the people from harassment at the hands of private toll contractors in the country.