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Title: Need to build alternative bridge on river Teesta.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI): Thank you, hon. Chairman, for your kind permission to speak in the House during 'Zero Hour'.

I would like to raise a very serious issue regarding the dilapidated condition of Teesta Bridge and Jaldhaka Bridge on the National Highway 31.

You are alive of the fact that the National Highways Authority officials have started the renovation work of Teesta Bridge and Jaldhaka Bridge on the part of National Highway 31 between Jalpaiguri and Dhupguri in the district of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal within my constituency a few days back. But, the speed of the work is very slow. It is a matter of great concern because it is noteworthy to mention here that this is the only lifeline in between Northeast India and the rest of India. Hundreds of loaded vehicles often pass through this stretch of road. The condition of the bridges and roads are so bad that Northeast bound trucks, passenger buses and other small vehicles often meet with serious accidents.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to intervene into the matter and instruct the concern National Highways Authority officials so that the roads, stretches vis-À-vis bridges are repaired as early as possible without any more waste of time.