

>

Title: Need to widen the Kunthipuzha Bridge on NH 213 between Kozhikode and Palakkad in Kerala.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): The Kunthipuzha bridge is an important bridge in the NH 213 Kozhikode- Palakkad highway. The existing bridge is having a carriage way of only 4 metres width. Because of this only single line traffic is possible on the bridge and traffic Jam and accidents frequently occur in this area. Since traffic has increased manifold over the last few years the number of accidents has also gone up alarmingly. Thus in this context that a proposal was submitted for widening the existing bridge across Kunthipuzha. An estimate of Rs. 7 crore was submitted to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the work was included in the annual plan 2011-12 but the estimated was returned by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways unapproved stating that the said Ministry has decided to include the proposed work under National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-IV B Programme. As the NHDP Phase IV B programme will take many more years to implement, the work will not be taken for execution in the near future. Under NHDP Phase IV B programme, a Bye pass road is proposed in this area and it will evade Mannarkkad Town. Hence it will not be useful for decongesting the traffic through the existing Kunthipuzha Bridge at Mannarkkad Town. So I urge upon the concerned Minister for Road Transport and Highways to get the approval for widening of Kunthipuzha Bridge at the earliest.