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Title: Need to upgrade the Arinashi-Munar Road in Tamil Nadu to National Highway.

*SHRI K. SUGUMAR (POLLACHI): In Tamil Nadu, the roads like Avinasi - Palladam road with a stretch of 29.6 kms *via* Tiruppur - Pollachi - Meankarai and Palladam - Udumalpet road with a stretch of 45.2 kms and Udumalpet - Chinnar road with a stretch of 28.8kms come under the Tamil Nadu State Highways. Chinnar - Munnar road that come under the Kerala Government is 61.8kms long. This entire stretch of 165kms needs to be upgraded as National Highways. This is under the consideration of the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry.

When State Highway roads are to be upgraded as National Highway roads there are certain stipulations that the basic infrastructure must be improved by way

of converting them as bi-lane roads and taking up widening and repairing works on the road bridges estimating the future traffic road. In view of this Avinasi - Munnar road and Avinasi - Tiruppur - Palladam road have been widened suitably. Similarly Palladam - Udumalpet road has been made a bi-lane road at a cost of Rs. 48 crore of which work includes converting suitably the existing road bridges and constructing new bridges and erecting safety structures on either side of the roads.

Now Coimbatore - Dindigul rail-line gauge conversion work is on. LC No. 95 is the only level crossing found in Avinasi - Munnar road situated between Udumalpet - Chinnar road in the middle of Udumalpet town. Considering the future need, at a cost of Rs.17.44 crore a road- over-bridge work has been taken up by the State Highways Department.

Similarly, Udumalpet - 9/6 Check- post stretch of State Highways road has been developed suitably. Since the 9/6 Check-post to Chinnar stretch of 28.8 kms is under Forest Department at a cost of Rs. 10 crore, the State Highways Department would take up the development work in 2012-13.

Chinnar - Munnar stretch of 61.8 kms on the other side of the Tamil Nadu borders is reportedly being improved by the Kerala Government.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to upgrade the 165 kms long Avinasi - Munnar road as National Highways road.