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Title: Need to set up a dedicated National Highway Protection Force to ensure smooth movement of goods and essential commodities particularly in Manipur.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): The National Highways in Manipur are once again under seizure/blockade since 18th February. The Joint Action Committee (JAC) on Kadangband killing has gone ahead with its proposed 5 days economic blockade on all National Highways from that midnight. Consequently the trucks carrying essential commodities, passenger buses, oil tankers etc are not plying on the National Highways.

As a result essential commodities including food items and life saving drugs, gas, petrol etc are not available. Taking advantage of this, the hoarders and shopkeepers hike the prices of goods and commodities. This causes tremendous hardships to the people of the State forcing them to buy them at sky-rocketed prices.

The present ongoing blockade needs to be dealt with at once and so I urge upon the Union Government and the Home Ministry in particular to immediately intervene and find a solution at the earliest.

In order to deal with blockade of the National Highways, in a long term perspective, I have been urging the Union Government, since my joining the Lok Sabha in 2004, to set-up a dedicated National Highway Protection Force so that the National Highways, the life line of the State of Manipur, are fully secured and insulated from these bandhs and blockades.