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Title: Need to give toll tax exemption to the people residing within the 30 km. radius of the toll plaza.

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):Hon. Deputy-

Speaker, Sir, the National Highways Authority of India has recorded a 17 per cent increase in toll collections which will lead to hike in essential commodity price. Though the Government has closed down about 125 toll plazas on the National Highways, the frequent toll hikes affects truck and lorry operators, for whom the increase in toll expenses work out to a significant amount. So, the toll rates are needed to be reduced.

Further, the hon. Minister has announced that electronic toll (e-toll) collection system will be installed which will save Rs.88,000 crore and cut waiting time at toll plazas significantly. I welcome this move, but, at the same time, the exemption should also be given to the people, who are residing around 50 km. radius of toll plaza.

Accordingly, I would like to urge upon the Government to prepare a data base in its Electronic Toll Collection System having details of vehicles registered within the 30 km. radius of the toll plaza and permit them to cross toll plaza without tax. Thank you.