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Title: Need to extend suspension of toll collection on National Highways in the State of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, in view of the flood situation in Tamil Nadu, the hon. Minister of Road Transport has ordered suspension of toll collection on National Highways in the State of Tamil Nadu till today.

This order has been issued by the Government mainly to help the affected people in different parts of the State and to ease the rescue and relief operations being undertaken by various agencies but it is unfortunate that the staff of the toll plazas on the Highways are forcing the people to pay the toll fee which has thrown the orders in the air. Particularly toll plazas in Trichy, Samayapuram, Vikravandi, Ulundurpettai and other toll plazas have collected toll fee against the orders of the Government.

The inhuman attitude of toll plazas has intensified the pain of people who have already been affected by the massive floods in Tamil Nadu.

Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister to inquire into the matter by sending high level officials of NHAI and take penal action against those toll plaza contractors who collected toll fee forcibly from the vehicles in Tamil Nadu.

I also request the hon. Minister to extend the suspension of toll fee collection till the end of December.