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Title: Need to widen National Highway No. 209 from Dindigul to Bengaluru.

SHRI M. UDHAYA KUMAR (DINDIGUL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, thank you for allowing me to raise an important matter in this august House.

National Highway, NH 209, falls entirely within the State of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In Tamil Nadu, it covers 286 kms. and in Karnataka it covers 170 Kms. The Highway is maintained by the National Highways Authority of India. This Highway links Dindigul with Bengaluru. It runs for a distance of 456 kms. This National Highway passes through Dindigul – Pollachi – Palani – Coimbatore – Annur – Kollegal – Bengaluru.

Currently NH 209 is in a bad condition. It has numerous curves which pose a threat to the motorists.

The initial proposal is to widen the 200 kms. stretch into a four-lane road. The project has two sections, from Dindigul to Coimbatore and from Coimbatore to Karnataka border. The proposal includes four major bridges, 30 minor bridges, vehicular and passenger underpasses, road over bridges and as many as six bypass roads between Dindigul and Coimbatore. The proposal is to have service lanes in some areas where there were major towns or cities. Flow of traffic is high on the existing two-lane stretch between Dindigul and Palani and also from Coimbatore to Udumalapet and widening of the road will ensure smooth flow of traffic.

Even as there is increasing demand to widen National Highway 209 from Dindigul to Bengaluru, the National Highways Authority of India is expecting the consultant to finalise and submit the feasibility report for the project in a couple of months. The NHAI is pursuing the matter and waiting for the final feasibility report for a long period. Also there is a proposal for extending this Highway as NH 209 – A, which splits from Sathy towards Erode *via* Gobi and reaches Dindigul *via* Sivagiri, Aravakkurichi.

I urge upon the National Highways Authority of India to speed up widening of National Highway 209 connecting Bengaluru and Dindigul *via* Chamarajanagar and Coimbatore. Thank you.