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Title: Need to expedite completion of development works on National Highway No. 77 in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): The publication titled 'Road Accidents in India-2016 puts the number of road accidents in the country at 4,80,652 and persons killed at 1,50,785. During the year 2016, 13 States including Tamil Nadu accounted for 86 per cent of the total road accidents and 84 per cent of the total persons killed in road accidents. As many as 46.3 per cent of road accident victims belong to the age group of 18 to 35 and the National Highways accounted for 29.6 per cent of total road accidents and 34.5 per cent of total number of persons killed.

In the above context, I wish to state that the newly carved National Highway No 77 passes from Krishnagiri (near NH 48) to Tindivanam (near NH 32) via Uttangarai, Tiruvarmamaalai and Gingee for a length of 177 kms. This NH 77 has so many bottlenecks and dangerous spots claiming valuable lives through fatal accidents every day. It is an important road connecting the world famous temples including Thiruvannamalai Arunaachaleswarar temple and Tiruvakkarai Vakkra Kali Amman temple. Driving experience on this new National Highway No 77 has always been nightmarish for many motorists. Since this is a new National Highway carved out of the National Highway No 66 and passing through my Constituency, I urge upon the Hon. Minister for

Road Transport and Highways to take necessary measures for completion of the road development works through fresh tendering process for National Highway No 77 at the earliest with a view to minimise fatal accidents and save precious lives.