

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to remove anomalies in construction of four-lane road from Zirakpur (Chandigarh)-Bhatinda.

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI (PATIALA): Thank you, Hon. Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important subject pertaining to Punjab.

I want to draw the attention of the House towards NH64 that passes from Amritsar to Bathinda and from Chandigarh to Bathinda. No uniformity in technical parametres has been followed as far as construction of this road in concerned. One side of this road has been constructed by using cement, iron and concrete. However, the other side of the road has been constructed by using only coaltar.

Why both sides of this road were not constructed using the same materials is a million-dollar question. Whether it was the safety standard or the cost of construction that was responsible for it, same parametres should have been followed in the construction of the road.

Hon. Madam Speaker, this dubious decision has led to a compromise in the quality of the road. It also raises a question-mark as far as safety of travellers on this road is concerned. The people of Punjab have to pay toll-tax for utilizing the services of this road. So, they are entitled to standard and safe roads. However, in this case, safety has become a casualty. This is sheer injustice that has been meted out to the people of Punjab. When Punjabis are paying taxes to the Central Government, they are entitled to the best roads.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to rectify the error and do away with this anomaly in the road construction of NH 64. Safety of travellers must be kept in mind while constructing roads. It is the responsibility of the Central Government. The burden of toll-taxes should also be done away with.