

cities in Tamil Nadu. The number of people migrating from other areas for getting employment and education is increasing day by day. According to the last Census 2001, the total population of this city was nearly 30 lakh, but the number has become double within the current decade. The people living in extension areas solely depend on the bus service. Even though adequate bus service has been provided by increasing the number of buses, it has caused traffic congestion, rather than providing amicable transport facility to the people. The Madurai district, being one of the most important Hindu pilgrimage sites of India attracting a large number of tourists, offers ample scope for textiles, readymade garments, agro and herbal products, rubber and plastic industries. Therefore, I request the Central Government, through the House, to initiate measures for establishing electric train facility in this city. The trains can be operated between Madurai and Dindigal, Madurai and Virudhunagar, Madurai and Melur with necessary stopping, as such activity will provide amicable transport facility to the people of this area and will also reduce traffic congestion on roads. Thank you.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

**Need to withdraw the rules pertaining to new L.I.C. agents allegedly
threatening their job security**

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the serious threat faced by more than six lakh LIC agents in the country. As per the new Agents Rules 2009, which was circulated on 24 July, 2009, the minimum required first year premium is Rs. 1 lakh. As per the 1972 rule, there were classifications such as rural and urban areas and different rates of first year premium had been fixed.

But the new rule directs flat first year premium of Rs. 1 lakh. If the new rules are implemented, these agents would lose their jobs. This would reduce the presence of LIC agents across the country, especially in rural and hilly areas. LIC agency has good scope for employment and additional income. Lakhs of unemployed youth in the country earn better through LIC agencies. This rule also affects the Development Officers of LIC who are supposed to meet the target by a number of agents.

LIC will also face serious problems because of this new rule. The contribution of these agents is 1.25 crore policies and Rs. 10,000 crore to Rs. 15,000 crore first year premium.

Actually, this is against the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance in regard to the Insurance Amendment Bill, 2001. It had stated that the Government should provide necessary safeguards to protect the LIC agents. The new rules are totally against these recommendations.

Therefore, I urge the Finance Minister to intervene in this matter and give proper direction to withdraw the new rules and protect the six lakh LIC agents in particular and LIC as a whole. Thank you.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

**Need to take preventive measures to check adulteration in edible oil ghee and
other food items in the country**

SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA (Punjab): Sir, the Government, no doubt, is aware of widespread practices being followed by unscrupulous and anti-social elements in the country to adulterate edible oil including the making of spurious *desi ghee* and other foodstuffs. Though there is a strict law to prevent such malpractices *i.e.* the Essential Commodities Act 1955 under which action is required to be taken by the States, for obvious reasons, the machinery in States to check this menace is at a standstill.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to impress upon the State Governments to activate the machinery so as to collect samples of edible oil, *desi ghee* and other foodstuffs including sweetmeat, etc. and an overall mechanism under the control of the Central Government be evolved.

**Need to take measures to check the circulation of fake currency
in the country**

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Maharashtra): Sir, the Naik Committee, set up to assess the menace of fake currency, has said that counterfeit money in the range of Rs.1,69,000 crores is in circulation in the country. Fake notes of Rs.100, Rs.500 and Rs.1000 are affecting the economy of the country. As per reports, such notes are coming out even from ATMs and banks. Making, keeping, distributing or using fake currency is the handiwork of anti-national and anti-social elements and should be curbed by combined efforts of all concerned agencies of the Government.

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.