

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. RAJEEVE): *Tulsiji* please read as it is in the text.

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: I want to assure this House that legalised betting in sports is not going to make us a nation of gamblers. The deep-rooted belief against gambling and social consequences have not been able to eliminate match fixing or spot fixing even when it is illegal.

Cricket may be a gentlemen's game, but betting, which is already rampant, is not going to kill its spirit.

We need to consider legalised betting and let the country earn revenue from this human weakness. From the money earned from betting, we can augment infrastructure for other sports and tourist facilities.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. RAJEEVE): Shri Devender Goud T.; not present.

**Need to stop construction of Mekedatu Reservoirs on the River Cauvery
and set up Cauvery Management Board and the
Cauvery Water Regulation Committee**

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): According to the final orders of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, no State shall take any decision or action without consulting the riparian States. However, the Government of Karnataka, in violation of the said orders, is going ahead with the construction of two reservoirs at Mekedatu. The Government of Karnataka had even called for an Expression of Interest for it. Our beloved leader had already demanded the Government of India not to grant techno economic clearance ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. RAJEEVE): Please read as it is in the text approved by the hon. Chairman.

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: ...*(Interruptions)*...and environmental clearance for the above till the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee are formed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. RAJEEVE): Please let him complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is approved by the hon. Chairman.*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): If you read the text only, we will decide whether to associate or not ...*(Interruptions)*... Please read only the text.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. RAJEEVE): Please read as it is in the text approved by the hon. Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Please give us a copy of it ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: The Pro-term Supervisory Committee formed, was not effective. Our beloved leader had also demanded for setting up of Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has also again demanded for setting up of the said Board and the Committee and to stop the construction of the said reservoirs at Mekedatu. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to intervene in the matter and direct the Government of Karnataka to forthwith stop all activities for the construction of the said reservoirs, and also urge the Government to set up the said Board and the Committee urgently, so that such issues are not occurred again and again.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHA KRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

**Need for Shatabdi Express between Thiruvananthapuram and
Chennai with limited stops**

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): On behalf of the people of South India, I request the Railway Minister to announce a Shatabdi Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai with only five stops at Nagercoil, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Thiruchirappalli and Villipuram, that is, an A.C. Chair Car train which starts by 6.00 a.m. from Thiruvananthapuram and reaches Chennai at 4.00 p.m. *via* Tirunelveli. Sir, we urge the Centre to immediately sanction the proposals laid before the General Manager, Southern Railway to look into this urgently and sanction a day-train which connects two State Capitals, namely, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram and vice-versa, which runs through Nagercoil, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Trichy and Villupuram.

Sir, this train would be a great boon for travellers from the South and it will be a profitable one for the Railways also. We do not have any ticketless travellers at all in Tamil Nadu, and Railways too would be benefited. But the people at large would