

Demand to introduce a new train and increase the frequency of an existing train from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN (Odisha): A large number of people from Odisha travel to Mumbai, Pune and different places of Maharashtra for business, service, education, healthcare and tourism purposes. They mostly depend on the Railways for their journey. A large number of people from Maharashtra also visit the holy city of Puri and other places of Odisha regularly. In a letter to hon. Railway Minister, the hon. Chief Minister of Odisha requested that a new AC express train should be introduced from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai and named 'Buxi Jagabandhu Express' as a fitting tribute to the iconic leader Buxi Jagabandhu who led the Paika Rebellion in 1817. He also requested to increase the frequency of Lokamanya Tilak Express from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai from three times in a week to daily. But no step has been taken by the Government till date regarding this. Due to paucity of trains between Odisha and Maharashtra, people face a lot of hardship. Keeping in view the increasing demand and aspiration of the State of Odisha, I 'therefore' demand to the Government to consider the above stated request of hon. Chief Minister of Odisha and introduce a new train in the name of Buxi Jagabandhu from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai and increase the frequency of Lokamanya Tilak Express from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai from three times in a week to daily.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Shri K.T.S. Tulsi; not present. Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey; not present. Ms. Dola Sen.

Demand to implement the West Bengal model of Kanyashree scheme throughout the country

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): The Kanyashree Scheme, brainchild of Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, is the State's flagship project for the girl child. Nearly 40 lakh girls have been brought under this Scheme. The Scheme was introduced to arrest the drop-out rate in schools and prevent early marriage among girl students. Recently, it won the United Nations Public Service Award in the Reaching the Poorest and Most Vulnerable through Inclusive Services and Participation.

Under the programme, a scholarship of ₹ 750 is to be paid to girls in the age group of 13 to 18 years (studying in Class VIII equivalent or above) for every year that they remain in education, provided they stay unmarried. When the girl turns 18, she is given a one-time grant of ₹ 25,000 for academic or job-oriented investment. The idea is to educate and empower the girl child, and to delay marriage and childbirth, so that early pregnancy and its health burden are prevented. The scheme is end-to-end IT-enabled and completely transparent, and hence easily accessible to beneficiaries.

Thus, the Centre needs to take cognizance of the good work done by the Bengal Government and follow a similar model to ensure every girl child in the country pursues education to a higher level and is independent enough to secure her future.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Chaudhary Munvvar Saleem; not present. Shri Ali Anwar Ansari; not present. Shri D. Bandyopadhyay; not present. Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya; not present. Shri Derek O'Brien

**Concern over Aadhaar being made mandatory for
Mid-day Meals in schools**

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, the recent attempts to make Aadhaar mandatory for mid-day meals in schools to eliminate proxy enrolment will, to say the least, exclude from its purview millions of children who are in utmost need of it. One of the key objectives of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was to improve nutritional levels among children.

Of the 13.16 crore children enrolled in 11.5 lakh schools across India, as many as 10.03 crore students availed of mid-day meals in 2015-16. The Government must bear in mind the harsh reality of the state of under-nourishment for children in India. Almost half the children in India under the age of five are underweight, and one in three children has stunted growth.

Forcing children to enrol means subjecting them to lifelong tracking, without consent (them being minors). So this will result in a whole generation, who have been coerced into giving their biometrics to the State without having any say in the matter.

The Government has not conducted any study to determine the extent of proxy enrolments in Government schools. Thus, without any conclusive evidence of the quantum of duplicate or fake names, the Government seeks to arbitrarily force all children to enrol for Aadhaar or face starvation.

It is the duty of the Government to ensure the well-being of our future generation and this call for exclusion on the basis of Aadhaar is regressive and against the ethos of our nation.

**Demand to make public the contents of Indo-US
logistics agreement (LEMOA)**

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, India and the U.S. concluded the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), the first of the three foundational agreements between the two nations last August and it is yet to be operationalised. However, the two sides have been negotiating hard on