

Gopalpur-Rayagada sector. So, Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly expedite these projects. I will just give you the last point. There is the Khurda Road-Bolangir new line which was established in the year 1994-95, so many years back. It was sanctioned only for 289 kilometres. For 289 kilometres, till now, the total project cost was ₹ 3,798 crores. Out of that from 1994-95, only ₹ 1,057 crores have been spent. If this is the situation of a project, which was established in 1994-95, how many decades will Odisha have to wait for such kind of project? I request and I demand that the hon. Minister may kindly take it up very seriously. Thank you.

SHRI AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्वम (ओडिशा) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री जावेद अली खान (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

جناب جاوید علی خان (اترپردیش): مہودے، میں بھی خود کو اس موضوع سے سمبڈ کرتا ہوں۔

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Proposed outsourcing by the Defence PSUs

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the hon. Defence Minister that very recently in Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Defence Production Secretary made some sort of comments. What are these comments? "I expect the exports will surpass the target of ₹ 35,000 crore by 2024-25." That is good. But, the next is, he said, "Defence components are key drivers". He also said about promoting private sector participation in Defence production. He also inaugurated a facilitation centre for the Defence production at Bharat Chamber of Commerce. Sir, very unfortunately, he further mentioned, "The Government had been taking several steps to encourage the private sector, MSMEs, in particular, in Defence

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

production under the existing production policy and some notable changes had been brought."

Sir, my submission before the hon. Minister is, one, when the Government of India is thinking in their Defence Policy that very shortly, they will compete with U.S.A., China and other countries, then, why is the Government of India trying to outsource purchasing of components for the Defence factories? According to Shri Kumar, OFB and Defence PSUs are planning to outsource about 3000 items which will give boost to MSMEs sector.

Sir, very unfortunately, I would like to bring another thing to your kind notice that traditionally, the Defence Department used to float tenders for products that it decided to procure, but now the Government has allowed private sector to pitch for useful products that they have developed. That means, he is encouraging the private sector to come and invest in the Defence sector which is very, very unfortunate.

My earnest submission to the hon. Defence Minister is this. Whatever is necessary, you do it, but don't allow the private sector without any scanning inside the Defence factory. If that is done, that will be disastrous for our country.

I can cite some examples as to how the aeronautic organisation had suffered.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time over. Time over. That is the policy of the Government.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. JOGEN CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Tiruchi Siva.

Insinuating remarks against senior citizens printed on the Railway tickets

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a matter of concern. A very learned senior citizen who is well-versed in writing letters to the Editor and taking cognizance of social and civic issues contacted me and shared his anguish.

Sir, the issue is that the Railways are extending concessions in the fare to the passengers, 'the senior citizens'; 50 per cent to the women and 40 per cent to the men.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, the Railway Minister should listen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: In that ticket, it is written on the backside of the ticket, "Are you aware that 43 per cent of your fare is borne by the common citizens of the country?" ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not Question Hour. He is raising an important issue. Let it go on record. I am also aware of it. Please. I can't force any Minister unless his duty is there.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, he told me that already we have been let down by our folks and we are dependent on someone. When we are happy that the Government has shown a gesture of giving concessions then why should they insult us like this? A person can withstand poverty and he can tolerate hunger but not indignity. Why should these insinuating remarks come on the ticket? Later, I verified that it is not only with the tickets of the senior citizens but it is on all the tickets. It is totally unwarranted. It is insinuating. I was told by the Minister that he is also aware of this. First, I thought that he was not aware, but he is also aware of that. So I think, in a country, before giving food and concessions to any person or any individual, his self-respect and prestige must be upheld. That must be ensured by a democratic country. So I urge upon the Government or the Railway Ministry to immediately withdraw these remarks. This should not be on that. Everyone who is travelling in a train is a common citizen and everybody is a tax-payer. To whom they are telling and what they are trying to tell, whether the Railway is running at a loss; I do not want to go into those issues. I just want to say, kindly don't make a mark of indignation on any citizen in this country.