

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the issue of GDP. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: \$ Sir, our State is among the top three in terms of receiving less payment than the requirement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now I go to next; Shrimati Shanta Chhetri. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Shanta Chhetri. ...*(Interruptions)*... She will speak in Nepali. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, this is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Next time, I will remember this, and I will not give an opportunity to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let it be recorded.....*(Interruptions)*... Let it be recorded, 'Whoever defies the Chair, they will not get next opportunity.' ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Shrimati Shanta Chhetri.

Need to modernise and upgrade the Darjeeling Toy Train

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): ** Respected Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in my mother tongue Nepali. It is a matter of pride that our Darjeeling Himalayan Railway has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999. Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, renowned as Darjeeling Toy Train is an experience of heritage, a marvel of engineering and one of the perfect ways to adore the natural beauty of Darjeeling. As we know that Darjeeling Himalayan Railway started its operation in 1881 and is one of the few hill railways operating in India. Those who have experienced a ride in this toy train know how it feels when you are on board. One of the most picturesque places you will come across during your journey is the Batasia Loop. You will also get to see the local markets, towns and numerous bridges and enjoy its beauty. Further, the train passes through some lush green hills, jungles and tea gardens of Darjeeling. The mesmerising view of snow covered Himalayan peaks and the world's third highest peak, Kanchenjunga would surely leave you awestruck. Darjeeling Toy Train ride is

*Not recorded

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Nepali.

one of the most exciting adventures experienced by visitors. In fact, tourists from across the globe come here to enjoy the wonderful ride. Sir, with all this, the Himalayan Toy Train is a pride of India. Therefore, I would like to urge the Honourable Minister of Railways to modernise and upgrade the rail service while restoring its vintage looks and feel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Conclude. Please conclude.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: * Therefore, I would like to urge the Honourable Minister of Railways to modernise and upgrade the rail service while restoring its vintage looks and feel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Lt. Gen. Dr. D.P. Vats. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we associate ourselves with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whoever wants to associate, please send a slip. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE : Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री नजीर अहमद लवाय (जम्मू-कश्मीर): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

* English translation of the original speech made in Nepali.

† جناب نذیر احمد لوائے (جموں-کشمیر) : مہودے، میں مائے سلسلے کے ذریعے اٹھائے گئے وٹنے کے ساتھ خود کو سمبڈھ کرتا ہوں۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: Lt. Gen. D. P. Vats. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please.

Need for timely utilisation of MPLADS funds

LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.) (Haryana): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I want to highlight the issue of utilisation of MPLADs Funds in time. There are problems faced by MPs, especially, about the utilization of MPLADs Funds because the funds are spent by District Authorities and it is quite procedural, especially, in construction work because estimate is made, then it is approved, then money is released, and then construction starts. It is likely to finish within two-three years, not within a year and eighty per cent of the Utilisation Certificate cannot be obtained within a year. So, I want to bring to your notice that yearly instalments of ₹ 5 crores should be released irrespective of utilisation of funds, because, in the end, especially, for these construction projects and for Rajya Sabha MPs, not only nodal district, they send it to other districts of the State also. It is quite time-consuming and procedural. Therefore, yearly instalments of five crore rupees should be released so that construction can be expedited. ...(*Interruptions*)...

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

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI R. S. BHARATHI: Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SURESH GOPI (Nominated): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY (Nominated): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्री लाल सिंह वड़ोदिया (गुजरात): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

†Transliteration in Urdu script.