

[Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya]

Kong and Singapore will be improved. It will ultimately improve the tourism sector of our country. Sir, connectivity always plays an important and a significant role in the economic development of any region, any country, of the world. And this project will definitely improve connectivity within the north-eastern region and with other Southeast Asian countries. It will definitely improve the tourism sector of our country. In the interest of economic development of the North-Eastern Region, I request the Government to complete this project immediately. From strategic point of view, especially considering China, we should develop relations with our neighbouring countries like Myanmar and Thailand. This project will definitely help in improving our relationship with Thailand, Myanmar and other South Asian countries. I believe that this Government will immediately look into the matter and do the needful to complete the project immediately. Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ashok Siddharth; absent. Shri Neeraj Dangi; not present. Shri Subhash Chandra Singh.

Need to enhance remuneration of Anganwadi and ASHA workers

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH (Odisha): Sir, many Anganwadi workers and helpers have been working for 40-45 years in projects relating to women and children. Their dedication and commitment to protect women and childcare is highly appreciated. In COVID pandemic, they are working day and night. The Ministry of Health and this

august House have announced that they are COVID warriors. These COVID warriors are the backbone of the entire quarantine centres in India everywhere. But, unfortunately, the remuneration of an Anganwadi worker is only ₹4,500. ASHA workers are also doing very hard work. They are getting ₹2,500 per month as remuneration. Remuneration for an Anganwadi worker may be raised to ₹15,000 per month and for ASHA worker it may be raised to ₹10,000 per month. The Government of Odisha and hon. Naveen Patnaik *ji* have declared a package. If any Anganwadi worker dies in COVID work, their family will get a pension of ₹7,500 up to retirement and they can also avail themselves of other rewards/package.

Here, I appeal to the Central Government, through you, Sir, to come out with some package for Anganwadi and ASHA workers. It is a tribal area where communication is unavailable. They are working for the people. They are COVID warriors. The Central Government may raise the remuneration for an Anganwadi worker and give ₹15,000 per month and an ASHA worker may be given ₹10,000 per month and also announce a special package like the one we have in Odisha by hon. Naveen Patnaik *ji*. मेरी आपके माध्यम से यही अपील है कि इसे हेल्थ डिपार्टमेंट की ओर से एनाउंस किया जाए।

SHRI SURESH GOPI (Nominated): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (ODISHA): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Subhash Chandra Singh *ji*. There is a good addition from Odisha. Members are taking active interest. I have gone through the list in the recent days also after new Members came.