

death. Some patients are shown as admitted in multiple hospitals at one given time. There are some cases where surgeries were shown after discharge. There are dates in the record showing discharge before admission. All these numbers run in thousands if not lakhs, resulting in expenditure of several hundred crores. Further, Sir, shockingly the report reveals that in all, as many as 9.85 lakh beneficiaries have been linked to the same mobile numbers which do not exist at all. All these are resulting in crores of money being disbursed in contravention of the guidelines. The report also points out that some of the empanelled health care centres neither fulfill the minimum criteria of support system and infrastructure nor conform to the quality standard criteria. In several cases, the mandatory compliances like fire safety measures, bio-medical waste management, pollution control, even hospital registration certificate, have not been followed. However noble the intention of the scheme, PM-JAY is suffering from glaring irregularities and need to be amended at the earliest; or else, this would tantamount to playing with the lives of the poor. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Vandana Chavan: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shi Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

The next speaker is Shri Iranna Kadadi; demand to organise a National level Program on Kittur Rani Chennamma.

Demand to organise a National Level Program on Kittur Rani Chennamma

SHRI IRANNA KADADI (Karnataka): * "Sir, from the pages of history, we have learnt that lakhs of people have participated in our Nation's Independence Struggle. For the first time, a brave lady revolted against the mighty British Empire, the empire on which the sun would never set. She was the torch-bearer of the independence struggle; she

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Kannada.

was none other than Karnataka's Kittur Rani Chennamma. In 1824, she fought against the British East India Company and she was the First Indian Woman who killed a British Officer named John Thackeray.

She was born on 23rd October, 1778 in Kakati village of Belgaum District. She was married to the King of Kittur, Mallasarja Desai. After the death of her husband, she took up the administration of Kittur. She fought against Britishers to ensure that her adopted son inherits the throne. In the course of history, we learn that just two soldiers of Kittur Army held the British officers and their family members hostage and after negotiating with them, they were set free honourably. This incident shows the dignity of the Kittur Dynasty. In order to avenge this incident, the Britishers frequently attacked the Kingdom of Kittur. In one such attack, Rani Chennamma and Kittur Army defended their fort for 12 days, however, Britishers arrested the Rani Chennamma treacherously.

Even though Rani Chennamma won only once against the British, she was an inspiration to countless freedom fighters. Even today the people of Karnataka proudly narrate the story of her valour to their children. She was an inspiration to the Indian freedom fighters as she was the first lady to fight the mighty British Empire, the Empire over which the sun never set. The freedom struggle continued for years.

After independence Shri Bangarappa's Govt started an initiative to keep the memories of Rani Chennamma alive although the dynasty has ceased to exist. The event which began in Kittur gradually got extended to Taluk level and then to District level Festival (utsav) and now it is a State-wide festival in Karnataka. Various initiatives including the repair and maintenance of Kittur fort are being taken up and programmes celebrating the glorious history of Rani Chennamma are being organized. On 11th September 2007, the hon. former President, Shrimati Pratibha Devi Singh Patil inaugurated Rani Chennamma's statue in the Parliament premises thereby according due recognition to this pioneer of freedom struggle. The year 2024 marks the 200th anniversary of the first war against the British which took place in 1824. The people of Karnataka aspire to celebrate this great occasion and request to rename the Belgaum Airport as Rani Chennamma Airport as a mark of respect to the great freedom fighter. On the behalf of the people of Karnataka, I humbly request the Government to celebrate Kittur Festival on national scale and rename the Belgaum Airport as Rani Chennamma Airport and issue a commemorative coin and postage stamp on this occasion, as a mark of respect for all our freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the cause of the Nation. Namaskar!"

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Iranna Kadadi: Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).

The next speaker is Shri Jose K. Mani; concern regarding rising coastal erosion along shores of Kerala.

Concern over rising coastal erosion along shores of Kerala

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, it is a matter of grave concern that requires immediate attention to the alarming increase in coastal area of India particularly along the shore of Kerala. This issue not only poses a threat to the environment but also to the livelihood of the coastal communities. In India, about 7,560 kilometers of coastline and, in Kerala, about 590 kilometers stretch of coastline, starting from Poovar to Thiruvananthapuram to Thalapadi in Kasargod, are the most densely populated land areas in the country. According to the study by the National Centre for Coastal Research, 33.6 per cent of the Indian coastline is vulnerable to erosion and nearly 46 per cent of coastline of Kerala is already affected. The statistic should not be viewed as a mere number but a warning of the impending crisis that looms over the State and the nation. This coastal erosion is due to various factors such as climate change, unregulated human activities, inadequate coastal zone management, mining and tourism. In Kerala alone, with over 11 lakh fishermen belonging to the economically weaker sections, coastal erosion is rendering these families refugees in their own land. It is imperative that we recognize the urgency of the situation. Firstly, I implore upon the Government to initiate a comprehensive coastal protection plan that leverages the latest scientific and technological advancements. Adequate financial allocation is crucial. The Government must reflect its commitment in budgets, setting aside sufficient funds for coastal protection projects, community development initiatives and research programmes. There is a pressing need for a comprehensive scientific study into the issue of coastal erosion along India's coasts. Such a study will offer a detailed understanding of regional variations enabling the identification of high risk zones and implementation of targeted measures for coastal protection. Sir, additionally, it will facilitate the integration of indigenous knowledge with advanced scientific insights fostering a holistic approach. This comprehensive study stands as a crucial step towards serving our coastal heritage, sustaining the livelihood and fortifying the resilience of our coastal communities in the face of escalating environmental challenges. I hope the Government will take immediate action to address this crisis. Thank you.