

लोगों के लिए एकमात्र ब्रॉड गेज रेलवे लाइन है। साल भर भारी संख्या में श्रद्धालु देश के हर कोने से वैष्णो माता के दर्शन के लिए जम्मू आते-जाते हैं। इसके पश्चात् अधिकतर लोग प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य से भरपूर देवभूमि हिमाचल प्रदेश में धार्मिक पर्यटन हेतु माँ ज्वालामुखी, माँ बगलामुखी, माँ नैना देवी, माँ चिंतपूर्णी, माँ चामुंडा देवी, माँ ब्रजेश्वरी व शिव मंदिर, बैजनाथ आते हैं। वंदे भारत ट्रेन के पठानकोट कैंट स्टेशन पर ठहराव न होने की वजह से हिमाचल प्रदेश के उपरोक्त धार्मिक स्थल श्रद्धालुओं व पर्यटकों से वंचित रह जाते हैं। पठानकोट स्टेशन पर वंदे भारत के ठहराव से हिमाचल प्रदेश के धार्मिक पर्यटन को निश्चित रूप से बढ़ावा मिलेगा। वंदे भारत ट्रेन देश की पहली ऐसी रेल सेवा है, जिसमें प्रीमियर सफर का सबके अधिक ख्याल रखा गया है। इसलिए उपरोक्त रूट पर पठानकोट कैंट रेलवे स्टेशन पर वंदे भारत ट्रेन का ठहराव हिमाचल प्रदेश के धार्मिक पर्यटन को बढ़ाने की दिशा में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण कदम होगा।

अतः मैं माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से माँग करती हूँ कि आप संबंधित अधिकारियों को निर्देशित कर वंदे भारत ट्रेन का ठहराव कम से कम 2 मिनट के लिए पठानकोट कैंट स्टेशन पर करवाने की कृपा करें। धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member, Ms. Indu Bala Goswami: Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Dr. Sikander Kumar (Himachal Pradesh), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla, Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

The next speaker is Shri K.C. Venugopal; concern over alleged prevalence of casteism and discriminatory practices in Central Universities, IITs and IIMs.

Alleged prevalence of casteism and discriminatory practices in Central Universities, IITs and IIMs

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Rajasthan): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards a pressing incidence that needs an immediate intervention from the Union Government. I have gone through an answer given by the hon. Minister in Lok Sabha, which reveals that 13,626 students from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities have dropped out from Central Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management during the last five years. The hon. Minister also has given a break-up of the students who have dropped out from various institutions. Sir, 4,596 OBC candidates and 2,424 SC and 2,629 ST students dropped out of Central Universities. In the past five years, as many as 2,066 OBC candidates, 1,068 SC and 408 ST students dropped out from IITs and 163 OBC, 188 SC and 91 ST candidates dropped out from the IIMs in the same period. The Minister has been giving an explanation

that the students have various options for going for other programmes and, that is why, it happens. But does only OBC, SC, ST students have this option, Sir! Why is it happening for these students? It should be noted that our major institutions, prestigious institutions like IIMs and IITs, were in the headlines due to caste discrimination and other discriminatory activities. The students are faced by serious issues during their study. Therefore, the rate of suicide in the campuses is also very high in this period. I have statistics on that also. In December, 2021, the Union Government had told Parliament that 122 students have died by suicide at higher educational institutions under the Central Government between 2014 and 2021. Of the 120 students, 24 belonged to the SC community, 3 were STs and 41 were OBCs. We have not forgotten about Rohit Vemula. His suicide note is very clear, 'My birth is my fatal accident.' This was written by Rohit Vemula as a student. Sir, I urge the Government of India to take immediate steps, intervene in it, so as to address the concern on this discrimination and marginalization within the educational institutions...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You know the limit of three minutes. ...(*Interruptions*).. It is not going on record, K.C. Venugopalji.

जो माननीय सदस्य associate करना चाहते हैं, kindly send your name here. माननीय श्री संजीव अरोड़ा। Demand to make Ayushman Scheme more effective by enabling poor to get full benefits. ...(*Interruptions*).. एक मिनट। ...(*व्यवधान*)... माननीय सदस्यगण, आप सब जानते हैं कि जब आपका matter, with permission of the Chair, accept होता है, तो उसमें आप सिर्फ 3 मिनट ही बोल सकते हैं। उसके बाद वह रिकॉर्ड पर नहीं जाता। ...(*व्यवधान*)... मुझे आपको बार-बार बताना पड़ता है, रिक्वेस्ट करना पड़ता है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... माननीय संजीव अरोड़ा जी, सिर्फ आपकी ही बात रिकॉर्ड पर जाएगी, कुछ और नहीं। ...(*व्यवधान*)... प्रमोद जी, माननीय संजीव अरोड़ा जी को सुनिए, प्लीज। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri K.C. Venugopal: Shrimati Rajani Ashokrao Patil (Maharashtra), Shri Pramod Tiwari (Rajasthan), Shri Mallikarjun Kharge (Karnataka), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Derek O'Brien (West Bengal), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri G. C. Chandrashekhara (Karnataka), Shri Rajmani Patel (Madhya Pradesh),

* Not recorded

Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Dr. V. Sivadasan, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla and Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal).

Need to make Ayushman Scheme more effective by enabling poor to get full benefits

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA (Punjab): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important issue which is regarding the Ayushman scheme launched by the Government. I am talking from the official numbers and, from the official numbers of the Ayushman scheme, it is clear that the average amount spent on every patient is Rs.12,000 whereas the approved amount is Rs.5,00,000 for every family. So, Rs.12,000 is less for two reasons. First of all, all the hospitals which can take care of critical care are not empanelled with Ayushman which means that now the average bed size of hospitals empanelled under Ayushman scheme is 48. It further means that only smaller hospitals are empanelled and the bigger hospitals, which can take care of critical illnesses, are not.

So, my request to the Government is to make bigger hospitals compulsory for empanelment or, at least, those hospitals which have medical colleges taking benefit from the Government and taking income tax exemption. It is because, Sir, poor patients are not getting treatment to the extent promised under Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

Also, the cost of treatment approved under Ayushman Bharat Scheme is very less. So, private and corporate hospitals do not want to get themselves empanelled. That is why patients do not get the best possible care under this scheme.

So, my request to the Government is to make empanelment of some hospitals compulsory, increase charges, to some extent, under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, so that all poor people are covered. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour submission made by the hon. Member, Shri Sanjeev Arora: Shri Jayant Chaudhary (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Suleta Deo (Odisha), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla, Dr. John Birttas (Kerala) and Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal).