

P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amanr Patnaik (Odisha), Smt. Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal).

धन्यवाद, माननीय श्री प्रशांत नन्दा जी। डा. वी. शिवादासन; Demand to develop Kannur International Airport. जो भी माननीय सदस्य एसोसिएट करना चाहते हैं, वे अपने नाम यहां भेज दें। डा. वी. शिवादासन।

### **Demand to develop Kannur International Airport**

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Respected Chair, I would request the Union Government for their intervention in the development of the Kannur International Airport. The Kannur International Airport is the hope of the people there. The catchment area of the Airport includes Kannur, Calicut, Kasargod and Wayanad Districts. People from Coorg also make use of this Airport. In Kannur, around 5,000 acres of land owned by the State Government has been acquired for the development of the Kannur International Airport project. The KIAL also invested heavily in the infrastructure facilities. There is a sizeable number of NRI population in this region. Historically, Malabar has been involved in trade and bilateral relations with foreign countries like Saudi Arabia. Cargo such as marine products, handlooms and handicrafts have enormous potential in this region. Kannur, the land of looms and lores, and the surrounding region has a high tourism potential. The biggest drive-in beach in Asia, the Indian Naval Academy, great centres of Indian freedom movement, as also noted places of folk arts, are also here. Sir, thousands of tourists visit Kannur to see the beauty of the land, to study the historical monuments and enjoy the weather and flora and fauna. On one side of the border of the District, there is Arabian Sea and on the other side is Western Ghats. Thousands of tourists are visiting this area. The development of this area is inevitable for the sustainable development of the people. Foreign airlines are requesting for providing their services to this airport but the Ministry is not ready to give the permission. At the same time, they have given the permission to some other airport. The entire people of Kerala are requesting for granting 'point of call' status to Kannur International Airport. But the Union Government is not ready to give the permission. By trying to cage the Kannur International Airport, they are trying to cage the dream of the people. Some of them in the Ministry are targeting the people of Kannur and the International Airport; the dream project of Kerala. Sir, Mangalore Airport and Trivandrum Airport are run by a big corporate company. If the Government is trying to protect the profit of this big corporate company, their own friend, then, I am telling, and I am sure, they will be punished by the people today or tomorrow. With these words, I am concluding, Sir.

Please protect the airport; please try to help the Kannur International Airport. The Government should do their duty. This is my request. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member, Dr. V. Sivadasan: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Imran Pratapgarhi (Maharashtra), Shri Elamaram Kareem (Kerala), Shri Javed Ali Khan (Uttar Pradesh) and Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Amanr Patnaik (Odisha).

The next speaker is Shri Sant Balbir Singh; demand to address the problems being faced by the farmers of Punjab due to financial recession.

### **Need to address the problems being faced by the farmers of Punjab due to financial recession**

SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH (Punjab):\* "Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important issue. I wish to draw the attention of all the hon. Members of Parliament and the Government towards the poor condition of the farmers of Punjab. There is a proverb in Punjabi,

“उत्तम खेती मध्यम व्यापार, नीच चाकरी कुक्कर निदान”

That is, farming is considered the best profession in our society, business is said to be a medium level work, job is considered as an inferior profession and our elders have been comparing it with wagging the tail like a dog.

Agriculture is considered as the best profession in the Indian society. However, today the youth of Punjab is going abroad, leaving farming at home. Since the youth is migrating to foreign countries, the wealth of India is also going away alongwith them. Farmers and labourers are committing suicide. As per a recent report, everyday 114 farmers and labourers of our country are committing suicide. During the farmers' agitation, the Government had accepted a few demands, but still the demands pertaining to MSP have not been fulfilled. There is restlessness amongs the farmers on this account and, hence, these demands must be fulfilled. Every year, the Government offers the Minimum Support Price for 23 crops. But the purchase of these crops remains confined only to wheat and paddy. The Government has

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\* English translation of the original speech delivered in Punjabi.