

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

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Punjabi.

announced Rs. 1962 as the MSP for maize. However, the farmers are not getting this price. They are being given Rs. 700 -1200 only for their maize crops. Thus, the announcement of MSP is just a sham that we have announced an MSP but nobody is buying those crops and this is a very big problem in Punjab. Hence, it is my humble request that the law guaranteeing the purchase of crops at the Minimum Support Price must be implemented. Also, the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee Report must be implemented. Dr. Swaminathan has left this world. I also offered my homage to him. And the true tribute to Dr. Swaminathan would be the implementation of the recommendations for farmers that he gave in his report. It must henceforth be ensured that agriculture becomes remunerative. I hereby thank the Government and our hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for the commendable work that he has done for operationalising the Kartarpur corridor. But I demand that the Wagah Border route should be opened for trade purposes. It is worth noting that when the price of potatoes in Punjab is Rs. 5/- per kilogram, at the same time potatoes in Pakistan are selling at the rate of Rs. 150/- per kilogram. Potatoes are cultivated in Punjab, however they are exported to Pakistan via Gujarat or via Dubai. So this silk route may be operationalized. We are also trading with China. Do they everyday welcome us with bouquets? If the Wagah border is opened for trade, it would be a great financial benefit to our country and the State of Punjab in particular. It is thus my humble request to you to consider the above demands. Thank you very much."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Sant Balbir Singh: Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Rajmani Patel (Madhya Pradesh) and Shri Vikramjit Singh Sahney (Punjab), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal (Punjab).

Now, Dr. M. Thambidurai - Demand to start eight-lane road project between Karur and Coimbatore and six-lane road between Karur and Trichy.

Demand to start 8 lane road project between Karur and Coimbatore and 6 lane road project between Karur and Trichy

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw attention of the hon. Minister of Road Transport and National Highways to a