

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

road project which is pending for a long time in Tamil Nadu. Sir, Karur to Coimbatore National Highway's eight-lane project was approved a long time ago by the Ministry of the Union Government, but it is not yet implemented. Likewise, Karur-Trichy National Highway's six-lane project is also a necessity in the present circumstances. I request the hon. Minister to start these projects for the reasons that I am explaining now. Karur is a city in Tamil Nadu famous for production and export of handlooms, textiles and mosquito nets. Further, it is also a famous city for bus body building industry. There are also cement factories established in Karur. It is a very big city in itself. Coimbatore is also a Manchester of South India. Coimbatore is a very well-known place. Trichy is also a major city having a lot of industries in that area. Therefore, Sir, you know very well that during the time of our former Chief Minister, Edappadi Palanisami, he had made a lot of efforts to implement this project and tried to cooperate with the Central Government. He appointed many officials to acquire land and complete other things. But, in spite of efforts made by our former Chief Minister, Edappadi Palanisami, I don't know why this project is still pending. These are important and strategic cities having their own corporations. Karur is a corporation. Trichy is also a corporation. Coimbatore too is a corporation. These corporations have several thousand square meters to travel from one city to another on daily basis. If the eight-lane project between Karur and Coimbatore and six-lane project between Karur and Trichy are implemented, travel time between Trichy and Coimbatore can be reduced to two hours and it will be a boost to the economy. A lot of accidents are taking place due to lack of these roads and especially people of Karur are suffering a lot. Many accidents have taken place. Many people have died. We are seeing these tragic things in these areas. Therefore, these projects are very necessary. I request the National Highways Authority of India and the hon. Minister to see that these projects between Karur to Coimbatore and Karur to Tiruchirappalli are connected. If we connect Coimbatore Airport and also Trichy Airport, we can travel this distance in two hours. This can be a great facility. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister and the Central Government and also the State Government to cooperate in this regard and see that the project is implemented. Thank you very much.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. M. Thambidurai: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. Amanr Patnaik (Odisha).

Dr. Santanu Sen - request to change the logo of the National Medical Commission.