

candidates from Tamil Nadu were shortlisted despite the State's excellence in engineering education. This discrepancy fails to appreciate the significant contributions made by local communities. Furthermore, NLCIL's expansion into other States raises questions about the allocation of employment opportunities. Given the sacrifices made by the people of Tamil Nadu, it is critical to ensure their fair share in the benefits generated by the company. Therefore, I urge the government to review the recent graduate engineer selection process to ensure transparency and inclusion of eligible candidates from Tamil Nadu. They also call for the implementation of a reservation policy that allocates 90 per cent of vacancies across all categories within NLCIL to qualified candidates from Tamil Nadu. Ensuring equitable employment opportunities for the youth of Tamil Nadu within NLCIL is not only a matter of economic justice but also a recognition of the sacrifices made by their communities. I urge the Government to look into the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member, Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), associated himself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri N. Chandraseggaran.

Demand for boosting rail connectivity in Kalahandi, Balangir, Koraput (KBK) region

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, through you, I seek to raise an important matter of boosting rail connectivity in the KBK (Kalahandi, Balangir, Koraput) region, which comprises of 7 out of 10 aspirational districts of Odisha and requires substantial boost in railway connectivity since people of the region frequently travel in western Odisha for economic, educational and medical purposes. At present, people face numerous problems due to low connectivity and erratic timings which take toll on passengers and create inconvenience in travel affecting their prospects. To cite an example, Kalahandi district has only 08317/08318 Sambalpur - Junagarh Road - Sambalpur Passenger Special Train to connect Kalahandi with Sambalpur, which takes nearly 8 hours to reach, whereas buses cover this distance in just 4-5 hours. There is also a need to extend this train to Jharsuguda Road. Similarly, 08503/08504 Bhawanipatna-Visakhapatnam - Bhawanipatna Passenger Special should be converted to Express Train and extended to Junagarh Road, and 12893/12894 Bhubaneswar-Balangir-Bhubaneswar Superfast be extended to Rayagada *via* Kesinga. This will avoid inconvenience for frequent travellers who have to plan well in advance for accommodating the time lost in travel, and also for patients with medical emergency. Sir, in view of these compelling factors, I request the Government to consider the aforementioned demands for significantly boosting railway connectivity in

the KBK region of western Odisha. Such a move would not only ease access and reduce journey time but also provide much-needed respite to the people of KBK region.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Sujeet Kumar: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala).

Demand to start four ropeways in Tripura

श्री बिप्लव कुमार देब (त्रिपुरा): महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केंद्रीय सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय को त्रिपुरा से संबंधित एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय से अवगत कराना चाहता हूँ। मंत्रालय ने त्रिपुरा में निम्नलिखित चार रोपवे बनाने का प्रस्ताव किया था:- (1) उदयपुर रेलवे स्टेशन से माताबारी, (2) महारानी से छबिमुर्दा, (3) सुरमाचेरा और (4) जम्पुई हिल्स

त्रिपुरा में पर्यटन विकास के लिए यह महत्वाकांक्षी प्रयास बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस संबंध में त्रिपुरा में रोपवे के विकास के लिए National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) और त्रिपुरा पर्यटन विकास निगम लिमिटेड के बीच 11.11.2022 को गुवाहाटी में एक एम.ओ.यू. पर हस्ताक्षर भी हुआ था। इस समझौते को लगभग एक वर्ष से अधिक समय हो चुका है, लेकिन इन चारों रोपवेज को स्थापित करने का कार्य अभी तक शुरू नहीं हुआ है। इस प्रोजेक्ट से आस-पास के क्षेत्रों की कनेक्टिविटी में सुधार होगा और स्थानीय पर्यटन को मजबूती मिलेगी।

मेरा माननीय मंत्री, सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय से आग्रह है कि उक्त विषय पर धरातल पर शीघ्रता से कार्य किया जाए और त्रिपुरा में चारों रोपवेज स्थापित करने के कार्य में गति लाई जाए, ताकि सामान्य जनता को इसका लाभ मिल सके।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member, Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), associated himself with the Special Mention raised by Shri Biplab Kumar Deb.

Mr. Shekhar, do you want to say something?

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): अब खत्म करें, सर!...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, it is a good suggestion. I sustain the point raised by him. The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 8th February, 2024.

The House then adjourned at fifty-nine minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 8th February, 2024.