

Britishers not for the development of Malabar or Kerala. It was developed to get the forces to suppress the rebellions against the British and take out the Nilambur teak from there to the U.K. That is why they started it. But now, after Independence, the Nilambur-Shoranur Express is connecting different places. Nilambur Road Station has now been identified under the Amrut Bharat Station Scheme. The hon. Minister has included it and the work is going on. The problem is with the speed and the electric connection and all. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into that one. The long-pending Bathery-Nanjangud-Nilambur to Bangalore, there is an easy road, so that Keralites can save, at least, 150 kms. So, for Nilambur-Nanjangud projects and all, the PPR is already done and I wish the next Minister will be looking into that. The General-Manager of Southern Railways agreed for A.C. coaches from Nilambur to Ernakulam-Kottayam. But, so far, it is not there. MEMU train is not there and it is very difficult for us to travel. So, I request the Government of India, through you, that immediate action should be taken for Nilambur-Shoranur-Cochin and Kottayam routes. We have already got the Rajya Rani Express from Nilambur to Kochuveli, but it is very difficult for the cancer patients, as 90 per cent of the cancer patients are going to RCC, Trivandrum because the train stops at Kochuveli; and again, from there to Trivandrum, they have to take auto rickshaws, taxis which are fleeing the people by charging Rs.300, Rs.400 for five kilometres. So, I request, through you, not to extend, but to make the Nilambur Road Rajya Rani Express to Trivandrum Central which is our most important demand. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Abdul Wahab: Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), and Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala).

Shri M. Shanmugam; need for constructing laying overland bridge between Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu and Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. ...*(Interruptions)*... His name was for association. He has associated. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Need to construct laying overland bridge between Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu and Talaimannar in Sri Lanka

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, for the last two centuries, efforts are being made to provide sea communication between Sri Lanka and Indian mainland

and many surveys and projects were prepared. Recently also, Sethusamudram Canal Project that would connect the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait was conceived and all feasibility reports were prepared and dredging work was also started during the UPA regime. Unfortunately, when the BJP Government came to power, it was discontinued and ultimately, it was abandoned.

Our hon. Chief Minister, Mr. M.K. Stalin, last year moved a resolution in the Tamil Nadu State Assembly seeking the revival of the Sehtusamudram Project, but the Union Government did not give any response.

From the Indian coastal corner at Dhanushkodi to Sri Lanka's Talaimannar, it is only 25 kms., and it can be easily connected with a bridge. It will improve the port connectivity and also the movement of the people. Dr. A. Ramasamy Mudaliar Committee which was engaged by the Union Government in 1955, examined the desirability of the project and found the project feasible and viable. However, it strongly recommended an overland passage instead of a channel cutting through the sea.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government, especially, the hon. Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Road Transport to consider laying overland bridge or under-sea bridge between Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar to improve economic and trade relations and people to people movement between India and Sri Lanka at the earliest. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri M. Shanmugam: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

Thank you. Hon. Member, Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi on 'Need to include HPV vaccines in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)'

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, thank you so much for the time for this important topic to be discussed, पर उससे पहले मैं 30 सेकंड लेना चाहूँगी। *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You are not speaking on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, this is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: Sir, I will speak on this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

* Not recorded.

श्री उपसभापति : अगर आप सब्जेक्ट पर नहीं बोलेंगी तो I will proceed further.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: Sir, please listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing. The Chair is not allowing. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: It has nothing to do with the allegations, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, you have to speak on the subject. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: It has nothing to do with the allegations. All I want to know is,(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Priyankaji, you have to speak on the subject. Otherwise, I am calling the other Member. Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar.

SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, today, I rise to bring to your notice. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is over. Now, Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)... Nothing is going on record, Madam. Now, Question Hour.

12.00 Noon

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Irrigation system in Jharkhand

†*1. SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS Welfare be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.