

cut down the GST rates on mediclaim insurance policies. This will encourage the common man to insure his life by taking mediclaim policies.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Rajani Ashokrao Patil: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri Imran Pratapgarhi (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shrimati Mausam Noor (West Bengal), Ms. Sushmita Dev (West Bengal), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Shri Shaktisinh Gohil (Gujarat), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam), Shri Ramji (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Anil Kumar Yadav (Telangana), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Sanjeev Arora, (Punjab).

The next speaker is Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde; Request to confer Bharat Ratna to Late Dr. Panjabrao Shamrao Deshmukh for his great contribution to the country especially in the field of education and agriculture.

**Request to confer Bharat Ratna to Late Dr. Panjabrao Shamrao Deshmukh for his great contribution to the country especially in the field of education and agriculture**

**डा. अनिल सुखदेवराव बोंडे (महाराष्ट्र):** आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपका ध्यान स्वर्गीय डॉ. पंजाबराव उपाख्य बहुसेव शामराव देशमुख के शिक्षा, सामाजिक और कृषि क्षेत्र में महान योगदान की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। वे भारत में एक प्रमुख सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता और किसानों के नेता थे। उन्होंने पं. जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी की कैबिनेट में कृषि मंत्री के रूप में काम किया था। भारत में प्रथम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कृषि प्रदर्शनी और हरित क्रांति में उनका योगदान सराहनीय तथा अविस्मरणीय था। उन्होंने वर्ष 1932 में शिवाजी शिक्षण संस्थान की स्थापना की। उनके द्वारा स्थापित शिवाजी शिक्षण संस्थान के अंतर्गत 24 डिग्री कॉलेज, 54 इंटरमीडिएट कॉलेज, 75 स्कूल, 25 छात्रावास, मेडिकल कॉलेज, लॉ कॉलेज और इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज संचालित किए जाते हैं। अकोला के शासकीय कृषि विश्वविद्यालय का नाम डॉ. पंजाबराव देशमुख कृषि विद्यापीठ रख कर भी उन्हें सम्मानित किया गया है। उन्होंने भारतीय संविधान के निर्माण में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है और आजाद हिंद सेना के लिए बचाव पक्ष के वकील के रूप में भी काम किया है। उन्होंने अस्पृश्यता के लिए भी काम किया है। अमरावती के अम्बादेवी मंदिर में अछूतों को प्रवेश की अनुमति देने के लिए सत्याग्रह किया है। इस वर्ष पूरा भारत डॉ. पंजाबराव

देशमुख जी की 125वीं जयंती मना रहा है। चूँकि डॉ. पंजाबराव शामराव देशमुख ने देश में शिक्षा, कृषि, संसदीय तथा सामाजिक क्षेत्र में बहुत बड़ा योगदान दिया है, इसलिए मैं उन्हें 'भारत रत्न' से सम्मानित करने का अनुरोध और आग्रह करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), and Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik (Maharashtra).

The next speaker is Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar; Demand to release the funds for the Chennai Metro Rail project, Phase-II.

### **Demand to release the funds for the Chennai Metro Rail project, Phase-II**

SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Respected Deputy Chairman Sir, I bring to your kind notice that in Budget speech of 2021-2022, the hon. Finance Minister of the Union Government announced a budget allocation of Rs. 63,246 crores for the second phase of the Chennai Metro Rail Project. As recommended by the Public Investment Board on August 17, 2021. However, this project has been waiting the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for the last three years. As a result, the entire expenditure is being borne by the State. This delay is severely impacting the State finances. Sir, I raised a question on the same issue to the hon. Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs for which I received a reply stating that the 118.9 kilometre Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2 project is currently under process and its approval depends upon the feasibility of the project. In this matter, I would like to submit that the population of Chennai metro city is approximately 1.2 crores, which is huge in size. The condition of traffic in Chennai city is quite hectic because of high population, which is 26,000 people per square kilometre. Similar other cities, like Delhi and Bengaluru, which have a large population, have excellent metro network. Additionally, the floating population of Chennai settles around 25 kilometres on daily basis, which is on par with other metro cities.

Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has reiterated his request for the release of funds. In the light of this, I respectfully make a request to the Union Government to allocate the previously-announced funds for the Chennai Metro Rail — Phase II Project.

Sir, the Union Government should treat all the States equally like a 'mother-bird'.