

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'.