

Kanimozhi NVN Somu: Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), and Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu).

Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu, to speak in Punjabi.

Demand for proposed Military Academy at Sri Anandpur Sahib

श्री सतनाम सिंह संधू (नामनिर्देशित) : महोदय, श्री आनंदपुर साहिब शहर के पंजाबी समुदाय और सिख सम्प्रदाय के लिए ऐतिहासिक महत्व रखता है। यह 'Holy City of Bliss' सिखों के लिए अमृतसर के बाद सबसे पवित्र स्थानों में से एक है। यह सिख धर्म की धार्मिक परंपराओं और इतिहास से करीब से जुड़ा हुआ है और सिखों के पांच सबसे महत्वपूर्ण धार्मिक स्थानों में से एक है।

यह खालसा पंथ की जन्मस्थली भी है। यहीं पर गुरु गोबिन्द सिंह ने 1699 में बैसाखी के दिन खालसा पंथ की स्थापना की थी। हर साल दुनिया भर से लाखों श्रद्धालु श्री केशगढ़ साहिब में माथा टेकने आते हैं। श्री आनंदपुर साहिब का होला मोहल्ला त्यौहार भी दुनिया भर में प्रसिद्ध है। 1999 में, श्री खालसा का 300वां जन्मदिन समारोह पूरे भारत और दुनिया भर में मनाया गया। समारोह के दौरान, तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी ने 8 अप्रैल, 1999 को आनंदपुर साहिब में समारोह का उद्घाटन किया और पवित्र शहर को एक सैन्य अकादमी का उपहार दिया। हालांकि, बाद में यह मुद्दा ठंडा पड़ गया और सैन्य अकादमी की स्थापना अभी भी लंबित है।

जैसा हम सब जानते हैं कि यह सरकार राष्ट्र प्रथम के आदर्श वाक्य पर काम करती है, इसलिए इस संबंध में, मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि कृपया वह इस मामले पर गौर करे और श्री आनंदपुर साहिब को सैन्य अकादमी का अधिकार देने पर विचार करे।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SASMIT PATRA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu: Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab) and Shri Sant Balbir Singh (Punjab).

Demand to complete approval process of Bongaigaon Refinery (BGR), project expansion in Assam

SHRI RWNGWRA NARZARY (Assam): Sir, Bongaigaon Refinery (BGR) located in the district of Chirang, Bodoland Territorial Region has tirelessly served this nation since 1974 and has been fuelling the growth engine of the province of Assam and state of India. Under the Hydro carbon Vision 2030 then MoS for the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced Government of India's decision to finance and

support BGR expansion from 2.7 MMTPA to 5 MMTPA on 17th November, 2021 at BGR auditorium during the celebration of *Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav*.

This declaration was well-received and was applauded by the people of Assam. Accordingly, we were hopeful that the process of approval of the BGR expansion project would be completed without delay and the foundation laying ceremony for BGR also would be done along with the foundation of Digboi Refinery on the last 9th March, 2024. So, BTC Government expedited land allotment process and allotment letter issued to IOCL for 532 bigha land and propose to offer additional 300 bigha land and requested IOCL for consent. But it is a matter of concern that till now the approval process after MoS statement has not completed. BGR's sustainability will depend on the timely intervention by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. As the financial year, 2023-24, was fixed as outlook for completion of expansion of BGR, I request the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to intervene immediately on approval process and save a famous and legacy refinery from ending for the interest of the people of Assam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SASMIT PATRA): The hon. Member, Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), associated himself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Rwngrwa Narzary.

Demand to abolish GST on Assistive Products for persons with disabilities and ensuring adequate budgetary support

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, there is an urgent need to address the problems endured by millions of persons with disabilities. Imposition of 5 per cent GST on essential aids like prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs, brailers, etc. is a financial burden. These devices are not luxury items; they are essential lifelines enabling their independence, mobility, education, and employment. 2011 Census reported approximately 2.68 crore individuals with disabilities, a number that is likely to have increased significantly since then. The Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India, the premier Government agency supplying assistive living equipments nationwide, has been of great assistance. Nevertheless, its budgetary allocation has been significantly reduced over the years, compounding the challenges. I urge the Government to initiate immediate discussions with GST Council to abolish GST on assistive products for persons with disabilities and to allocate increased budgetary support for their well being.