

Demand to start a Superfast/Vande Bharat train from Meerut City to Varanasi

डा. लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति जी, मेरठ शहर स्टेशन से वाराणसी के लिए वाया इलाहाबाद एक ट्रेन चलाने की एक मांग मेरे द्वारा लंबे समय से की जा रही है। उसका कारण यह है कि जहां इलाहाबाद हमारा एक धार्मिक क्षेत्र है, वहीं पर हमारा उच्च न्यायालय भी है। यह पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश से ट्रेन से जाने या राहत कार्यों के हित में भी आवश्यक है।

महोदय, वाराणसी भी हमारा एक तीर्थ स्थल है। मैं बार-बार इस बात का आग्रह कर रहा हूँ और मेरा यह सौभाग्य है कि आज माननीय रेल मंत्री जी भी इस वक्त सदन में उपस्थित हैं। मेरठ से वाया इलाहाबाद, लखनऊ-इलाहाबाद, वाराणसी के लिए सुपरफास्ट या वंदे भारत ट्रेन चलाई जाए - यह मेरा सरकार से विनम्रतापूर्वक आग्रह है।

उपसभापति महोदय, मुझे सदन में अपनी बात रखने का मौका देने के लिए आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the issue raised by hon. Member, Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee: Shri Deepak Prakash (Jharkhand), Shri Surendra Singh Nagar (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Neeraj Shekhar (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Brij Lal (Uttar Pradesh), Dr. Bhim Singh (Bihar), Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha).

Thank you Dr. Bajpayee. Now, Shri Vivek K. Tankha. Not present. Hon. H.D. Devegowda. Not present. Shri Jose K. Mani.

Demand to tackle the increasing menace of drug abuse in the country

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, Sir, I want to address a very serious issue which we have been talking about for a long time, but we are not able to contain the issue and it is drug abuse.

Drug abuse is not confined to any part of the country, but it affects cities, towns and villages alike. According to the NCRB data, the cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, have gone up by almost 204 per cent from 25,785 in 2011 to 78,331 in 2021! Even more tragic is that India recorded as many as 10,560 suicides from drug and alcohol addiction, which is 189 per cent higher than what was reported in 2011! The number is not just statistics, but it is a harsh reality we are facing. So, we need to act urgently. Sir, prevention starts with education. We need to invest in robust programmes that educate our youth about the danger of drug abuse.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Jose K. Mani: Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shri Sant Balbir Singh (Punjab), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri P.P. Suneer (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala).

Thank you. Time is over.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Question Hour.

Employment generation schemes

*181. SHRI R. DHARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress of employment generation schemes, State-wise, including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilised for such schemes during the last three years within Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether such schemes have actually reduced unemployment in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the amendments made under these schemes, especially with regard to withdrawal benefit;
- (d) whether Government proposes to create an urban employment guarantee scheme on the lines of MGNREGA;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA):

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.