महोदय, अम्बाला की ऐसी अनेक विशेषताएँ हैं, जो इसे Defence MRO बनाने हेतु सबसे अच्छा स्थान बनाती हैं और यह हरेक दृष्टिकोण से योग्य है, क्योंकि उसकी air connectivity, rail connectivity और road connectivity बहुत अच्छी है। चाहे मैं NH-1 की बात करूँ या मैं NH-22 की बात करूँ, जो अम्बाला-कालका-शिमला हाईवे है, ये सब चीजें strategically एक ऐसी लोकेशन बनाती हैं, जो कि एक MRO के लिए बहुत ही आवश्यक है। यह डिफेंस ऑपरेशंस के लिए भी बहुत फायदेमंद साबित होगा, क्योंकि पूरे वेस्टर्न कमांड के लिए और वेस्टर्न एरिया के लिए यह एक स्ट्रैटेजिक लोकेशन पर है। यहाँ से चंडीगढ़ एयरपोर्ट भी 40 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। मैं सदन को यह बात भी बताना चाहता हूँ कि अम्बाला के अन्दर बहुत ही जल्द सिविल एविएशन एयरपोर्ट भी शुरू होने वाला है, तो यह एक आखिरी कडी थी, जो अभी पूरी हो गई है।

महोदय, मैं यह निवेदन इसलिए भी करना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि आसपास के जो इलाके हैं, उनमें व्यवसाय के लिए, नौकरियों के लिए बहुत ही जरूरी आवश्यक प्रोजेक्ट्स हैं, जिनके लगने से पूरे क्षेत्र का विकास होगा। साथ ही, हमारे क्षेत्र के जो युवा हैं, उनको नौकरियों को लेकर वहां पर जो कमी रही है, उसको भी विकसित होने का मौका मिलेगा। उसके साथ अन्य उद्योग, जैसे - लॉजिस्टिक्स, ट्रेनिंग और भी बहुत सारे ऐसे उद्योग जुड़े हुए हैं, जो उस MRO को सपोर्ट करेंगे। हमारे पास थल सेना और एयरफोर्स के लिए भी, वहां पर एक बहुत ही अच्छी परिस्थित बन सकती है, जिसका फायदा पूरे के पूरे अम्बाला क्षेत्र को और पूरे के पूरे नॉर्दर्न रीजन को मिलेगा।

मैं आपके माध्यम से यही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ एक MRO grant किया जाए, ताकि अम्बाला और अम्बाला के आसपास के क्षेत्रों को इसका फायदा मिल सके। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री उपसभापतिः धन्यवाद, माननीय कार्तिकेय शर्मा जी।

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Kartikeya Sharma: Shri Madan Rathore (Rajasthan), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Now, Shri Abdul Wahab, "Demand to establish CGHS Wellness Centres in the Districts of Thrissur, Palakad and Malappurmam and empanelment of Super Specialty Hospitals under CGHS in Kerala."

Demand to establish CGHS Wellness Centres in the districts of Thrissur, Palakad and Malappurmam and empanelment of Super Specialty Hospitals under CGHS in Kerala

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB (Kerala): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards pressing demand of the people of Kerala for setting up of CGHS Wellness Centres in my district, Malappurmam, Thrissur and Palakad. These districts are most densely populated area where a number of Central Government offices are

functioning. Thrissur is the cultural capital of Kerala State. CGHS eligible beneficiaries in these districts are not able to avail the facilities for want of CGHS Centres and are wholly dependent upon private hospitals. A number of former Members of Parliament and their dependent family members are also living in these district headquarters. Though it is a fact that requisite number of beneficiaries as per set norms may not be available in this area, but the eligible beneficiaries, living and working in adjoining districts, can also be considered to meet the requisite norms and conditions for the purpose of establishment of Wellness Centers. Sir, CSMA Rules, 1944, are applicable only to serving Central Government employees. These rules are not applicable to pensioners. I think, this very rule needs to be reviewed to consider the serving and pensioners at par for the purpose of treatment. Also, the FMA paid is not commensurate with the market charges levied by the hospitals and consultations. There is an urgent need to increase the FMA amount also.

I would urge the Government to set up CGHS Centres in these districts or the Government should, at least, devise an appropriate mechanism to allow CGHS eligible beneficiaries to obtain treatment from the super specialty hospitals in these districts by empanelling them under the charge of nearby existing CGHS centres, wherever such centres cannot be established. This would also help them to a certain extent in order to avail further treatments. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Abdul Wahab: Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal) and Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand).

Now, Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik, "Demand for formulating public procurement policy in respect of SC/ST entrepreneurs."

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the title of my submission needs a little correction. It is not for a new policy rather implementation of the policy for procurement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. I read the title which has been mentioned here. You can correct.

Demand for formulating public procurement policy in respect of SC/ST Entrepreneurs

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Rajasthan): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity for drawing the attention of the Government towards one very important issue. The Government of India announced the Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises in 2012. This was notified under MSMED Act of 2006. The Policy became operational from 1st April 2012, and its implementation became mandatory from 1st April 2015. Sir, under the Policy, Central Government Ministries, Departments and Public Sector Undertakings are mandated to procure 25 per cent of their annual value of goods and services from micro and small enterprises. This includes four per cent of total procurement of goods and services from micro and small enterprises owned by the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs. It is now nine years since the policy has become mandatory. I would like to know what the status of its implementation is.

In 2018, the share of enterprises owned by SC/ST in the procurement of goods and services was 0.54 per cent. This was against the mandatory requirement of four per cent. In 2019, it was 0.53 per cent; in 2020, it was 0.55 per cent; in 2021, it was 0.79 per cent; in 2022, it was 0.89 per cent and in 2023, it was 0.88 per cent. The average comes to about 0.75 per cent. Does this reflect any seriousness on the part of the authorities responsible for the implementation of this policy? Certainly not! How long will it take for us to reach four per cent of procurement from SC/ST entrepreneurs if this is going to be the pace? The House is aware that since Independence, though several measures have been taken up to ameliorate the conditions of SC/ST, we still have a long way to go. I, therefore, demand through you, Sir, that the Government at the highest level must intervene immediately and see that the policy for the economic empowerment of SC/ST is implemented in true letter and spirit. So far, the implementation of the public procurement policy has been extremely dismal. Recognising the right of the deprived sections, I urge the Government to take corrective steps without any further delay. (*Time-bell rings.*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik: Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West