

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Naresh Bansal: Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Shri Mahendra Bhatt (Uttarakhand), Shrimati Geeta alias Chandraprabha (Uttar Pradesh), Ms. Kavita Patidar (Madhya Pradesh), Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki (Madhya Pradesh), Shrimati Sumitra Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Dr. Kalpana Saini (Uttarakhand), Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik (Maharashtra), Shri Ram Chander Jangra (Haryana) and Shri Brij Lal (Uttar Pradesh).

Now, hon. Member, Dr. John Brittas on 'Concern over difficulties being faced by Kerala candidates for the upcoming NEET PG Examination by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) owing to the allotment of examination centres in Andhra Pradesh'.

Concern over difficulties being faced by Kerala candidates for the upcoming NEET PG Examination by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) owing to the allotment of examination centres in Andhra Pradesh

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, NEET-PG examination has undergone multiple postponements, with the latest date now set for 11.08.2024. In an unprecedented move, NBEMS introduced a new requirement compelling applicants to select four prospective examination centres, with the first three choices being within Kerala and the fourth restricted to Andhra Pradesh. Reluctantly, Kerala candidates opted for centres in Andhra Pradesh as their fourth choice, hoping that they would be allotted one of their first three preferred centres within Kerala. However, as per the list published by NBEMS on 31.07.2024, majority of Kerala candidates were allotted examination centres in Andhra Pradesh, a state far away from Kerala. Similar challenges are being faced by candidates from other States also, making it a pan-India issue. Furthermore, the list only indicates the State and area, without revealing the exact centre locations until August 8, two days before the examination. Sir, I am glad that our representations have been viewed positively and the Government has taken a favourable decision on this. I thank the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. John Brittas: Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu

(Tamil Nadu), Shri Muzibulla Khan (Odisha) and Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha).

Thank you. Now, Ms. Kavita Patidar.

Demand for starting of Mhow-Indore-Manmad Railway Project

सुश्री कविता पाटीदार (मध्य प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, महू, इंदौर-मनमाड़ रेल मार्ग परियोजना कई सालों से प्रस्तावित है, परन्तु प्रस्तावित समय से यह रेल मार्ग अभी तक पूरा नहीं हो पाया है। उक्त रेल मार्ग का सर्वे भी मई, 2017 में पूर्ण किया जा चुका है, साथ में डी.पी.आर. भी तैयार हैं। अतः मैं सरकार से इस परियोजना को शीघ्र चालू करने के आग्रह करती हूँ, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Ms. Kavita Patidar: Shrimati Sumitra Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki (Madhya Pradesh).

Thank you. Now, Shri Sujeet Kumar on 'Demand for Increasing Hunar Se Rozgar Tak Training Institutes for Tourism in Odisha'.

Demand for Increasing Hunar Se Rozgar Tak Training Institutes for Tourism in Odisha

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, Odisha attracts millions of domestic and international tourists annually, with a footfall of 10,014,175 tourists in 2023-24. Although, this is less compared to the pre-COVID years as we are still recovering, Odisha's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty continue to draw many visitors, making tourism a vital part of our economy. Tourism is a highly labour-intensive sector and approximately, for every 1 million rupees investment in Tourism Sector, 89 jobs are created as against 45 jobs in Primary Sector and 13 jobs in Secondary Sector in Odisha. However, the lack of HSRT training centres hampers our ability to train and empower our youth, affecting their employment opportunities and the quality of services provided to tourists. While we do not harbour any envy towards other states and are glad to see our fellow states like Uttar Pradesh with around 15 centres, Madhya Pradesh with 12, Rajasthan with 15, and Telangana with 7, it is concerning that our state, Odisha, which generates 13 per cent of its GDP from tourism, has only one centre allocated under the Hunar Se Rozgar Tak Training Institute for Tourism. More HSRT training centres in Odisha will equip our youth with essential skills, leading to higher employment rates and improved tourist services. This will boost local