

Concern over the privatisation of Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI (Odisha): Thank you, hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me permission to raise a matter of urgent public importance. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India and this august House to the proposed privatisation of Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. On 17th April 1962, the airport was dedicated to the people of Odisha and to the people of the nation. The Government of India accorded international status to the airport on 30th October 2013 and named it 'Biju Patnaik International Airport' after our legendary leader, former Chief Minister, freedom fighter, aviator, late Biju Patnaik ji. Forty-three flights are being operated from Biju Patnaik International Airport every day to 24 destinations in India and abroad. Biju Patnaik International Airport handles over 4.6 million passengers every year. And profit exceeds to grow to 35 per cent. The Biju Patnaik International Airport is a profit-making airport in India. And it is eighth most profit making airport out of total 102 airports in our country. So, proposed privatisation of Biju Patnaik International Airport after 62 years of successful operation is a matter of great concern. For whose interest? The State Government has not yet been consulted. The State Government has not given any consent. The people of Odisha have not given their consent. And by privatisation, the people of Odisha, the passengers particularly of Odisha, will lose everything. Odisha is SC/ST dominated State and they will not get job opportunities in Biju Patnaik International Airport. So, I urge the Government to stop privatisation of Biju Patnaik International Airport for the larger interest of the people of Odisha. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Niranjan Bishi: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Ms. Sushmita Dev (West Bengal), Shri Muzibulla Khan (Odisha) and Shri Debashish Samantaray (Odisha).

Concern over gender disparity in access to public conveniences/utilities

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, thank you so much for

allowing me to speak on an important subject. It is a matter of serious concern that with nearly a decade of Swachh Bharat Mission, the disparity in women's access to clean public utilities and conveniences is very prominent. We are 48 per cent of the country's population. Yet clean public toilets have still not been adequate enough and hygienic enough for us to be able to feel comfortable using them.

Sir, I speak across political parties; there are women here, women representatives here. When we are campaigning in different constituencies during the elections or for public work, we face the challenges to find access to clean toilet. Due to which, we have noticed that women face not just health challenges, not just safety challenges, but also challenges of self-respect and dignity. I come from Mumbai. A recent study was carried out in Mumbai where it was reported that there is only one toilet seat for 752 men and one toilet seat for 1,820 women. Swachh Bharat guideline mandates that there should be one toilet seat for 100 to 400 men, one toilet seat for 100 to 200 women. So, it is unfortunate and usually it is found that toilets are dirty; there are broken locks and doors; lack of running water and adequate lighting due to which women don't feel safe enough to be using them. It is a huge challenge for women who are working outdoors, like the gig workers, to get access to clean toilets and also for women who are forced to beg for alms. What is also unfortunate is, considering the Government has come up with a scheme and has been taking praises for it, even Government offices lack access to toilets for women employees. ...*(Interruptions)*... A recent Supreme Court report has highlighted that 20 per cent of the District Court complexes in the country lack separate toilets for women. Moreover, only six per cent of these toilets meant for women had sanitary pad vending machines. A similar situation is faced at police stations. Allahabad High Court had to step in to remind the police stations that there are women inspectors and women cops too who need access to toilets.

Sir, it is a matter of grave concern and, through you, I would request the hon. Ministers and the Government to look at this particular issue with concern. There are women in the Rajya Sabha; I have already highlighted that. I can imagine the 10 times more pressure that women in the Lok Sabha face considering they are working for the people and in their constituencies. Thank you so much for allowing me to raise this matter.

SHRIMATI JAYA AMITABH BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): I hope all women will associate with this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please associate and send your names. ...*(Interruptions)*... Madam, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... They will associate and send their names. ...*(Interruptions)*... No please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Nirajan Bishi (Odisha), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Ms. Sushmita Dev (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Javed Ali Khan (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam), Shrimati Mausam Noor (West Bengal) and Dr. Sarfraz Ahmad (Jharkhand).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Raghav Chadha.

श्री राघव चड्ढा: सर, मैं क्या करूँ? ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, मेरे बस की बात नहीं है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: राघव चड्ढा जी, आपका माइक ऑन है, कृपया आप बोलें। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

Demand to facilitate the entry of Sikh pilgrims for Gurdwara Nankana Sahib in Pakistan

श्री राघव चड्ढा (पंजाब): सर, आज मैं जिस विषय पर अपनी बात रखने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ, मुझे लगता है कि उस बात का समर्थन इस सदन में बैठा हर सदस्य करेगा, क्योंकि यह बात करोड़ों पंजाबियों की श्रद्धा से जुड़ी हुई है।

सर, मैं बड़ा नसीब वाला हूँ कि मुझे पंजाब सूबे की नुमाइंदगी करने का मौका इस सदन में मिला। पंजाब वह सूबा है, जिसकी धरती गुरु साहिबान की रहमत से मुकद्दस है। 1947 में जब देश का बंटवारा हुआ, तब सिर्फ देश के ही दो हिस्से नहीं हुए, हमारे सूबे पंजाब के भी दो हिस्से हुए। एक पंजाब पाकिस्तान में रह गया, एक भारत में शामिल हुआ। जब देश का बंटवारा हुआ, तब लाखों पंजाबी परिवारों का खून बहा, जिसमें मेरा परिवार भी शामिल था। हमारे कई दोस्त, रिश्तेदार हमसे बिछड़ गए, लेकिन उससे भी बड़ी बात हमारे गुरुद्वारा साहिब हमसे बिछड़ गए।