

also vital to understanding their role in spreading the virus. Simply banning duck-rearing for a period is not a sufficient measure to contain bird flu. Local communities are bearing the brunt of these outbreaks, facing substantial economic losses that undermine their livelihoods.

I urge the Government to take immediate action to establish a National Institute of High-Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Alappuzha, similar to the one in Bhopal, to enable early detection and confirmation of the virus. Additionally, a special financial aid package should be granted to support farmers who have incurred significant losses.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan).

Demand for Banking Licence for the District Central Cooperative Bank in Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu

SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to bring to your attention the urgent need for a banking license for the District Central Cooperative Bank in Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu. In 1996 Namakkal District was bifurcated from Salem District. The Namakkal District has emerged as an economic hub with a strong presence in dairy and poultry farming. The majority of the district's population is engaged in agricultural activities. Various Cooperative Societies, including Agriculture Credit, Dairying, and Handloom Weavers Societies operate within the region. Considering the district's economic importance and substantial deposits, around Rs.1,000 crore, contributed by societies and the public of Namakkal District to the Salem District Central Cooperative Bank, the Government of Tamil Nadu formed a committee to conduct a possible study for the establishment of a new District Central Cooperative Bank in Namakkal District. The committee recommended establishing the Namakkal District Central Cooperative Bank. Acting on this recommendation, the bank was duly established and registered under the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Society Act, 1983. The bank commenced operations on 13th March, 2024. In this regard, an application for a banking license has been submitted through NABARD to the RBI for the District Central Cooperative Bank in Namakkal District. I request the Ministry of

Finance to look into the matter for granting a banking license to the District Central Cooperative Bank of Namakkal District in Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala).

Demand to approve the Thanjavur —Pudukkottai — Madurai railway line

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, since 1925, the Thanjavur—Pudukkottai—Madurai railway-line has been a long-cherished project for people from all walks of life. This dream project is almost one century old. The plan for this railway-line was made during the British period, and land markings were established. The stones used for land markings are still available. Thanjavur is also known as Southern Capital of Hindu Religion. It is home to the UNESCO site called the 1000-year-old Granite Big Temple, and has many other important heritage sites and tourist attractions, surrounded by key Navagraha temples. Pudukkottai is one of the important central districts in Tamil Nadu, with significant commercial connections to Thanjavur and Madurai. It has commercial and trading links with many wholesalers all over India. But sadly, the Thanjavur—Pudukkottai—Madurai Railway line is a 100-year-old dream railway line for Tamil Nadu people still in papers. It will benefit more than 5 districts in Tamil Nadu, including Thanjavur, Sivagangai, Pudukkottai, Trichy, and Tiruvarur. Also, it will provide direct and the shortest rail connectivity from North to Southern areas. However, it is yet to be placed in the Pink-Book. This line will benefit both passengers and freight movements, particularly from Tuticorin and Rameswaram to other areas, as the existing lines are mainly used for passenger train movements. Also, this project will have a high rate of return. Hence, I humbly request the hon. Minister of Railways to immediately look into this issue with utmost priority and take necessary steps to approve the same.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla: Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri A. A.