

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.

Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala).

संत बलबीर सिंह जी, आपका स्पेशल मेशन है - Demand to stop the cultivation of paddy in Punjab.

### **Demand to stop cultivation of paddy in Punjab**

SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH (Punjab): @Sir, Punjab which fed the people of the country during the Green Revolution period and filled the country's granary is currently paying a heavy price. The excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in Punjab has turned the prosperous state into a cancer zone. Farmers of Punjab are stuck in crop cycle of wheat and paddy. The Government adopted the Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy to meet the Central grain storage requirements on the farmers of Punjab since 1973. Now every year the area under paddy is increasing in Punjab. Due to this, the pressure on the underground water is also increasing. During paddy cultivation, where the vast water storage is being affected, handling of the paddy stubble afterwards also remains a major challenge every year. Every year, precious lives are lost due to accidents due to this smoke. Therefore, the paddy crop is not suitable according to the climatic conditions of Punjab. Pond-irrigation is required for the paddy crop, which has led to dangerous groundwater depletion in more than three-fourth blocks in Punjab. Now in Punjab, there is no life without submersible motors for irrigation of crops. These tools have become the cause of debt for the farmers. I urge the Government to take suitable measures to stop the cultivation of paddy in Punjab.

**श्री उपसभापति :** संत बलबीर सिंह जी, आपने अंग्रेजी में दिया था, लेकिन पंजाबी में पढ़ा। माननीय सदस्य, जो अप्रूव्ड टेक्स्ट होता है, आप वही पढ़ सकते हैं। कृपया इस बात का ध्यान रखें। माननीय डा. अजित माधवराव गोपछड़े। ...(व्यवधान)... Please.

### **Demand for establishing a single window clearance system for doctors looking to start hospital**

DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE (Maharashtra): Sir, it has been reported that all health insurance claims will now be processed through a single window called the

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@ English translation of the original speech delivered in Punjabi.