

### **Concern over rail infrastructure and services in Kannur**

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, rail infrastructure and services in Kannur require immediate attention from the Government. Due to insufficient number of tracks, trains are halted at various stations for hours. The number of train services from Kannur Station to the south and north is insufficient. The situation is such that after 9 p.m., there are no passenger trains to travel to south till early morning. The passengers who need to reach the State capital are left with few options and this situation needs to be changed immediately. The infrastructure at the Kannur Railway station is also in a pathetic condition as the number of platforms is insufficient and due to the lack of functioning lifts, even the differently-abled are forced to walk up and down the stairs. There are no toilets in platforms which cause hardship for the passengers especially women, elderly and the differently-abled. The number of general coaches in long distance trains has been cut down. This has badly affected the ordinary commuters. Urgent steps should be taken to increase the number of general coaches in all trains. I urge the Government to take immediate steps for improving the rail infrastructure and services in Kannur. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Dr. V. Sivadasan: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala); Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha); Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala); Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu) and Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala). (Ends)

Now, Shri Chunnilal Garasiya; not present. Shri Sandosh Kumar P, on Demand to Change the Name of Kerala to Keralam.

### **Demand to change the name of Kerala to Keralam**

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): Sir, the demand to change the name of the State of 'Kerala' to 'Keralam' is a long-pending request from the people of the State. Since the State's name should reflect the history, culture and heritage of the people living in the State, the demand to change the existing name to an Indigenously-originated name is genuinely acceptable. Recently, the Kerala Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution asking the Central Government to change the State's name to 'Keralam officially'. 'Keralam' implies the land of Kera - coconut-tree. It was the 'Aikya Keralam' movement in the 1920s which called for a separate State based on linguistic grounds for those who speak Malayalam. In 1956, a State for