

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

Malayalam speakers was eventually formed. But the First Schedule to the Constitution used the name Kerala instead of Keralam. Last year also, the State Government had submitted the same demand to the Central Government. However, the Union Home Ministry reviewed the Kerala Government's resolution and recommended some technical modifications. Since independence, many states, cities and districts have changed their names in tune with the rising demands of the people. Uttaranchal became Uttarakhand in 2007; Orissa was renamed Odisha in 2011. Bombay was renamed Mumbai; and Madras became Chennai. Hence, the Central Government can take steps to change the name of Kerala to Keralam as well. I strongly demand that the Government should take proactive steps to alter the name of the state to Keralam at the earliest.

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

Concern over delay in completion of National Highway projects and its poor maintenance in Odisha

SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN (Odisha): The situation of National Highways (NHs) in Odisha is currently dire, characterized by significant delays in NH projects and their poor maintenance. One prominent example is the Cuttack-Sambalpur National Highway project, which has become a source of immense frustration and inconvenience for the people of Odisha.

Many NH projects in Odisha are experiencing massive delays, leading to prolonged construction periods and disrupted traffic flow. This not only impacts commuters but also affects businesses and local economies dependent on smooth transport routes.

The maintenance of existing NHs in Odisha is substandard, with potholes, uneven surfaces, and inadequate signage posing serious safety hazards for motorists. This lack of upkeep contributes to increased accidents and travel discomfort. The Cuttack-Sambalpur NH project exemplifies these issues, where incomplete construction, frequent roadblocks, and unclear timelines have caused