

Extension of defence corridor of Chitrakoot-Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow up to Etawah and Auraiya districts

श्रीमती गीता उर्फ चंद्रप्रभा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा रक्षा उत्पादन को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु देश में विभिन्न स्थानों का चयन कर वहां डिफेंस कॉरिडोर को स्थापित करने की योजना बनाई गई है। इसी क्रम में उत्तर प्रदेश के आगरा, अलीगढ़, लखनऊ, कानपुर, चित्रकूट तथा झांसी में डिफेंस कॉरिडोर प्रस्तावित है। महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश के औरैया तथा इटावा जनपद भौगोलिक दृष्टि से औद्योगिक विकास के अनुरूप परिस्थितियों में स्थित हैं। दोनों ही जनपद उत्तर प्रदेश की उच्चतम शिक्षा दर वाले जनपदों में से एक हैं, परंतु दोनों जनपदों में औद्योगिक विकास की कमी के कारण युवाओं को रोजगार के लिए बड़े शहरों में जाना पड़ता है। महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन करती हूँ कि डिफेंस कॉरिडोर के लिए चयनित चित्रकूट- झांसी, कानपुर तथा लखनऊ कॉरिडोर का विस्तार इटावा तथा औरैया जनपद तक किया जाए। दोनों ही जनपद झांसी तथा चित्रकूट से बुंदेलखंड एक्सप्रेसवे के माध्यम से, कानपुर से सड़क व रेल मार्ग द्वारा तथा लखनऊ से आगरा-लखनऊ एक्सप्रेसवे से सीधे जुड़े हुए हैं। डिफेंस कॉरिडोर के दोनों जनपदों तक विस्तार से क्षेत्र में विकास की नई संभावनाओं के साथ ही युवाओं को रोजगार के नए अवसर प्राप्त हो सकेंगे। धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shrimati Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Demand of measures for the welfare of duck farmers

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the House to the distress faced by duck-rearing farmers in Kerala, who are continually losing their livelihoods due to the intermittent outbreaks of bird flu (avian influenza). The bird flu scare has resurfaced in Kerala, particularly in the Alappuzha district. Thousands of birds, predominantly ducks, have either died or been culled in recent years. Besides ducks, the infection can also affect hens, quail, geese, and other ornamental birds. The virus outbreaks have become an annual issue. Early confirmation of these outbreaks is crucial to limit culling to smaller areas and prevent massive economic losses for farmers. Farmers need proper scientific advice to manage such situations effectively. Regular monitoring of wild aquatic birds and bird-poultry-wetland interface is essential to understanding the prevalence of avian influenza viruses. A year-round surveillance mechanism for migratory birds is

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