

sector was next to agricultural sector in providing employment. Thousands of textile mills were functioning in 1970s and 1980s at Mumbai which was called India's Manchester and at Coimbatore which was called Manchester of South India. Due to wrong textile policies, most of the mills were closed and to provide relief to jobless workers, Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme was launched from September, 1986. This Fund has been merged with Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana in April, 2017 to provide benefit to workers rendered jobless. Under the modified scheme, worker would get 50 per cent of the last average daily wages for the first year and 25 per cent of the daily wages for the second year. During the last two decades, many NTC mills were permanently closed and thousands of workers and their families are on the streets, struggling to lead a dignified life. Many of the workers are in their old-age of around 70-80 years. But, unfortunately, jobless workers were not given the benefit of the above scheme on some technical ground as the notification of permanent closure of the mills was not issued.

I would, therefore, request the Government, particularly hon. Minister for Labour, to direct the ESIC, which is administering RGSKY, to provide benefit of the scheme to all left-out jobless workers from the textile sector. For this purpose, a special drive should be undertaken by the ESIC wherein those workers may give their particulars and the ESIC should give benefit to such workers without delay. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri M. Shanmugam: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu) and Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan (Uttar Pradesh).

**Need to holistically improve the connectivity of Assam in terms of roads,
railways and air**

MS. SUSHMITA DEV (West Bengal): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity. I am elated that hon. Minister, Shri Gadkari, is in the House while I am speaking. Sir, I come from the State of Assam and I live in Silchar. वैसे नाम तो Barak Valley है, परन्तु शायद उसका

नाम बदल कर एक द्वीप या island रख देना चाहिए। The regional development of any area depends on connectivity. Whether it is social integration or whether it is business or trade, we are heavily dependent on roadways. History will tell you that we have waited for two decades for Silchar-Saurashtra East West Corridor to complete. I don't want to get into the blame game because I talk about the convenience of the people.

We have multiple challenges. Number one, it is well-known that Assam is a State where rainfall is very heavy. Secondly, our biggest challenge is soil and terrain. You are well aware -- you must have been to the State of Assam and other North Eastern States — that landslides, the way they occur, are beyond the control of human beings. Apart from that, peace in North East. Every time, one State is disturbed, the connectivity of other States is equally affected. Take for instance, Manipur. I come from Cachar. Jiribam and Jirighat are today neighbouring districts. Today, people of Manipur depend on Assam to commute because of the disturbance which is an added pressure on our State. Apart from that, railway faces similar problems as roadways. Now, add to that the price of airfares. सरकार कहती है कि हम उड़ान स्कीम लाए हैं और उसके तहत हम unviable airports बनाएंगे। But, Sir, what the airfare to fly today from North Eastern States to Delhi is, one has to think. Till today, *Mahasadak* is incomplete. Our NH-6 is struggling, Silchar to Shillong. To go to our own capital, we have to go via Meghalaya. Apart from that, if we look at NH-306, you would see, that is also blocked. Repeatedly, I request Gadkariji, we have been demanding an alternative route to the *Mahasadak* which would save us from this dismal situation so that we can travel via Lanka. I request you for urgent intervention to improve the connectivity there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Ms. Sushmita Dev: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu) and Shrimati Mausam B Noor (West Bengal).

Time is over. Now, *Mananiye Jaggeshji*, demand to increase the funding for renovation works of groups of monuments at Hampi. He would speak in Kannada. *Mananiye Jaggeshji*; not present. Now, *Mananiye* Dr. Kanimozhi NVN

Somu, "Demand to take immediate action to stop delivery of medicines through online delivery companies."

Demand to take immediate action to stop delivery of medicines through online delivery companies

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it is unfortunate and disturbing to see the supply of medicines by Swiggy and other door delivery companies. A 10-minute medicine delivery by a food delivery company sparks furore among the medical fraternity as well as pharma circle. The rapid delivery model violates the Indian drug regulations and poses health and safety risks to the public.

The All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) has expressed serious concerns about potential collaboration between Swiggy's grocery arm Instamart and e-pharmacy giant PharmEasy, which aims to deliver medicines within 10 minutes through dark stores. This is a dangerous model and this might bypass essential regulatory checks necessary for patient safety. Distribution and supply of medicines in India involves strict protocols, such as prescription, verification and patient identification, to prevent harm to consumers. In this case, there is an apprehension that these safety measures could be compromised under the ultra-fast delivery timeline. AIOCD also questioned the reputational and legal risks associated with PharmEasy, which has faced regulatory scrutiny in the past. The ultra-fast delivery model may increase the possibility of expired or counterfeit medicines, which is harmful to patient safety. In such a model, it is not possible to follow the required quality standards.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take immediate action to stop the imminent danger of allowing the 10 minute delivery of medicines through Swiggy and other such online delivery companies and request the Government not to play with the life of the people. There is hazard of using even by drug addicts within the 10 minutes of this delivery system. So, I would urge the Government to take action on this. Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu: Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri A. A.