

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by hon. Member, Shri Sandosh Kumar P: Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala) and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA) *in the Chair.*]

**Request to increase the frequency of 16861/62 Puducherry-Kanyakumari Weekly Express to a daily service**

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to an important issue concerning Pudukottai Railway Station located in Tamil Nadu. It has achieved remarkable revenue of Rs. 5.21 crores in the last financial year, reflecting its growing importance as a transportation hub for both passengers and freight. Despite this, the station still does not have a stop for many long-distance Northern State trains that bypass Pudukottai, and continue to neglect its strategic position. For instance, the train no. 22535, Rameswaram-Banaras train, which was started in 2010, has been a crucial lifeline for spiritual devotees from the Pudukottai district, offering them a direct connection to "Kasi". Initially, this train had a stop at Pudukottai, but this was later removed during Covid. Train numbers 22613 and 22614 Rameswaram-Ayodhya Cantonment-Rameswaram Weekly have yet to include Pudukottai as a regular halt. Since its inception in 2017, this train has not had a stop at Pudukottai. The absence of a stop at Pudukottai station concerns devotees from the region on pilgrimages. In view of the station's revenue potential and the needs of the local population, I urge the Government to consider providing Pudukottai Railway Station with experimental stoppages for these long-distance trains, especially the aforementioned services. Such a step would not only benefit the people of Pudukottai but also facilitate better connectivity to Northern India, promoting both travel and trade.

I request the Government to look into this matter and ensure that necessary steps are taken to provide these stops at the earliest. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by hon. Member,

Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla: Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala) and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

### **Demand for Bharat Ratna for Veer Savarkar and Rash Behari Bose**

SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, honours exceptional contributions to the nation. Two great freedom fighters, Veer Savarkar and Rash Behari Bose, deserve this recognition for their role in India's struggle for independence. Veer Savarkar was a fearless revolutionary and a nationalist thinker. His book, 'Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?', introduced the idea of cultural nationalism. Savarkar spent 27 years in prison, including the harsh Cellular Jail in Andaman, for his fight against British rule. Despite immense suffering, he remained committed to India's freedom. His efforts to unite Indians against colonial oppression deserve the nation's highest award.

Rash Behari Bose was another remarkable leader who fought for India's independence. He played a key role in the Ghadar Movement and later worked with Indian revolutionaries in Japan. He founded the Indian National Army (INA) paving the way for Subhas Chandra Bose to lead it in its campaigns against the British. Bose's efforts built international support for India's freedom and showed his dedication to the cause.

Both leaders demonstrated unmatched courage and vision in their fight for India's independence. Recognizing them with the Bharat Ratna would honor their sacrifices and inspire future generations to follow their ideals of patriotism and nation building. It is time to acknowledge their invaluable contributions and give them the honour they truly deserve. I urge the Government to look into it.

### **Demand for setting up a dedicated cell to assist Indian citizens abroad facing medical emergencies or serious illness**

SHRI P.P. SUNEER (Kerala): Many Indian citizens live and work overseas, far from their home country. A large number of these citizens belong to my home State of Kerala. Myself and many of my colleagues here receive many requests to intervene in cases of medical emergencies abroad. Our citizens abroad are vulnerable to health emergencies and illnesses that may require immediate medical attention and to address this, institutional effort is needed. Availing healthcare systems in foreign