

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: That is why I am saying that this toxic work culture and deprivation of people is something which the Government and this House needs to take seriously. People who are employed need a healthy work atmosphere and people who have worked need to be paid, be it the private sector or be it the MNREGA workers in West Bengal. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour Mention made by hon. Member, Shri Saket Gokhale: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque (West Bengal), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal) and Ms. Sushmita Dev (West Bengal), Shri Samirul Islam (Kerala), Shrimati Mausam B Noor (West Bengal), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha) and Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand).

Demand to expedite the work related to infrastructure and tourism development projects in Tamil Nadu

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there has been a persistent neglect and inequitable treatment faced by the State of Tamil Nadu in the hands of the Union Government, which has led to the stalling of various infrastructure works and tourism development projects. The compensation mechanism promised under the new GST regime was abruptly stopped by the Union Government in the year 2022, resulting in an annual revenue loss of Rs. 20,000 crores for Tamil Nadu.

The Union Government's increasing reliance on Cesses and surcharges has severely restricted Tamil Nadu's share in the divisible pool of taxes. In the Financial Year 2022-23, the Union Government collected Rs. 5.1 lakh crores through cesses and surcharges. Had these collections been included in the divisible pool, Tamil Nadu would have received an additional amount of Rs. 20,800 crores in just one year.

Further, unfair limitation on State's borrowing ability by fixing a ceiling of three per cent of GSTP has led to a loss of Rs. 8,500 crores in borrowing space over the last four years, which impacts Tamil Nadu's ability to finance critical public infrastructure and welfare projects. In the Union Budget 2023-24, Tamil Nadu was allotted a mere 2.5 per cent of national resources, which is inadequate. The Union Government has been progressively shifting the burden of Centrally-Sponsored Schemes on the State Government.

A classic example is affordable housing in partnership, wherein the Union Government contributes Rs 1.5 lakhs per unit while the Government of Tamil Nadu contributes around Rs 12-14 lakhs per unit. Over the last four years, the total allocation for railway projects in Tamil Nadu has been equivalent to the annual Railway budget for Uttar Pradesh. Various major railway projects have been stalled due to insufficient fund allocation. No mega infrastructure projects, including highways, have been sanctioned for the last ten years in our State. The proposal for various tourism development projects in Tamil Nadu, including transformation of Rameshwaram Town, Nature Trail at Pykara, Ooty and Shore Temple Garden, Mamallapuram, has been submitted and needs the Union Government's immediate attention. The approval and works for Parandur Airport, Hosur Airport, Greenfield Cuddalore Port, Metros for Kovai, Madurai and Hosur, expansion of Kovai, Trichy, Madurai and Turicorin Airport has to be expedited by the Union Government. Sir, Tamil Nadu has long been a beacon of progress, contributing significantly to India's economy and development. Yet, the systematic denial of its rightful resources and support has immensely strained the State's fiscal health.

I request the Union Government, through you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, to address these issues urgently and provide the State of Tamil Nadu with a fair share of resources and support.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri P. Wilson: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala) and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

Demand to start superfast train from Kanpur Central to Somnath

श्री बाबू राम निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से आपका ध्यान आकृष्ट कराना चाहता हूँ कि कानपुर सेन्ट्रल से सोमनाथ के लिए वाया- कानपुर सेन्ट्रल, हमीरपुर रोड, सुमेरपुर, रागौल, बाँदा, चित्रकूट, सतना, जबलपुर, इटारसी से होते हुए वेरावल सोमनाथ तक प्रतिदिन एक सुपरफ़ास्ट ट्रेन चलाने हेतु आग्रह कर रहा हूँ। इस रूट पर सोमनाथ के लिए कोई भी ट्रेन उपलब्ध नहीं है।

महोदय, इस रूट पर रेल का आवागमन न होने के कारण दैनिक रेल यात्रियों को परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ता है और अन्य महंगे साधनों से यात्रा करने पर विवश होना पड़ता है, जिसमें इनके धन और समय दोनों की बर्बादी होती है।