

commentators for Akashvani is an opaque process. To create a pool of top-notch commentators is essential to have an impartial and professional judging system. Three, from the Akashvani panel of commentators, it is essential to select those who have a thorough understanding of cricket and the style to engage the listeners. There is little use slotting cricket commentators on the principle that every person on the panel has to be given a chance. Sir, I would like to suggest to the Minister to implement these three suggestions and appoint Shri Harsha Bhogle as the captain of a new team whose task would be to make Indian radio cricket commentary world class. Thank you, Sir.

श्री उपसभापति : धन्यवाद माननीय मोहम्मद नदीमुल हक जी।

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque: Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri P. P. Suneer (Kerala), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shrimati Mausam B Noor (West Bengal), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telangana), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Imran Pratapgarhi (Maharashtra), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Manadadi (Telangana), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shrimati Sagarika Ghose (West Bengal), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Ritabrata Baneerjee (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal) and Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal).

श्री उपसभापति : माननीय सुजीत कुमार।

Need to expedite Railway connectivity in Kalahandi, Sambalpur & Sonepur regions of Odisha

श्री सुजीत कुमार (ओडिशा) : आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, सबसे पहले मैं आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी, वित्त मंत्री जी और रेलवे मंत्री जी को बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि इस बार के बजट में ओडिशा के लिए रेलवे में 10,600 करोड़ का प्रावधान किया गया है। यह ओडिशा में रेलवे के लिए आज तक का सबसे highest allocation है। इस पर मैं बजट डिस्कशन में विस्तार से चर्चा करूंगा। फिलहाल मैं आपके माध्यम से रेलवे मंत्री जी से एक छोटा सा अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ।

Sir, I request the hon. Railway Minister to expedite and prioritize the final location survey, FLS in railway terms, for four critical projects in Western and Southern Odisha. These projects are extremely important to enhance connectivity,

boost regional economic development and bring out balanced development of the entire State, and, of course, the entire country.

Sir, the first project is the Bhawanipatna-Kesinga Railway line, which is in Aspirational District of Kalahandi. This is a 35-kilometre long railway project, which will be an alternative to the National Highway-26, which is now teeming with heavy vehicles, and help ease the traffic. Also, in this route lies the Udaan Airport of Utkela, which is almost the lifeline of Western Odisha. This will help bring about multimodal transport connectivity, and, of course, boost regional activities. The current distance between Bhawanipatna to Kesinga, the railway distance, will be reduced by 29 kilometres if this project becomes a reality. Sir, the second project pertains to the Sambalpur-Sonepur 77 kilometre railway line. Sambalpur and Sonepur are two important towns of Western Odisha and this will run parallel to the State highway of 15. Again, this highway is largely used for transportation of mineral ores and hence is always accident-prone. So, this railway project will again help ease the traffic and it is also of strategic importance because it will connect the Jharsuguda-Sambalpur industrial zone to the coastal areas of Paradip, etc., and the railway distance between Sambalpur and Sonepur will be cut down by 80 kilometres making transport more efficient. Sir, the third project pertains to the 115 kilometres Kantabanji to Koksara railway line in Kalahandi, Nuapada and Balangir. All these three are the aspirational districts.

Sir, there is already an existing project from Junagarh Road to Nabrangpur via Koksara. This project will not take up a lot of resources or time, but would, definitely, help in transportation of iron ore from Bailadala iron ore mines to Raipur and would also be the lifeline of Western and Southern Odisha. Districts like Kalahandi, Navrangpur and Koraput would benefit from this. The final project pertains to the Bhawanipatna— Phulbani railway line via Lanjigarh Road, M Rampur and Baliguda. Sorry, Sir, these are some of the names which the House may not be aware of, but it is necessary to bring it to the notice of the Government. This is an LWE-affected region in Western-Southern Odisha and heavily populated with the tribal population. This would also facilitate faster movement of goods.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Sujeet Kumar: Dr. Sikander Kumar (Himachal Pradesh), Shrimati Sumitra Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh).