

तीसरी मांग यह है कि चेन्नई और हैदराबाद दोनों ही महत्वपूर्ण आईटी हब हैं, लेकिन पुणे से चेन्नई के बीच तेजस या वंदे भारत जैसी कोई ट्रेन उपलब्ध नहीं है। इसी तरह, पुणे-हैदराबाद मार्ग पर भी वंदे भारत जैसी कोई ट्रेन नहीं है, जबकि वर्तमान में उपलब्ध ट्रेनें यह सफर 22 घंटे में तय करती हैं। इसलिए, मैं यह मांग करती हूँ।

इसके अलावा, महाराष्ट्र में कई ऐसे शहर हैं, जैसे नासिक एक महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थ और कृषि क्षेत्र है, लेकिन यहां के लिए सीधी ट्रेन उपलब्ध नहीं है। यात्रियों को पहले मुंबई जाकर ट्रेन पकड़नी पड़ती है या फिर सड़क मार्ग से यात्रा करनी पड़ती है, जिसमें लगभग 6 घंटे लगते हैं। इसलिए, मैं अनुरोध करती हूँ कि पुणे से दिल्ली और पुणे-नासिक के बीच सीधी ट्रेन सेवा शुरू की जाए।

अंत में, 'भारत गौरव ट्रेन योजना' के तहत पुणे को प्रमुख तीर्थ स्थलों से जोड़ने वाली विशेष ट्रेनें चलाई जाएं। मेरी विनती है कि मेरी इन रेल संबंधी मांगों को प्राथमिकता दी जाए। धन्यवाद!

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik (Maharashtra).

Dr. John Brittas; Concern over opening up the country's offshore sand blocks for mining by private entities.

**Concern over opening up the country's offshore sand blocks for mining
by private entities**

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, this is to bring to the notice of the House, the alarming situation that has arisen on account of the Union Government's decision for off-shore mining in the coastal belt of Kerala. The entire Kerala is agitated. The Assembly passed a unanimous resolution requesting the Government of India to withdraw the decision. I will explain to you the rationale of it. The Government's proposal is Rs. 35,000 crore of offshore sand mining project. In Kollam alone, that is, Quilon, Government intends to extract sand worth Rs. 14,200 crores. The interesting part is that Kerala Government had sent its reservations to oppose the project and said that it will have far-reaching impact on the lives and livelihood of the people. Further, the environmental impact of this mining could even devastate vast chunks of land in Kerala. Sir, you will be surprised that not even a single appropriate study on the environmental or the social side has been done by the Government of India. They simply relied on some geological survey saying that sand is available in off-shore.

Sir, another interesting aspect is that Naddaji was very vocal with regard to the democratic principles and the importance of parliamentary democracy. Naddaji, you passed an Amendment in this House in the absence of the Opposition and that Amendment has helped you to start this project. If you are very serious about the democratic process of this country, you would have involved not only the Opposition but also the Governments at the State level.

Even in Gujarat, this is going to be an issue and you are going to soon meet with resistance from Gujarat coastal belt too. Sir, please appreciate the fact that Kerala has got ecologically fragile system and cyclones and tsunamis. There have been studies which say that such unmindful mining can cause cyclones. And further, let us understand that eight cyclones happened in Indian Ocean in 2023 ...(*Time-bell rings.*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time is over. ...(*Interruptions*)... Even if I allow you, that will not go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is automatically built-in ...(*Interruptions*)... Please John Brittasji, you are a very senior Member. ...(*Interruptions*)... Nothing is going on record.

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member Dr. John Brittas: Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra) and Shri P. P. Suneer (Kerala).

Now, Shri S. Selvaganabathy; Request for four lane highway between Tindivanam and Krishnagiri connecting Puducherry and Bengaluru.

Need for four lane highway between Tindivanam and Krishnagiri connecting Puducherry and Bengaluru

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY (Puducherry): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Union Minister of Highways for the excellent road connectivity established between important cities of India. One such plan of National Expressway NE7 from Chennai to Bengaluru with a distance of 258 kilometers will be covered in a record time of two-and-a-half hour journey. The total project cost which is Rs.18,000 crores, is nearing completion. This is most welcome. The highway from Krishnagiri to Bengaluru is a link between Puducherry and Bengaluru highway. At present, the road connectivity from Krishnagiri to Bengaluru, *via* Hosur, is a six-lane road, whereas, the National Highway NH-66 from Krishnagiri to Cuddalore, *via* Puducherry, is expected to be connected by four-way lane highway. But the 187-kilometer link between Tindivanam and Krishnagiri is a two-lane road, which is a busiest road connecting