

meet the growing mental health needs of Karnataka and also the neighbouring States including Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. This is according to a report from the New Indian Express. Sir, Bellary offers a strategic solution for addressing the mental health crisis in North Karnataka especially, unlike more distant districts which are 600 plus kilometers from Bangalore, Bellary is centrally located making it more accessible for patients from Northern districts like Koppal, Raichur, Gadag, Yadagiri, Gulbarga and Hubli. Additionally, Bellary's proximity to Karnataka's mining sectors, which face highest socio-economic stress and mental health challenges, underscores the importance of establishing specialized mental healthcare in this region. The city also holds promise for addressing unique challenges such as mining-related psychological disorders which has oftenly led to many suicides in this area. Sir, Bellary's location also offers strategic connectivity to neighbouring States positioned near Hyderabad-Bangalore economic corridor. Bellary can serve as a vital hub for patients and researchers from regions like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and even Maharashtra. This inter-State accessibility is crucial for providing mental health services to under-served areas reducing the burden on Bangalore's NIMHANS and ensuring broader regional reach. Availability of Government land and strong transport connectivity makes it an ideal location. Sir, given these considerations, I urge the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to prioritize the establishment of a NIMHANS branch in Bellary, a step that will improve mental healthcare access for millions across Karnataka and neighbouring States. I had even met the Health Minister personally and requested him. I hope the Ministry will consider this. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the issue raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain: Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shri Sanjeev Arora (Punjab), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Imran Pratapgarhi (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi (Telangana), Shri P.P. Suneer (Kerala), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

Thank you, Naseer Sahib. Now, Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha - Demand to extend the Sevok-Rangpo Railway project to Nathu La Pass.

Demand to extend the Sevok-Rangpo Railway project to Nathu La Pass

SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA (Sikkim): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, my issue is: Demand for extension of railway network from Rangpo to Nathu La, Indo-Tibetan border. Sevok-Rangpo railway line is a line currently under construction to connect

the Indian State of West Bengal and Sikkim, and the first phase is expected to be completed by 2027. The Sevoke-Rangpo railway line is part of India's border strategy to enhance connectivity in the North Eastern Region. By linking Sikkim to the national railway network, the project will help integrate the region more closely with the rest of the country promoting national unity and security. The plan for extending the all important Sikkim rail link to Nathu La will only be a boon to all-weather connectivity. It will aid the Armed Forces with logistical support in the forward areas. Nathu La, a border area with Tibet, is not only a tourism attraction, at a height of more than 14,000 feet but also an avalanche-prone area. At present, road connectivity provides a comfortable travel experiences for tourists and the Forces but all of that depends on favourable weather. I urge upon the Government to take up completion of all phases of the Sevoke-Rangpo Rail line till Nathu La on priority basis as once completed, this rail line is expected to have a significant positive impact on the local economy. It will improve transportation efficiency, reduce travel time, and make Sikkim more accessible to tourists and businesses. This, in turn, will lead to increased economic activities and job-creation in the region. This will also aid our Armed Forces with better connectivity. Moreover, it will help integrate the hill people into the mainstream national life, providing full support to entrepreneurial spirit of the region. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI): Thank you, Mr. Lepcha. The following Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha: Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik (Maharashtra), Shri Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

Shri Sandeep Kumar Pathak, 'Demand to counter hostile Drone activity on the India-Pakistan Border'; not present. Shri Sujeet Kumar.

Concern over exponential rise in Non-Communicable Diseases due to surge in the consumption of ultra-processed foods in India

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House and the Government on an issue which has grave consequences for the public health of our country, particularly, of our children and youth. The issue pertains to the alarming rise in the consumption of ultra-packaged food, what we commonly call the junk food, such as cold drinks, frozen fast food, etc., which are high on salt, sugar, unhealthy fat, but offer minimum nutrition. The WHO Report of 2023 states that