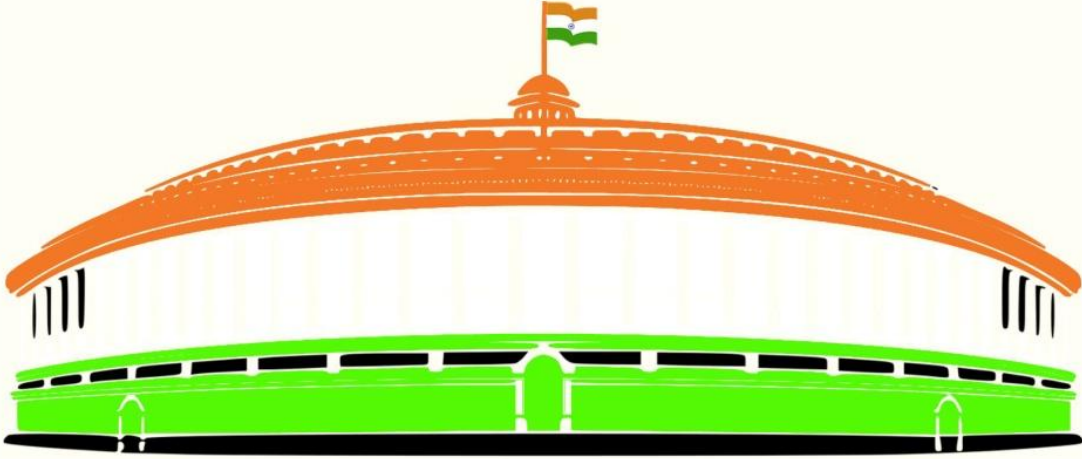


Şansad Râtnâ SPEAKS



Compilation of select speeches

S S RAMASUBBU

**Member of Parliament
15th Lok Sabha
(2009-2014)
Sansad Ratna Awardee**

Prime Point Foundation | Chennai

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Publishers Note

Prime Point Foundation, in association with eMagazine PreSense, Sansad Ratna Awards Committee and Next Gen Political Leaders is honouring top performing Parliamentarians with Sansad Ratna Awards since March 2006, on the suggestions of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, who himself launched the first edition of the Award event. Till 2021, we have conducted 11 editions and 75 Parliamentarians have received the Awards in person. This includes some of the Members who have received the Awards more than one, two or three times.

When we are celebrating the 21st Anniversary of Prime Point Foundation, we decided to compile the select speeches of Sansad Ratna Awardees and publish as eBook for the benefit of Political Science Students and young politicians cutting across party lines,

In this eBook, we are bringing out the select speeches of Shri S S Ramasubbu, an outstanding Parliamentarian and Member of Parliament in 15th Lok Sabha representing Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) Constituency). I thank all our team members who have helped us in bringing out this ebook.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Prime Point Srinivasan'.

Prime Point Srinivasan

5th July 2021

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About Prime Point Foundation and Initiatives



Prime Point Foundation, a Non-Profit Trust and NGO was founded in December 1999 by Shri K Srinivasan (popularly known as Prime Point Srinivasan), a former Senior Banker and a Digital Journalist and Communication Professional, to promote leadership and communication skills among the youth. Very eminent persons are associated with the Foundation.

In the past 20 years, the Foundation has organised several seminars, workshops, training and interactive sessions, both offline and online, on various subjects of national interest. The Foundation manages various online discussion groups and podcasts on communication, and digital journalism.

The Foundation has formed 6 initiatives to create awareness in various domains. All these initiatives are managed independently by passionate experts. These initiatives are non-commercial, and focused on youth.

PreSense: The eMagazine PreSense was started in March 2006 on the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam to promote positive journalism. Till June 2021, the Foundation has published 172 editions. This is a  digital-only magazine. Digests, containing select articles upto 150 editions of the eMagazine, have so far been published. Dr Abdul Kalam has written the foreword for the Digest of articles upto 100 editions. PreSense publishes the cartoon character Prince, which was launched by Dr Abdul Kalam in 2008.

Sansad Ratna Awards: This is a flagship initiative started in 2010 to honour top performing Parliamentarians every year,

San̄sād Rāt̄nā[®]
AWARDS COMMITTEE

based on various performance parameters, and selected by a Jury Committee of eminent Parliamentarians. Dr Abdul Kalam himself inaugurated the first edition of the Awards event in May 2010. Till 2021, the Foundation has conducted 11 editions and presented 75 Awards.

Next Gen Political Leaders (NGPL) is an off-shoot of Sansad Ratna Awards. This is a registered NGO operating since 2018. NGPL has organised several workshops online and offline, for young political leaders and aspirants. Ministers, parliamentarians, legislators and retired constitutional authorities have participated and shared their views. NGPL will shortly be instituting Awards for young promising politicians.



Education Loan Task Force (ELTF) was started in 2010 to create awareness about education loans, among students and parents. More than 30,000 queries have been responded to, through email, and more than 5000 serious complaints have been taken up with the top management of the banks concerned, for redressal. Many policy issues have been taken up by Sansad Ratna Awardee MPs, in the Parliament for solution. ELTF does not facilitate loans.



Digital Journalists Association of India (DiJAI): DiJAI is an independent NGO founded in 2017 to create awareness about digital journalism and its implications, among the public and particularly among the journalists. DiJAI conducts several online and offline workshops and seminars, with panels of domain experts.



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Foreword by Dr M Veerappa Moily

Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY

Former Chief Minister of Karnataka

Former Union Minister

Former Chairman, 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission

Former Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance



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FOREWORD

It is my privilege to pen a few words as foreword of the e-book compilation of select speeches of Shri. S.S. Ramasubbu, Member of Parliament, 15th Lok Sabha (2009-2014). Sri. S.S. Ramasubbu has also been awarded the Sansad Ratna by Prime Point Foundation Chennai for his outstanding performance during the 15th Lok Sabha.

Shri. Ramasubbu has been quite outstanding and vigilant on various issues raised in the 15th Lok Sabha. We are all proud of him. I was also union minister of various ministries during that period. Ramasubbu took up issues on the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu apart from his speeches on budget and demands for grants. He always took up issues of greater public importance in Tamil Nadu which include providing adequate compensation to farmers who lost their crops on account of natural calamities in Tamil Nadu and the need for expansion and modernisation of Tuticorin Airport.

The compilation of his speeches, discussion and issues raised in the Lok Sabha is quite enlightening and will be a role mode to many future young Members of Parliament. The compilations in eBook of Prime Point Foundation should be commended for its great analytical appraisal on all issues.

M. Veerappa Moily
(Dr. M. Veerappa Moily)

Shri S S Ramasubbu – Brief Profile



Shri S S Ramasubbu, an agriculturist by profession, was a member of 15th Lok Sabha representing Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) Constituency. During his tenure as a Parliamentarian, he received Sansad Ratna Awards, five times continuously for his outstanding performance in attendance, raising questions and participation in debates.

He belongs to a traditional Congress and freedom fighter family. He started his career in 1979 as a banker. He quit banking profession in 1989 to become full time politician. He has held several positions in the Congress party at District and State level. He was elected to Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1989 and again in 1991, In 1994, he was honoured for his outstanding performance in the Tamil Nadu State Assembly.

Presently, he is the Vice President of All India Kisan Congress and in charge of Kerala and Telangana.

He can be reached at ssramasubbump@gmail.com

DATE . 08.06.2009

Maiden Speech – Motion of Thanks on the President's Address

TITLE : Further discussion on the motion of thanks on the presidents address moved by Dr. (Ms) Girija vyas and seconded by shri P.C.Chako and the amendments thereto moved on the 5th june 2009

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion introduced by Dr. Girija Vyas. At the outset I would like to thank Chairperson of the UPA, Madam Sonia ji, hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, our mass leader of Tamil Nadu, Shri G.K. Vasan ji, hon. P. Chidambaram ji, the TNCC President and other senior Congress leaders of Tamil Nadu; and the UPA Chief Minister Aiya Kalaignar for giving me this opportunity to serve in Lok Sabha. I take this opportunity to also thank the people of my constituency, Tirunelveli, for electing me to this House.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, before starting my maiden speech, I once again thank Madam Sonia ji. During 1989 I was introduced by our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi as a candidate in my Assembly constituency, Alangulam. He came to my constituency and introduced me as a candidate. I remember it even now. I won the election without the alliance of Dravidian parties. Now, I got the privilege of having been introduced by our esteemed leader, UPA's Chairperson. She has introduced me as a candidate of Tirunelveli parliamentary constituency and I won the election. Really I am very proud of coming to this august House.

I am a grass root worker hailing from Tirunelveli, which is situated near Kanyakumari. The holy Tamarabarani is the boon to our people. Most of the freedom fighters who lost their valuable lives for the freedom of the nation, like Poet Subramania Bharatiar, Veera Vanchinathan, Veera Chidambaranar, Perunthalaivar Kamaraj, Shri K.T. Kosalaram, hail from Tirunelveli. I am very proud that I also come from this area.

The President's Address unveils a new vision for India. The people have given a clear mandate. There are so many parties in this country. More than 1,700 parties are there in India. All these parties are creating more confusion and chaos among the people. See the mandate of the people. They have given a clear mandate. They have decided that the UPA has to rule the country. That is the mandate of the people. The mandate is for the UPA to rule this country. The people think that only if the UPA rules, this country will be a stable and strong one.[1103]

It is the people's decision. There are so many parties. There are so many flags. We cannot identify these flags as to which party's flag it is. But even then the people's mandate is very clear. The UPA and the Congress should rule this country. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Sir, it is my maiden speech. I have taken only two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken five minutes.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. S. RAMASUBBU: Sir, I am speaking for the first time. So, please give me some more time. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, when I went to my constituency, a lady came there and told me that because of the NREGA Scheme of our Government, because of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh, we are getting Rs 80/- per day for 100 days. We are getting job opportunities and we are feeding our children. We are educating our children. The lady told me that they are living peacefully. Please convey our thanks to our beloved leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. You can see as to how the poor people are appreciating the NREGA Scheme. It is because of this they are getting job security. They are getting greater opportunities and in this way, women are getting empowerment. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramasubbu, if you have a written speech, you can lay your speech.

SHRI S. S. RAMASUBBU : Sir, I have only two points left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude your speech within one minute.

SHRI S. S. RAMASUBBU : Sir, I want to say a few words about power generation. The power is very important. Sir, in our area Koodangulam project is generating power. The Government should give some support to this project. The power production must be accelerated to distribute it to the industrialists and to the poor people in the area.

Sir, the vegetable and agricultural producers are not getting remunerative prices. So, they have to be supported by giving adequate prices. The cold storage facilities must be established for them to preserve vegetables.

Lastly, I would like to say that beedi workers are getting Rs. 45,000/- to construct their houses. This money is provided to them through the Central Government's assistance. But it must be enhanced to Rs. 1 lakh. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramasubbu, I have called Shri Goraknath.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramasubbu, you can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House. It will be recorded. I have already called the next hon. Member.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only what Shri Goraknath says will go in the record and nothing else will go in the record.

(*Interruptions*) ...**

*SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Women's Reservation Bill, after the Parliament Constitutional amendment to provide 50% reservation for women in Panchayat and local bodies, and concerted efforts to increase representation of women in Central Government job are going to give legal protection and equality for them.

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

** Not recorded.

It is a welcome sign that all the allied U.P.A. parties and opposition parties accepted the Smt. Sonia's selection of Madam Hon'ble Meira Kumar as Speaker of this great Lok Sabha unanimously.

NREGA gives job security to the poor village people. The wage increase from Rs.80 to 100 is a boon to poor village people.

The National Food Security Act assumes food security for below poverty line people who are living both in urban and rural areas.

In my Tirunelveli constituency Special Economic Zone at Nanguneri and industrial centre at Kankaikondam should be given priority to improve the industrial and commercial development. It will give more employment opportunity. The Central Government should create infrastructure facilities to improve these two projects.

*

Date : 07-07-2009

TYBE OF DEBATES : MATTERS UNDER RULE – 377

Need to take steps for fixing of Minimum Support Price for vegetables and fruits in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, in Tamil Nadu, particularly, at Tirunelveli District, vegetables and fruits are grown in huge quantities. They are perishable in nature. They cannot be stored for a longer period. Due to inadequate transport, lack of cold storage facilities, financial and other constraints, the farmers are facing lot of difficulties in keeping the harvested fruits and vegetables. They are also not getting adequate price for their produce. Quite often, they are forced to sell their produce at much below the cost price and they are constantly cheated by the middlemen who are amassing huge profits. Generally, the prices of the above items are not fixed by the farmers, the middlemen and the commission agents are fixing the prices.

Sir, every year, Government is fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy, wheat and sugarcane, etc. However, the poor vegetable and fruit growers are not getting even reasonable price for their produce.

Keeping in view of the above, I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to announce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for vegetables and fruits and to save the poor farmers who are engaged in the production of the same.

Date : 13-07-2009

type of debates : MATTER UNDER RULE -377

Need to protect and maintain the picnic spot around Manimuthar dam in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu-Laid.*

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, Manimuthar Dam in Tamil Nadu is located 47 kms. away from Tirunelveli in my Lok Sabha Constituency. It is an ideal picnic spot blessed with beautiful garden and peaceful atmosphere. It is a prominent tourist spot in southern Tamil Nadu. It is having rare species of flora and fauna, ornamental trees, well-maintained park for children, beautiful fountain which attracts large number of tourists from within the country and abroad.

However, for the past few years, this tourist spot is neglected and adequate funds are not released by the Local Bodies for its upkeep and maintenance and with the result the tourist inflow for the Manimuthar Dam is greatly reduced. Because of lack of maintenance, there is a fear of ecological imbalance in the region. As this place is lying in the Western Ghat, there is no dearth of water and this picnic spot can be well maintained with minimum cost. To save the ecology and to protect the glory of this region, the Union Government should come forward to protect this tourist spot at any cost.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism to kindly release adequate funds to protect the picnic spot/park around the Manimuthar Dam in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

Date : 14-07-2009

TYBE OF DEBATES : BUDGET (GENERAL)

**Combined discussion on the Budget (General) for
2009-2010 and Demands for Excess Grants Nos. 16
and 22 in respect of the Budget (General) for FY
2006-07**

. *SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): At the outset I would like to thank and congratulate our finance minister hon. Pranab Mukherjee for presenting the “Aam Admi” – pro-poor budget. This progressive budget is widely welcomed by all sections of the people.

In spite of all global economic recession and meltdown our finance minister is presenting the budget by including job creation, economic revival, social progress and fiscal consolidation. The budget carries forward inclusive growth. The budget is mainly focused on rural economy.

Agriculture – Agriculture development is mainly given importance in this budget.

Tamil Thirukural says: Thrukural is the real producer of food materials are agriculture people, we people are depending only upon them. The target of credit flow set at Rs. 325000 crores which is raised up to 38000 crores over and above the target of previous year.

Welcome the decision of provision that Task force to be set up to examine the issue of debt taken by a large number of farmers in some region of Maharashtra from private money lenders who were not covered by the loan waiver scheme announced last year. I request you kindly to examine in all the states including Tamil Nadu. Since in almost all the states the rural money lenders are exploiting this poor agriculture people by collecting abnormal rate of interest from their money lending. The Government should take measures to ease the farmers from the suffering of indebtedness.

* Speech was laid on the Table

Many number of pesticide producers are supplying and producing without giving ISI certificates. The farmers are cheated. The low standard pesticides are unable to remove the diseases which frequently engulfing the crops cultivated by the farmers.

I request you Sir, a minimum support price for vegetables should also be fixed by the Government to protect the farmers from losing the money by supplying the vegetables in lower price which are lower than the cost of production.

Irrigation – The increased allocation under accelerated irrigation benefit programme and “Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana” will go a long way in helping the farm community.

Our Government can formulate a plan to construct a new river from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. It will show and specify the National Integration. It may be in the name of our leader Rajiv Gandhi he was the exponent of National Integration when there is heavy rain and flood in North India, we can channelise this excess water into this newly established river and water can be utilized for agriculture and also for the drinking water supply of all the states.

Welfare of workers in the Unorganised Sector – Implementation of Social Security Scheme for building construction workers, builders, Beedi workers and rickshaw pullers. This scheme is going to benefit the workers engaged in these industries. In my Constituency a large number of workers especially ladies are engaged in Beedi making industries. In order to give protection from health hazards the EPP hospitals are there in some area. The hospitals are not having adequate doctors, assistance, medicine required to these people. Sir, I request you to kindly provide required doctors and necessary medicines to this hospital.

New NREGS – The focus on inclusiveness lay through the increased allocation under NREGS by 144 percent. About 39100 crores of

rupees have been enhanced. Moreover 44.7 million house holders are expected to be covered this year against 33.9 million this year.

Female Literacy – In this budget sir, Nakim mission for female literacy to be launched which focused on minorities, SC, ST and other marginalized groups with the aim to reduce the female illiteracy.

Bharatdharan a great Tamil poet says: If there is no education to the women, then it is equal to the barren land which is not yielding anything.

Our government is giving predominant role for women both in society and politics.

Handloom: Our Government has announced “Mega Cluster” each in West Bengal and Tamilnadu.

In Tamil Nadu, large number of handloom and powerloom units are functioning and huge number of workers are engaged in this industry. Many number of skilled and semi-skilled workers are largely available in various districts of Tamil Nadu.

I urge the concerned Minister and Finance Minister to establish it. Handloom mega cluster in Tiruchili constituency. It will be helpful to protect the handloom industry and workers enormously from my constituency.

Banking: We are having a sound financial system and monetary institution to stabilize our economy from global crisis and a slowdown. After the nationalization of 14 commercial banks by Inderaji, our monetary system had changed tremendously. Even though the developed countries are facing the financial crisis and recession. Our financial system and policy is readily protecting our economy from crisis. Most of the banks were collapsed was developed countries. But our monetary policy and our RBI control over banking system regularized the Indian financial system. We are protected from global crisis.

Lakhs and lakhs of students are benefited by education law. Our U.P.A. Government directed the banking sector to give adequate financial assistance for education. Most of the students have completed their education. Many numbers of students are having the

problem of repayment of loan and interest on the loan since they are not able to get a suitable employment opportunity. I urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to waive at least interest of the loan which are mounting and burdensome for students.

Power: Power factor is important for all the development of our country. We are deficit in power production in almost all the States. Even though our Government takes various steps to augment the power position, we have yet to produce more power to meet out the growing demands.

An Inter-Government Agreement on Nuclear power production project was signed on November 20, 1988 by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The project is still in progress without bring out the generated power to the public. Our Government should take immediate steps to accelerate the power production in Kondamkulam project which is established in my constituency. In Tamil Nadu, there is a heavy shortage of power.

Due to shortage of power, the New Economic Zone at Nangueri and SIDCO in Kangiakanduum is in slow progress. They are expecting power from Kondamulam project.

Taxation: The budget has hiked the Income Tax exemption to the individual by Rs.10,000/- over and above the already available limit.

Abolition of surcharge is condemned by all. Abolition of Fringe Benefit Tax is giving benefit to both employees and employers.

In my constituency, the agriculture people are getting irrigation facilities from Thaupravaam and Chitorny which are hailing from Western Ghat. But the channels and irrigation tanks are filled with "Amalai" plants and enormous problem to bring the water through its channels. The channels must be rejuvenated and repair work must be done. The "Amala" plants should be eradicated. Our Central Government should allot funds for the rejuvenation and repair work of all these channels and irrigation tanks.

Assistance to Sri Lankan Tamilians

500 crores of rupees are allotted by our Government for the betterment of the Tamil people who have lost their homes and properties during the war period. It is an humanitarian assistance to the Tamilians in Sri Lanka in order to establish hope in their life to rehabilitate their position.

Finally I hereby conclude that the budget is growth oriented and welcomed by all the people. It is providing social protection and economic development for all the sections of the people.

Date : 22-07-2009

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

**Need to provide all the necessary basic facilities at
the ESI Hospital, Mukkudal, district Tirunelveli,
Tamil Nadu.**

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, at Mukkudal in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu an ESI Hospital is functioning. It serves to Mukkudal, Alangulam, Kadayam, Pappakkudi Unions, etc. comprising more than 60 villages. The poor people engaged in the beedi and stone quarry industries are solely dependent on this hospital and availing the medical facilities for their ailments from this hospital only. Moreover, 90% of the women who are on the family way are availing maternity benefits from this hospital only.

However, this hospital is faced with certain basic problems viz., inadequate number of doctors, Lab technicians, Nurses, medical equipments and essential medicines. To keep the hospital clean and hygienic, sweepers and watchmen are also not posted in adequate numbers. With the result, many of the poor patients who have fallen sick are not able to recover quickly and unable to resume their duties in time. The conditions of the poor workers is such that they are not able to afford huge cost of medicines and treatment in private hospitals.

I shall, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Employment to extend all necessary basic facilities at the ESI hospital at Mukkudal, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

Date : 29-07-2009

TYBE OF DEBATES : MATTER UNDER RULE-377

Need to expedite completion of the Koodankulum Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, over the years, the demand for power had increased manifold but the supply is not adequate. Many of the States in the country are suffering from acute power shortage. The State of Tamil Nadu is reeling under severe power cuts and the shortage is around 1200 MW. This has affected domestic, industrial and agricultural operations.

Anticipating this kind of scenario, the Union Government had conceived the Koodankulum Nuclear Power Project. An inter-Governmental Agreement was signed on November 20, 1988 between the Government of India and erstwhile Soviet Union. However, the project remained mid-way after the post 1991 Soviet Union break-up.

Presently, two reactors are under construction. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) expects that the first unit when operational, can sell power at less than Rs. 2.50 per unit. In 2008 negotiations on building additional six reactors at the site began. It is expected that the capacity of each reactor will be 1000 MW.

The first of the units was expected to commence operations in December 2007 and the second in December 2008. However, there has been much delay mainly on account of equipment supplies from Russia. Finally, the date of

* Treated as laid on the Table.

commissioning of the first unit was rescheduled for December 2009 and the second one around March 2010. The delay in the commissioning of the Koodankulum Project is one of the main

reasons for the severe power shortage of over 1000 MW in Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps for the timely completion of the Koodankulam Project in Tamil Nadu.

Date : 04-08-2009

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to open a KendriyaVidyalaya in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu and fill up vacant posts in KendriyaVidyalayas in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): In my Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, Central Government Offices Viz., EPF, Income Tax, Central Excise, Highways are located and the services of many of the employees are transferable in nature. Moreover, families of persons working in various defence establishments are residing here. They are facing a lot of difficulties without KV School for admission of their children.

Moreover, as on 1.7.2009, 4496 posts (both teaching and non-teaching in different categories in various KendriyaVidyalayas are vacant. Though steps have been taken to fill up these vacancies through direct recruitment as well as promotion, the process is time-consuming. The students are facing lot of difficulties and the syllabus could not be covered within the time schedule. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government that recruitment process of teachers should be made continuously and the vacancies be filled as soon as they arise.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to set up a KendriyaVidyalaya in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu and fill up the backlog of vacant posts in KendriyaVidyalaya without delay.

Date : 19-11-2009

TYBES OF DEBATES : MATTER UNDER RULE-377

Need to take immediate steps for construction of Groyne along the sea coast of Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu to prevent erosion caused by sea waves.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): In my Tirunelveli Constituency, number of villages viz., Uvari, Perumanal, Kuthankuzhi, Kooduthali, Koottupanai, Thomaiyarpuram, Idinthakarai and Panchal are located along the sea coast.

Quite often, the condition of the sea in these areas is rough and vulnerable. The sea waves lash the shore violently causing damage to the fishing boats, nets and other fishing materials of the fishermen and also affecting their hamlets. Further, the nearby roads along the sea coast also gets damaged frequently.

Moreover, in the last few years the situation is worsening since the level of the tides has increased manifold. The distance between the shoreline and the nearby houses has narrowed down and the beaches have greatly reduced in length and breadth. Besides, due to entry of sea water into the nearby villages, the ground water has become saline and there is scarcity of drinking water and crops are also affected.

The steps taken by the State Government to check the sea erosion are not sufficient. In order to check the sea erosion permanently, I urge upon the Union Government to take

immediate steps for the construction of 'GROYNE' (low broad wall built out from a shore to check erosion of a beach) along the sea coast in the villages of Tirunelveli District.

Date : 24-11-2009

TYBE OF DEBATES - MATTER UNDER RULE-377

Need to allocate funds under Water Resources Consolidation Programme to revamp Tirunelveli Channel of river Thamirabarani in Tamil Nadu

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): The river Thamirabarani, which originates more than 2,000 metres above sea level on the Eastern slopes of Western Ghats, flows through the Tirnelvel District of Tamil Nadu in Southern India. It is having a number of tributaries and channels. One of the important Channels is Tirunelveli Channel with a length of about 6 kms. ... (*Interruptions*) It passes through the heart of the Tirunelveli town, providing water supply for drinking and irrigation to 4,500 acres of agricultural land besides filling 23 Outer Ponds of Mannur Block.

However, for the last few years, the agriculturists in these areas are facing a lot of difficulties for getting water supply from the channel due to the obstruction in flow of water supply due to the presence of large quantities of Amala Plants and the damage to concrete linings.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, removing of Amala Plants, strengthening of concrete lining and banks of the channels are to be taken up on top priority so as to facilitate easy flow of water till the tail-end areas. ... (*Interruptions*)

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to allocate necessary funds either under Water Resources Consolidation Programme (WRCP) or any other Centrally-sponsored programme to revamp Tirunelveli Channel of river Thamirabarani and do the needful.... (*Interruptions*)

Date : 30-11-2009

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

**NEED TO RETAIN THE SURVEY OF MEDICAL PLANTS
UNIT – SIDDHA UNDER GOVERNMENT SIDDHA
MEDICAL COLLEGE ,PALAYAMKOTTAI IN TAMIL
NADU**

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): The Survey of Medicinal Plants Unit – Siddha (SMPU –S) is functioning at the Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai since 1971. This is the only (SMPU – S) in the entire country under Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS), New Delhi. In this premier unit, Siddha Scientists and others have toiled selflessly, collected and stored more than 3000 medicinal plants specimens from Southern India including Andaman & Nicobar Islands. This is a rare repository of medicinal plants collected from Pothigai Hills and other parts of Western and Eastern Ghats supposed to be the seat of origin of Siddha Medicine. In this Unit, there are nearly 2,500 specimens of plants, animals, minerals and drugs displayed in glass jars as exhibits.

This wealth of information accumulated over the past several years is utilized by Siddha medical students, Research scholars, Teachers and Traditional Medical Practitioners. Several exporters of crude drugs from adjoining Tuticorin Harbour use this SMPU-S as a reference center to clear their doubts in medicinal plants.

Now, the Department of AYUSH and CCRAS have issued orders to give this prestigious unit to a private Siddha Medical College at Salem.

If the Government wants to establish a New Survey of Medicinal Plants Unit at Salem/Mettur, it can do so but not at the cost of destroying the Glasswares and Herbarium of the present SMPU-S Unit at Palayamkottai in the name of shifting. The proposed move of shifting the Unit has triggered stiff opposition from students, research scholars, Siddha practitioners and the public at large and they are at war-path since then. It will completely destroy the fruits of nearly four decades of hard work done by them.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to intervene in the matter and continue to allow the functioning of SMPU-S at Palayamkottai itself and to protect the interests of students, research scholars and others associated with this unit.

Date : 08-12-2009

TYBES OF DEBATES : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to upgrade Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Mahendragiri in district Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu as a separate unit with its Headquarters at Mahendragiri.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) situated at Mahendragiri in my Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu is a constituent unit of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which was started in 1984. It is one of the important units of the Indian Space activity because it contributes in a major way for systems development, assembly, integration and testing of Liquid and Cryogenic Rocket Stages and High Altitude Testing of Satellite Propulsion Systems and various other activities.

The present man-power strength of LPSC, Mahendragiri is about 550 which include senior scientists, technicians, administrative and supporting staffs. Though it was established 25 years ago and major developmental activities are being carried out here, its Head Office and control is still lying with Valiamala which is located near Trivandrum in Kerala. Trivandrum in Kerala is already having VSSC and other small units viz., TERLS, IISU besides APP in Alwaye. Another neighbouring State of Karnataka is having ISAC, ISTRAC Units in Bangalore and Master Control in Hassan.

LPSC, Mahendragiri is the only unit established under ISRO in Tamil Nadu. There are various units under ISRO having even 250

employees or less than that which have been made a separate centre. However, the LPSC, Mahendragiri is not yet considered which has enough reason to be upgraded into a separate centre.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to upgrade Liquid Propulsion Systems Center (LPSC), Mahendragiri into a separate centre with its Headquarters at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

Date : 17-12-2009

TYBE OF DEBATES : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need for doubling of Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari railway line.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tamil Nadu is lagging behind in the development of railway network in the country. Various railway works like gauge conversion, electrification and new lines pertaining to the State are running much behind the schedule due to inadequate fund allocation and cost escalation.

One of the important projects is doubling of Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari Section. Madurai, Tirunelveli, Courtalam, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari are important tourist places of attraction in southern Tamil Nadu. Large number of people from within the State and abroad are visiting these places throughout the year. There is a heavy traffic on this route and people going to Rameshwaram and Trivandrum are also using this route.

Presently doubling of railway line has been sanctioned for Villupuram-Dindigul section. Ongoing doubling work between Dindigul-Madurai is likely to be completed shortly. Hence, doubling of line between Madurai-Kanyakumari via Tirunelveli should be taken up on priority. At present, there is a single line on this route. People visiting various tourist places of importance are facing lot of difficulties, because of capacity reduction, railways cannot introduce more number of trains to meet the increasing demand of passengers. If double line is laid, the people residing at Maniyachi, Virudhunagar, Kovilpatti will also be benefited as it will open connectivity to those places. There is also simultaneous demand from Kerala for doubling of Nagercoil/Kanyakumari-Trivandrum Section. This will facilitate large number of tourists visiting both the States. Number of trains which were running up to Madurai earlier have been extended upto Tirunelveli in the recent years. If the doubling of Madurai-Tirunelveli-

Kanyakumari becomes a reality, it will facilitate large number of people from all parts of the country visiting Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to take up the work of doubling of Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari railway line on priority basis and allocate adequate funds for the project.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

Date : 09-03-2010

TYPES OF DEBATES : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to provide funds for de-silting of Manur Tank in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu and diversion of excess water of Thamirabarani river into the Manur Tank to improve irrigation facility in the district.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tirunelveli is the second largest district in Tamil Nadu. Here, Manur is one of the largest Panchayat Unions which consists of 42 Panchayat Boards.

Manur Tank is the second biggest tank in the district. It serves to about one lakh farmers for their agricultural requirements and for drinking purpose. Due to insufficient water in the tank, farmers are frequently facing lot of difficulties in cultivation. During monsoon season, the excess water from the Thamirabarani river could not be stored and it flows into the sea.

There is a long demand from various sections of the people for desilting the Manur Tank, strengthening its banks and to take effective steps for diverting the excess water of Thamirabarani river into the Manur Tank.

I, therefore, urge upon Union Government to allocate necessary funds from any of the Centrally sponsored schemes to

divert the excess water of Thamirabarani river through a short distance separate supply channel and direct it into the Manur Big Tank. It will improve the ground water level in those areas and will facilitate the farmers to cultivate more than 4,000 acres of land

DATE : 19 – 04 – 2010

TYBE OF DEBATES : BUDGET (RAILWAYS)

**Discussion on the demands for grants nos. 1 to 16
in respect of the budget (railways) for 2010 – 2011
(discussion concluded . All the cut motions moved
were negatived)**

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants for Railways.

Whoever may be framing this Budget, opposition parties raise so many objections. Even though they have put some allegations against this Budget, our UPA Government has produced through our revolutionary Railway Minister Madam Mamata Banerjee a Budget which is growth oriented and passenger friendly. It has spared the common man from hike in passenger fares and also freight rates. This is a passenger fare reducing time for the last few years in the UPA Government. Our hon. Railway Minister Mamataji has given adequate attention to passenger amenities, safety, introduction of new trains and extension of existing trains, facilities to Railway employees; all these important things are containing in the Railway Budget.

Sir, there is a saying in Tamil :

“Potruvaar Potrattum

Puzhudhivari Thootruvar Thootrattum”

It means – Whatever may be the blame or praise, you go on doing your duty. Whatever may be the blame, our hon. Minister of

Railways, Kumari Mamata Banerjee has presented a revolutionary Railway Budget.

One very important point here is about the unmanned level-crossings. This is causing increasing concern among the people. Most of these unmanned level-crossings are causing damage to properties and also we are losing valuables and also valuable lives. In order to put an end to this menace, the hon. Minister of Railways has announced that 1,000 unmanned level-crossings per year will be converted into manned level-crossings. Within the next five years, some 5,000 unmanned level-crossings will be converted into manned ones. This is a revolutionary Budget. I am telling it here.

The railway employees are also given more importance in this Budget. The railway employees are facing a lot of difficulties for their accommodation. I congratulate the hon. Minister for announcing in the House about a scheme – House for all – to facilitate railway employees and mitigate the problems of housing to the railway employees.

Another important point is about the coaches. I urge upon the hon. Minister that we have to give more coaches because during the rush time there is shortage of coaches. We have to add coaches to the regular trains. For this we have to produce more coaches. People want more coaches in regular trains and also more train facilities all over the country. Another very important point is that the Railways is providing national integration. Nowadays you see that in Tamil Nadu also, previously the Dravidian Parties were having the view of separate Tamil Nadu; now they have completely changed their policy. Now all the Dravidian parties, all the people of Tamil Nadu are appreciating the national integration which is provided by the Railway department. We have to make a link between the States. We have to provide a link between Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Delhi and Kanyakumari, Delhi and Tirunelveli and also from Mumbai and West Bengal areas. By the way we are creating brotherhood relationship between one state to other.

You know very well that Kanyakumari is a historical place. The Vivekananda Rock is there. Most of the tourists from West Bengal are coming here. Many people from almost all the areas in the country

are coming there. To make a link, our UPA Government has provided such a good railway link now.

I want to say one more thing here as far as my constituency is concerned. It is a very important point that I have to make. The hon. Minister has given many new trains to us and I appreciate that. Our esteemed Minister Ahamed has come there to start the newly introduced train to Hafa. Four new trains are introduced in Tamil Nadu.

At the same time, I urge upon the hon. Minister that you have to allot more funds for the doubling of the line. Almost all the people are coming from different states to Kanyakumari and to Tamil Nadu. Tirunelveli is on the way to Kanyakumari. I request the hon. Minister to sanction doubling of the line and also electrification of the line. I request the hon. Minister to allot funds for this. If you allot funds, then only the ambition of the people will be fulfilled and our people would appreciate the Government.

Madam, you have done a very good job. You have to give funds to Tamil Nadu and for Tirunelveli constituency for double track railway line. Thank you, Sir, for this opportunity.

Date : 20-04-2010

TYBE OF DEBATES: MATTER UNDER RULE-377

Need to open a new Railway Station at Maharajanagar on Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur Section in Tamil Nadu-laid.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tirunelveli is the second largest district in Tamil Nadu. This district has diverse geographical and physical features. It has lofty mountains and low plains and blessed with beautiful waterfalls and cascades and large number of tourists are visiting this place throughout the year. However, the people residing in the outskirts of Tirunelveli are facing a lot of difficulties to reach the railway station due to urbanization and the resultant traffic chaos.

There is a long pending demand for opening up of a New Railway Station at Maharajanagar on Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur Section, both on the northern and the southern side of the track. Large number of colonies, Government offices colleges and residential houses are located here and more are coming up and the population in this area exceeds 70,000 and it may cross 1 lac. mark in the near future. However, the people are not having any railway station nearby and they have to use Palayamkottai station which is 5 kms. away from their area. Vacant lands at two suitable sites are available nearby for construction of a new railway station.

This request is genuine and pending since long and I understand that it is under the active consideration of the Ministry of Railways. People from all walks of life have represented and favoured

for a new railway station. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to take up the matter on priority basis and release adequate funds for opening of a New Railway Station at Maharajanagar, Tirunelveli at the earliest.

Date : 26-04-2010

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to allocate quota of Natural Gas from K.G. Basin to Tamil Nadu to meet requirements of fertilizer plants and upcoming power plants in the State.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tamil Nadu ranks fourth place in the overall development of our country and remains forefront in industrial development. The State is more dependent on coal and crude oil to meet its energy demand which is estimated as equivalent to 24 billion cubic metres of natural gas in 2010. Against the demand, the availability of natural gas to the State was mere 3 million Metric Standard Cubic metres of gas per Day (MMSCMD) from ONGC sources in the Cauvery basin which is only 2-1/2% of the State's total energy demand. It estimated to grow at 9% per annum in the next 10 years.

The two major sources of natural gases in the country yielding more than 120 MMSCMD is fully consumed by a few States Viz., Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat and not a single cubic metre of gas has been allocated to Tamil Nadu, which has a huge demand and the interests of the State has been totally neglected. Krishna Godavari (KG) basin gas is a national wealth and, therefore, it has to be distributed in an equitable way.

Power and fertilizer sectors require about 50% of the estimated demand for natural gas in the State. Two major fertilizer plants – Madras Fertilizers Ltd., and Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Ltd using naphtha/fuel oil as feed stock to produce urea and di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) are struggling for survival.

SPIC stopped production of Urea and DAP for over a year ago due to rising prices of naphtha. This has an adverse impact on the production of Urea in Tamil Nadu, one of the largest fertilizer-consuming State. Unless gas is made available, these two plants may face closure resulting in huge deficiency of vital farm inputs in the State. Union Government has given approval for two projects to provide natural gas to Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu through pipeline from the KG Basin but the State is so far not getting any amount of gas.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to allocate natural gas from KG basin to the State of Tamil Nadu to meet the immediate requirement of fertilizer plants and the upcoming power plants and also to take steps for equipment distribution of the same to all the States in the country.

Date : 30-04-2010

TYBE OF DEBATE : PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Presentation of the 210th Report of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): I beg to lay on the Table the Two Hundred Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests

Date : 06-05-2010

TYBES OF DEBATES : MATTER UNDER RULE-377

Need to re-open the Railway Station at Kavalkinaru, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu-laid.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Kavalkinaru, Radhapuram Taluk of Tirunelveli, District, Tamil Nadu is situated on Tirunelveli - Kanyakumari National Highway which comes under Trivandrum Division of Southern Railway. It is famous for Flower Market. Banana plantation is also prominent here. Huge quantities of agricultural produce and flowers are produce here and exported to various parts of the country. ISRO Research Centre and a famous Church are also located here. A good number of engineering colleges and other educational institutions and Koodunkulam Nuclear Power Plant are also located here.

However, Kavalkinaru is not served with rail facilities. Due to absence of a railway station, the traffic meant for railways are diverted to roadways and the goods produced from here are transported by road. The students, businessmen and other general public from here and neighbouring villages viz. Vadakkankulam, Valliyur, etc. are facing a lot of difficulties as they have to depend solely on the roadways and they come here to board buses for longer distances like Chennai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli and on their return, they get down here to reach their native places. In this connection, various institutions, and general public have submitted memorandum to the Ministry of Railways for re-opening the Railway Station at Kavalkinaru, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. If the Kavaikinaru railway station is reopened, they need not go to Nagercoil, Kanyakumari or Tirunelveli to reach their destinations as they do now.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Railways to take necessary steps to re-open the Railway Station at Kavalkinaru, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

Date : 27-07-2010

TYPES OF DEBATES : MATTER UNDER RULE-377

Need to run Thiruchendur Express daily from Thiruchendur to Chennai via Chord line in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Thiruchendur is one of the important six abodes of Lord Karthik. It is a pilgrim town that attracts devotees from all over the country and abroad throughout the year. Among the temple festivals in Thiruchendur temple, Skanda Shasti is very famous one. However, Thiruchendur does not have proper rail connectivity to the State Capital, Chennai and other places.

After conversion of Broad Gauge and persistent demand from the general public and the pilgrims, the Chendur Express connecting Thiruchendur and Chennai was inaugurated last year as a weekly Express. This train passes through Villupuram, Trichy, Madurai, Tirunelveli via Chord line. At the time of introduction, it was assured that this train would run 5 days in a week and later it will be converted into daily train. Besides, the Railway authorities also notified that the Chendur Express would run 5 days a week via Chord line and the coaches had also arrived at Thiruchendur. During April 2010, the main line between Villupuram-Mayiladuthurai was opened after gauge conversion. However, the frequency of Chendur Express has not yet been increased. As a result, the people in Southern Tamil Nadu, the pilgrims, women and children are facing a lot of difficulties. Buses are often over-crowded and the private operators are over

charging and amassing huge profits. This is a highly profitable route and tickets are booked well in advance. Railways are running special trains every now and then to cope with the rush of passengers.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to run Thiruchendur Express (Train No. 6735/6736-Chennai Egmore-Thiruchendur-Chennai Egmore) as a daily train Via Chord Line.

Date : 03-08-2010

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to review the proposals of the Draft Tax Code to confer tax holiday benefit to the industrial units set up inside Special Economic Zones in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): The Special Economic Zone development activity in Tamil Nadu has slowed down due to a sudden change in the policy of the Union Government on the tax holiday plan. The issue relates to the removal of income tax benefits for new SEZ units and the units which had invested, but not yet started commercial production.

The Draft Tax Code (DTC), which does not confer tax holiday benefit on units inside SEZs, will leave millions of square feet of commercial space across the State unoccupied. Almost all States in the country will be affected if the tax proposals take effect of but Tamil Nadu stands to lose significantly because it has a large number of SEZs both operational (20) and those under notification/development (57). There were a total of 220 units located in the above 20 SEZs including Infosys, Mahindra, DLF, L&T, CCL Infrastructure, MARG, TCS Group, Nokia, Cognizant and Foxconn. These units have generated direct employment for 1.62 lakh persons. Tamil Nadu is the only State that has all types of SEZs ranging from leather to IT, food processing, textiles, apart from multi-product SEZs. Further, industrialization of many towns in the State including Hosur, Madurai, Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Cheyyuar, are dependent on the SEZs.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to review the proposals of DTC and to save the industries and economy of the State of Tamil Nadu

Date : 10-08-2010

TYPES OF DEBATES : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to ensure release of adequate water from Left Wing Channel of Neyyar Dam to Tamil Nadu as per the agreement signed between the Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): The construction of Neyyar Dam and its Right and Left Wing Channels were started during the First Five Year Plan period. Under the Plan, Kerala and Tamil Nadu is to receive two-third and one-third of the water respectively from Neyyar Dam. This project is aimed at to provide adequate water to the farmers of 13 revenue villages in Vilavancode Taluk of Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu for their agricultural activities to the tune of 4,048-50 hectares of land. Besides, the project facilitates the farmers to the tail end of its catchment area in Tirunelveli district. This project is fully funded by the Union Government.

However, since 2004, Kerala Government has refused to release water from the Left Wing Channel. With the result, the farmers in the above region are facing lot of difficulties and their livelihood is in jeopardy. Besides, large areas of agricultural land have become uncultivable and infertile. The State Government of Tamil Nadu had taken up the matter several times with their counterpart in Kerala but so far Kerala Government has failed to release water to the farmers in Tamil Nadu who are solely dependent on Left Wing Channel.

Keeping in view the above, I urge upon the Union Government to direct the Kerala Government to release adequate water from Neyyar Dam's Left Wing Channel to Tamil Nadu as per the agreement entered into between the two States.

Date : 19-08-2010

TYBES OF DEBUTES : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to safeguard the interest of local retail traders by imposing ban on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail sector.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise the issue regarding the retail trade in our country.

As our country is having huge resources, opening up of multinational brands, through Foreign Direct Investment, from multinational companies will jeopardize not only retail trade but also the farming community in our country.

India is having 1.5 crore retail trade units which cater employment directly to four crore persons and indirect employment to 16 crore persons and a huge section of Indian population prefer this trade and depend upon this retail trade. The entire retail trade business amounts to Rs.16 lakh crore to Rs.18 lakh crore per annum and is likely to touch Rs.20 lakh crore shortly. Groceries and food grains retail sector contribute Rs.8 lakh crore to Rs. 10 lakh crore.

The argument is that the MNCs would provide better chances for consumerism by checking price rise, will give healthy competition and the farmers will get better price for their produce. It is not true. With the advent of MNCs, the retail trade was totally wiped out of England.

Another most important thing that needs to be considered is opening up the doors for MNC soft drink companies in India. As soon as they entered, there was no healthy competition. They purposefully procured the empty bottles of the local players.

And they broke them into pieces as the bottles were the main investment of these local players. This led to the closure of many local soft drink brands. After stabilizing in a field, what they fix will be the price and no one can question that. The companies who

are supplying goods to these big players are providing them more percentage of gain and commission than the retail traders. In view of this factor, the retail traders who are already in existence in the field are finding it very difficult to compete with the big companies and hence they are almost on the verge of closing their outlets. This is also the case with the farmers.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to impose a permanent ban in FDI in retail trade on groceries, food grains, fruits and vegetables and to safeguard the livelihood of crores and crores of people and small retail traders.

Date : 26-08-2010

TYPES OF DEBATES : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to provide adequate compensation to the farmers who lost their crops due to Natural Calamity in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance relating to a problem faced by the farmers of our country.

Since Independence, India has borne the brunt of a large number of natural disasters like earthquake, flood, drought, tsunami and pest attacks. The Government provides compensation and other financial aid to farmers who are affected by such natural disasters. This is done to encourage them to continue to invest in agriculture and produce agricultural commodities. Still the farmers are facing nature's fury and they are not adequately compensated. This is applicable to the whole country.

In Tamil Nadu and particularly in Tirunelveli District, Kalakadu, Valliyur, Ambasamudram, Alangulam and Nanguneri areas are fully agriculture oriented. Huge numbers of people are engaged in farming and their main cultivation is paddy, sugarcane, banana plantation, vegetables etc. On many occasions, their crops, which are sufficiently grown and are in the yielding and harvesting stage, suddenly get damaged due to powerful whirlwinds as a result of which they incur heavy losses overnight and they are not able to recover even their sowing cost. As a result, the farmers are driven to debt trap.

Though the Government is providing compensation to crop loss due to flood, drought and tsunami, the authorities are refusing to grant financial relief to farmers whose crops are affected due to whirlwind. This is also a kind of natural calamity which is beyond the control of farmers. It is difficult to predict so they are entitled to compensation for such losses. Papers relating to losses of such kinds are pending with the District Collector of Tirunelveli since long. The

authorities are reluctant to release compensation to farmers as there is no specific provision under the existing rules.

In view of these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to include losses incurred to the farmers due to whirlwind and also to provide adequate compensation to them under Natural Disasters and Crop Protection Scheme and do the needful.

Date : 09-11-2010

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to expedite construction of Nanguneri Special Economic Zone Project and allocate adequate funds for infrastructural development.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise an important matter relating to my constituency. The Special Economic Zones in India were established with a view to bring expertise for the country's export sector. The Government has set up SEZs in the public, private and joint sector and as a result some of the existing Export Processing Zones were converted into Special Economic Zones.

Sir, Nanguneri Special Economic Zone has been planned by the Tamil Nadu Government to be set up in Nanguneri town. The AMRL International Tech City Limited and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation have joined together to establish this. This Special Economic Zone is said to be a project worth around Rs. 14,000 crore. The land required for this 2528 acres and the land has been acquired. It is pending for the last five years. The work has not yet started. It is only at the processing stage. People in this area are mostly dependent on agriculture and they are expecting that with the setting up of this Special Economic Zone in this area industries would be set up which will provide more employment opportunities to the people of the area. But the progress is very slow. Even though the land for the purpose has been acquired, yet it is doubtful whether the first phase on 400 acres would be ready by 2011. Due to lack of adequate infrastructure, infrastructural facilities are not available in this area; the people are not ready to set up their units

here. If infrastructural facilities are made available, then it will be very attractive for investment in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu and it will also help to decongest the crowded Chennai and the surrounding areas because most of the industries are located in and around Chennai. This is an industrially backward area, but it can be developed. In order to develop the infrastructural facilities, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to modernise and expand the Tuticorin Airport which is nearer to Nangureri Special Economic Zone. Provision should be made for low cost power generation. Power generation is very important in the development of these industries. There is one proposal for pipeline natural gas connection from Krishna – Godavari basin *via* Tirunelveli and other neighbouring areas. There should be upgradation of the Colachel port which is close to the international shipping route. The other point is the doubling of the Kanyakumari – Tirunelveli – Madurai railway line. If doubling of this line is done and also the electrification, then it will help in the development of industries in this area.

So, I would like to most humbly urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to allocation of adequate funds for the above projects for the development of infrastructure at Nangureri Special Economic Zone and also to assist the Government of Tamil Nadu to expedite the above projects.

Date : 09-11-2010

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to open a KendriyaVidyalaya at Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu is the second largest district in the State. This district is having a large number of colleges which provides a great platform for quality education in the field of engineering, arts, social science, law, commerce, medical science and journalism. Moreover, in Tirunelveli District, a large number of Central Government offices viz., EPF, Central Excise, ISRO Centre, etc. are located and the families of Defence personnel are also settled.

The Government of India has started KendriyaVidyalayas with the objective of providing educational facilities of a unique standard throughout the country to the children of Central Government employees whose jobs are transferable. Recently, the Union Government has decided to set up 107 new KendriyaVidyalayas in various parts of the country. However, Tirunelveli does not have any KendriyaVidyalaya. There is, therefore, an urgent need to set up one such KendriyaVidyalaya in Tirunelveli which is a long-pending demand of the people of this district.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to set up a KendriyaVidyalaya in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu at the earliest. Thank you very much.

Date : 22-11-2010

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTER UNDER RULE-377

Need to take necessary steps for expansion and modernization of Tuticorin Airport in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tuticorin (Thoothukudi) in Tamil Nadu is a main port city of India. It is an important centre on the commercial and tourist map of our country and is presently being served only by Kingfisher Airlines to Chennai. In the recent past, the tourist flow to this city and neighbouring places have increased manifold and most of the tourists prefer to travel by air so that they can utilize their time to the maximum. Considering the commercial and tourist potential, the air services connecting Tuticorin with other important cities needs to be augmented. Moreover, people from Tuticorin and adjoining districts of southern Tamil Nadu like Tirundveli, Kanyakumari go to Gulf and South East Asian countries frequently. They have to go either to Madurai, Chennai to Trivandrum for their onward journey and in the process they suffer financial hardship and also lose considerable time and energy in travel.

In the recent past, Union Government has identified 35 non-metro airports in the country for modernization. The modernization of Madurai Airport is underway and some other airports are nearing completion and now it is the turn of

Tuticorin Airport. A master plan for upgrading Tuticorin airport in phases has been prepared and the Tamil Nadu Government has been asked to provide adequate land.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps for expansion and modernization of Tuticorin Airport and adequate funds may be provided for the same.

Date : 06-12-2010

TYBE OF DEBATES : MATTER UNDER RULE-377

Need to inter-link Tamiraparani, Kadana Nadhi, Rama Nadhi and Chitthar rivers for providing water for drinking and irrigation purposes to water scarce areas in Tirunelveli Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tamiraparani is one of the important rivers flowing in the State of Tamil Nadu. It is the main source of water supply for irrigation and drinking purposes for the people living in Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts.

Every year due to heavy rainfall, Tamiraparani river and its tributaries are flooded and the surplus water becomes waste, unutilized and flows into the sea. Certain areas in these districts are dry regions where the river does not flow and because of slightly higher altitude of the area, it makes the water flow difficult. It is, therefore, necessary to take diversion or forming new canals so that the excess water of this perennial river can be taken to the dry regions. Keeping this in mind, a project is presently undertaken with a massive outlay of Rs. 369 crore to build a flood carrier canal from the existing Kannadian Channel at Vellankuzhi near Cheranmahadevi in Tirunelveli district to the drought prone area of Nanguneri, Thisaiyanvilai, Radhapuram and Sattankulam by interlinking Tamirabharani, Karumeniyar and Nambiayar rivers.

Likewise, the other side of the Tirunelveli and neighbouring districts, the areas comprising portion of Ambasamudram, Alangulam Taluk, Tenkasi, Sankarankovii, Rajapalyam Taluk upto Kovilpatti and Virudhunagar are water scarce. Due to non-availability of adequate river water, there is huge shortage of drinking water and the agricultural lands have also become infertile. In order.

to mitigate the problem of water scarcity in this region, another major canal along Ambasamudram, Alangulam Taluk, Tenkasi, Sankarankovii, Rajapalayam Taluk upto Kovilpatti and Virudhnagar should be dug up to take the surplus water by interlinking Tamiraparani, Kadana Nadhi, Rama Nadhi and Chitthar River.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to allocate adequate funds either under NABARD or any other Centrally sponsored programmes to save the dry and rain shadow regions.

Date : 13-12-2010

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to take necessary steps for setting up of Transshipment Terminal at Colachel Port in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu-laid.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Colachel is an important minor port situated in Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu. It is a natural harbour situated near international shipping channel which can attract major international carriers plying between Dubai and Singapore. For all round development of the country, setting up of Transshipment Terminal at Colachel port is the need of the hour. The port does not require dredging and therefore maintenance costs would be minimal.

Presently, international carriers do not enter Indian ports and dump the cargo at Colombo port. Similar vessels take this cargo from Colombo to East Indian Ports of Chennai, Ennore, Vizag, Paradip and Haldia. It is time consuming and leads to cost escalation. Besides, Colombo Port, Sri Lanka has commissioned Hambantata port to attract international shipping traffic.

Union Government is taking steps to set up Vizhinjam Port at Kerala to attract the international traffic. However, there is a need to upgrade Colachel as a major port. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also requested the Central Government for upgradation of Colachel Port in 2007. Once Colachel becomes a major port, it will become easier for the Union Government to convert it into a Transshipment Terminal. If this project takes off, it will give fillip to industrial activity in the area. Therefore, setting up of the

Transshipment Terminal at Colachel port will complete the process of overall industrial development in southern Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps for setting up of Transshipment Terminal at Colachel Port.

DATE : 23-02-2011

**TYPES OF DEBATES : MOTION OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT
ADDRESS**

**Further discussion on motion of thanks on the
presidents address moved by shri P.C.Chacko and
seconded by shri manish tewari on 22nd february
2011.**

*SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): I am thankful for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Presidential Address.

The President address clearly and vividly put forward the various progressive achievements during the UPA regime. Our President also insisted to find out a mechanism to eradicate the corruption from our Indian economy. She is cautioning that the corruption menace will hamper the development of our economy also. It is the right time, that we are having good governance. We are having a world class Prime Minister. In this occasion the primary think we have to take account is to put an end to the corruption among bureaucracy and also among public life personal.

Education is very important for the development of our society. Our UPA Government is spending a lot for the development of human resources. Human resources development can be achieved only through standard education. Because of introducing SSA scheme in education, the children who are able to study in government school get valuable education. The teachers in government schools are also trained in such a way that they can teach the students in village area in an highly valuable manner.

The Government has introduced a new plan to give Bank loan for the students who are going to study higher education. It is a great achievement of UPA Government. The bank should be advised to give this loan expeditiously and without any hesitations. If there is any burden to banking sector, the banking sector can establish a separate

department which will go through exclusively to the education loan. It may make it as a recoverable loan by making this follow-up system.

* Speech was laid on the Table

Rural Development is given priority in our Government. MGNREGA scheme give right to work for 100 days with Rs.100/- wage per head is an important scheme for the improvement of the rural people. Employment opportunity through this scheme is augmenting the purchasing power of the rural masses.

Now-a-days due to this scheme, there are arising some scarcity for the agriculture workers to work in the agricultural field. The farmers as a whole suffering due to scarcity of agricultural labour. In order to fulfill this gap, I hereby introduce and put forward a new concept. It can be considered if it is suitable.

New Concept

Marginal and small farmers who are having land holding below 5 acres can contribute Rs.50/- for the agriculture labour and the NREGA scheme can contribute Rs.100/- per head. The agriculture labour will come forward without any hesitation to farm work by getting this higher remuneration of Rs.150/-. At the same time, the marginal farmers are ready to produce more vegetables and cereals. It will increase the production of food materials. The price of the essential commodities like vegetable, fruits will come down.

Women development is given prior importance in UPA Government Our Hon'ble former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi brought up the Panchayat Raj law. It gave more empowerment for rural women. 33% of women are accommodated in Gram Panchayat. Now, our Government under the leadership of Soniaji and our strong Prime Minister Manmohan Singh instructed the bill to augment the Panchayat Raj strength as 50%. We are always welcoming the 33% representation of women both in Parliament and State Assemblies.

Our country is progressing in all the ways. We are going to achieve development nation within a shortest period of time. Foreign countries like America is surprising and appreciating the high level achievement of India in various fields. We have to maintain this achievement only by protecting our morality. There should not be

any seepage. The administration mechanism should be corrected. The corrupt activities in all the side of administration, executive and judicial should be put an end. Right mechanism is essential to rectify it.

Date : 24-02-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to widen and strengthen the hill tracks from Pampa to Sannidhanam for better management of heavy rush to devotees to Sabarimala Temple in Kerala and also provide adequate facilities for the devotees.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sabarimala is an important pilgrimage centre located in the Western Ghat mountain ranges in Kerala. It is the largest annual pilgrimage in the world with an estimated 30-40 million devotees of all faiths visiting the shrine and the number of pilgrims had registered a steady rise of 20% every year. This temple opens for a very few days in a year. Most of the devotees visit during Mandala and Makaravilakku Poojacelebrations which falls in the months of December-January.

However, the devotees are facing lot of difficulties due to inadequate and improper infrastructural and other facilities like road, lighting, toilet, clean water, food, medical emergency, etc. They can use their vehicles only upto Pampa. Thereafter, all the pilgrims have to follow a mountainous forest trekking path upto hill temple (Sannidhanam), a distance of about 7 kms. which is not sufficient for the movement of huge crowd. During season, pilgrims rest, sleep on the footpath and stampede occurs frequently.

A stampede occurred at Sabarimala in January 1999 in which 53 devotees died at the Pamba base camp. Again in one of the worst pilgrim tragedies recently in January 2011, 104 devotees were killed and 50 injured, seven of them were seriously injured in the stampede that occurred at Pullumedu about 7 kms. from Sannidhanam. Once

MakaraJyothi completed, people move back to their homes. There is only single path to go down towards parking. There are no adequate police personnel to control the crowd.

Recently Kerala High Court has also passed an order for better management of Sabarimala pilgrimage.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to direct the authorities to take necessary steps to widen and strengthen the hill tracks from Pampa to Sannidhanam urgently and new tracks should also be constructed along with the existing tracks to decongest the traffic. Also, adequate financial assistance may be provided urgently to those who have lost their lives and sustained minor and major injuries in the recent stampede.

Date : 25-02-2011

TYBE OF DEBATES : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to set up an IIT in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, I want to mention a problem relating to my Constituency. Education is very important for the development of human resources. The human resource development is inevitable for the development of our nation. In Tamil Nadu, only Chennai has an IIT for higher technical education. Technical education is very important for the development of students as well as human resources. The students have to compete globally. In my Constituency of Tirunelveli, a large number of engineering colleges are situated but our students are not having the opportunities to pursue higher education in institutions like IIT. We need an IIT for Tirunelveli because it covers Kanyakumari and Tuticorin Districts up to Madurai. Higher education is inevitable for our students. Therefore, we need an IIT in my Constituency of Tirunelveli. This is my request to the Government.

DATE : 04-03-2011

TYBE OF DEBATES : BUDGET (RAILWAYS)

Combined discussion on general discussion on the budget (railways) 2011-2012 and supplementary demands for grants no1,3,4,6 to 13 and 16 in respect of budget (railways) for 2010-11.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): At the outset, I would like to thank Hon'ble Mamata ji for presenting a passenger friendly and growth oriented railway budget in succession for the year 2011-2012.

Since the 1st UPA Government assumes office in 2004, it has untouched the railway passengers from fare hike. Indian railways carry 18 million people average on an everyday basis. Number of people employed is 14 lakh by plying 17,000 trains. It has achieved several milestones viz., longest railway bridge on the Kerala backwaters, rail connectivity to Kashmir, proposed connectivity to northeastern States etc. During the years under the regime of UPA government, railways have undertaken many new projects, BG conversion, electrification, new lines etc.

In the last budget, introduction of many new trains were announced. Our Hon'ble Railway Minister has successfully carried out most of her promises and improved rail connectivity.

In this Budget, Hon'ble Madam has announced All India Security Help Line on a single number set up. Now-a-days, theft, looting and

robberies have increased in many sensitive sections and the passengers are feeling a sense of fear in travelling particular routes. They lost their valuables and their life is also in danger. The proposed introduction of All India Security Help Line will go a long way to improve the passenger safety.

Railways are facing huge shortage of wagons and coaches. The proposed setting up of new coach and wagon factories are going at snail's pace. With the result, more number of passengers and goods cannot be carried from one place to another. Therefore, railways should be given more thrust to accelerate the production of wagons and coaches.

The proposal of 10,000 shelter units for track side dwellers in Mumbai, Tiruchirappalli is a welcome step. One cannot deny that large number of people are living in huts just near the railway track. This has increased the movement of people, cattle and vehicle along the railway track and poses grave threat for speedy running of trains. Railways should speed up construction of shelter units for track side dwellers and cities like Chennai and Madurai should also be included under this project.

It is a great pleasure that Railways have taken steps for rail connectivity to all North Eastern States except Sikkim. As in case of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, survey was conducting long back for laying of a railway line in the island territory. However, train services were not provided so far. I request the Hon'ble Minister to consider the genuine demand of the people of island territory.

The concession extended to physically challenged persons for travel in Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains, increased concessions to senior citizens, families of press correspondents, reduction of age limit for concessions to women senior citizens, medical facilities to dependent parents of railway employees, scholarship for girl child of Group-D railway employees, additional hostels for children of railway employees are welcomed by all sections of the society.

The proposal to fill 1.75 lakh vacant posts in Group C and Group D posts, Mega Recruitment Drive to cover the backlog of SC/ST and physically handicapped quota and recruitment of 16,000 ex-servicemen and recruitment in RPF are some of the long pending genuine demands. Many of the railway stations in the country are not provided with RPF personnel which results in deprivation of protection of railway properties. I shall, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to expedite the filling up of all security related posts in railways.

The proposal to eliminate all unmanned level crossings will not hold good. It is no doubt that huge number of accidents are occurring in unmanned level crossings. There are many villages and places of frequent visits by the people are located beyond unmanned level crossings. If the unmanned level crossings eliminated, the people will suffer a lot to reach and they will have to travel long distance to reach the other side. Instead of closing the unmanned level crossings, railways may consider outsourcing all of them. With the result, the expenditure outgo will be reduced and all unmanned level crossings can be saved from elimination.

It is a great concern that railway properties are greatly damaged in various parts of the country due to bandh, vandalism, rail-roko agitations, and frequent disruptions by vested interests and anti-social elements. This has resulted huge loss to the railways. To avoid such incidents, I urge the Hon'ble Minister to deal firmly with iron hand on those who are damaging railway properties. Rewarding of States with two new trains and two projects to deal with frequent disruption of trains definitely will yield good results.

In this Budget, bi-weekly Duronto AC is introduced between Chennai –Madurai. There is a huge traffic between Chennai – Madurai/Tirunelveli. This new train certainly will ease the traffic. However, the people of southern Tamil Nadu feel neglected and they are served with very limited train services to reach Chennai. To improve better connectivity, this Duronto may be extended upto Tirunelveli with a stoppage at Madurai alongwith addition of few sleeper coaches so that common man can avail the benefit.

In this year's Budget, railways have announced AC Double Decker between Delhi-Jaipur & Ahmedabad-Mumbai. Introduction of AC double Decker trains will increase carrying capacity of passengers. Railways should identify more such routes like Tirunelveli-Chennai, Chennai-Bangalore and to introduce such trains in future which will greatly reduce road traffic, augment revenue to the railways and ensure more comfort to passengers.

The suburban service in Chennai Beach-Tambaram is going to be extended upto Chengalpattu. It is a welcome step. However, the

number of additional trains going to be introduced on this route will not be adequate. Railways should consider increasing frequency of trains accordingly so as to reduce the waiting time of the passengers.

Many of the new trains services viz. Janam Bhoomi Gaurav, Kavi Guru Express and Vivek Express will provide more connectivity to the passengers.

Huge chunk of revenue comes to the Railways by way of freight traffic. Freight rates were revised time and again between two budgets by issuing circulars. If this trend continues, freight traffic will divert to roadways and the revenues meant for railways get reduced. Therefore, I urge upon Hon'ble Minister not to hike the freight rates and to extend due importance for freight booking and freight traffic.

At Chennai suburban railway stations during the peak hours, the passengers are facing lot of difficulties in purchasing their tickets. There is a huge rush at the ticket counters and more particularly women and old aged people are the sufferers. There is no separate counter for them and one has to miss several trains for getting their tickets and to board in them. I shall, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to set up more ticket counters/tickets vending machines at the stations or mobile tickets counters at prominent locations in the city.

On many occasions, the simple request of MPs for confirmation of tickets on Emergency Quota (EQ) are not honoured. This has often caused much embarrassment to us before our constituency people.

More particularly in Zones/Divisions, MPs requests are seldom considered. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister to issue necessary directions for giving adequate priority to MPs requests for train ticket confirmation and increase the Emergency Quota seat numbers for them now which are available.

It is not out of place to thank Hon'ble Madam for increasing the frequency of Chendur Express (Chennai-Tiruchendur) from weekly to daily train. This is a long pending demand. Thiruchendur is one of the important abode of Lord Karthik situated on the sea shore and is visited by large number of people from within the country and abroad throughout the year. Hon'ble Madam will certainly be blessed with the showers of all devotees of Lord Muruga and the people of Tamil Nadu.

I am thankful to Madam Mamata Ji for sanctioning of One PRS center for each Member of Parliament in their constituencies. In my constituency, under this proposal a PRS center has been set up at Alangulam, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu recently. The people of Alangulam and its surrounding areas are greatly benefited with this proposal as they had to travel long distance to get their railway tickets booked. They save their time and energy.

There are certain long pending demands of the people of Tamil Nadu is not yet met with. I shall, therefore, urge upon Hon'ble Madam, Mamata Ji to kindly consider the below mentioned proposals and implement the same at the earliest:

1. Early completion of Doubling and Electrification of Madurai-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari Section;
2. Increase the frequency of Bangalore-Nagercoil Overnight Weekly Express to daily;
3. Stoppage of all trains running between Madurai-Kanyakumari Section at Kovilpatti, Nanguneri, Valliyur and Panagudi and provision of berth and seat quota;
4. Construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) near Thatchanallur Railway Station (Tirunelveli) at Thatchanallur-Madurai road;
5. Gauge conversion of Tirunelveli-Tenkasi section;
6. Increase in the number of Coaches in i) Nellai ii) Kanyakumri and iii) Anandhapuri Express Trains and introduction of Special Trains during Seasons, Summer Vacation and Festival times;
7. Re-opening of Railway Station at KAVALKINARU, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu;
8. Opening of a New Railway Station at Maharajanagar, in Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur Railway Line;
9. Introduction of First AC Coach at Chennai-Tirunelveli (Nellai Express)
10. Provision of First AC Coach at Chennai-Tirunelveli (Nellai Express).

11. Replacement of old coaches with new modern coaches, cleanliness in stations/coaches and to improve the quality of food items.

With these words, I support and conclude my speech on the Railway Budget.

Date : 07-03-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to include farming under MGNREGS with a view to protect the agricultural sector in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, in our country, more than 70 per cent of our total workforce used to depend on Agriculture. Agriculture is an important industry in our country. They produce food materials for our nation and also foreign exchange is earned by this industry. However, in the last few years, our food production was greatly reduced and is not in proportion to population explosion and export of agricultural commodities reduced. We were forced to import wheat, sugar, pulses and onion, etc. which were produced plenty in our country earlier.

This has greatly affected the common man and this pushes the prices of vegetables, fruits and all other food materials. There is much imbalance in the demand and supply position and inflation rate has reached the double digit level. The farmers are not getting adequate support price for their produce and the middlemen are profiteering.

With the launching of the MNREGS, we have provided livelihood to millions of our workforce, the farm labourers also slowly switched over to it. Now, our Government has handsomely hiked the wages under the Scheme. For example, in Tamil Nadu, the labourers are getting about Rs.119 under our MNREGS. The small farmers are not in a position to afford that much amount to the labourers and they are not able to retain the labourers. So, the labour force in the agricultural field is reduced tremendously. That is why, the small and marginal farmers are finding it difficult to get the labourers. To arrest this trend, our Government may consider deputing the MNREGS labourers to farming. For them, an amount of Rs.50 may be paid as the small farmers' contribution over and above the amount fixed by MNREGS. The small farmers and the medium farmers, who are

owning land below five acres, can provide Rs.50 for these labourers and the residual amount paid by MNREGS. Now, under the MNREGS, we are giving Rs.119. With the amount of Rs. 50, the total will be Rs. 169. So, we can provide this amount to the agricultural labourers. If we provide this to the labourers, then, the labour force will come forward to work in the field. This is a support for the small farmers. At the same time, the farmers will also be getting more remuneration by increased production. So, they can produce more agricultural produce because our Government needs, our people need more food materials, cereals, vegetables, fruits. So, all these things can be produced more.

The small farmers, who are owning land below five acres, can get more remuneration by increased production and they can produce more. So, it is a three-dimensional progress for our country. It is a very important point that our agricultural labourers will be getting Rs.169. They will be encouraged to work in the agricultural field. They will come forward to produce more food materials. At the same time, the agricultural labourers will also be benefitted. The farmers will get the benefit of the work force. More food materials can be produced and prices will also come down.

Hence, I would request our Government to consider this. It is a very important point. Our Government can introduce this new concept in the MNREGS. This labour force can be diverted to agriculture. By this way, we can produce more. Thank you.

Date : 09-03-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to take steps to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in strife-torn Libya.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI):

Madam, after days of anti-regime unrest in Egypt, violence in Libya has aggravated in the past few days and became uncontrollable. In the series of gunfire during anti-government violence, large numbers of people were killed and many of them injured. There are about 18,000 Indians working in various sectors in and around Tripoli in Libya and they are stranded there. Besides, few of them are working as doctors and nurses in various hospitals. They are grandly suffering and staying indoors without adequate water, food, etc. for the past few months. Among them is a group of 24 semi-skilled workers belonging to Thalaivakottai village of my Tirunelveli Constituency, Tamil Nadu. Two of the contract workers have died.

Our Union Government has acted swiftly, initiated necessary steps to evacuate the Indian by sending flights and ships after getting necessary clearance from Libyan authorities. As they are struggling for their lives and have left all their belongings there, I request the Union Government to bring them back free of cost or not to charge more than nominal charge for their evacuation and render all kinds of assistance viz., food, medicines, etc. till their reaching to their hometown.

The families of deceased are in deep distress and their bodies have not yet reached.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps for airlifting the bodies of contract workers who have died from my Tirunelveli District in violence in Libya and sanction necessary financial assistance to the bereaved family for their livelihood.

Date : 11-03-2011

TYBE OF DEBATES : SPECIAL MENTION

Increasing incidents of crime against women in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a bit different. Our Government is committed to provide equal rights for women in all spheres. However, the crime against women is increasing over the years. There are reports of large numbers of incidents of ragging, chain snatching, rape, molestation, dowry deaths apart from ill-treatment by their husbands or relatives from various parts of the country. more particularly the national Capital, Delhi which is most vulnerable to women's safety and the crimes are increasing each passing day. Moreover, there are reports of honour killings as well. To tackle the increasing crime against women, various steps have been taken and one among many such steps is the increasing the representation of women in police at all levels.

15.00 hrs.

As per the report, women in police force across the country are just over 60,000 in number which is roughly five to six per cent of the total police force. Hence, the Governments at the State and the Central should take efforts to increase the percentage so that crimes against women can be controlled effectively.

The Union Government has issued advisory to all the States and Union Territories to raise the ratio of women in police force to 33 per cent to control the crimes against women. It is not fulfilled so far.

Therefore, I urge upon the Ministry Home Affairs to take necessary steps to control the increasing incidents of crime against women and to issue necessary direction to the State Governments to increase the women representation in police forces.

Date : 15-03-2011

TYBE OF DEBUTES : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to empower the National Commission for Backward Classes to redress the grievances of OBCs in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): In our country, it is believed that 60% of the population belongs to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). As per the provision of National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, the Commission was constituted to aim at protecting the interests of OBCs. But for the last 17 years, the Commission has not been given adequate powers to deal with the grievances of OBCs. As per Article 338(10) of the Constitution of India, National Commission for Scheduled Castes has been given the power to deal with the issues relating to OBCs.

The Mandal Commission was appointed in 1979 by the President of India and its recommendations were implemented by providing reservation of 27% posts in Government services and seats in educational institutions for OBCs. The Central Government also provided reservation for the OBC students in higher educational institution like IIMs, IITs. But in practice, they are facing many problems in getting the reservation facilities extended to them and the affected people are knocking the doors of National Commission for Backward Classes to redress their genuine grievances. However, the National Commission for Backward Classes is not empowered to redress their grievances. A separate Parliamentary Committee for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was constituted long ago and it is functioning very well to protect the rights of SCs/STs. But no such Parliamentary Committee for OBCs has been constituted and now it is the need of hour to constitute a separate Parliamentary Committee for OBCs.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take steps to amend the Constitution of India and empower the National Commission for Backward Classes to be vested with adequate powers so as to redress the genuine grievances of OBCs of our country.

Date : 25-03-2011

TYPES OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

**Need to construct and upgrade the Highway
connecting Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) to
Thiruvanthapuram (Kerala) via Ambasamudram -
Papanasam and Nedumangadu.**

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Presently the connectivity between Tirunelveli and Trivandrum are via (i) Nagercoil and (ii) Sengottai which is too lengthy. Therefore, there is a long pending demand from the people of both States for a short route via Forest area. Presently, State Highway exists between Tirunelveli – Ambasamudram – Papanasam. From Papanasam – Nedumangadu, a Kutcha road, along the western ghat section (about 30 kms.) exists. This Kutcha road was used for transporting timber and pedestrian movement and it needs to be upgraded urgently which will facilitate smaller vehicular movements. A proposal in this regard is under consideration and waiting for final approval from concerned authorities. From Nedumangadu to Trivandrum, good road connectivity is already there.

As there will be vast movement of people along the route, i.e. Papanasam-Nedumangadu, forest reserves will also be protected. The proposed new ghat section will definitely attract large number of tourists from all parts of the country and generate revenue besides nearby villages will have a new lease of life in terms of growth and development.

Keeping in view of the above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps for constructing and upgrading of the Highway connecting Tirunelveli to Trivandrum via (Tirunelveli-Ambasamudram-Papanasam-Nedumangadu-Trivandrum at the earliest.

Date : 02-08-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

**Need to provide stoppages of trains running
between Madurai and Kanyakumari Section at
Nanguneri, Valliyur and Panagudi railway stations
in Tirunelveli Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil
Nadu.**

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Nanguneri in Tirunelveli District is a place where Special Economic Zone is being set up. Near Nanguneri at Moondradaippu, a Bird Sanctuary is located. It attracts a large number of tourists from various places.

Valliyur in Tirunelveli district is fully agriculture oriented. Huge number of people are engaged in farming and their main cultivation is paddy, sugarcane, banana plantation, vegetables, etc. Besides, they are also engaged in poultry farming. The agricultural and poultry products produced by them are exported to various parts of the country which fetches huge revenue to the government.

Panagudi is the biggest town situated in my TirunelveliLokSabha Constituency, Tamil Nadu. It is famous for its Windmills, Tiles Factory, Brick Industries and farming. In and around Panagudi, more than 50 Engineering, Medical, Pharmaceutical and other colleges are functioning. Its population is more than 80,000 and floating population is also very high.

The people residing at the above places are visiting Madurai, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari and other places quite often. Moreover, large number of people from various parts of the State are visiting all the above three places throughout the year. Due to non-stoppage of

many trains at the above places, the passengers are facing lot of difficulties and since long they are demanding the same.

Keeping in view of the above, I humbly urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly provide stoppage of all Express trains running between Madurai-Kanyakumari Section at Nanguneri, Valliyar and Panagudi railway stations and provide adequate berth and seat quota.

Date : 03-08-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to set up more Agricultural Universities with a view to meet the requirement of qualified Agricultural Professionals in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, I will be brief. Agriculture sector accounts for 30 per cent of our country's GDP and employs around fifty per cent of the work force throughout the country. Now-a-days, through the MNREGA, our Government has given employment opportunities for the rural people in many ways. Due to this the purchasing power of the people has increased. There is a shortage of field workers in agriculture and their availability has reduced enormously. So, we have to improve the scientific innovations and new technologies which have become highly research oriented. We have to change our agriculture pattern to improve the productivity and also the production in our country. We need more agricultural graduates. In order to do that, we need more agriculture graduates and diploma holders to do this research work. There is a general misconception that there are not enough job opportunities for agriculture graduates amongst our educated youngsters. Now, most of the youngsters from the rural areas, even those who belong to agricultural families, are not ready to study agriculture. They are now shifting to other engineering studies, like mechanical engineering and computer engineering and they are going out to get employment opportunities. Due to this reduction in the availability of agriculture graduates and technicians, we have to introduce new modern methods of buffer stock innovations. We need more agriculture graduates. Every year we are producing only 10,000 to 15,000 graduates. So, we need more agriculture graduates

and diploma holders. In order to attain self-sufficiency and improve the output in agriculture, there is a need for qualified labour in this sector. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please tell the Minister as to what do you want. It is not a debate. You just have to tell as to what do you want.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): To reach this goal, the Union Government, in coordination with the State Governments, should set up more agriculture universities in various parts of the country and more and more students should be encouraged to take up agriculture as a career option as the employment prospects are much better in these days. Thank you.

Date : 10-08-2011

TYPES OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to take immediate steps to ensure easy and adequate availability of Muriate of Potash and DAP Fertilizers to the farmers in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, One of the major fertilizers being used by the farmers in the whole country particularly in Tamil Nadu is Muriate of Potash(MOP) and that is in acute shortage and for the last two months, the stock is almost Nil. The situation has arisen because of the current import policy. The major importer is government owned, Indian Potash Limited which is importing and distributing. One of the reasons for acute shortage during the year is higher international market price for MOP which is hiked by about 2-1/2 times in comparison with previous year. Government is hesitant to import MOP because of its higher cost and consequent subsidy burden and aimed at reducing subsidy on imported fertilizer. Since MOP is the major imported fertilizer and farmers are mostly using this fertilizer in Tamil Nadu for all crops and due to the extant policy, the farmers are getting inadequate supply. Even if the Government thinks of importing more quantity of MOP, it will take few days for shipment period. If this situation continues, the farmers will suffer and it will affect crop production.

Another major fertilizer widely used in Tamil Nadu is Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) which is also in short supply. In Tamil

Nadu, for all crops, the major basal application period is August and September.

I, shall, therefore, humbly urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to ensure easy and adequate availability of MOP-DAP fertilizers to the farmers in Tamil Nadu at reasonable prices without delay.

Date : 19-08-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to exempt semi-mechanised safety match industries from the purview of the Excise Duty

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, now-a-days, the match industry is facing a very serious problem not only in Tamil Nadu but also all over India. The safety match industry is segregated into three parts, namely, completely handmade, partially mechanized and fully mechanized. Safety match making can be classified into five steps, namely, frame filling, dipping, box filling, label pasting and packing. In completely handmade units, all these five processes are being carried out without the use of power. But in partially mechanized units, the processes of frame filling and dipping are being carried out through machines while box filling, label pasting and packing are being performed by hand. In fully mechanized units, all the five processes are being carried out through machines.

Sir, now-a-days there is a very serious problem. The current situation is that the completely handmade units have shrunk into three per cent while the partially mechanized units are contributing 72 per cent of the total production and 25 per cent comes from completely mechanized units. As a result, all the labourers, who are engaged in handmade units, have shifted to semi-mechanized units.

After the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, now-a-days this industry is also facing labour crunch.

However, they did not attain their production target and the imposition of excise duty is adding fuel to the fire. As per the available survey report, partially-mechanized unit contributed to providing employment to 38,959 persons. This is 79 per cent. Handmade safety match industry employs least number of labourers. Semi-mechanised units employ most of the labourers and it took

over the position of small-scale industries from handmade units and they are to be protected.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU): I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government that total excise duty exemption should also be extended to semi-mechanised units at par with handmade units to save this industry.

Date : 26-08-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to take effective steps to contain the rise in price of Gold.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important problem that has arisen in the recent months because of the prevailing prices of gold in the country. The prices of gold have increased. In the domestic market the prices of gold have increased to the tune of Rs. 28,000 per ten gram. Our Government is importing huge quantities of gold, but on the contrary, its prices are increasing.

One of the major reasons contributing to the steep hike in prices of gold is the steep fall in global equity markets and the investors parking their investments in gold. Another reason is that the corrupt elements are stacking their unaccounted money in gold which has ultimately pushed up its demand and has resulted in the increase in its prices.

The gold metal is having a special significance in our tradition and culture, particularly in the Southern States where wearing of gold ornaments is considered sacred in the religious functions. Even poor people used to purchase at least a few grams of gold to knot in the *Mangal Sutra* of the brides in the marriages. However, due to this unprecedented hike in its prices, now they are very much worried about getting their daughters married. The hike in gold prices also leads to increasing crimes, like, theft, chain snatching, murder, burglary, robbery, etc. in the country.

Sir, keeping in view the above, I humbly urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps to contain the increasing trend

in the prices of gold and also crack down on the people who are stashing their black money in gold and to reduce its prices so as to facilitate the needy. Also, we should also have to find out new gold mines because there is a trend of law of diminishing returns in our gold mines and so we have to look for and trace new gold mines in our country. Another point is that some people are buying gold from the Jewellery Mart and they are not being given bills for the purchase. So, the Government should ensure that bill is given with the purchase of gold. It can avoid tax evasion. It will bring more revenue to the Government Exchequer.

Date : 29-08-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need for opening of the proposed new Integrated Vaccine Complex near Chennai and to make fully functional all the three closed vaccine manufacturing unit in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I am raising a very important issue regarding the immunization of children.

Madam, the number of children dying due to immunization-related complications has more than tripled after the Government closed down three public sector vaccine labs – the Central Research Institute in Kasauli, BCG Laboratory in Chennai and the Pasteur Institute of India in Coonoor. These institutes were closed down in 2008. After closing of these three institutes, some complications are arising in the immunization programme. To make up for the demand of 75 lakh vaccines doses of six kinds needed for its universal immunization programme, the Government has been procuring them from private firms.

Now, I would like to tell this august House that there is an adverse effect after immunization (AEFI). AEFI is a general term that covers various reasons including bad vaccine quality due to break in cold chain, contamination and complications due to pre-existing conditions of the child. In 2007 only 32 children lost their lives to AEFI whereas in 2009, the figure has increased to 116 children.

Now, it seems that these units will not be expected to restart its earlier production capacity and procuring vaccines from private

companies is also turning out to be more expensive and not sufficient to meet the increasing demand. According to the recent report, 17.5 crore doses is the extent of vaccine shortage in the country. If urgent measures are not taken, there will be many more deaths of children. The proposal to start an Integrated Vaccine Complex near Chennai in Tamil Nadu is also not expected to be ready till today.

I would urge upon the Union Government to ensure that adequate supply of essential vaccines be made available for preventable diseases to protect the lives of children and also to restart all the three vaccine manufacturing units in their full capacity and opening of the proposed new Integrated Vaccine Complex near Chennai at the earliest.

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh – not present.

Dr. (Smt.) Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi – not present.

ShriDevjiMansingram Patel - not present.

Date : 30-08-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to enhance the pension of workers engaged in Cotton mills and beedi industry in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): In my TirunelveliLokSabha Constituency a large number of spinning mills are functioning since long. Among them, co-operative Mill at Pettai, namely, Madura Coats Pvt. Ltd., at Vikramasingapuram is very prominent. A large number of people are employed there for the last 30 to 40 years. But they are not reasonably paid. Over a period of time, there was reduction in workforce in those units. Some of the workers/employees have opted for voluntary retirement and many of them were retrenched form service also. During their service period, they had contributed 8% of their monthly salary towards provident funds.

However, I am sorry to state that after relieving from their service they are getting very less/émigré monthly pension in the range of Rs. 250 to Rs 900. Likewise, thousands of beedi workers in my district who have worked many years are getting very meagre financial assistance, whereas the Government of Tamil Nadu is now paying Rs 1000 p.m. as pension to the old-aged people in the State. This paltry pension amount would not be sufficient to meet their both ends. In view of this, the cotton mill/beedi workers are consistently demanding that their minimum pension be fixed at Rs. 3,000/- per month which would come as a relief to these economically weak people.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to fix the minimum pension of all cotton mill/beedi workers of Tamil Nadu who are covered under EPF scheme at least Rs. 3,000 pm.

Date : 05-09-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to improve the facilities for and appoint adequate number of doctors and medical/para medical staff in ESI Hospital at Mukkudal in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, at Mukkudal in my Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, an ESI Hospital is functioning. It serves a large number of villages Viz., Mukkudal, Alangulam, Kadayam, Pappakkudi Unions, etc. comprising of more than 60 villages. The poor people in this region are mostly engaged in the beedi industries and availing of medical facilities from this hospital only.

However, this hospital is lacking certain basic facilities such as doctors, essential medicines, etc. It has only 4 doctors out of the sanctioned strength of 14. Adequate number of specialists and technicians are not available. On an average about 400 patients visit this hospital daily for treatment in the OPD. Though infrastructure is adequately available, but owing to scarcity of trained professionals, existing facilities are not being utilized properly. Salary given to the medical professionals is meagre. The poor workers are not able to afford huge cost of medicines and treatment from outside.

I shall, therefore, humbly urge upon the Union Government to improve the facilities and to appoint adequate number of doctors,

nurses and other allied para medical staff at the ESI Hospital, Mukkudal without delay which will cater to the needs of the large number of beedi workers in this region.

Date : 24-11-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to allocate adequate funds for cleaning the Thamirabarani River in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Thamirabarani is one of the perennial rivers in Tamil Nadu which originates from Pothigai hills on the Eastern slopes of the Western Ghats. It passes about 124 kms. through Tirunelveli and Tuticorin Districts and drains its water into the Bay of Bengal at Punnakayal of Gulf of Mannar. Its water is used for drinking, irrigation, fishing and electricity generation. This river is having a number of canals, dams and reservoirs. Besides fulfilling the drinking water requirements of three districts of southern Tamil Nadu, this river facilitates 82,000 acres of land of irrigation.

Of late, Thamirabarani River is greatly polluted due to rapid industrialization on its banks including pulp, paper, textile, various workshops, photographic industries, various small scale industries leading to the discharge untreated effluents as also human and animal wastes, etc. The waste consists of dye stuff, sulphates, sulphide, copper, zinc, lead, phenolics, chlorides, lingo cellulosic wastes, mercaptans, mercury, etc. The survey conducted at various canals of Thamirabarani river reveals that the arsenic, chemical and pollution levels are extremely high than the permissible limits. Further the presence of amala plants in the canal greatly absorbs the oxygen level leading to the death of living things. Besides, the

increased presence of microbes spreads foul smell in the canals. There are shocking reports that one litre of river water contains more than 1,300 microbes. The presence of high-level of toxic substances in the river water and its consumption causes irritation and other skin related diseases. There is huge apprehension among the scientists and farmers that if the present situation is allowed to continue, the crops will be greatly affected.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to allocate adequate funds for cleaning the Thamirabarani River on war-footing and direct the State Government to enforce the pollution norms strictly.

Date : 28-11-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to open a Sainik School in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sainik Schools are a system of schools established and managed by the Sainik Schools Society to prepare students for entry into the National Defence Academy (NDA). It helps deserving students to get high quality education irrespective of their income or class or background. In Tamil Nadu, Sainik School is situated only in Amaravathi Nagar, Coimbatore District.

In this connection, I would like to submit that the students of southern Tamil Nadu are facing lot of difficulties due to non-availability of a school in comparison with the standard of Sainik School and there is a long pending demand of setting up of a same in Tirunelveli District. This will also facilitate large number of students in neighbouring southern districts and excel them in developing their skills in academics, sports and other extra-curricular activities.

Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps for opening of a Sainik School in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu.

Date : 07-12-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to promote distribution and consumption of the eggs of Japanese quails in order to protect the farmers engaged in its farming in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, it is related to the important problem concerning agriculturists. Japanese Quail is a domesticated and amazing creature. Many farmers in rural areas, especially in Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra practice Japanese Quail farming on a small scale. In Tamil Nadu alone, many farmers are involved in this business and all the farms are having countless number of birds. In the year 1982, it was brought to Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. During 1984-88, the Tamil Nadu Poultry Development Corporation promoted Japanese Quail chicks on a commercial basis and the same was supported by this University. Its eggs are edible. They are inexpensive to keep and fairly disease resistant. The Union Government is also supporting commercial farming of Quails like dairying.

Recently, the Union Government *vide* a circular have prohibited farming of Japanese Quails and have directed the States/Union Territories not to issue any new licence for farming of Japanese Quails and also not to give any permission for expansion or augmentation of the existing farming facilities. Based on the Circular, the State Governments are refusing to renew the licences for existing farms. This move would adversely affect the rural economy and employment, and the livelihood of small and marginal farmers will be in jeopardy.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to withdraw the Circular prohibiting farming Japanese Quails and promote the distribution and consumption of their eggs and to protect the poor farmers engaged in their farming throughout the country.

Date : 08-12-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to develop Royapuram Railway Station as third Railway Terminus of Chennai and ensure operation of trains going to southern districts from Egmore Railway Station in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): There is a large-scale apprehension among the people of Tamil Nadu that all south-bound express trains presently operating from Egmore would be moved to Tambaram. If the express trains from southern districts are stopped at Tambaram, passengers particularly women, children and elderly would experience great difficulties in reaching to Chennai Egmore/Central for commuting from South to north and vice versa. The length of the Tambaram Platform is about one km. and they have to cross foot-over bridge strenuously. Moreover, the distance from Tambaram to Chennai Egmore and Central is more than 35 kms. Autos are charging exorbitant rates.

It is a well considered opinion that Royapuram (south India's first Railway Station) which is situated just about 5 kms. from Chennai Central Railways Station has the potential to be developed as third terminal after Chennai Central and Egmore. About 16 long distance express trains bound for eastern, western and other parts of the country are currently passing through Royapuram Railway Station. This station has large stretch of land spread across 72 acres in which 16 platforms can be constructed. Presently it is lying with

under-utilized platforms, having unutilized lands/buildings, shrubs, dilapidated buildings. Parking bays for both public and private vehicles can be created in north and south blocks.

Chennai Central is already over-crowded. Egmore station is also crowded due to shifting of about ten north bound trains from Chennai Central besides about the same number of trains bound for northern States are passing through Egmore. To overcome this problem, Royapuram is the ideal place for declaration of New Modern Third Rail Terminus.

Keeping in view of the above, I humbly request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to kindly take necessary steps that all trains being presently operated from Chennai Egmore and going to southern districts should continue to be operated from Egmore only. To overcome congestion at Chennai Central, Royapuram Railway Station should be developed as the Third Terminus of Chennai.

Date : 09-12-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to take necessary steps to control the steep hike in the prices of DAP and other fertilizers.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, the farm-gate prices of DAP and MOP have shot up by nearly 50 per cent in the past two quarters on the back of an increase in prices of phosphoric acid, a key raw-material and also due to depreciation of rupee value. The price which was Rs. 12,500 a tonne in the first quarter shot up to around Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 19,000 a tonne now. Phosphoric acid prices which were ruling at US \$ 980 a tonne in the first quarter of the current fiscal has moved up to US \$ 1080. In general, the prices of DAP, MOP and Complex Fertilizers have nearly doubled in comparison with last year's prices.

13.00 hrs.

However, the high prices have not led to any drop in demand and the farmers are left with no option but forced to buy at higher prices. The demand continues to be strong but supplies are quite tight. Though sales volume of non-urea fertilizers has declined, the reason attributed is mainly due to supply side constraints. The main concern of the farmers is that the fertilizers are not easily available even at these high prices. Adequate monsoon during the year has also not brought cheers to the farmers, as they are forced to shell out more for di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), Potash (MOP) and other complex fertilizers.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU : I shall urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to contain steep hike in the prices of DAP and other fertilizers and to protect the farming community who is the backbone of our country in producing the food materials... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri P.T. Thomas is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri S.S. Ramasubbu.

.... (*Interruptions*)

Date : 12-12-2011

TYPE OF DEBUTE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to exempt 'Jallikattu' from the purview of the Notification dated 11-7-2011 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Jallikattu is the oldest ancient sports and festival being celebrated in Tamil Nadu since centuries ago and is beloved to our ancestors. The annual Jallikattu is very famous in Madurai, Alanganallur and other places. It is mostly celebrated during Pongal festival season. Jallikattu is considered as a bravery game (in Tamil, it is called as Veera Vilaiyattu) i.e. valour of Tamils are exposed in the game. The persons/tamers try to control the bull, chase it and hold on its hump for a few minutes and once the bull comes under his control, the respective person is declared winner. Some special award/cash prize is given to the winner. The bulls are not harassed, ill-treated or abused in the game. Jallikattu is also held as part of the religious ritual during the festivals in the temple. Bulls participating in the Jallikattu are registered with the State authorities and only with their prior permission, they are permitted. State Government gives full security and protection to this game in order to avoid any violence or untoward incidents. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and Animal Welfare Activists' observers remain present when the event is held.

However, Ministry of Environment and Forests recently banned that Bears, Monkeys, Tigers, Panthers, Lions and Bulls could not be exhibited or trained as performing animals. Any attempt to ban the Jallikattu will be against the wishes and interests of the Tamil people and hurt their religious feelings and sentiments and they vehemently oppose inclusion of Bull in the Orders issued by the Union Government.

In this regard, it is to state that the Hon'ble Supreme Court by respecting the sentiments of crores of people of Tamil Nadu allowed holding the game by issuing some strict guidelines and there are scrupulously followed by the Organizers. This measure may protect the animals from any kind of torture.

Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to respect the sentiments of crores of Tamil population in the country, understand their traditional importance of this game and exempt 'Jallikattu' from the purview of Notification dated 11 July 2011 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

DATE : 13-12-2011**TYBE OF DEBATE : BUDGET (RAILWAYS)**

**Discussion on the supplementary demand for
granrt No. 16 in respect of budget (railways) for
2011-12 (Discussion not concluded)**

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Our Indian Railway department play a vital role in rendering the services to the public and also providing major contribution to the development of our economy. Each and every state requires rail service as an essential one. Our railway has been giving various concessions to the old age people and other handicapped people. The railway line link between state to state is helpful to make the connectivity and reliability from people to people. It offers real national integration. Railway gauge conversion and double line facilities are inevitable to improve the speed of trains from state to state.

Double way line facilities from Madurai to Kanyakumari through Tirunelveli is a long pending requirement of the southern people. Most of the people from North India from West Bengal, Bihar, UP and Maharashtra visit Lord Vivekananda Rock every day. The passenger trains can be frequently plied only when there is double way track. I earnestly request our honourable Minister to allot adequate funds to establish double way line from Madurai to Kanyakumari through Tirunelveli and Virudhnagar.

New Railway Station: In my Tirunlveli constituency Koodankulam project, ISRO in Mahindrakiri and Vijayanarrayanam are situated in

southern part of Radhapurram Taluk. In order to meet the requirement of the people, Kavalkinaru new railway station should have to be constructed at Kavalkinaru at Tirunelveli district of Trivandrum Railway Division.

Train Facilities: Bangalore to Nagercoil through Madurai and Tirunelveli, a train service is provided. Presently, it is in operation only one day in a week. So, this train should be operated regularly on all the days of the week. Tenkasi to Tirunelveli broad gauge work is in progress. But delay in work completion is badly affect the public to avail the train facilities. The work should be expedited and the broad gauge construction should be completed as early as possible.

Railway Over Bridge: Delay in completion of road over bridge at Tenkasi is inconvenient to public. The railway over bridge project at Tirunelveli, Kulavanigarpuram and Thatechanallur should be started immediately. Already the fund is allotted by railway department for the two bridges.

Stoppage: From Tirunelveli to Kanyakumari we are having only three important railway stations even though there are many stations which require stoppage. The DRM of Trivandrum should be instructed to give stoppages to all the trains which are running from Tirunelveli to Kanyakumari at least in the prominent stations i.e. Nanguneri, Vallioor, and Panagudi stations.

The facilities and passenger amenities are very less in trains which are coming from Kanyakumari to Chennai. Food facilities are not available. First AC facilities are not available in Nellai Express. In Nanguneri railway station and Vallioor railway station, computer is

available for booking of tickets. But it is not operated due to lack of computer personnel.

The trains coming from southern Tamil Nadu should be stopped only at Egmore station. The Royapuram railway terminal can be developed for reducing the rush. More than 60 acres of lands are available in Royapuram railway station. It can be well designed for third terminal. New recruitment in railway service should be given opportunity to the southern part of the educated unemployed.

Date : 20-12-2011

TYBE OF DEBUTE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to renew the licences for Japanese Quail Farming in the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Japanese Quail is a domesticated economic species for commercial egg production. It is having unique characteristics of fast growth, early sexual maturity, high rate of egg production and yields quick returns. Based on this, many farmers in rural areas especially in Southern States practice Japanese Quail Farming, More than 1000 farmers are involved in this business in Tamil Nadu alone. During 1984-1988, the Tamil Nadu Poultry Development Corporation promoted Japanese Quail chicks on a commercial basis. Union Agriculture Ministry is also supporting commercial farming of Quails like Dairying. It is also popular in various States. Farmers have obtained loans from Nationalised Banks and developed their farms.

After having consultation with Ministry of Agriculture (Government of India), Ministry of Environment and Forests have decided to delegate the power of issuing license for Japanese Quail hatcheries to the Officer of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of India not below the rank of Assistant Livestock Officer and Officers of the State Animal Husbandry Department not below the rank of Veterinary Asstt. Surgeon under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Based on that the Ministry of Environment and Forests had issued Circular No. 3-22/84 FRY (WL) dated 27-06-2007. This Circular has riot enunciated anywhere to ban the issuance of License to Quail Farming or permission for expansion or augmentation of the existing farming facilities.

But unfortunately, based on the above Circular, recently, Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued another Circular F.NO.3-3/2011/WL-I dated 22.9.2011 and directed the State Governments and Union Territories not to issue new license for Farming of

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Japanese Quails and also not to give permission for expansion or augmentation of the existing farming facilities. Based on the above Circular, the State Governments are refused to renew the Licenses for existing farms. Banning the farming of Japanese Quails will directly have an impact on the rural economy and the livelihood of small and marginal farmers.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate necessary action and to withdraw the above Circular F. No. 3-3/2011/WL-I dated 22.9.2011 and protect the poor farmers engaged in the farming of Japanese Quail in the country.

Date : 21-12-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

**Need to set up a Fishing Harbor at Uvari in
Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu and to provide
adequate cold storage facility for preserving fish
and other sea foods therein.**

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

Uvari is a coastal village with about 4000 households and a population of 15000 situated in my Tirunelveli constituency. The main occupation of the people is fishing. Many men work as sailors and contributing to the local economy. They are dispatching huge quantities to neighbouring State of Kerala, a major consumer of fish and the fishes are exported from Tuticorin port to countries like USA, Singapore and Europe. Eral fishes are available in large quantities in and around Uvari. Ordinary Eral fetches about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per kilogram and during the seasons the fishermen in the area earns more income out of this. There are various types of Eral, like Naran, Flower, Tiger, Singias also in various colours. They are being sold at Rs. 2000 per kilogram at the maximum.

The fishes are perishable in nature. Other than Eral, there are other fishes which also breed and are harvested in this area. On some auspicious week days the sale of fishes are usually less and the left out stocks cannot be stored for long. So, the fishermen community in the area is facing a lot of difficulties due to non-availability of cold storage facilities and is incurring huge losses. A

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huge potential for fishing is available in our area and the demand of the people is for establishment of a harbour in the area.

I would like to therefore urge upon the Union Government to set up a fishing harbour and to provide for cold storage facilities at Uvari in my Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

Date : 27-12-2011

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to set up a Fishing Harbour and provide adequate cold storage facilities for preservation of seafoods at Uvari in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Uvari is a coastal village with about 4,000 households and a population of 15,000 situated in my Tirunelveli Constituency, Tamil Nadu. The main occupation of the people is fishing. Many of the men work as sailors and are contributing to the local economy.

Large number of fishermen from this village venture into the sea daily to capture various kinds of Eral fish. Eral is the speciality of Uvari. They are dispatching huge quantities of fish to neighbouring Kerala States, a major consumer of fish and Tuticorin from where the fishes are exported to various countries Viz., USA, Singapore and European countries. Over the years, the consumption of fishes/Eral in Tamil Nadu is also increasing rather than meat which is considered good for health. Eral is not available in all places and this fish is caught in large quantities from June to October within a few kms. radius of Uvari. Ordinary Eral fetches about Rs. 4000 to Rs. 5000 for a kg. and during season, the fishermen in the area earns more income. There are various types of erals Viz., Nran, Flower, Tiger, Singias also in various colours. They are being sold at the most to Rs. 1,5000 – Rs. 2,000 a kg. Uvari Eral is believed as favorite among the fish eaters and they are moderate in size, high in quality and tasty. Considering the huge potential for fishing in this region, setting up of a fishing harbor at Uvari is a viable option.

The fishers are perishable in nature. During auspicious week days and religious days, sale of fishes are usually less and the left out stocks cannot be stored for long. Hence, the fishermen are facing lot of difficulties due to non-availability of cold storage facilities and incurring huge losses. Such facilities along with fishing harbours are available much in Kerala whereas these facilities are lacking in Tamil Nadu.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to set up a Fishing Harbour and to provide adequate Cold Storage Facilities for preservation of sea foods at Uvari in my Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

Date : 21-03-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to provide hassle free education loan to students

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): A rare opportunity is given in 'Zero Hour'. Why should you not allow us one or two minutes? We are waiting here to raise matters in the 'Zero Hour'. Why should you not allot some more time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, he has already said what he wanted.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU : Human resource development is essential for the development of this nation. In order to develop the human resources, education is very important. Our Government is giving more thrust to education and it allocates huge amount of money and takes effective steps to eradicate illiteracy and to provide standard education. However, due to huge cost of education, students are facing lot of difficulties in paying their fees, particularly in higher education and are opting for educational loan.

The Union Government is taking all out efforts in getting education loan to the students at affordable rate of interests and it can be repaid after completing their education/ getting employment.

In spite of directions from the Government to simplify the procedures for extending of hassle free education loan, lot of complaints are arising regarding denial of loans to students by the banks because of cumbersome procedures and various other reasons with *malafide* intentions.

In a recent case, Sir, in my Constituency, a student of higher education is denied loan by ICICI Bank of Sundra Pandya Puram area just because of this reason quoting that he has secured only 55% marks in HSC, which is less than 60% qualifying marks.

It is difficult to comprehend that once students are considered admission on the basis of the qualifying marks secured by them but

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the same students are rejected by the banks for education loan citing that the marks secured by them are less. Banks are fixing their own norms contrary to the interests of the students, with the result, the education of students, particularly the students from rural background and poor families, are greatly affected.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to issue necessary directions to the bank authorities to ease the norms for providing education loan and ensure that the students should not put into much hardship.

DATE : 21-03-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : BUDGET (RAILWAYS)

Further discussion on the budget (railways) - 2012-13; Demands for grants in respect of budget (railways) for 2012-13; supplementary demands for grants in respect of budget (railways) for 2011-12 and demand for excess grants in respect of budget (railways) for 2009-10.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Dinesh Trivedi for presenting a growth oriented maiden Budget for the year 2012-13.

Indian Railways has a network spread over 63,000 route kilometres with 7,000 stations throughout the length and breadth of the country. Daily it carries 23 million passengers by over 19,000 trains and 2.65 million tons of freight traffic which constitutes roughly 40 per cent of total freight and 2 per cent of the passenger traffic in the country. Railways accounts for 8.5 per cent of the organized employment of the country either directly or indirectly. It was the first in the country to introduce computers in a big way in the process of pay roll, inventory, accounting, passenger reservation and information systems.

Though the health of the Railways is not satisfactory, hon. Minister has managed to present a balanced Budget by announcing host of several new projects like completion of ongoing/pending projects of doubling, electrification, new lines etc.

Sir, Indian Railways has to bring the national integration by connecting every State which is unity in diversity in our country. A great link is established and national integration is created only by this department. This is very important department in our nation.

At this juncture, on behalf of the people of southern Tamil Nadu, I take this opportunity to thank the hon. Railway Minister for

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announcing certain projects pertaining to the State of Tamil Nadu like introduction of seven new express trains and two passenger trains and also it is very important to state that in my constituency that the survey for doubling and electrification of Madurai, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari sections and doubling of Trivandrum and Kanyakumari section is a very important survey. It should be surveyed and planned and it must be implemented immediately. Because this is very important one as it is linking Kanyakumari, where our Lord Vivekananda is present, to the northern part of India. Many northern people of the country come every year. Already Mamata Ji has also announced it in the previous Budget that there will be a great link between Kashmir to Kanyakumari and also from West Bengal to Kanyakumari so that all the people of the country can come to the Kanyakumari. It is a very important project.

Sir, the safety is very important and this year's Budget has given priority for safety but it is a pitiable thing to say that the accidents are increasing. The unmanned level crossing is very important one. Previously, our Madam Mamata Ji, the then hon. Minister announced in her Railway Budget stated that unmanned level crossing will be completed within one or two years. But now in the year 2011-12 because of the unmanned level crossings, 247 people died and 605 people injured.

I want to insist on one thing to the Railway Minister Muniyappa Ji that it is better to change all unmanned level crossings into manned level crossing instead of spending crore as compensation. There may be two villages on either side of the track. That road may be blocked because of this unmanned level crossing. You have to change it as manned level crossings.

There is another important point which I have to insist here. In this year's Budget, 84 stations in the country were announced for upgradation as Adarsh stations. But I am sorry to say that Tirunelveli station in my State of Tamil Nadu is missing here. Tirunelveli is one of the biggest stations connecting Chennai, Trichy, Madurai, Kanyakumari sections with heavy movement of trains and passenger traffic. Therefore, I request hon. Minister that Tirunelveli station is to be upgraded as Adarsh Station.

Railways are facing a huge shortage of wagons and coaches. It is a very important point. Condition of coaches is very much deteriorated and the new coaches are scarcely added. Ongoing and new proposals for setting up of coach and wagon factories are going at a snail's pace. Shortage of wagons results in reduction of freight carriage and less revenue generation. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that railways should give more thrust to accelerate production of coaches and particularly wagons.

A large number of complaints are coming regarding the quality of food items. Quality of food and the drinking water facilities are essential in the trains. I want to insist one thing.

I want, through you, to mention the long-pending demands of our people of Tamil Nadu which are not yet fulfilled in spite of repeated reminders. I shall, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to kindly consider them and implement the same.

- ❑ Early completion of the gauge conversion of Tirunelveli - Tenkasi section;
- ❑ New Railway line between Tirunelveli – Sankaran Koil through M.S. University, Abishekapatti, Seethaparpanallur, Maranthai, Alangulam, V.K. Pudur, Surandai, Chenthamaram, Veerasigamani, Naduvakurichi;
- ❑ Re-opening of Railway Station at Kavalkinaru. This Kalavkinaru railway station is near Kdankulam project and ISRO. These places are around Kavalkinaru. This is a very important and potential area. Therefore, this railway station has to be reopened;
- ❑ Provision of PRS Centre at Thivisaiyanvilai Town, Tirunelveli district;
- ❑ Provision of roof shed to the entire new platform in the Tirunelveli Railway Station and there should be escalator to connect all platforms;
- ❑ Stoppage of all trains. It is very important. We are pleading for it. We are requesting for stoppage of all trains between Madurai – Kanyakumari. There are three stations available – Nanguneri, Valliyur and Panagudi. In some areas for 36

kilometre distance, six stations are available. The distance between Kanyakumari to Madurai is only 70 kilometres and there are only stations;

- ☐ Another request is for new Inter-City Express from Nagercoil and Tirunelveli;
- ☐ Replacement of old coaches with new, modern coaches;
- ☐ Improvement in quality of food items served in Railways.

With these words, I support and conclude my speech on the Railway Budget. This is really a *achcha Budget*. The fare has been increased partially. The hon. Minister has said that if we compare it with the price of petrol and diesel prices, it is very low. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to protect *Aam Aadmi*. The finance is very important. We have to make the railway project a sound one. Then only, it will become development-oriented. It will develop our people and our nation. With these words, I conclude my speech.

Date : 29-03-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to provide passenger facilities at Tirunelveli railway junction in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tirunelveli is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu. Number of tourist spots are located in and around Tirunelveli. With the result, the floating population at Tirunelveli is very high. People from southern States and other parts of the country visiting various places of importance viz. Couttralam Falls, Manimuthar Dam, ancient Nellaiappar Temple, etc. are alighting at Tirunelveli Junction. Besides, Tenkasi, Alangulam and Pavursthiram are business centres. Many of the long distance south-bound trains from various parts of the country are touching Tirunelveli. In recent years, many of the trains which were terminated at Madurai extended to Tirunelveli. To cope with the increasing train movement, Railways have recently increased one more platform in Tirunelveli Junction.

However, this platform is not served with basic facilities. Roof shed is not fully provided in the new platform and Foot-over-bridge (FOB) is not extended. People are facing lot of difficulties to safeguard them from hot summer, rain and cold weather conditions. Passengers particularly the old aged people are facing problems in moving from one platform to another with their luggage due to the absence of Escalators.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to take necessary steps to provide Foot Over-bridge. roof shed in the new platform and also to provide escalator in the Tirunelveli Railway Junction without delay.

Date : 30-03-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Issue regarding pending wages/salaries and other legitimate dues of employees of Air India.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, it is an important problem prevailing in the Air India today. You may be aware that the management of Air India continues to withhold the legitimate wages of the employees for the past several months. ... (*Interruptions*) A significant number of these labourers hail from humble backgrounds, and some of them have availed loans for education of their children, housing and various other purposes. Due to non-payment of wages, the employees are unable to meet their financial commitments and family responsibilities. ... (*Interruptions*)

Despite their severe hardship and sufferings for the last one year, the employees have been continuously and silently serving the organization and the country, particularly, the VIPs, VVIPs and traveling public with utmost dedication, devotion and loyalty. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.
... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU : Madam, I am mentioning my demand. Therefore, I shall urge upon the Union Government not to prolong the issue. They should intervene and try to solve their grievances; release their pending wages/salaries and other legitimate dues; and avert their proposed strike from 2 April. ... (*Interruptions*)

Date : 26-04-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE - 377

Need to provide adequate and timely supply of LPG cylinders in Tamil Nadu particularly in Tirunelveli district.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, in recent times, the problems of shortage of LPG or inordinate delay in LPG refill has increased in Tamil Nadu particularly in Tirunelveli District. The problem generally persists in all the LPG outlets and the public are bitterly complaining that at a time when huge power cuts reign. Besides, many of the families do not get PDS kerosene, while in the open market, it costs anywhere between Rs. 55 and Rs. 70 a litre and the prices of coal and firewood are also exorbitant.

Scarce booking and delayed delivery of LPG refills make life miserable. The LPG cylinder dealers are generally undertake bookings only after 21 - 30 days from the previous booking. After booking, it takes no less than 30 to 40 days for the customers to get their LPG refill. This means, 60 - 70 days elapses after one booking. The alternative cooking system such as induction stoves seldom helps and in these days of acute power cuts, it is also of no use. Quite often, people who possess single LPG cylinder connection are facing lot of difficulties in cooking activities.

Many even complain about the weight of LPG cylinders. There are instances that the delivery man further prolong the delivery of refills and leave the cylinders for 2 - 3 days in tea stalls, road side eateries, etc. As they are not being paid minimum statutory wages, they are making money by this way or demanding etc. money over and above the cylinder cost. The dedicated phone numbers/LPG dealers never

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attend to the customers' calls/complaints and even when they attended, often the reply is not satisfactory.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take adequate and urgent steps in order to mitigate the sufferings of the people of Tamil Nadu and ensure easy availability and timely delivery of LPG refilling to the consumers and take stern action against the errant LPG distributors in the country.

Date : 14-05-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to include Narikoravan alias Kuruvikaran community in the Scheduled Tribes list in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): In Tamil Nadu, according to an NGO Survey, in 2009 among Narikoravan @ Kuruvikaran there are 8,280 families having population of about 40,000. The names Narikoravan, Narikuravan and Narikoravar represent one and the same community. Kurivikaran is an additional colloquial name of this community in Tamil Nadu due to one of their traditional occupations of 'trapping birds, especially sparrows' (Kurivi in Tamil denotes sparrow). Narikoravan, a nomadic community by tradition, constitute the most deprived sections of all the communities in the State, living under extremely poor and unhygienic conditions in the outskirts of villages/towns.

Government of Tamil Nadu has initially recommended for inclusion of Narikoravan alias Kuruvikaran in the ST list in Tamilnadu. The Lokkur Committee (formed to review the SC/ST list) in 1965 had also recommended for the inclusion of Narikoravan alias Kuruvikaran in the ST list of Tamil Nadu. In the year 1981, the Registrar General of India had agreed for inclusion of "Narikoravan grouped with Kurivikaran" in ST list in Tamil Nadu on the lines of recommendations of the expert bodies. Later in 1987, Department of Adi- Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes Welfare in Tamilnadu wrote to the Government of India to include "Narikorava" in the ST list and they did not include Kuruvikaran. Government of India saw the inconsistency in the recommendations of Tamil Nadu Government and did not pursue the

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matter. In 2006, Tamil Nadu Backward Class Commission reported that Narikoravan and Kuruvikaran both are the same. National Commission of Scheduled Tribes, in its guidelines to issue ST certificates, in 2005-06 had stated that Nakkala (Fox Hunter) alias Kuruvikaran (Bird Hunter) in Andhra Pradesh should be identified as ST and that in Karnataka, they are called as Akkipikki and in Tamil Nadu, they are called as Narikoravan @ Kurivikaran and that they all speak a dialect and in that dialect, they are called Vaghirivala. Again Ooty Tribal Research Centre, 2011 recommended that Narikoravan and Kuruvikaran are one and the same and possess all the five characteristics of Scheduled Tribes.

Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to kindly include Narikoravan alias Kuruvikaran community in the Scheduled Tribes List in Tamil Nadu at the earliest as both are one and the same.

Date : 15-05-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to take measures to control dengue fever in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman Sir, over the past few months, a kind of dengue fever is spreading fast in my district, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu and the people living there are in constant fear. This disease particularly affects children and old people. It is now spreading fast to other areas and neighbouring districts also. About 1000 people have been affected due to the outbreak of this disease and 16 people have lost their lives. Out of them ten are children and six are aged people.

The reasons attributed for the spread of this disease are lack of quality drinking water and mosquito bites. Hospitals and doctors are struggling hard to control this disease. Besides, lack of medicines, medical assistance and infrastructural facilities further aggravate the situation.

In order to control this disease, adequate quantity of medicines, doctors and nursing facilities, mobile vans should be made available in all the Primary Health Centres and all hospitals in the districts particularly the villages.

Keeping in view the above situation, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to render all necessary assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu and immediately despatch a Central Team of Health Mission to Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu to control this peculiar dengue fever on a war-footing. This is a very serious issue and I want the Government to take immediate action on it.

Date : 22-08-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to implement the report of the National Water Development Agency on interlinking of Pamba, Achankovil and Vaippar rivers.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Union Government regarding the implementation of the proposal of Task Force on Inter-linking of rivers for the diversion of water from Pamba and Achankovil rivers of Kerala to Vaipar basin in Tamil Nadu on the basis of a feasibility report on Pamba - Achankovil - Vaipar link prepared by the National Water Development Agency.

The report envisages the diversion of 23 tmc of surplus water from the Pamba - Achankovil basin in Kerala into Vaipar basin in Tirunelveli District. Besides enhancing Kerala's power generation capacity by 30%, the diverted water could be used to irrigate 1.01 lakh hectares of land in Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Virudhunagar districts in Tamil Nadu. It will also augment the drinking water requirements in these districts.

According to the project report, the scheme can be implemented in eight years at a cost of Rs. 1,379.91 crore. The two States can reap benefits from the third year. It also states that Kerala will be able to generate 1,114 million units of power per annum. Also there is a provision for assured release of 5.3 tmc ft during the lean period. The other benefits are the potential to control the salinity of Waynad Lake, assured water storage and flow in the Pamba and Achankovil Rivers and the prevention of wasteful discharge into the Arabian Sea and improved water supply to southern districts. The project should be viewed as a symbol of national integration aiming

at optimum utilization of land and water resources available in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, humbly urge the Union Government to implement the report of the National Water Development Agency on Pamba - Achankovil - Vaipar Link Project.

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to create a new Tirunelveli Railway Division with Tirunelveli as its headquarters.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): There has been a long pending demand from the people of western Tamil Nadu to create a new Railway Division with Tirunelveli as its headquarters. The places located south of Madurai Viz., Virudhunagar, Manamadurai, Tuticorin, Tiruchendur, Kanyakumari, Nagercoil (including town), Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Senkottai can be included having a jurisdiction of 615 kms. under Tirunelveli Division of Southern Railway Zone.

The people of Tamil Nadu since long have been facing a lot of difficulties due to inadequate train facilities from Capital Chennai to various southern districts in the State. Moreover, there has been demand for laying of double lines in various sections. As a result, the demand for creation of Tirunelveli Division has been gaining momentum. This long pending demand can be fulfilled by taking out some portions of Madurai and Trivendrum Division which will also be administratively viable, economical, promote freight and passenger traffic and will help in all-round development of the region.

Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railway Minister to kindly take necessary steps for the early creation of Tirunelveli Railway Division, Tamil Nadu.

Date : 29-11-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to man all the unmanned railway level crossings in the country to curb accidents.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance pertaining to increasing number of accidents that are happening in unmanned level crossings across the country.

The increasing number of accidents happening in unmanned level crossings in the country has resulted in an alarming situation. This is a very important matter pertaining to railway safety. Today also, during the Question Hour there was a question regarding railway safety. A lot of people are dying in accidents that are taking place in various parts of our country due to unmanned level crossings. The total number of people who have died in accidents at unmanned level crossings was 12,376 in 2009, 12,894 in 2010 and 14,611 in 2011. This trend is very disturbing. So, all the unmanned level crossings in the country should be converted into manned level crossings. This was announced in the Railway Budget also. But in many places, sometimes the unmanned level crossings are totally closed. They should not be closed because the people living on both sides of the railway line have to cross it to reach the nearby places. If the unmanned level crossing is closed, then the connection to the nearby places is totally cut off. The senior Minister is present here. The Government has to look into the pathetic condition of the people who are living near unmanned level crossings.

The Government of India should consult the concerned State Governments and local bodies and take immediate steps to convert

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all the unmanned level crossings into manned level crossings in the country. The Central Government can persuade the State Government to allow 50% funds from local bodies and it can be provided from monitoring authority to concerned local bodies to take care of the level crossings in that area.

Date : 04-12-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Regarding shortage of power in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important problem which we are facing in Tamil Nadu.

Now-a-days, in Tamil Nadu we are facing acute shortage of power and for more than 18 hours, we are not having electricity in Tamil Nadu. The people of Tamil Nadu are suffering a lot because of the shortage of power. Almost all the industries in all the districts of our State are suffering a lot because of this problem. Most of the small-scale industries in Tamil Nadu have been closed now. There are array of unemployed people in our State now. They do not have any employment opportunity. They are starving now.

Also there are many problems. Agriculture people are hesitating to cultivate the crops because it is not possible for them to get power for their pump sets. This is the prevailing situation in our State. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI O.S. MANIAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): The Government of India is not giving electricity to Tamil Nadu. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU : I am just telling the reality. I am asking the Central Government also.

Sir, we are really facing a severe handicap. The Southern Region has not been interconnected with the national grid. This is a very important point. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware and the Members from Tamil Nadu are also aware that no other State in the country is in such a condition, and our State is facing a very severe

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power shortage. The Southern Region has not been interconnected with the national grid. Geographical location of a State should not be a handicap for buying or selling of power.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has also said the same thing. I am repeating here. The State of Tamil Nadu needs 18,000 MW and then only we can run our industries and give electricity to our people. In all walks of our life, we need electricity. Now, only 8,500 MW power is available in Tamil Nadu. So, we need more electricity to manage all these things. Immediately our State requires 4,500 MW power immediately. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to manage.

I would like to mention one point here. During the dengue problem in my district, I had raised that problem here, and at that time I had asked the Health Minister to send a Central Team to ascertain all the problems of the people. The Central Team came there and ascertained all the problems, and the dengue problem was solved in my district at that time.

In the same way, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, - this is a very important problem – to send a Central Team to Tamil Nadu to ascertain the prevailing dreadful situation in regard to shortage of power. It is a dreadful condition. The people of Tamil Nadu are living in darkness. I would request the hon. Minister to solve this problem. Immediately a Central Team should be sent to Tamil Nadu for assessing the situation and also give more electricity to Tamil Nadu.

As a Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu and on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I am requesting the Central Government to give more power.

The Kudankulam project should be inaugurated immediately and more electricity should be given to Tamil Nadu. This is a very important problem to be solved, I would like to bring it, through you, Sir, to the notice of the Central Government.

Date : 07-12-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS

Introduction of the Fishermen (Welfare) Bill, 2012

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of fishermen in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU : I introduce the Bill.

Date : 07-12-2012

TYPE OF DEBATE : PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS

**Introduction of the Special Educational Facilities
(For Children of Parents Living Below Poverty Line)
Bill, 2012.**

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SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special educational facilities to the children of parents living below poverty line and for matters connected therewith.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU : I introduce the Bill.

Date : 10-12-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to provide medical and financial assistance to the dengue infected regions of Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): There are about 3,500 species of mosquitoes found throughout the world. They spread number of diseases affecting millions of people every year. Mosquito is a silent killer and some of the diseases caused by mosquito bite are fatal. Malaria, Chickengunya, Yellow Fever, Encephalitis and particularly Dengue continue to take massive toll in India in the last few years.

Dengue is becoming one of the major public health concerns in the tropical and sub-tropical countries. So much so that over 40% of the world's population (2.5 billion) is at risk from dengue- mostly kids. WHO says 50-100 million infections occur every year across the globe and it costs India almost \$29.3 million a year. However, majority of them do not even exhibit symptoms. Depending on several factors, including age, dengue fever can progress to severe forms. Mortality is quite high in the case of dengue hemorrhagic fever.

In India, Dengue infected/ death cases were steadily rising in the last few years as under :-

In 2009, it was 15535/96; in 2010 – 28292/10; in 2011 – 19000/180. During this year upto 5 November, Tamil Nadu has the most number of cases, nearly 8,500 according to the National Vector Borne Disease Control provisional data. West Bengal is second with about 5,700 cases. Tamil Nadu had the most number of cases in 2007 and 2011 too. It recorded the most number (54) of deaths in 2012. The National Capital, Delhi is also not behind. It has reported 1,427 including 4 deaths till 11 November 2012.

This is a serious issue and the steps should be taken on war-footing to control the spread of this disease. Keeping in view of the above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to render all necessary medical and other financial assistance to the Dengue infected States more particularly for the southern districts of Tamil Nadu to control this disease and to protect the lives of common man.

Date : 17-12-2012

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Title: Need to provide infrastructural facilities at Tuticorin Airport in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I raise an important issue regarding Tuticorin Airport expansion and provision of infrastructure facilities. Tuticorin (Thoothukudi) in Tamil Nadu is a major port city in the country. It became the centre of India's Independence movement in the early 20th century. Tuticorin harbour is well known as pearl diving, fishing centre and ship building. Tuticorin is surrounded by Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari, Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram districts and on the south-east by the Gulf of Mannar. Tuticorin is also nearer to Tuticorin Port, Nanguneri SEZ, Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant and for the visiting tourists to Rameswaram. ... (*Interruptions*)

It is an important centre on the commercial and tourist map of our country and it is presently served only by Spicejet Airlines to Chennai. In the recent past, the tourist traffic to this city and neighbouring places have increased manifold and most of the tourists prefer to travel by air so that they can utilize their time to the maximum. Considering the commercial and tourism potential, there is not enough service connecting Tuticorin with other important cities. Moreover, people from Tuticorin, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and its adjoining districts where population of Muslim community is concentrated often go to various foreign countries especially to Gulf and South East Asian countries. They have to go either to Chennai or Thiruvananthapuram for their onward journey and in the process they suffer financial hardship and also lose considerable time in travel and energy. ... (*Interruptions*)

In the recent past, Union Government has identified 35 non-metro airports in the country for expansion and modernization. Expansion of Runway and other associated facilities at the Tuticorin Airport including introduction of wide bodied aircraft is under

consideration of Airports Authority of India. Currently the Airport accommodates only ATR type aircraft which seats only about 50 to 70 passengers.... (*Interruptions*)

Keeping in view of the above, I urge upon the Union Government to kindly take necessary steps for runway expansion, modernization, improving infrastructural facilities and night landing at Tuticorin Airport and adequate funds for the same may kindly be allocated within this financial year. ... (*Interruptions*)

Date : 26-02-2013

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to take necessary steps to free Indian fishermen languishing in jails in Iran.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important matter of public importance regarding the arrest of Indian fishermen in Iran. On 10th October, 2012, the Iranian Coast Guard arrested a group of fishermen out of which 30 were from Tamil Nadu. These fishermen were working in Saudi Arabian companies involved in fishing activities. On 16th December, 2012, a group of 14 fishermen and three launches were arrested by the Iranian Coast Guard for the reason that they have crossed into the border of Iran. Thereafter, on 20th December, 2012, another group of fishermen were arrested for the same reason and they were also engaged in fishing in four launches. They hail from my constituency Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari, Tuticorin and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu and also from Kerala. Now both the groups of fishermen are detained in Iran and only on 5th January, 2013, the fishermen could inform their relatives that they have been arrested in Iran. After 11 days, the fishermen were told that their fine is paid by the sponsors and they would be released. Once they were released also, they remained in their launches for repatriation. But, on 28th January, 2013, these fishermen were again sent to jail and till now they are languishing in Iran jail and they are suffering very much there. In the case of fishermen from Dubai, within three days the Dubai Government paid the fine and retrieved their boats and fishermen, but the Indian fishermen are not so lucky. Now they have spent more than 115 days in captivity of which 22 days were spent in horrible condition. Among them, four people belong to my constituency Tirunelveli. They are, Shri J. Anijoy from Kootapuli, Shri J. Vini of Kootapuli, Shri S. Beni of Kootapuli and Shri S. Amalraj of Mullurthurai.

Sir, their families are in deep distress and sorrow. They are from my constituency and are now suffering in Iran jail. They went to Saudi Arabia to work there and they were working as fishermen there. They have to be released immediately. So, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to kindly take necessary steps for early release of all the Indian fishermen who are held in captivity by the Iranian Coast Guard and languishing in their jail.

Date : 27-02-2013

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to enhance the minimum pension under EPF95 Scheme.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. This is an important problem regarding the Employees Pension Scheme. In our country, there are 36 lakh pensioners. Out of these 36 lakhs, 13 lakhs are getting pension below Rs. 1000 per month. In my area, beedi workers, especially ladies, are getting only a minimum of Rs. 200 or Rs. 100 or even below this amount. So, I would request that at least minimum pension should be given to these people.

Up to March, 2011, in the EPS Pension Fund Account, Rs. 1,42,000 crore are there. The interest also accrues roughly to Rs.12,000 crore. But the pensioners are requesting now that at least Rs. 3000 per month should be given to the pensioners. This demand of the pensioners is very important. An expert committee also already recommended and our Labour Department also recommended to the Finance Department, at least, we have to give Rs. 1000 per month as pension. But this pension should be given. I humbly urge upon our hon. Minister of Labour and Employment to kindly enhance the minimum pension under EPF 95 Scheme to Rs. 3000 at the earliest and the recommended money must be allotted by the Finance Department for the pension holders. Thank you very much.

19.00 hrs

Date : 06-03-2013

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Regarding opening of a Railway Reservation Centre at Thisayanvilai in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to raise an important demand of our area, Thisayanvilai, regarding the opening of a new PRS Centre.

Thisayanvilai is a town panchayat located in Radhapuram Taluk of Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. Thisayanvilai is surrounded by fishermen folk which includes villages Koodankulam, Uvari, Perumanal, Kuthankuzhi, Kooduthali, Koottupanai, Thomaiyarpuram, Idinthakarai, Kootapuzhi, Koothankulam and Panchal having a population of one lakh people. They are mostly fishermen. The people are facing a lot of difficulties to book their tickets in the absence of a PRS counter. Thisayanvilai is presently not connected with rail also. There is a long pending demand for the same. And Sir, it is an essential one too. Oral permission was given by the DRM Office, Madurai for its opening. Location for it was also identified at the Post Office of Thisayanvilai and necessary arrangements were made but they require permission of the Railway Board.

As it is an important genuine public demand, I humbly urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways, through you, Sir, to direct the Railway Board to grant necessary permission for opening of a PRS Centre at Thisayanvilai Town, Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

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TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE–377

Need to provide medical and financial assistance to the southern districts, especially Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu to prevent spreading of Dengue.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Dengue and Chikungunya have taken massive toll in India in the last few years particularly in southern Tamil Nadu. Tirunelveli in the State is worst affected by it.

Dengue is becoming one of the major public health problems in the tropical and subtropical countries. So much so that over 40% of the world's population (2.5 billion) mostly kids is at risk from dengue. It reduces their platelets count. Majority of them do not even exhibit symptoms. Mortality is quite high in the case of dengue haemorrhagic fever. In 2012, Tamil Nadu recorded deaths of about 55 people due to Dengue.

Chikungunya is also prevalent in my district. Old aged people are the major victims of this disease. They suffer from after effects even after recovery.

The facilities available in the district for treatment of the patients affected by the diseases are not adequate. Sufficient medicines, injections, doctors, medical attendants should be made available in the primary health care centres and Government hospitals. Municipalities should be provided with adequate insecticides for spraying. Besides, a Central Team should be dispatched immediately to Tirunelveli District to assess the problem and also to ensure adequate medical assistance to the affected victims. Sufficient funds should also be made available to the State Government to fight this menace.

As this is a serious issue, steps should be taken on war-footing to control the spread of this disease. Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to render all necessary medical and financial assistance to tackle Dengue in southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

Date : 13-03-2013

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to open rural branches of banks in Tirunelveli Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise this very important issue of the need to open rural branches of banks in my Constituency. The banking sector in the country comprising both nationalized banks and the Reserve Bank of India is controlling our financial system. For economic development of rural areas in the country, opening more and more bank branches in rural areas is inevitable. Payments under various Government programmes, like payment of pensions to poor people and old people are made only through bank accounts. Scholarships to students are also given only through bank accounts. For educational loans also, one has to go only to the banks. So, there is a need to open rural branches in my Constituency at Mukkudal, Poolankulam, Pudupatti, Kadayalooriti and Koothankudi in the Radhapuram area. Bank branches must be opened in these areas immediately. I have already talked to the Lead Bank officer in this regard. They have to give priority to this area and open bank branches in my Constituency for the sake of the development of the area and to ensure the welfare of the people.

Date : 14-03-2013

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Regarding modernization of Tuticorin Airport in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tuticorin (Thoothukudi) in Tamil Nadu is a major port city in the country. It became the centre of the India's Independence movement in the early 20th century. Tuticorin harbour is well known for pearl diving, fishing centre and ship building. Tuticorin is surrounded by Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram districts and on the south-east by Gulf of Mannar. Tuticorin is also nearer to Tuticorin Port, Nangeri SEZ, Kudankulam Nuclear Plant and for the visiting tourists to Rameswaram.

Tuticorin is an important centre on the commercial and tourist map of our country and it is presently served only by Spicejet Airlines. In the recent past, the tourist traffic to this city and neighbouring places has increased manifold and most of the tourists prefer to travel by air so that they can utilise their time to the maximum. Considering the commercial and tourism potential, there is not enough service connecting Tuticorin with other important cities. Moreover, people from Tuticorin, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and its adjoining districts where population of Muslim community is concentrated often go to various foreign countries especially to Gulf and South East Asian countries. They have to go either to Chennai or Thiruvananthapuram for their onward journey and in the process they suffer financial hardship and also lose considerable time in travel.

In the recent past, Union Government has identified 35 non-metro airports in the country for expansion and modernization. Expansion of runway and other associated facilities at the Tuticorin Airport including introduction of wide bodied aircraft is under consideration of Airports Authority of India. Currently the Airport can accommodate only ATR type aircraft which can carry only about 50 to 70 passengers. Keeping in view the above, I urge

Ramasubbu

upon the Union Government to kindly take necessary steps for runway expansion, modernization, improving infrastructure and night landing facilities at Tuticorin Airport and allot adequate funds without delay.

Date : 22-03-2013

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE -377

Need to amend the constitution of India in order to provide reservation to SC/ST community irrespective of their place of birth.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Some persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste/Tribe and OBC communities of Tamil Nadu migrated to Delhi more than 5 decades ago. Now, they are permanently living as domicile. They are exercising their basic rights such as casting votes in municipal, panchayat and parliamentary elections. But they are denied the privilege to contest the above elections as well as status of SC/ST and OBC community since they have crossed the borders of State of their origin.

The benefits of reservation as guaranteed by Article 16(4) of our Constitution, which is a basic right and supposed to be enjoyed by fellow SCs/STs and OBC is not available to them as the State of Delhi does not provide reservation to them in educational institutes and Government services. They are also not issued caste certificates. Moreover, the caste certificate issued by appropriate authorities of Tamil Nadu Government is also not accepted in Delhi which may enable them to get their dues as enshrined in the Constitution of India. Similarly, when they approach the Government of Tamil Nadu for seeking admission in educational institutes or for employment opportunities, their claim is also rejected on the ground that the individuals belonging to these communities have domiciled in States outside Tamil Nadu i.e. Delhi though their origin is from Tamil Nadu.

Ramasubbu

Hence I urge upon the Union Government to bring a suitable legislation to amend the Constitution of India to ensure the reservation meant for SC, ST and OBC is also available to them even if they migrate to other States.

Date : 22-04-2013

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to upgrade Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu as a separate Centre.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) situated at Mehendragiri in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, is a constituent unit of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which was started during 1984. It is one of the important units in the Indian Space activity as it contributes in major way for systems development, assembly, integration and testing of Liquid and Cryogenic Rocket Stages and High Altitude Testing of Satellite Propulsion systems and various other activities.

The present strength of LPSC, Mahendragiri is about 550 which includes senior scientists, technicians, administrative and supporting staff. It was established 25 years ago and it carries out major developmental activities. However, its Head Office and control is still in Valiamala which is located near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala is already having VSSC and other small units Viz., TERLS, IISU besides APP in Alwaye. Another neighbouring State of Karnataka is having ISAC, ISTRAC Units in Bangalore and Master Control in Hassan.

LPSC, Mahendragiri is the only unit established under ISRO in Tamil Nadu. It is pertinent to mention here that various units under ISRO having even 250 employees or less are made as a separate centre. However, the LPSC, Mahendragiri has not yet been considered so far which has enough reason to be upgraded into a separate centre.

Keeping in view of the above, I urge upon the Union Government to kindly upgrade Liquid Propulsion systems Centre (LPSC), Mahendragiri as a separate centre empowered with all administrative powers having Headquarters in Tamil Nadu.

TYBE OF DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to include gale/whirlwind under Calamity Relief Fund and grant immediate financial assistance to the banana farmers who suffered loss of their produce in Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Banana is the predominant crop raised in the Kalakkad-Thirukkurunkudi area of my Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu. Over 25 lakh plantains are cultivated in a season in this region. Harvested fruit is auctioned and traders from within the State and the neighbouring Kerala take part in the auction as the 'nenthiran' variety from this region is preferred for making banana chips and they are sold in various parts of the country and exported abroad. For raising the crops, farmers raise loans from banks, money lenders. Often due to gale/whirlwind, their crops get damaged and in overnight they fell in debt trap.

Over the past nine months, farmers have struggled to raise their crop against overwhelming odds such as scarcity of water for irrigation, crop destruction by rampaging wildlife and gale that swept Kalakkad, Manjuvilai, Keezha Paththai, Mela Paththai, Padmaneri, Thirattur, Karuvelankulam, Thoppur, Salaipudur. Chidambaram, Gopalsamudhram, Thirukarankudi and surrounding areas. An estimated 10 lakh banana plants were damaged. A farmer has to spend at least Rs. 100 on a plant till it attains the harvest stage. Even as the farmers are waiting for the harvest, the gale dashes their hopes quite often.

Unexpectedly, on Monday, 15th April 2013 evening, heavy rain and gale destroyed banana plantations in southern parts of Tirunelveli district just like Thane cyclone inflicting further loss on

farmers who were already reeling under falling prices for their produce and they have incurred heavy losses.

As banana plantation and leaves are quite often damaged, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to include damage caused due to gale/whirlwind under Calamity Relief Fund and grant immediate financial assistance to the affected banana farmers of my Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu without delay.

Date : 24-08-2013

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

Need to allocate adequate funds for infrastructural development in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Nanguneri, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): The Nanguneri Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has been set up in Nanguneri Town, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu. This project is worth around Rs.14,000 crore and the land required for establishing it has been acquired. Various industries that would be established in Nanguneri SEZ are consumer goods, electronic durables, IT, Pharmaceuticals, light engineering, biotechnology, telecommunication, power plants, sewage and water treatment plants. Pharmacy Park also would be set up in the SEZ which is expected to provide employment to about 3,000 people and it is estimated that it would manufacture drugs worth around Rs. 500 crore. Nanguneri SEZ would have all the world-class standard facilities that are required by the units that function in a SEZ. It will be very attractive if investments are made in southern districts of Tamil Nadu as it will decongest the crowded Chennai and its surrounding areas.

However, the progress of setting up of said SEZ is very slow. Though 2,520 acres had been acquired for the project, it is doubtful whether the first phase on 400 acres would be ready in the near future. Nanguneri is well connected with Tuticorin Airport/Port, railways and 4- lane NH.

However, the infrastructure within the SEZ is bare minimum and the situation remains the same for the last 11 years. The promoters and entrepreneurs are not having adequate resources to invest for infrastructural facilities within the SEZ. If the SEZ is merged with National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ), there will be much potential for investment and full utilization of the SEZ.

Keeping in view the above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps for allocation of adequate funds for the development of infrastructure at Nanguneri SEZ and to expedite the above project.

DATE : 26-08-2013

TYBE OF DEBATE : STATUTORY RESOLUTION AND GOVERNMENT BILL

**FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE STATUTORY
RESOLUTION REGARDING DISAPPROVAL OF
NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ORDINANCE 2013 (NO.7
OF 2013) AND NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY BILL
2013 (STATUTORY RESOLUTION – WITHDRAWN
AND GOVERNMENT BILL – PASSED)**

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): I convey my hearty thanks for the opportunity to express my views on this important and historical Food Security Bill 2013.

In order to raise the level of nutrition, the standard of living of the poor and to improve the public health in the State level universally the National Food Security will be a boom to the poor.

Food security means availability of sufficient food grains to meet the domestic demand as well as access to the individual level adequate quantities of food at affordable prices.

The Bill has a special focus on the needs of the poorest of the poor women and children.

Salient Features

Separate entitlements for pregnant women and children 6 months of age and up to 14 years, they will get subsidized food grains under TPDS.

Coverage of 75%, 50% and urban population under TDPs with the uniform entitlement of 5 kg. per person per month is a remarkable provision.

Eldest women household of age 18 years or above to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing cards. It is a really an empowerment of women in society.

Already our UPA Government introduced the MNREGA in rural areas. Here also the equal wage for men and women is to empower the women in rural areas are successful one.

* Speech was laid on the Table

Total estimated annual food grains requirement is 612.3 lakh tonnes. The estimated subsidy to implement is about Rs.1,24,747 crore under existing scheme. The TDPs subsidy is Rs.1,00,953 crore. Now the Government has to bear the additional outlay of about Rs. 23,794 crore.

The famous poet and a freedom fighters said furiously in his word:

THANI ORUVANUKKU UNAVU ILLAI ENIL
ICHJAGATHINAI AZHITHIDUVOM

The meaning of the strong words of Subramania Bharathi is that if there is no food for a single person we will destroy or demolish this entire globe itself.

Now the dream of Poet Subramania Bharathi is realized by introduction of this historical bill. Our Madam Sonia Gandhi Chairperson of UPA Government by putting mercy on poor people cautiously brought into reality which is going to benefited the poor, children and women. Each and every people is going to appreciate this Bill.

URUPASIYUM OVAPPINIYUM SERUPAGAIYUM
SERATHIYALLADHU NAADU.

This is the “ Thirukural” written by Saint Thiruvalluvar.

The meaning is that a country can be strong enough when there is no starvation, when there is no health hazard and when there is no continuous aggression from enemy countries.

Ramasubbu

Under the nine and a half years of rule our UPA Government, we protect this country from external aggression, protect the people from health hazards by introducing health mission, and protect the country from external threat from enemy countries and menace of terrorism.

Our UPA Government introduced this Bill in order to put an end to poverty and starvation. The entire nation is accepting this Bill. Each and every State should co-operate with Central Government to fulfill the need of the food materials to the poor by introducing and following the TPD system properly

Date : 11-12-2013

TYBE O DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to create a separate Ministry of Fishing.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Fishing in India is a major industry employing over 14 million people and this has increased more than tenfold since independence. Fishing sector contributed over 1 percent of India's annual gross domestic product in 2008. India has 8,118 kilometers of marine coastline, 3,827 fishing villages and 1,914 traditional fish landing centres. Our marine and freshwater resources offered a combined potential of over 4 million metric tonnes of fish and it is a rapidly growing industry. We have to adopt new fishing knowledge, regulatory reforms, technology transfer, new policies and storage facilities to improve our fish production and increase the living standards of our fishermen. This sector also generates several crores of foreign exchange through marine products. However, of late, fish harvest distribution remains difficult because of poor rural road network, lack of post-harvest infrastructure, cold storage and absence of organized retail in most parts of the country.

Fishing is the source of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population of the country. However, the hazardous nature of sea fishing often results in loss of lives, fishing boats and implements, besides injury and permanent disabilities. In Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu often sea water enters into hutments of fishermen and they are subjected to a lot of hardships. The children of fishermen do not get adequate financial assistance from the Government for their education, economic upliftment, livelihood, etc. Moreover, Indian fishermen are often entering the territory of the neighbouring countries by mistake. While doing so, they are subjected to frequent arrests, capsizing of their fishing boats, vessels, killings, physical torture and harassment by the Sri Lankan and Pakistani authorities. They should be given proper protection and adequate compensation needs to be provided to the

Ramasubbu

families of fishermen in case of death. Therefore, for the overall development of fishing sector, a separate Ministry independent of the Ministry of Agriculture is need of the hour. This is a long pending demand which will help the fishing sector and would entitle them to get adequate funds.

Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to create a separate Ministry of Fishing for the welfare of fishermen in the country.

Date : 06-02-2014

TYBE O DEBATE : MATTERS UNDER RULE-377

Need to establish a rocket launch centre at Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): As the frequencies of PSLV and GSLV launches are growing, the need to establish an additional spaceport is continuously arising. It is essential to have strategic, security and safety aspects as the main criteria for rocket launching. Many nations have established spaceports in various locations viz. USA(7), Russia (4), China (3) and Japan (2).

The ideal location for establishing an efficient space transportation system is around equator. Launching away from the equator will reduce the launch capability of the rocket i.e. satellite weight has to be compromised. At present, India is having a rocket launch site in Sathish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota (SDSC — SHAR) where already two spaceports are available at latitude of 13.72 N and longitude of 80.23E. Our communication, remote sensing and scientific mission satellites are launched from there. The communication satellites are launched eastwards (GSLV) and the remote sensing/scientific mission satellites (PSLV) are launched towards south. Since the present launch site is located 13.72 N of equator and hence ≈ 0.50 km/hr rotational velocity of earth has to be compensated for all eastward launches (GSLV). This additional

50km/hr velocity requirement for yaw manoeuvring such weights consumes huge amount of propellant. This directly minimizes the weight of the communication satellites or size of the human space capsule. This is really a worrisome scenario where India is having limited launch capabilities and shortage of transponders.

In the case of southward launches (PSLV), the geography of SDSC — SHAR is not a preferable and economic one. To avoid fly over Sri Lanka and avoid the impact of spent stages outside the exclusive economic zone of that country, the launch vehicles are steered towards southeast and again steered towards south to position the satellite in its intended orbit. These manoeuvrings are done in the initial stages where gravity predominantly consumes more propellant. The loss can be fully avoided by selecting a suitable launch location capable of launching southwards also.

In this scenario, the best alternative location for establishing spaceport is Kulasekarapatinam in Tamil Nadu from where both southward and eastward launches will be perfect and suitable. From here, nearest foreign land is also 200 kms. away and hence range safety is not a major constraint. The weather round the clock is also conducive. The nearest Liquid Propulsion System Centre, Mahendragiri (LPSC(M)) is having sufficient expertise in handling all type of liquid propellants, storage for establishing Test stands and launch pads, etc. Tuticorin airport and port are the major required infrastructural facilities available here.

Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to establish country's third rocket launch centre at Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

Date : 21-02-2014

TYBE OF DEBATE : SPECIAL MENTION

**Need to divert surplus water of river
Thamirabarani to the tanks in Tirunelveli district,
Tamil Nadu under Central Scheme.**

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important issue of the agriculturists in my constituency. There is a long-standing demand from various sections of people for diverting surplus water of the Thamirabarani River into the big Manur Tank, Pallamadai Tank and other surrounding tanks. ... (*Interruptions*) It is needed for the purpose of agricultural development in this area, which is in a very sorry state due to shortage of water there. ... (*Interruptions*)

Manur Tank is elevated and situated certain feet above sea-level. It remains dry most of the year, and its resources cannot be utilized properly, with the result, people residing in nearby areas are facing lot of difficulties for agricultural purposes as well as drinking water requirements. ... (*Interruptions*) To mitigate water shortage in the region, big pipes can be laid in the Thamairabarani River and excess water of the river can be taken and filled in Manur and other neighbouring tanks during rainy season. For this purpose, there is no necessity to dig big channels by spending crores of money, and this proposal will not affect any section of people. Actually, it will benefit the areas in and around this area. ... (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to allocate necessary funds from any of the Centrally-sponsored schemes for the project in order to bring the excess water of Thamirabarani River into Manur big Tank, Pallamadai Tank and other surrounding tanks. ... (*Interruptions*) It will help to improve the ground-water level, and it will facilitate the farmers in that area. Thank you very much, Sir. ... (*Interruptions*)

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