

Regarding expansion of Metro Rail in Bengaluru

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA (BANGALORE SOUTH): Madam Chairperson, thank you for this opportunity. Bengaluru is India's economic engine. It is one of the most important cities today and for the next 20 years for India's growth. However, the city is suffering from a big infrastructure deficit. The only way that traffic congestion in the city can be addressed is through expedited metro expansion.

Madam, through you, I want to request the hon. Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs to kindly expedite the opening of the already delayed yellow line operations. This connects the residential part of Bengaluru to the Electronic City. Once opened, more than eight lakh people will travel in it every day. So, my request is to kindly open it as soon as possible.

The second request I have is that four months ago, the BMRCL hiked the Metro fare by 130 per cent. Public transport, especially services like metro, must be affordable to the common man. This hike in metro fare has resulted in a deep and steep reduction in the ridership. In the last four months, despite multiple requests, the BMRCL has not made public the Fare Fixation Committee Report. Madam, this is a democracy. Public, especially riders who travel in metro, deserve the right to know on what basis the BMRCL increased the metro fares by 130 per cent. My request to the Minister is to instruct the authorities of BMRCL to immediately publish the Fare Fixation Committee Report.

The third and final request I have is that for the last few months, the approval for the red line metro which connects the most important and critical corridor of Bengaluru is pending before the Ministry. I request, through you, the Minister to kindly expedite the approval for red line metro to ease the traffic congestion in Bengaluru. Thank you so much Madam.