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Title: Regarding purchase of buses under JNNURM Scheme.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of the House an important issue highlighted in the Memorandum submitted by our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to the hon. Prime Minister.

At present, the Ministry of Urban Development is funding for the purchase of buses for urban transportation. However, the Ministry of Urban Development is insisting that only low floor buses should be purchased under the scheme. These buses are very expensive and are not similar to the large number of other buses in the State Transport Corporations' fleet of normal buses. There is no passenger preferences for such buses in Tamil Nadu. The Ministry of Urban Development may reconsider its position of sanctioning only low floor buses and permit normal buses also to be purchased under JNNURM for which the State Government is willing to meet its share of the cost.

For intelligent transport solutions for Chennai, there is an urgent need to improve the existing system of traffic management in Chennai City using the latest technology available in the world.

**12.33 hrs** (Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

The Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) has suggested a feasibility study/DPR for drafting an ITS Master Plan for Chennai City also. The Government of India is requested to expedite the process for availing of the assistance from the Japan International Co-operation Agency this year.