

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Request the government to set up a National Environment Engineering Institute (NEERI) office in Karaikudi so that Green Cracker Certificate can be obtained by the firework industry in Sivakasi.

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining the issue of strike in the fireworks industry in Sivakasi. Sivakasi is the area where 95 per cent of firework manufacturing units are situated. Sivakasi is in my constituency. About six lakh workers are working in these units and all of them depend upon these industrial units to earn their livelihood. Due to the Supreme Court order, the fireworks industry is facing an existential crisis now. The point is that the fireworks industry is ready to follow the Supreme Court order and they are ready to obtain the certificate from the National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEERI). But the problem is, there is no NEERI office in Sivakasi or Karaikudi. I have written a letter on this issue to the hon. Prime Minister also. Therefore, I request the Government, through you, to set up a NEERI office in Karaikudi so that these units can approach that office and get the Green Cracker Certificate.