

Regarding need to cancel mining license awarded to Hindustan Zinc Limited.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI): Thank you, Madam. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Union Government's decision to grant a licence for tungsten mining by Hindustan Zinc Ltd. in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. The issue has several significant environmental, cultural, social and federal implications necessitating immediate intervention to protect the region and its people.

The Tamil Nadu Government yesterday has consistently opposed the project citing the Union Government's failure to consult the State authorities before granting the mining licence. The Resolution passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on December 9 calls for the revocation of the licence and emphasizes the need for State's consent in the resource management. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has also written to the Union Government requesting that this has to be stopped as soon as possible because there are protests in the area. It is a very important biodiversity protected place and it also means a lot to us culturally because Jain monuments are there and one of the first Tamil inscriptions are also found in that area. So, everything would get affected, if it is not stopped. Many countries have also stopped this because the leakages from these mining sites have affected the agricultural production as well as the farmers.

Madam , it is very critical. So, we should stop this. The DMK has consistently opposed this mining.

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Madam, we are one on this issue which has just been raised by Kanimozhi.*(Interruptions)* The Government should respond to this very important matter.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, we are all supporting Kanimozhi on this issue.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Madam, day before yesterday, the Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a Resolution unanimously, where all the parties joined together, urging the Union Government to cancel the tungsten mining proposal as it would lead to degradation of environment and a lot of other environmental hazards.

A concern was also expressed about allocating the tungsten mining rights to a private party. This is very bad. It will lead to environmental hazards. ? (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member Manickam Tagore ji.

? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Hon Madam Chairperson, Vanakkam. Two hon. MPs from Tamil Nadu have raised an important issue relating to the need to ban Tungsten mining activities in Arittappati of Madurai. The Union Government is planning to give away the mineral wealth of Tungsten available in plenty between Alagar Kovil and Arittapatti of Madurai in Tamil Nadu to Vedanta Zinc Limited. This decision of the Union Government is a shock for us. As far as BJP is concerned, I do not know why it is so much interested to destroy the importance of sacred places of Tamil Nadu such as Alagar Kovil and the six prominent places of Lord Muruga called the *Arupadaiveedu*. If a question is put before the BJP whether they will support God or Vedanta, they will categorically take the side of Vedanta. Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed a Resolution insisting to stop and ban the illegal Tungsten mining activities at Arittapatti in Madurai. I too urge upon the Union Government with the demand to stop the Tungsten mining activities at Arittapatti in Madurai. Thank you.