

## **Regarding Molybdenum Mining in Tamil Nadu**

**SHRI SACHITHANANTHAM R. (DINDIGUL):** Hon Madam Chairperson, Vanakkam. Thank you for this opportunity. It is learnt that the Union government is planning to extract Molybdenum through mining activities in mountainous areas in and around Palani of Dindigul district. The report from the Geological Survey of India (GSI) says that there is availability of this rare mineral, Molybdenum in an area of 400 sq. km. and approximately in 1 lakh acres in Dindigul district. A study was conducted by GSI in the targeted revenue villages like Neikarapatti, Karadikootam, Chatrapatti and also in the adjoining foothills of Idumban hill, Ivar Malai and Viralimalai of the Western Ghats, known for their spiritual, historic and archeological significance. Pilgrimage centres and historically important Ivar Malai will be completely destroyed in the name of mining activities of Molybdenum. Places of archeological importance will be destroyed due to this mining activity. There is a pertinent danger of these fertile agri-lands being converted as barren land. The Union government is trying to amend the important information contained in the Archaeological Excavation Report of Keezhadi having concrete information about the ancient civilization heritage of Tamils. Similar to the mining activities proposed in Arittapatti of Madurai, this Union Government is now trying to extract Molybdenum in the areas in and around Palani Hill. I urge that this anti-people mining activity of this Union Government should be immediately stopped. On one side they are organizing Conclave on Lord Muruga and on the other side they are bringing policy measures aiming to destroy the pilgrim town Palani known for the world famous Murugan Temple. We will not allow these anti-people efforts of this Union government. Similarly Pulaiyan tribes of the Kodaikanal hills should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the Union. A memorandum in this regard has already been sent to the Union Government. I urge to fulfill this demand as well. Thank you.

माननीय सभापति: श्री अरुण गोविल जी ।