

Title: Need to protect the inhabitants of Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu from frequent cases of fire and house-burning.

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, tension has gripped my Nagapattinam (Reserved) constituency as people there witness a series of house-burning incidents. For the past one month, one following the other huts are being gutted down. These sporadic fire incidents have spread panic in the minds of the people. Nagapattinam is a historic place with people of various faiths and castes live in harmony. These house burning incidents give rise to an apprehension that this may lead to communal and caste clashes. Several kinds of rumour are spread and it adds to the tension. We must ensure that no communal and caste clashes occur there. It is feared that there could be a diabolical design of some evil forces behind these incidents. The people of my constituency are the worst hit by these incidents. Already the farmers of my constituency in the Cauvery Delta are facing acute short supply of Cauvery irrigation waters. The Kuruvai crops are withering away. The farming community in Nagapattinam District and also the adjacent districts like Thanjavur,

*English translation of the speech originally in Tamil.

Pudukkottai and Tiruchirappalli are severely affected. People feel that these 'fire' incidents are a deliberate design of some to divert people's attention from the problem of not getting enough water for Kuruvai cultivation. More than hundred huts have been burnt one after the other in a row. People feel insecure. Movement from village to village is curtailed. No one finds it safe to go from place to place in the evening hours. People are attacked. There is loss of property on one side and loss of hope on other side. Panic and tension too have gripped the area.

Since, Nagapattinam constituency adjoins our sea border in the coastal area, national security is also involved. Since it is a reserved constituency the safety of poor people especially the Dalits are at stake. Hence there is every reason for the Centre to investigate the cause for these chaos. The Centre has a duty to safeguard the security of the people of this reserved constituency and Centre must also ensure release of at least the minimum level of required water in River Cauvery to save the farmers of these delta region and basin districts. The Centre must evolve a viable way out convening the monitoring committee at the earliest. Save the people and their property and also Kuruvai crop which are withering away for want of Cauvery water.