

Title: Need to ensure proper implementation of foreign aided afforestation scheme in various pockets of Tamil Nadu - Laid.

Shri T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (PERIYAKULAM) : An afforestation scheme with an outlay of Rs.800 crore, aided by Japan, was planned to be implemented in various pockets of Tamil Nadu. The scheme was meant to plant sapplings on the outskirts of villages adjoining forest area and hilly tracks to increase forest coverage. The said scheme was being implemented in Cumbum, Pudhupaati and Uthukkadu areas in Theni District. The area was divided into 3 zones for better identification and co-ordination. The forest department claims to have been planted about 1 lakh and 30 thousand sapplinnings in 355 hectre so far in the said accordance with the scheme. But, it has been reported by NGOs and the public that thousands of such sapplings have been planted in private land and elsewhere.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter and stern action should be taken against all those who are responsible for sabotaging this scheme.