

Title: Need to review the proposal of Kerala Government to lease out mining to private enterprises.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (QUILON): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Central Government to the following matter of urgent public importance.

The Government of Kerala sought the permission of the Central Government to let some private enterprises to mine the rare earth resources available at Chavara-Karunagapally beach area of Quilon District in Kerala. These resources are used by Indian Rare Earths Ltd., (IRE) and Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd., (KMML) for processing. IRE is a Central Government undertaking and KMML is a State public sector unit. This ingredient that is processed by the concerned institution, is used for defence purposes. So, this is of strategic importance for the country. The State Government has sent the applications of some private enterprises, to the Central Government for its sanction. This is not in the national interest. I, therefore, request the Central Government not to issue the sanction to the private enterprises.