

Title: Need to set up a Tamil Editorial Branch and a Sales Centre of National Book Trust at Chennai-Laid.

SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): The National Book Trust (NBT) of India was established with the objective of promoting books, book reading habits, rendering assistance to authors and publishers of books written both in national and regional languages.

In the present set up of NBT, all the regional language editorial sections, working for the State people in book promotion and book related activities are working from NBT's headquarters at Delhi.

In order to conduct exhibitions, seminars, workshops and awareness camps, the concerned personnel from the Editorial sections are engaged in tours in the respective regions for almost four to seven months a year. Not only this adds to the heavy expenditure in the budget of NBT but also in this way the objective of NBT is realised at a snail's pace.

Presently, the Tamil Editorial Section of the Trust is in Delhi. Really speaking, Tamil people are not much aware of the Trust which is working for them. This shortfall is due to the location of the Trust's Tamil Wing in Delhi. Though there is a Regional Sales Centre at Bangalore, it is not satisfying the need of the Tamil people. However, NBT should serve for the people at the grassroot level.

In view of the above facts, I request the Minister of Human Resource Development, through you, to look into this matter and take immediate step to set up an active Tamil Editorial Branch and a Sales Centre at Chennai.