

Title: Need to include Krishnagiri district in Tamil Nadu under 'National Food for Work Programme'.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, the new Krishnagiri district in Tamil Nadu has been created by bifurcating the Dharmapuri district and it is functioning with effect from 9.2.2004. Krishnagiri district is predominantly agriculture based. It is affected by drought conditions continuously for the past many years. Most of the agricultural labourers find no work and migrate to nearby cities in search of work.

Around 30 per cent area in Krishnagiri district comes under forest with traditional tribal villages. In the absence of any work for these unskilled tribal people, the migration level is reaching 30 per cent and more these days. The district shares a long border with Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Many areas particularly the backward areas of Thally, Uthangarai and Mathur Blocks are poverty ridden and the naxalite elements take advantage of the illiteracy and innocence of the tribal people and have made inroads in these areas. Non-availability of employment opportunities is the major factor for growth of radical elements.

If the 'National Food for Work Programme' is implemented in this district, it will definitely provide livelihood to poor unskilled labourers and the tribal people. It will also help in checking naxalite activities in this district.

Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Rural Development that Krishnagiri district may be included under the 'National Food for Work Programme'.