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Title: Need to modernize and develop Colachel Port in Kanyakumari district as a major Container Port.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bellarmin.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I greet you all, on behalf of the people of the Tri-Sea Sangama Bhoomi, Kanyakumari, where the confluence of three big Oceans − the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea − is a unique phenomenon.

The sacred relics of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and that of the great leader Iyya Kamaraj, kept at their memorials in the soil of Kanyakumari give impetus to my voice. Iyyan Thiruvalluvar who imparted universal codes of ethos to the world and the revolutionary young Saint Swami Vivekananda who preached universal religious tolerance bear witness to my voice.

But such a pomp and glory of Kanyakumari District is being eclipsed by the persistent neglect of the district in the matter of setting up of development projects ensuring a better life and well-being of the 14 lakh people of the district by the successive powers that be. That district which has a literate population of 95 per cent longs for employment opportunities.

The upgradation of the Colachel Port into an international mother container port and a central transit harbour is a cherished need of the people of South India in order to achieve socio-economic development of this region. Already a proposal submitted by the Malaysian Port officials and marine experts in 2001 to develop Colachel as super transit port and container mother port is with the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

It is a natural port with sea depth of more than 55 feet. This port is strategically located on the southern tip of our country. Because of such a central geographical position of the port, Colachel can be developed as a container mother port. Hence I request that the Government must come forward to get the proposals from the State Government for the upgradation of this historical port. Thank you.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (पटना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या आरजेडी के सदस्यों को समय नहीं दिया जाएगा?।

…(व्यवधान)