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Title : Need to take steps to prevent soil erosion due to gradual encroachment by sea along Kottakuppam Town in Viluppuram Parliamentary constituency, Tamil Nadu.

* SHRI M. ANANDAN (VILUPPURAM): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to an urgent matter of public importance. Sodanaikuppam, Mudaliarchavadi, Nandriyankuppam and Ammaiarkuppam in the Vaanur Taluk of my Viluppuram Constituency have faced great damage due to sea erosion. In areas like Chinnamudaliarchavadi Kuppam, about 96 houses have been washed away. I had been to those places and seen for myself the heavy damage caused to the properties of the poor coastal villagers. I took it up with the District Administration, but no effective action has been taken as yet. This has greatly affected the morale of the people living there and they cannot carry on with their traditional occupation of fishing. The Government must go in for constructing soil-erosion and sea-erosion prevention walls to help save the villages from being damaged and washed away further. This will also help the poor fishermen to save and secure their fishing tools and implements. About 5000 fishermen and their families live in those areas and they face this wrath of the sea. As their livelihood is affected by this continuing erosion the poor fishermen have been praying for a hook-shaped preventive wall to overcome sea-erosion and this is their demand for quite sometime. Hence I urge upon the Union Environment Ministry to allocate funds to construct sea-erosion preventive walls to help save the lives and properties of the poor fishermen folk of whom the most are living below poverty line.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.