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Title: Need to provide financial assistance for preservation and protection of ancient monuments in Kerala.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter today pertaining to the Thiruvanchikulam Mahadeva Temple, which is a very old temple. This temple is said to be constructed during the reign of Chera Kings who ruled over South India during the 12th Century AD.

The Thiruvanchikulam Temple is in a degenerated state. This temple is under the control of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI). Hence, I would request that necessary steps may be taken for the protection of this ancient temple at Thiruvanchikulam and also the Vadakkumnathan Temple at Thrissur.

Besides, adding to the natural beauty of the area, Chalakudy has ten major pilgrim centres, namely, Thiruvanchi Kulam Matradeva and Bhagavathy Temple, Kodungallur; Cheraman Juma Masjid, Kodungallur; Mar Thoma Church, Azhikode; Keelthazhi Siva Temple at Kodungallur; birthplace of Sri Sankaracharya at Kalady; St. Thomas Church Malayattoor and Ambazhakkad; Sivarathri Manappuram at Aluva; and Church of Kadamattathu Kathanar at Kadamattom. I would also request that necessary steps may be taken for the protection of these ancient monuments, and special financial assistance may be allowed for the development of this Region.