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Title: Need to accord environmental clearance for setting up a Research Centre of Defence Research and Development Organisation in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Government that an initiative has been taken up by the Defence Research and Development Organisation to set up a Research Centre of national importance at Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu. For this purpose, Government land measuring 817.56 acres and 11.76 acres of private land have been identified at Nekkunthi Village, Taluk Dharmapuri, District. Dharmapuri and is under the process of acquisition as the same has already been sanctioned. Dharmapuri is the most backward district in the State of Tamil Nadu. This initiative was a golden opportunity to create employment for unemployed youth of this most backward district. However, to start the said project, the environmental clearance is required and the DRDO is waiting for it. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forests to direct the authorities concerned to expedite giving environmental clearance for the said project on a war footing basis, so that the DRDO can commence the work quickly. It will help the people of this industrially backward district of Tamil Nadu to get employment and also help to change the face of Dharmapuri district from backwardness to a progressing district.