

Title: Issue regarding gas leakage from chlorination plant of KMML at Chavara in Kollam Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, my 'Zero Hour' submission is in respect of leakage from a chlorination plant in my constituency.

The coastal areas of Kollam and Alappuzha are blessed with rich deposits of heavy sand minerals containing rare earth strategic elements like monazite, limonite, rutile, zircon etc. The Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, is having control over these beach sand minerals. IRE and KMML located at Chavara in my constituency are the two prestigious public sector undertakings working in this field.

Last week on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of August, it was reported that a gas leakage emanated from a Chlorination Plant of KMML causing suffocation to the children of a nearby school and they had been hospitalized. This incident has created a reasonable apprehension of fear of safety in the minds of people of that locality.

It is also being reported in the media that the incident was a pre-planned one with a *mala fide* intention to destabilise and weaken the PSUs like KMMIL and IRE. A huge quantity of unauthorized smuggling of mineral sand from the coastal areas of Kollam and Allapuzha is also being reported. There were so many attempts to privatise mining of mineral sand since 1990, but the Government has not conceded it considering the large public interest.

It is the prime responsibility of the Government of India and also the State Government to protect the health and safety of the public at-large and ensure the survival of PSU companies. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India to have urgent intervention in this matter because it is the Department of Atomic Energy having control over the beach sand minerals. So, the intervention of the Government of India in this matter is highly solicited.

With these words, I conclude and I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 at 11 am.

**19.06 hrs**

**The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock**

on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 / Shravana 21, 1936 (Saka).

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