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Title: Need to review the decision to divest the Kamarajar Port Limited, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): We are shocked to hear that the Government of India has decided to divest the Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), a Rs.20 crore worth profit making port in Chennai in my Tiruvallur Parliamentary Constituency.

KPL is the lifeline of Tamil Nadu and the first and unique Government-owned Corporate Port developed by the Chennai Port as a satellite Port. KPL is functioning without grant-in-aid from the Government of India. KPL has the capacity to handle 44 MTPA. The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. is developing a captive LNG Terminal in KPL to handle 5 MTPA with a re-gasification facility.

KPL is the highest dividend payer. If such a well-established profit-making Port is privatized, it will affect the growth of the State. It will help the private players to have stronghold in the shipping industry. First of all, such a move will affect the livelihood of tens of thousands of direct and indirect employees of this port.

So, it is pertinent that this profit making KPL is allowed to remain in the hands of the Government. In view of this, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Shipping to re-visit his decision to divest the Kamarajar Port Limited, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.