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Title: Need to develop Gingee town in Tamil Nadu as a tourist centre.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the dire need to develop Gingee Town as a tourist centre which is 130 kilometres away from Chennai. The Gingee Town and its surrounding areas were ruled by one king from North, Raja Desing who built a fort and many palaces on the top of the mountain. He ruled the entire place for a certain period. This place is a symbol of secularism. This place, now maintained by the Archeological Department, is on the National Highway between Puducherry and Krishnagiri.

On the said National Highway, there are two mountains, on which two palaces have been built called Rani Palace and Raja Palace. This place is a symbol for secularism where Hindus, Muslims, Jains and other communities are living peacefully.

A request has been made several times to declare this place as a tourism centre. If it is developed as a tourism centre, it will be like another Mahabalipuram. The infrastructure work has already been done by our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu 'Puratchi Thalaivi' Amma.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister for Tourism, through the Chair, to visit the place and declare the Gingee Town as a tourist centre or it may be recommended to the UNESCO to be declared as a world heritage monument.