

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Madam, I would like to associate myself with it. I would like to specifically mention about the Barauni unit, which is just in the zero mile of Barauni Oil Refinery. The raw material is available. The modern technology is available. Why are they not reviving it? It is a long pending issue. The Government should come forward and revive these units.

Demand to prevent dumping of toxic wastes in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government regarding the enormous illegal import of toxic waste, in the name of recyclable waste, and being dumped in the coastal areas as well as areas in which agricultural activities are carried on in Tamil Nadu. The rate of dumping of such toxic waste in Tamil Nadu, in both areas, has increased recently. These activities lead to the contamination of ground water and air pollution in and around the dumping areas. These recyclable waste, collected from U.K., is thus illegally dumped in farmlands in the State because it is cheaper to send these rubbish to our country than to recycle them properly in the U.K. itself.

In fact, a tonne of waste, that would cost 148 U.K. pounds to recycle in U.K., costs only 40 pounds per tonne in shipping the wastage to other countries. Further some toxic e-wastes are also being shipped to our country from the U.S. These e-wastes contain cadmium, mercury and other toxic substances. Resultantly, the ground water is contaminated with dangerous minerals and other toxic contents.

In view of the aforesaid fact, I, therefore, request the Central Government, through this august House, to take immediate action to curb illegal import of those dangerous wastes to the coastal areas of our country, particularly, Tamil Nadu. I further request the Government to instruct State Government to keep vigil against illegal import of toxic wastes and dumping into the coastal and agricultural areas so that the utility of the land, ground water for agricultural and drinking purpose is preserved.

Demand to provide compensation to farmers in flood affected areas in Tamil Nadu

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of the Central Government the sufferings of the people of Tamil Nadu due to the recent incessant widespread rains and flood in our State and request the Centre to provide sufficient compensation to farmers and declare the State as disaster prone State.

Madam, due to the recent flood, nearly 7.9 lakh hectares of agricultural land had submerged. Majority of paddy crops in these areas were of 125 days old and were about to be harvested at any time. Out of this, nearly 5 lakh hectares of standing paddy crops which were ready for harvesting are completely damaged. While Nagappatinam and Tiruvarur districts accounted for around 1.34 lakh hectares each, the extent of damaged areas in Thanjavur district is 1.26 lakh hectares where samba crop were being raised. In Tiruchi also, the extent of affected areas is 20,594 hectares. In addition to the damage of crops and cattle in huge amount, a number of dwelling huts were damaged and people lost their lives and belongings. Apart from this, nearly 40 lakh people are affected and as many as 3000 cattle heads perished. Unfortunately, the compensation announced by the State Government has not reached the deserving people. I earnestly appeal to the Government to provide compensation relief through the Central Government officials since deserving people are not getting proper compensation announced by the State Government.