

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: *

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): सर, मैं माननीय सदस्या द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ। यह एक hazardous industry है, जिस में महिलाएं व बच्चे काम करते हैं। उनमें से कई टी.बी. का शिकार हो जाते हैं, लेकिन मजबूरी में पेट भरने के लिए यह काम करते हैं। इसलिए उनके बारे में सरकार गंभीरता से सोचे।

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time-over. Not going on record. ... (Interruptions)...
Shrimati Kanimozhi.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Karnataka): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention made by the hon. Member.

Concern over encroachment by the Kamarajar Ports Ltd. on 1,000 acres of wetlands in Ennore Creek, Chennai

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Ennore Creek in North Chennai spreads over 8,000 acres. It drains Araniyar and Kosasthalaiyar into the Bay of Bengal, and there are thousands of fishermen families which depend on this Creek. It was once a lush mangrove forest. Under the CRZ Notification, 6,500 acres of this Creek were declared as 'No Development Zone' in 1996. But despite that, there are industrial installations which have come up encroaching around 1,090 acres of the protected wetland. In 2015, these structures blocked the rain water from going to the sea and caused flooding in areas which have never before experienced floods in Chennai.

Apart from this, the North Chennai Thermal Power Station has been dumping fly ash in the Ennore Creek. Around 3,000 acres of land has been dumped with fly ash. For a question which I had raised about this, the Minister had replied saying, 'To protect the wetlands from pollution and encroachments, there will be implementation of an integrated scheme of National Plan for the Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems and Notification of the Wetlands and also that the State Governments will be advised to prioritize the protection of these Wetlands.

But the Kamarajar Port, which is very close to the Ennore Creek, is now trying to build car parking, coal yards and warehouse facilities in thousand acres of Creek by filling it. Already, 1,000 acres have been taken away and Kamarajar Port wants to extend

*Not recorded.

another 1,000 acres into the Creek and make it a real estate land. To facilitate this, the Tamil Nadu Environment Department has created a new map, which has been contested by many people, denying the existence of 8,000 acres of Creek. This map shows no Creek at all. This is what the Kamarajar Port is trying to use. If the Creek is compromised any further and there is a flood in Chennai, nothing can save Chennai.

Hence, I urge the Ministry of Environment as well as the Ministry of Road Transport and Shipping to ensure that the Creek is not disturbed and the Port's expansion should be carried out on dry land. It should also make sure that all clearances are given using the Government-approved maps. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI R.S. BHARATHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention made by the hon. Member.

**Alleged violation of land and forest rights due to implementation of
compensatory afforestation projects**

SHRI A.V. SWAMY (Odisha): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to talk on a subject which is dearest to my heart.

The perception of tribals on Quit India Movement was very different from what we had. Their perception was, if the British quit India, the Maharajas, landlords and others who had usurped their forests, their lands and their privileges under their protection could easily be thrown them out. They joined the Quit India Movement in large numbers where I also had the good opportunity of joining and helping the freedom fighters as a member of the *Vanar Sena* in 1942.

Sir, the Forests Rights Act, is almost near to the fulfilment of their dreams of what they thought about Gram Swaraj. They said, 'if India becomes free, we will remove the Rajas and all that.' Lands will belong to us; we will have our own natural resources and we will have, what Gandhiji called, *Gram Swaraj*. That was the perception.