

Demand to allocate Rs. 2000 crores for planting and restoring Mangrove covers in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (TAMIL NADU): Sir, mangrove forests have served as bio-shield along the coastal areas and save lives and livelihoods of people. Mangroves are salt-tolerant trees reduce risk to more than 15 million people and prevent several thousand crores of property damages every year. Preserving and restoring mangrove forests is economically effective strategy for protecting coasts from tropical storm damage. The beneficial impact of mangroves has been observed on several occasions including the cyclones in Tamil Nadu. The damage caused by Tsunami was also considerably less in mangrove rich areas. The conservation of mangroves has been embedded in the culture of coastal communities since ancient times. The Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Wetlands Mission and Climate Mission has helped in restoring mangrove covers in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. One thousand hectares of mangrove area is under restoration of degraded forest and Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR). Mangrove planting and restoration is being planned under coastal rehabilitation mission and TN-SHORE. The eco-restoration of Ennore creek over an extent of 188 hectares has also begun where mangrove seedlings are to be planted. In 2023-24 Budget, the hon. Finance Minister said that Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) will be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and announced a new three-year scheme, *Amrit Dharohar* for wetlands. India's total number of Ramsar sites has increased from 26 in 2014 to 75 in 2022, of which 14 are in Tamil Nadu. India is making special efforts to get the international recognition for its mangrove, wetlands and joined the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) during the UN climate talks in Egypt in 2022. Hence, I urge upon the Government to allocate Rs.2,000 crores for planting and restoring Mangrove covers in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri R. Girirajan: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), and Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala).

Now Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu.