

>

Title: Concern regarding setting up of harbour in Chennai.

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR (TIRUVALLUR): Hon. Chairperson, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am extremely happy to see the Minister of Environment here because the issue that I am raising over here pertains to his Ministry. A monstrous harbour is coming up adjoining Chennai being set up by a group and it is going to invest about Rs. 52,400 crore to cover an area of 6,111 acres of which 200 acres would be taken from the sea by filling that place with sand taken from Palar river over a distance of 60 to 80 kilometres.

The entire stretch of 60 to 80 kilometres will be destroyed. Apart from that, this project is harming and violating all norms of ecological system and all pollution control systems. For example, a port cannot come if, within one metre, erosion is there. There, the erosion is five to six metres. But this port is coming up. And a port cannot come up within 10 kilometres of an ecological park or a bird sanctuary, but this project is coming over there. I am agitated because the Collector has been asked to go for a public hearing but I intervened. All the political parties opposed this project. As a Member of Parliament representing that constituency, I requested the Collector not to go ahead with the public hearing, not to hold it.

I request the hon. Minister of Environment to look into this and note that if this project comes up, then North Madras will be destroyed. I would like to bring this to the knowledge of the hon. Minister.

