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Title: Request government to expedite the process of creation of job opportunities for people of Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu by opening Nanguneri SEZ.

*** SHRI S. GNANATHIRAVIAM (TIRUNELVELI):** Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam Nanguneri Special Economic Zone was the brainchild of former Union Minister Shri Murasoli Maran, who conceived and proposed this project in the year 1997. The foundation for the Nanguneri project was laid shortly thereafter, by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi. Due to change of guard in the State of Tamil Nadu, this project was kept in abeyance. Nanguneri Special Economic Zone is spread over an area of more than 2600 acres, at par with international standards, with better road, rail, sea and air connectivity. It is pertinent to say that the Tuticorin Port, the country's 4th largest and most efficient port, is just at a travelling distance of less than 2 hours by road from the SEZ. Since the year 2011, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has not taken any effort to invite manufacturers for utilization of this Nanguneri SEZ. The proposal of 2016 of the Government of India to invite Defence Manufacturing Industries to this SEZ is also pending with the State Government. The opening of Nanguneri SEZ will create direct and indirect employment to more than 1 lakh families, besides providing livelihood. It can be a solution to ease the unemployment situation present in the country. I request the Government of India to expedite the process of creating job opportunities for the people of Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu by opening this Nanguneri SEZ. Thank you.

