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Title : Regarding revival of Nanguneri SEZ in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu –laid.

**SHRI S. GNANATHIRAVIAM (TIRUNELVELI):** Nanguneri SEZ was the brainchild of former Union Minister Murasoli Maran, who conceived and proposed this project in 1997. The foundation for the project was laid shortly thereafter by the then CM Kalaignar Karunanidhi. Soon after changes in the state government led to the project being put on hold. Nanguneri SEZ is spread over an area of more than 2600 acres at par with international standards with abundant connectivity options by Road, Rail, Sea and Air. It is pertinent to note that India's 4th largest and Most efficient Sea Port, the Tuticorin Port is less than 2 hours by road from the SEZ.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu from the year 2011 has taken no steps to invite manufacturers to utilise the SEZ. The proposal by the Government of India in 2016 to open up Defence Manufacturing Industries is also pending with the State Government. The opening up of Nanguneri SEZ will create direct and indirect job opportunities and livelihood to more than 100000 families, easing the unemployment situation in the country. I request the Government of India to expedite the process so as to create more job opportunities for the residents of Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu.