

>

Title: Request to govt. to ensure permanent measures to protect the people and animals of 7 villages from the improper construction of tailing pond and chemical waste coming into it from Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL).

SHRI Y. S. AVINASH REDDY (KADAPA): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of this House regarding the problems being faced by the people of seven villages, Kotala, Kanampalli, Mabbuchintalapalli, Bhoomayyagaripalli, Rachakuntapalli, Tummalapalle, and Velpula, which fall under my Parliamentary constituency.

Sir, due to non-fulfilment of the standards in the construction of tailings pond of Uranium Corporation of India Limited, it is posing serious threat to the human and animal habitations, leading to environmental imbalance in the area. Air, water, and land around Uranium Corporation of India Limited project have got severely contaminated. The people of the said villages have been suffering from a lot of skin diseases, joint pains and problems related to pregnancy failures. Goats, buffalos, cows and other animals in these villages have also been suffering and dying as well. The crop yield in these villages has considerably reduced, and in some cases, the entire crop is getting spoiled due to contamination. Due to improper construction of tailings pond, the chemical waste, that is coming into the tailings pond, is getting penetrated into the soil and water. The uranium content in the sample of water is found to be 400 parts per million, whereas the permissible level is only 30-60 parts per million.

Sir, I have written several representations to the CMD, UCIL and to the hon. Prime Minister of India as well. Keeping in view the environmental problems being caused by UCIL, I request the hon. Prime Minister, through you, Sir, to take this matter very seriously and safeguard the lives of the people and animals in these villages, by directing the UCIL authorities to reconstruct the tailings pond, address all the issues relating to crop loss and health, and ensure that permanent measures are taken to protect the people and animals from these hazardous effects. Sir, better late than never. If the problem is not addressed now, it will become a disaster. So, I request the Government of India to wake up on this issue and protect us. Thank you.