

>

Title: Need to declare Kollimalai as a prominent tourist destination in Namakkal Parliamentary Constituency.

***SHRI A. K. P. CHINRAJ (NAMAKKAL):** Hon. Speaker, Sir. Vanakkam. Arappaleeswarar temple, dating back to 2000 years and a 800 year old Jain temple are situated in Kollimalai which is a prominent tourist place in my Namakkal parliamentary constituency. This Kollimalai, once ruled by King Valvil Ori, is spread over an area 80 sq.kms. Around 45,000 tribals live in this area. Farmers grow plantain,,jack tree and world quality pepper in huge scale. There is a long pending demand for declaring this Kollimalai as a prominent tourist destination.

18.03 hrs

(Shri N. K. Premachandran *in the Chair*)

Tapioca is grown in large quantities in this Kollimalai area. As this is the place where 18 Siddhars lived, a Siddha Medical College or an Ayurveda Medical College should be set up by the Union Government. Farmers who grew pepper in this area did not get the remunerative prices last year. It was sold at Rs.300 per kg. Import duty on pepper imported from foreign countries should be increased so that the world quality pepper grown in Kollimalai area will get remunerative and cost-effective price. Officials of Tourism Ministry should pay a visit to Kollimalai to ascertain its importance. I urge upon the Union Government to set up a Siddha Medical College and Research Institute in Kollimalai area besides allocating Rs. 100 Crore as a special package for development of Kollimalai as a tourist destination. This is

the demand of the people of my Namakkal parliamentary constituency.

Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please let the House be in order. All the Members are requested to let the House be in order.