

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding establishment of an office of NEERI in Karaikudi-laid.

**SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** I urge the Government to open a branch of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute that is NEERI in Karaikudi to assist small manufacturing units and certify crackers manufactured by small industries in the State of Tamilnadu. Sivakasi in Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu is well known for manufacturing firecrackers and matchbox. Since large amount of firecrackers are being manufactured here, it is called “FIRE HUB OF INDIA” with an annual turnover of Rs10,000 crore. There are around 1000 firework factories and around 6.5 lakh families are directly and indirectly dependent on this industry for their livelihood. NEERI having its headquarters in Nagpur is the certifying authority for crackers manufactured here. However, because of long distance, it takes time and is difficult for small manufacturing units to get certification. Therefore, I request the Government to establish an office of NEERI in Karaikudi and the same be made functional on the campus of CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute(CSIR-CECRI).