

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to sanction Rs. 4500 crore to execute Vellore city Plan Project.

SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND (VELLORE): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. Vellore city is known for prestigious educational and medical institutions. It is one of the fastest growing cities in the country. It enjoys a unique blend of rich heritage and culture to emerge as a model city. The upcoming defence corridor from Chennai to Bangalore adds more potential to Vellore.

Our hon. Chief Minister, *Thiru* M.K. Stalin after assuming office in May 2021, has swiftly swung into action and initiated several measures to give an impetus to various infrastructural development projects to develop it as a Smart City.

Sir, the infrastructural and civic needs of the city need to be taken up at the earliest. Power, water supply and waste disposal are the common problems. Vellore is an ancient town with many monuments and temples and these need to be developed as tourist spots.

Sir, Vellore is like a bridging city which connects South Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It extends from Vellore city to Ambur, Vaniyambadi, Walajah, Ranipet, Arcot, and to some border areas of Tiruvannamalai also. These are dedicated business centres and need civic infrastructure like road, rail connectivity, power and IT connectivity. There is also a big leather industry with a number of tanning units. So, the ground water recharge mechanism has to be built in. It needs great attention. The total project cost required for all this is estimated to be Rs.4500 crore.

In the previous years, Vellore has been selected as one of the model cities and thousands of crores of rupees have been put in. But still not even 25 per cent projects have been completed. Rest of the city has also to be developed through infrastructure projects. Therefore, through you, I request the hon. Finance Minister to allocate about Rs.4500 crore for the Vellore city projects.

Also, I would like to highlight that if you are on the NHAI highway from Chennai to Bengaluru, whenever any accident happens on the highway, there are no medical institutions on this highway. Since a lot of accidents are taking place, I would request the NHAI, through you, Sir, that the need of the hour is to instal the first-aid mechanism on this highway.

Thank you.