

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding inclusion of Mangala Devi Kannagi temple under the PRASAD Scheme

SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH (THENI): I want to bring to the notice of the Government about the neglected condition of the around 2000 years old Mangala Devi Kannagi temple which is located at Pazhiyankudi in Theni District on the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

As per the historical evidence, the temple originally belonged to Tamil Nadu but now it falls in the State of Kerala. The temple surrounded by forest has been closed throughout the year except during the Chitra Pournami festival when thousands of devotees visit the sacred temple of Kannagi.

The Government has launched the PRASAD Scheme with the aim to integrate pilgrimage destinations in a prioritized, planned, and sustainable manner and provide a complete religious tourism experience. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to include the Mangala Devi Kannagi temple under the PRASAD Scheme and declare it as a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 along with adequate funds allocation for the preservation of this historical temple.

I also request the Government to allow devotees to visit this sacred Kannagi temple throughout the year, which will not only be beneficial for devotees but also would spread the values of this sacred temple across the country.