

Title : Regarding request to government not to convert Goa into a coal hub

CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES (SOUTH GOA): Thank you, hon. Chairperson, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very important matter of urgent public importance. I am a first-time Member of Parliament from South Goa. The whole world knows Goa as the most beautiful place, a paradise on earth. But in the last few years, we have seen that a conspiracy is being done by thrusting several projects on Goa without taking the people into confidence. In 2016, they took our six rivers in the name of nationalization. Thereafter, during COVID-19 lockdown, they brought railway line projects, like double-tracking project, expansion of roadways and the Tamnar Transmission project. We have with us the documentary proof that the purpose behind all this is to bring out coal and convert Goa into a coal hub. Madam, after liberation of Goa in 1961 from the Portuguese rule, the only organized sector which is remaining today is the tourism sector because ban on mining in the State took place in 2012. The Agriculture Department is not doing that well. There have been efforts by youth, the private players to revive agriculture in the State. A humble request to this Government is to take the people of Goa into confidence, and not to convert Goa into a coal hub because the only sector which is giving employment to the people of Goa is tourism. Converting Goa into a coal hub will destroy Goa completely. Thank you, Madam.