

Issues pertaining to Valparai Assembly Constituency of Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI ESWARASAMY K. (POLLACHI): Hon. Speaker, Vanakkam. Thank you for this opportunity. I wish to bring to your notice the issues pertaining to Valparai Assembly Constituency of the Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency. Valparai is a mountainous area which is famous for natural beauty and tea plantation. As many as 60,000 people live in the Valparai Tea Estate area. Most of them are plantation workers working in the Tea Estates of this area.

This Valparai Tea Estate area comes under the recently announced Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park. Many people have died in this area due to attacks by wild animals. As this place is declared as Reserve Forests and Wildlife Sanctuary, the people living in that area have to live with a sense of fear in their minds. Moreover, the people in this mountainous area should be protected by way of fencing and electric fencing. There should be water tanks at designated places with a view to restrict the movement of wild animals to the lower part of the forest area where we have human habitations.

I wish to state that these remote human habitations do not have proper road connectivity due to the ban of such construction activity by the Environment and Forest Ministry of the Union Government. I urge that necessary permissions be given. I also urge upon the Government to provide a compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs to the families affected by these wild animals causing loss to lives and property. I urge that the Government should come forward to extend this scheme. The demand for the Upper Valparai area people was that to make arrangements for alternative profession besides tea plantation. The Union Government should give three cents of land free of cost to each of the tea plantation labourers who live in Valparai area as their permanent habitation. Valparai, called as the princess of mountains, should be made as a tourist destination permanently. The BSNL network does not work properly and there are connectivity issues in Valparai tea estate area in the mountainous region. I urge that the telecommunication facilities should be better enhanced in this area. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Annan* Thiru Thalapathy M.K. Stalin has already ordered for enhancement of daily wages

of tea plantation labourers from Rs.350 per day to Rs.425 per day as per the new G.O.

12.31 hrs (Shrimati Sandhya Ray *in the Chair*)

I wish to state that almost 25,000 tea plantation labourers have been benefitted by this Scheme. The farmers living in the villages at the foothills should be permitted to take their cattle like goats and cows for feeding in the forest areas. I urge that the Union Government should allow the cattle of farmers to be fed from nearby forest areas. With this I conclude. Vanakkam. Thank you.