

Regarding Tungsten Mining Block in Madurai

SHRI S. VENKATESAN (MADURAI): Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. Union Government has granted permission for Tungsten Mining activities in Arittapatti in Melur of Madurai District of Tamil Nadu. I urge that the auctioning of this mining activities should be immediately stopped. Arittappatti land is so special when compared to other land areas of the world. There is a bed of big rocks pertaining to Megalith period at Arittapatti which is 3500 years old. It has Tamil Brahmi stone inscriptions dating back to 2200 years ago. There is a statue of Jainism which is 2000 years old. A Cave temple for Lord Shiva built by the early Pandyas 1600 years ago is also located in Arittapatti. I should say that Arittapatti is of historical importance having so many historical monuments located in that place. I urge that the decision to have Tungsten mine at this place should be given up. There is a word called *?Imayan?*. I wish to tell in this august House that similar to how Himalayas protect India, we as *?Imayans?* will protect Arittapatti land. This Union Government has not given permission to the Archaeological Department to excavate 10 feet under the surface at Keezhadi. But the same Union Government has given permission to dig a mine at Arittapatti which can go deep for several hundred kilometres. This is an attempt to destroy the wealth and history of Tamil Nadu altogether. This move will be opposed by the people of Tamil Nadu. People of Madurai will definitely oppose this decision of the Union Government. Resolution opposing this decision has been passed unanimously in almost all the villages around Arittapatti. I therefore urge that the Union Government should cancel the permission granted to Hindustan Zinc Limited for establishing Tungsten Mine at Arittapatti.