

**Title:** Regarding the hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to respond to the point raised by an hon. Member regarding the hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, as soon as the tragedy occurred, placed the police officers under suspension. A dozen officials have been placed under suspension. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government also announced that it would suspend the Assistant Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Superintendent of Police if such hooch tragedies occurred in future.

The Government is taking all possible precautions to protect such hooch tragedies. It is not responsible for this tragedy. The trader has committed suicide leaving a note saying that he only traded that liquor and that that liquor was brought from Pondicherry.

The dealer does not belong to our Party.

Sir, earlier, during the erstwhile DMK regime, there was a liquor syndicate all over Tamil Nadu. We have allowed only public auction. There was a loss to the exchequer during the DMK regime because of liquor syndicate. We wanted to break the syndicate to fetch more funds for the State exchequer. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, the AIADMK people have indulged in illicit liquor business during the AIADMK regime. After assuming power by the AIADMK, within six months, there were four incidents in which 170 people died.

So, I would request the Central Government to take action against the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri P.H. Pandian says.

*(Interruptions)* \*â€

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, my Leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalavi, came out victorious yesterday. She had said earlier that she would not withdraw the cases against her and that she would prove her innocence in court. Hence, she came victorious. ...*(Interruptions)* She was acquitted and she has proved her innocence.

Sir, she has said yesterday that she is going to assume the Office of the Chief Minister at a proper time. She will steer the ship of Tamil Nadu State Administration in an effective manner. Sir, the DMK Party is not able to digest her victory. That is why, they have raised this issue.

Sir, I know that it is a State subject. However, there is nobody to defend the State. So, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise this matter in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*