

Title: Need to set up Rajiv Gandhi Centre of Aquaculture at village Sathangudi in Nagapattinam district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): In July, 1995, the Union Minister of State for Commerce laid the Foundation Stone for the Rajiv Gandhi Centre of Acquaculture at Village Sathangudi, Tharangambadi Taluka, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu. No work at all has been done in the last four years. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) now proposes to surrender the land that was to be acquired and shift the headquarters from Mayiladuturai to Chennai. In view of the fact that it was MPEDA itself which selected the site and the fact that the Central Brackish Waters Fisheries Institute already has its headquarters in Chennai, I request the Minister for Commerce and Industry to kindly instruct MPEDA to reconsider the decisions of the 14th Executive Committee held on 22.09.1999 with a view to retaining the site and the headquarters at the present location and proceeding with all deliberate speed towards the realisation of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Acquaculture so that lakhs of small fishermen living along the Coromandal coast of Tamil Nadu are benefited and the export of Indian marine products diversified and promoted.