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Title : Need to declare Villupuram in Tamil Nadu as an industrially backward district.

DR. K. DHANARAJU (TINDIVANAM): In spite of the fact that many districts of Tamil Nadu such as Villupuram are most backward. The Union Government had set up a study group to identify Industrial backward districts which submitted its report in 1994 and the Union government constituted another study group to review the said report but none of the committees declared any district of Tamil Nadu as backward as every district had sugar mill. Sir, because of existence of sugar mills in each district these were categorized as industrial developed. Crushing of sugar cane is a seasonal business and also agro-based and hence, does not provide any opportunity for industrial activity. Hence, existing of sugar mill alone should not disqualify any district from backward category list.

In Pondicherry which is adjoining area of Villupuram and also which comes under Union Territory have been given many facilities to set up different industries there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Government to reconsider the decision of 1994.

Many changes have come since 1994. I request the Government to have a fresh look of the backwardness of the Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu to declare it backward district of the State. There is no major or heavy industry in the Villupuram district of the state but it was also worst affected by Tsunami. During Tsunami thousands of people became homeless. If this district is declared backward many entrepreneurs will come forward to set up different kind of industries and unemployed youth will get employment.