

Title: Need to declare Karaikal district of Pudcherry as a backward district.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): The Union Territory of Puducherry is spread in four regions namely, Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. Recently, Karaikal region has been declared as a separate district while the three region were clubbed together to form Puducherry district. Historically, Karaikal region has remained backward for various socio-economic factors. The agricultural character of the region and its dependence on the Cauvery water, lack of industrialization and poor manpower have contributed to the backwardness of this region. The parameters such as per capita income, productivity, production, literacy, infant mortality rate are assuming low values as compared to other regions. Karaikal district is surrounded by Nagapatinam District which is declared as a Backward district. Therefore, it is requested that in view of the continued socio-economic backwardness of Karaikal, it should be immediately declared as Backward district and financial assistance extended under Backward Districts Development Grant Fund so that its development can be accelerated. In the absence of such a status the region will continue to remain backward and the people would be subjected to neglect and backwardness. Therefore, the Government of India is urged to confer the status of a Backward District to Karaikal.