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Title: Pollution caused by sterlite Industry in Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu.

**\*\*SHRI S. R. JEYADURAI (THOOTHUKKUDI):** Sir, in my Thoothukkudi constituency in Tamil Nadu, well within the Municipal limits of Thoothukkudi Town, Vedanta Industries has established a copper smelter plant styled as The Sterlite Industries. In fact, due to the stiff opposition from the agriculturists and environments in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra, this unit which ought to have been set up there got shifted to Thoothukkudi. Though this unit has been given permission to produce 12,000 tonne of copper per day, they have violated the same blatantly and produce more than 24,000 tonne every day now. Right from its inception, the local people have got serious objection to the functioning of this unit here in Thoothukkudi causing air and water pollution. But still with the clearance from the Centre, they are operating from there. Violating the ground rules of both the Centre and the State and even without obtaining necessary NOC, another copper smelting unit and other ancillary units have been set up within that industrial complex.

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\* Not recorded.

**\*\* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.**

Sterlite Industries got NOC on 1.8.1994 on a condition that the smelter plant would be located 25 kms. away from the Gulf of Mannar National Park. But this unit is now functioning after having set up a plant within 14 kms. from the Gulf of Mannar National Park. Though this factory unit was stipulated to have a 250 meter wide greenbelt around it, it got an exemption to have a greenbelt just for 25 meters and they claim to have an amended NOC.

It is also to be pointed that this Sterlite Industries unit violates labour laws and subject their labour force to work amidst poisonous gas emissions and noxious effluents. This unit is also violating both the Central Customs and Excise laws due to which a tax evasion to the tune of Rs.746 crore has occurred in just 3 years for which an official of this unit has been arrested recently.

As per the studies conducted by the local NGOs and the Thoothkudi Government Hospital authorities, the number of persons affected by Bronchial Diseases and Cancer visited this Hospital every day are on the rise and keep on increasing every year.

I therefore urge upon the Union Government to issue suitable instructions to the authorities concerned to closely watch and monitor the functioning of this unit so that they do not violate men and matter to the detriment of nature.