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Title: Need to lift the ban from the Manali Industrial cluster in Chennai.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak during the 'Zero Hour'.

The Manali Industrial Cluster in the north of Chennai is an important industrial area of Tamil Nadu containing petroleum, petrochemicals, chemicals, fertilizers and other engineering industries.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has imposed a ban in January, 2010 for any new projects in the Manali Industrial Cluster based on Pollution Index of 76. Any Index above 70 is considered as critically polluted area.

Thereafter, all the Manali industries have implemented many pollution mitigating measures for the past one year. Recently, an Expert Committee was appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, and the Committee has assessed the present Pollution Index as 67. Therefore, the Expert Committee has recommended the lifting of the ban in the Manali Industrial Cluster.

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has also accepted the recommendations of the Expert Committee and has asked the Central Pollution Control Board to lift the ban.

The CPCB has also, in turn, recommended the lifting of the ban in September, 2011 itself. Now, though two months have passed after the CPCB recommended lifting of the ban, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet lifted the ban. Instead, the Ministry of Environment and Forests extended the ban on new projects up to 31.3.2012. This ban is causing a lot of hardship to the Manali Industries, since they are not in a position to implement new projects for almost two years. Therefore, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is requested to lift the ban in the Manali Industrial Cluster immediately in order to create job opportunities for future, the younger generation. Thank you.