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Title: Need to provide financial package to Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI V. PANNEERSELVAM (SALEM): There have been reports that the Government of India is considering privatization of the Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu. Salem Steel Plant has acquired a global reputation for its high quality steel and is an iconic symbol for the State. People of Tamil Nadu have a deep sense of pride and attachment to this Public Sector Plant. Government of Tamil Nadu had acquired about 15.5 sq km of land in 9 villages more than four decades ago in the foot hills of Kanjamalai in Salem District for setting up Salem Steel Plant. It was possible to undertake such extensive land acquisition mainly because of the Public Sector character of the plant. Today, any proposal to privatize the Salem Steel Plant would cause considerable unrest amongst the people, particularly amongst those whose lands were acquired. Salem Steel Plant provides employment to about 2000 persons and many ancillary and subsidiary units also depend on it. Further, Tamil Nadu Government has supported the expansion project costing Rs.2005 crores of the Salem Steel Plant with a structured package of incentives in the form of Soft loan, Capital Subsidy, Electricity Tax Exemption and Environmental Protection Subsidy. In 2015, the Government of Tamil Nadu granted an extension of one year from 1.11.2010 to 31.10.2011 to enable Salem Steel Plant to complete its expansion activities and avail the incentive package. Therefore, I appeal to the Centre to give up the idea of privatising Salem Steel Plant and provide financial package to help it regain its past glory.