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Title: Regarding relaxation for SCs and STs living in Tea estates in the country.

SHRI R.PARTHIPAN (THENI): Hon'ble Madam Speaker. I thank Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchithalaivi Amma who made a Member of Parliament. I also thank the people of my Theni parliamentary constituency. Theni Parliamentary Constituency, surrounded by mountains on all the four sides, is in the foothills of Western Ghats. Tea, Coffee, Pepper, Cardamom, Clove and other crops are grown in this area. Fruits crops Like Mango, Jack fruit, Orange, Apple and Pears fruit are also grown in large scale in this area. During the 18th century, the then British Government created settlements with mostly labourers for engaging in cultivation in these mountainous areas. Now, mostly these areas are in the control of private entities. People living in these areas, especially those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes are deprived of basic amenities. Even though the Tamil Nadu Government under the able leadership of Hon'ble Amma is trying to provide basic facilities to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes of this area, the Department of Forests puts unnecessary hurdles during implementation of projects. I therefore urge upon the Union Government to provide exception for the welfare activities undertaken by Tamil Nadu Government in the interest of Scheduled Castes and Tribes people of this area. Thank you.