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Title: Regarding allotment of additional coal block for Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Vanakkam!

Crippling power cuts lasting for hours has been a major issue for Tamil Nadu in the previous regime in Tamil Nadu till 2011. Many parts of the State witnessed power cuts up to 16 hours. Prior to 2011, Tamil Nadu which requires a total of 12,000 megawatts was facing a shortage of 4,000 megawatts. The power deficit of 4,000 megawatts in the first half of 2011 was systemically overcome. An additional flow of 4,991.5 megawatts to the State has been ensured by the commissioning of new power stations in the Central and State sectors and through medium and long term power purchase agreements by the hon. People's Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Government in Tamil Nadu. It has helped increase the State's daily average power supply from 200 million units to 260 million units. The People's Chief Minister has made Tamil Nadu power cut-free in the three years of our AIADMK regime.

With a slew of projects lined up, the State Government is on the verge of attaining self-sufficiency in power supply and the State will receive an additional 2,163 megawatts in some months. With this, the Tamil Nadu Government has applied for allocation of one coal block and has now sought another one more coal block from the Central Government. I urge upon the Central Government to allocate one more coal block in order to expedite the transmission system and reduce the reliability margin to 500 megawatts. This will also enable the State to harness power from other regions. I urge upon the hon. Minister for Coal to allocate Mahanadi and Machchakata coal blocks since GarePelma Sector II coal block has already been allotted to Maharashtra State Power Generation Corporation Limited. This allocation will help meet the on-going and upcoming projects in Tamil Nadu. I also seek immediate environmental clearance for the commissioning of the TANGEDCO-NLC joint venture at Tuticorin.

Tamil Nadu is the leader in generation of wind energy with a capacity of more than 7,300 megawatts, which was praised by our hon. Prime Minister of India and an award was given to the hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Ammaji's Minister Shri Natham Viswanathan, who is the Energy Minister in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to allocate sufficient funds for this scheme and allocate an additional coal block to Tamil Nadu.