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Title: Need to transfer a piece of defence land in Chennai, Tamil Nadu for proper rehabilitation of poor people residing on this land.

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL) : I want to raise an issue regarding transfer of a small piece of waste land owned by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India lying in Chennai to the State of Tamil Nadu for productive use. Out of 17.5 lakh acres of defence land owned by the Government in the country, there is a minuscule piece of unusable and unused land measuring 5.845 acres at Resurvey No.29, Vepery, Chennai called as Sathiyavani Muthu Nagar. Some 25000 to 30000 economically marginalized people belonging to approximately 4500 to 5000 families are living on this place for the past five to six decades. The occupants are fishermen, rickshaw pullers, street vendors, daily wagers etc. and earn measly income. The inhabitants belong to communities like minority, scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, most backward, backward, etc.

Some of them are transgenders also. It is apparent that they belong to the Government's targeted population deserving social and economic upliftment. Considering the plight of the deserving poor people, Tamil Nadu Government in line with its policy of providing welfare for all classes, communities and genders, has provided the inhabitants with basic civic amenities like drinking water, underground drainage, electricity, roads, school, dispensary, community centre, etc. But it is a fact that unless the ownership of the land is vested with the Tamil Nadu Government, legitimate right of possession and ownership cannot be conferred to the occupants. In the past, discussions have been held for transfer of this land to the Tamil Nadu Government but nothing concrete has come out. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to issue suitable instructions to the authorities concerned for immediate transfer of the land to Tamil Nadu.