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Title: Need to extend financial assistance by the central government to state governments for implementing welfare measures in tribal settlements.

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

There are 7,94,697 tribal people in the entire Tamil Nadu State which comprises 1.10 per cent of total tribe in the country and 0.76 per cent of the population of Tamil Nadu.

Kodaikanal is sometimes referred to as the "princess of hill stations". There are 30 tribal villages having 16 panchayats called Adukkm, Kilakuchettipatti, Vaadagouchi, Thandikudi, Toolathur, Kookal and Kamanur in Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu. The total Number of tribal population in Dindigul district is 6,484. The total number of tribal population in Kodaikanal Hill Station in 16 Panchayats, and one municipality is 2,014. Forests have always been an open resource for livelihood and cultural interaction for the tribal inhabitants.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu headed by hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has given emphasis upon improving the quality of life of the socially disadvantaged groups viz., Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The major welfare activities are educational development, economic development, housing and other schemes, Special Component Plan programmes and Tribal Sub-Plan programmes. The government at the Centre has suppressed the "Report of The High Level Committee on Socio-Economic, Health and Educational Status of Tribal Communities of India".

I urge upon the Minister for Tribal Affairs to accept the report and implement the slew of welfare measures to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the Tribal people in the Kodaikanal hills and the nation in general. I request the government to provide infrastructural support for the development of Tribal settlements to provide education there by improving the standard of living of Tribals in forest areas; and to construct the road and facilities for the Tribal community living areas. The Central Government should extend all financial assistance to the concerned State Government for implementing welfare measures in tribal settlements so as to fight the left wing extremism.