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Tilte: Need to probe the issue of killings of red-sanders cutters in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA (RAMANATHAPURAM): On 7th of this month, in the Chitoor District of Andhra Pradesh bordering Tamil Nadu, 20 people were killed in an alleged fake encounter. It was alleged that they were red-sanders smugglers. All the men killed were poor labourers from Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of our Hon'ble Amma immediately extended an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs.3 Lakh and Rs.2 lakh each on behalf of AIADMK, to the next of kin of the deceased there by disbursed Rs. One crore for this purpose. Both the National Human Rights Commission and the Union Home Ministry along with the Government of Tamil Nadu have sought details from Andhra Pradesh authorities. When both the State governments are already seized of these tree-cutting activities, absence of co-ordination and not seeking the assistance of Centre or Tamil Nadu Police-force units gives rise to doubts. Going by the number of people killed and the eye-witnesses' account to the incident, many things are inferred. Involvement of some Central Government officials at our Export Terminals and patronage of some mafia cannot be ruled out.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to look into this incident in order to put an end to inter-state smugglings, illegal-exports and avoidable-killings across the borders of the States.