

Title: Requests the Central Government to intervene to set up the proposed Container Terminal at Vallarpadam near Cochin in Kerala.

SHRI GEORGE EDEN (ERNAKULAM): Sir, I am a new Member from Kerala State. I have not been given a chance to speak up to this time. Three times I have given notice but, unfortunately, I did not get a chance before this. I thank you for giving me a chance this time.

I am raising a very important matter regarding the State of Kerala and the Cochin Port. Cochin Port is a natural port with all modern facilities. It is very near to the international shipping channel. This Cochin Port has been recommended as the suitable port to set up the proposed Container Terminal at Vallarpadam near Cochin. But I am sorry to say that some vested interests are trying to take away this Vallarpadam Container Terminal to Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu. It is very unfortunate. Mr. Fredrick Harris, who is a Dutch expert, has made a thorough study in this matter and has recommended the Cochin Port as the most suitable port for this Container Terminal. So, I request the hon. Minister to intervene in this matter and to set up this Container Terminal at Vallarpadam itself. Thank you, Sir.