

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to shut down the polluting Sterlite Industries in Thoothukkudi Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE (THOOTHUKUDI): The Sterlite Industries causing dangerous levels of environmental pollution is the most menacing problem faced by the people of Thoothukkudi Constituency. They are demanding for a permanent closure of the copper smelter unit. Sterlite has been at the centre of controversy right from its inception. The factory was polluting the environment and causing irreparable health hazards.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board had issued a notice directing the Sterlite industries to close the plant. The copper smelter plant was not fit for operation and should not be permitted to commence operations in view of numerous incidents of excessive emissions of sulphur-dioxide. Due to this irreparable injury and hardship caused to the public, there is imminent threat and danger of a chemical disaster like the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

Sterlite had been habitually negligent towards maintaining safety safeguards and is operating only on the basis of interim orders of the Supreme court after having been closed earlier. The Supreme Court had even asked Sterlite Industries to pay Rs. 100 crore as compensation for polluting environment. Amidst thi controversy, the Sterlite is planning to start Aluminium plant soon. This will be completely against the interests of the people and their life is in great danger.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take appropriate stringent action against the highly polluting Sterlite Industries and make sure that their polluting units be closed immediately to save the lives of millions of people living in this region.