

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

an>

Title: Need to review the decision of NLC India to acquire additional land in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu -laid.

SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI (CHIDAMBARAM): I wish to bring your kind notice the very serious problem faced by people of 40 villages living around Neyveli, in Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu. NLC India is trying to acquire an additional 12,125 acres of lands from P. Adanur, Agaraalambadi, Periyargunam, Erumbur, Siruvarappur, Dharmanallur, Kammapuram, Kolappakkam and other villages. The farm lands are fertile and valuable in terms of productivity. If these lands are acquired, it will affect the MRK Cooperative Sugar Mill, leading to its closure and affect the livelihood of farmers.

The continuous mining activities resulted in depletion of ground water in this area. Already ground water level has gone down below 500 feet. If the third mine is operated, the ground water will go further below. Two important rivers Manimuthar and Vellar passes through their natural course join the sea near Sethiyathoppu. But due to third mine, when these two rivers are diverted near Virudhachallam it will lead to destruction by high floods during heavy rains.

Villagers also have the apprehension that NLC has bad reputation of not honouring its promises, since 1997 till now. Even the land acquired for Jayankondam Lignite Mine was not utilized.

Therefore, I urge the Government to refrain from the decision of NLC India to acquire 12,125 acres of additional farm land for the expansion of 3rd mine and fulfil the promises made by NLC India for the farmers who gave their land to already executed projects.