

# TN Assembly calls for immediate cancellation of Hindustan Zinc's tungsten mining rights

Our Bureau  
Chennai

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to immediately cancel the tungsten mining rights granted to Hindustan Zinc Ltd in Nayakkarpatti village in Madurai.

The resolution also urged the Centre to not grant mining licence without the permission of the State governments.

Moving the resolution, Water Resources Department Minister Durai Murugan said that despite the State government on October 3 urging the Centre to not auction mining rights for such critical and strategic minerals without its permission, the Centre proceeded with the same.

In spite of pointing out that the area in question was



declared a Bio-Diversity Heritage Site in 2022 as it houses many historical monuments, such as cave temples, Jain symbols, Tamil Brahmi scripts and Panchapandavar beds, and is a habitat for rare species, the Centre gave its nod for mining in the area, noted the resolution.

#### LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD

Since this action of the Centre has created a sense of anxiety among the people

living in the area that their livelihood will be affected, they are undertaking protests against this action.

Considering these issues and to protect the area and the people, the Chief Minister urged the Prime Minister to cancel the mining rights granted to Hindustan Zinc Ltd, the resolution said. On November 29, CM MK Stalin urged PM Narendra Modi to instruct the Ministry of Mines to cancel the award.

#### PREFERRED BIDDER

The Union Ministry of Mines declared Hindustan Zinc as the preferred bidder of the Nayakkarpatti Tungsten 'block (critical and strategic mineral) under Tranche IV on November 7. The aforementioned tungsten block comprises Kavattayampatty, Ettimangalam, A Valalappatty, Arittappatty, Kidari-patty and Narasingampatty villages.

Commercial mining in densely populated villages will affect the people there. This has caused immense anguish to the people, who fear loss of livelihood. Hence, Stalin, in the letter, said that the State government would never allow mining in these areas.

The CM also requested the PM to instruct the Ministry of Mines to desist from floating any bids for mining without the consent of the State government concerned.

Opposition leader and AI-ADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami said the government should have taken up the issue with the Centre and stopped the awarding of the licence at an early stage.

Responding to his remarks, Stalin said, "As long as I am the CM, tungsten mineral mining in Melur will not allowed."