

# Avoid showcasing wealth, wastage of food in marriages, says Minister

Puducherry.

Special Correspondent

**PUDUCHERRY:** Speakers at the World Environment Day here on Wednesday came down heavily against the practice of lavish spending on food preparation by the marriage organisers that ultimately spoiled the environment.

T. Thiagarajan, Minister for Environment, who presided over the function organised by the Department of Science & Technology, said when millions of poor went to bed without food due to abject poverty, marriage halls in the country had become the centres of wasting millions of tonnes of food articles during functions.

It was visible in each and every marriage, social or family functions in every locality, he said. Citing his own experience, he said he hardly ate in marriage functions due to his health condition. But, the organizers invariably lined up a variety

of food articles that he would not even want to touch. Organisers took marriage function as an opportunity to showcase their wealth among their friends and relatives. It ultimately led to the dumping of food materials. There must be a complete rethink on hosting parties to avoid wastage, he said.

The Minister said the green cover in Puducherry was not up to the mark. It should have 35 percent of green cover.

However, the campaign to increase the green cover was badly affected due to Thane cyclone that uprooted more than one lakh tree. The government was stak-

ing steps to increase the green cover. The people also should contribute to the green cover by planting saplings in their localities.

S. Sundaravadivelou, Special Secretary, said it was estimated that 1.3 billion tonnes of food was being wasted throughout the world. It was also estimated that one out of every seven people in the world went to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of five died from hunger. There was not much difference in the situation in India too. Hence, each and every stakeholder should join hands to prevent wastage of food. MLA G. Nehru and others spoke.

- Green Cover in Puducherry should be 35 per cent but not up to the mark
- People asked to contribute by planting saplings in their localities