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Title: Regarding implementing interlinking of southern rivers and allocation of funds for cleaning Thamirabharani river.

***SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM (TIRUNELVELI):** Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. Long live Dr. Kalaignar. Under the able guidance of DMK leader Thalapathi Thiru M.K. Stalin, I wish to raise an important issue pertaining to Tirunelveli parliamentary constituency in this august House. This is my maiden speech in this august House. I request that the Union Government should focus on removing the wastes and carry out the cleaning work in the river Thamirabharani with a special fund allocation of Rs.500 Crore. Similar to Kumbhmela, it has been the practice of organizing Thamirabarani Pushkarani once in 144 years and it was held last year. the Union Government has been allocating funds for carrying out cleaning work of river Ganges under Namami Ganga scheme. Similarly, the Union Government should allocate Rs 500 Crore for Thamirabharani. Every year around 13.5 tmc of surplus water from Thamirabharani drains into the sea. In order to benefit water starved Tamil Nadu, particularly Tuticorin and Tirunelveli districts, the drinking water schemes should be implemented. This is the need of the hour. Thamirabharani-Karumeniyar-Nambiyar flood canal scheme should be immediately implemented providing irrigation facilities to 24000 hectares of land through 252 ponds. During the year 2009, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi announced this flood canal scheme with an allocation of Rs. 369 Crore. The AIADMK Government which came to power thereafter kept this scheme pending for long. Now an amount of Rs 896 Crore is required for

implementing this Scheme. I therefore urge upon the Union Government to immediately implement inter-linking of rivers, especially the rivers that flow through the southern part of this country. I urge that Rs 500 Crore should be allocated as a special package for carrying out cleaning work in river Thamirabharani. I urge that the Union Government should come forward to immediately implement the Thaamirabharani-Karumeniyar-Nambiyar flood canal scheme at a cost fo Rs 900 Crore. Thank you.