

Need to take steps to eliminate Water Hyacinth from river Cauvery alongwith measures to make the river pollution free including construction of embankment along the said river in Tamil Nadu-laid

SHRI K. E. PRAKASH (ERODE): I want to raise an important issue about eliminating water hyacinth spread over the Cauvery river all along causing severe environmental problems. The presence of water hyacinth over river Cauvery not only obstructs the flow of water but it pollutes the entire system. This widespread water hyacinth also affects the livelihood of local people making them unable to get pure drinking water, water for agriculture besides obstructing fishing activities. The spread of water hyacinth also creates health issues. Experts say that in order to eliminate water hyacinth totally from the surface of Cauvery river, and to arrest its growth, it takes continuous efforts of at least 7 years. We should therefore act swiftly by keeping this in mind. More over setting up of embankment on the sides of rivers and the areas affected by floods will be beneficial. This will result in checking soil erosion besides providing protection from floods to people, industries and habitation. Keeping in view the seriousness of this issue, the Union Ministry of Water Resources, in coordination with Local Bodies and State Governments, should undertake measures to eliminate water hyacinth from water bodies particular over river Cauvery. We should not only eliminate Water Hyacinth but also improve the pollution control measures besides expediting the construction of flood walls wherever there is a possibility of flooding of waters. I urge that such work should be undertaken in a coordinated way.