

## **Need for a special central scheme to ensure restoration and conservation of river Pamba in Kerala.-Iaid**

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** The Pamba River, one of Kerala's most sacred and lifeline rivers, is in urgent need of a comprehensive restoration plan. The river, being central to the Sabarimala pilgrimage, is not only spiritually significant but also serves as a crucial source of drinking water, irrigation, and ecosystem balance. However, the river is under severe threat due to plastic pollution, encroachments, deforestation, and ecological degradation, leading to flooding, loss of marine biodiversity, and contamination of water sources. To safeguard this vital river, Union Government must launch a 'Clean Pamba Mission' with the following key focus areas; plastic waste removal along the river and its tributaries; side protection measures to prevent erosion and land degradation; strict encroachment control to protect natural water flow; flood mitigation strategies through scientific interventions; cleaning of sub-streams to maintain water quality and flow; eco-system restoration by afforestation and biodiversity conservation; and marine life protection through pollution control and habitat restoration. Given the socio-religious, environmental, and economic importance of the Pamba River, I urge for immediate intervention of the Union Government to formulate a special central scheme for the restoration and conservation of Pamba, similar to the Namami Gange initiative, ensuring sustainable and long-term river health.