

Title: Need to implement the project of linking of rivers for better water management in the country.

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR): Sir, the whole country is facing an unprecedented drought situation. In several parts of the country, both in cities and villages, the situation has arisen where steps are to be taken for the supply of adequate quantity of drinking water besides water for agriculture. I may mention here that Gandipet on the banks of Moosi river dried up after 80 years causing concern for drinking water in Hyderabad.

All of us know that there is sufficient surplus water in many rivers including the Brahamputra and the Ganga which overflow in the form of floods causing damage to human lives and property. Long back, an eminent engineer Dr. K.L. Rao had proposed the scheme of linking rivers to meet the requirement of water in all parts of the country. For several decades, the proposal has remained as it is. Now, it is fortunate that the hon. Prime Minister is taking a lot of interest in this proposal and efforts are under way to give a final shape. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also supported the proposal. The proposal is very timely and worth considering.

I understand that the ultimate cost of the project may be very high, but considering the benefits that may accrue to the people of the entire country, I urge upon the Government to seriously considering taking early steps for starting the project.