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**Title: Need to direct the Government of Karnataka to abandon the project taken up by them to change the course of Netravati River in the Western Ghat region.**

**SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD):** I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government and the Minister of Water Resources to the Karnataka Government's move to change the course of the Netravati River starting from the Western Ghat.

The Karnataka Government have already taken up the project in this regard. It is understood that this move is without the knowledge and permission of the Central Government and Kerala Government. If this project comes into existence it will spoil several rivers flowing through the Malabar area in Kerala. North Malabar of Kerala is already under drought and shortage of drinking water. This move of the Karnataka Government will deteriorate the situation in northern parts bordering Kerala. Thousands of acres of forest will have to be removed and destroyed. The animals and rare plants will be destroyed. The fertile land on the bank of the existing rivers will also be destroyed. Chandragiri, Tejaswamini, Valapatanam rivers flowing in Kerala are small rivers and are parts of Netravati River. The drought situation of this area will double. It will adversely affect the landscape and nature of this area as a whole.

In the circumstances I would request the Central Government to please direct the Karnataka Government to stop such a move and depute experts to study the feasibility of the project immediately.