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**Title:** Need to develop Buckingham Canal linking Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) as a National Waterway.

DR. (SMT.) RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA (NELLORE): Sir, the Buckingham Canal is one of the most important inland water-way systems prevailing in the country for several decades, linking Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh, Chennai in Tamil Nadu and passing through several important townships like Nellore and others. The canal has been very important for inland transportation of agricultural produce, granite, sand, cement, food stuff etc. to the regions located along side the canal. In several places even passengers used to be ferried by steamers in this canal. This canal also provides a source of livelihood for lakhs of people from weaker sections. But the canal has been rendered un-usable for transportation purposes due to heavy silting which has occurred due to floods in the past and various other factors. Besides improving the transportation system, the development of Buckingham canal as a National Water-way system would also go a long way in creating employment opportunities and in development of fisheries.

In view of the above, I would request the Union Government to kindly consider declaring the Buckingham canal as a National Water-Way system.