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Title: Need to formulate a National Waterways Project for linking the major rivers of the country.

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12.09 ½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 *

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Our nation is endowed with natural resources of water, flora and fauna. But one part reels under drought and another with flood. Tamil Nadu is one of the victims of this contrast. Frequent monsoon failures plunges the State into severe drought situation. While farmers suffer withering of crops before their own eyes, rural women have to walk long distance for a pot of water. In the urban areas there are long queues even after midnight to get their little share of drinking water. To avert such calamities in future the only solution would be of linking rivers. As per the assessment made by the Central Water Commission the precipitation in the country is about 4000 BCM out of which 1200 BCM is flowing into the sea unutilized. In the Peninsular India both from Mahandi and Godavri about 30,000 Mm³ of water will be surplus, which is going unutilised to the Bay of Bengal. Further rivers in Western Ghats such as Par, Damanganga, Pamba, Achanakovil, Neravati & Bedti flow westwards and are draining into Arabian Sea.

While appreciating the measures taken by the Ministry of Water Resources. Sir, I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to bestow his attention for the nationalisation of rivers and establish a National Waterways Project for linking Ganga, Peninsular rivers and west flowing rivers so that people in South, particularly Tamil Nadu will get uninterrupted drinking water besides assured cultivation in agricultural land, better navigation, tourism, economic system and above all 50,000 MW hydro power and job opportunities.

* Treated as laid on the Table.