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Title: Need to Expedite Work on Sethu Samudram Project.

\* SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our nation's first dredged navigational route the Sethu Samudram Project which will be the first of its kind to handle high sea vessels to be constructed at a cost of Rs.1500 crore must be completed at the earliest. At a time when National Environmental Engineering Research Institute is reported to have completed its study about the impact of the project, according to experts there are still reports contrary to this. The feasibility of the project has been established even during the British regime and our great National Integration Poet Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi had sung about this navigation as a visionary dream adding to the national wealth. As such the Pollution Control Board of Tamil Nadu is reported to be delaying the issuance of No Objection Certificate to go ahead with this project. Sethu Samudram Project too can be an ever-continuing and employment-generating project like Suez and Panama canals where periodical dredging is an ongoing job to continue with navigation. Hence, I urge upon the Prime Minister not to delay any further the Sethu Samudram Project.

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