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Title: Need to increase the height of Periyar Dam for the benefit of the farmers. -Laid.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (PERIYAKULAM): I raise the issue of raising the height of Periyar Dam to 152 feet. This is the most genuine request put forth by the farmers of Theni District particularly of Cumbum, Bodi, Theni, Gudalur Aundipatti and other adjacent areas. In their view, if the water level is increased from 142 to 152 feet, the storage will be doubled and all the channels will work and the people will get benefited by way of irrigation. There is need that all the small tanks in the area are channelised through these canals so that small farmers may get water through the tanks.

I request the Central Government to give suitable instructions to Tamil Nadu Government and the Government of Kerala in this regard. The wall of the reservoir has already been raised to 152 feet level and also strengthened. I request that suitable instructions be given to the Government of Kerala to accept this in the larger interest of the farmers.