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Title : Regarding need to a sanction a sum of Rs. 8 crore due to the Tirunelveli Corporation for early completion of first phase of Under Ground Drainage Scheme at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN (TIRUNELVELI): Under the National River Conservation Programme, the Tirunelveli Corporation in Tamil Nadu got approval from the Ministry of environment and Forests for ground drainage scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 52.9 crore vide their order J39020/2000/NRCD/ dated 26.12.2001. The scheme was earmarked for completion on 31.12.2004; it could not be completed due to paucity of funds. As per the agreement, the Environment & Forests Ministry will pay Rs. 19.50 crore for the project with the State Government's share of Rs. 6.50 crore, and corporation's share with public contribution of Rs. 26 crore.

The Ministry of Environment & Forest has only sanctioned and given Rs. 11.07 crore and remaining Rs. 8 crore is yet to be sanctioned and sent to the Corporation.

Due to non-availability of the fund, the Corporation is facing lot of problem for the completion of the scheme at the specified time.

Tirunelveli Corporation is having a population of Rs. 4.25 lakhs and the total houses in the city area are 1.55 lakhs with total 6.81 km length roads. Of this, the UGDS only covered 44 thousand households with 184 km length which benefits only 1 lakh people.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

As the major portion of the Corporation area has not been covered under the scheme the main purpose of the programme i.e. to conserve the national rivers is defeated.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Environment and Forests to sanction its remaining share of Rs. 8 crore immediately for the early completion of the 1st phase of UGD scheme and ask the State to cover the remaining area of 497 km road length at the cost of Rs. 125 crore to benefit the remaining 3 lakh people in Tirunelveli Corporation at a ratio of 75% Central fund and 25% State Government and Corporation's share as it allotted to other corporation earlier.