

Title : Regarding need to provide irrigation facilities and evolve comprehensive Agricultural Development Scheme in Ramanathapuram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (RAMANATHAPURAM): Ramanathapuram constituency is very vast in physical dimensions spanning a length of 250 kms from Rameswaram to Aruppukottai passing through three districts. The constituency is economically very backward since the level of industrialization is dismally low. So, automatically the people depends upon the agricultural sector and that too is not sustainable due to inadequate irrigation facilities. Most of the area is rainfed. Sometimes the flood will occur as it happened now throughout the Tamil Nadu. In such time of flood, the irrigation infrastructure has to be strengthened by desilting large number of tanks and ponds and the connected incoming and outgoing channels. More rain water harvesting structures will have to be created on the basis of feasibility, to meet the growing needs of the people for irrigation and drinking water purposes. I, therefore, propose that the three major tanks nearer to Ramanathapuram town. Ramanathapuram big tank, Sakkarakottai tank and Kalari tank should be elevated as a big reservoirs. I earnestly request the Government that it should allocate special fund to construct a cement channel from Vaigai Dam to Ramanathapuram big tank in order to save every drop of water that may go as waste into the sea. Sustained and continuous education to farmer should be organised on progressive agro-technology. The programme of rejuvenation of agriculture should cover its varied branches viz. Horticulture, silviculture, pisciculture and Veterinary activities. I like to request that the National Commission on farmers under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan should take up my constituency for detailed scanning and evolve a blue print for comprehensive agricultural development.