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Title : Regarding drinking water project in Chamarajanagar Parliamentary Constituency, Karnataka.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this vital issue. One very important festival is being celebrated every year in March at the Malai Mahadeshwara temple in my constituency, Chamarajanagara. Devotees from several States like Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and others assemble there for that great occasion. This year it is estimated that over three lakh devotees would be arriving to participate in the festival. Sir, there is an accurate shortage of drinking water at the Mahadeshwara Temple. It will be a tough time for the organisers as more than 3 lakh devotees are arriving at the temple.

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\* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Hence, some urgent steps have to be taken to solve this problem of drinking water. I have already written letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources requesting them to help us in this matter. Water has to be drawn to the temple from Kaveri river through tubes. More than 6.5 crores of rupees have been spent for this project and the work is almost over. But there is one hurdle. There is a small piece of forest land measuring .3 acres and, therefore, the Ministry of Forests and Environment is not giving clearance to this project. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to impress upon the Ministry of Water Resources to give clearance to this project immediately such that the devotees at the Malai Mahadeshwara temple can get water facilities at the top of the hill. Once again I thank you Sir, and conclude my speech.