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Title : Issue relating to raising of height of Mullaperiyar dam treated in Periyakulam Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (PERIYAKULAM): Madam Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards a very important matter regarding raising of the height of Mulla Periyar Dam located in my constituency. Some people say that Mulla Periyar Dam was constructed by the Maharaja of Travancore, which is not correct. This dam was constructed by Mr. Binny Quick of London in the year 1895 and water was stored up to 152 feet there.

Madam, a lot of people from Kerala are living in Tamil Nadu. There is a saying in Tamil Nadu that even if you go to moon, you will find a person from Kerala selling tea over there. In Tamil Nadu, a lot of Keralites are having their industries. I am proud to say that in my constituency, the Chairman of Kodaikanal Municipality is a Keralite and there are 5 Councilors who are Keralites. We, Tamilians, cannot become a councilor in Kerala, but we are not worried about that. Our submission is that the Government of Kerala should honour the judgement given by the Supreme Court for raising the dam's height from 132 ft. to 142 ft. for storage of more water.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Madam, this is a State matter. He cannot raise it here. This is objectionable. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Let him speak. Please take your seat.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Till 1976 there was no problem between Kerala and Tamil Nadu in sharing of water. But the problem arose in the year 1976 when the Government of Kerala built Idukki Dam. This dam is spread over 62 sq. km. area with the height of 555' and they have power stations which can generate 780 megawatt. If the height of Mullai Periyar Dam is increased, Tamil Nadu will get only 11 TMC feet of water whereas Kerala is getting 2,500 TMC feet of water every year through rains in the Western Ghats.

The Central Government has sent a team comprising of Shri S.S. Brar, Dr. T.K. Mittal and Shri Rajiv of Naval Kochin Commander. They have inspected the Mullai Periyar Dam and gave the report stating that the dam is in good condition. Then, the Government of Tamil Nadu spent Rs. 26 crore in three stages for strengthening the dam. If water is stagnant at 132 feet, then Tamil Nadu can draw only 6 TMC of water. But from Western Ghats, Kerala is getting 2,500 TMC of water. In our home State, Tamil Nadu, we do not get even 250 TMC of water every year through rains...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : I am concluding, Madam.

I want to give you the exact report. Madam, it is a hidden agenda of the Kerala State to get more money from the Government of Tamil Nadu...*(Interruptions)*

There are more than 50 lakh Keralites living in Tamil Nadu. You will find more number of Keralite friends living in Chennai, particularly in Thiruvottiyur, in Thanjavoor and other places...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Madam, Kerala has constructed a dam in 1976

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Madam, when MGR was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, an Accord was signed in 1979, in which the level of the dam was kept at 132 feet. The water rises to 132 feet. There are about 13 water canals...*(Interruptions)* Immediately the water goes to Idduki, for which there is a 48 km. travelling via...*(Interruptions)* hilly terrain by passing two dams, viz. Kulamavu Dam and Siruthoni Dam.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have covered all your points.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Madam, it is a very important issue. This 48 km. of water-way is going via hills and not via plains. There are Kulamaavu Dam and Chiruthoni Dam and then only Idduki Dam comes...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have called Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat now. Please take your seat. There are 12 more Members who wish to speak.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : I will conclude in one minute, Madam. We have been demanding more water but nothing has happened.

Then the water is going to Idukki and then Alleppey...(Interruptions) to go to sea.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Madam, it is my request to the Central Government that the Supreme Court judgement should be honoured and the water level should be raised to 142 feet in the interest of Tamil Nadu immediately.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions) *

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Madam, he is raising such an important matter, please allow him to speak for one more minute.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All right, please conclude.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Madam, we have been farming only about 75,000 acres of land...(Interruptions)
 . . .

When it had 152' height, about 217000 acres were irrigated earlier.

So, I draw the kind attention of the august House towards this fact. You have to give more water to Tamil Nadu. The level of the dam should be raised to 142 feet. We get only 11 TMC of water...(Interruptions) I would request that the Supreme Court judgement should be honoured and the due water should be released immediately to the State of Tamil Nadu...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions) *

* Not Recorded

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Madam, I associate with him.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Madam, I also associate with him.