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Title : Need to increase the height of Mullaiperiyar Dam.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the fact that Mullai Periyar Dam was constructed during the British regime. It was constructed to benefit the people of the then Madras Presidency which consisted of both Tamilnadu and parts of Kerala then. This was intended to benefit the then Madurai district and major part of my Lok Sabha Constituency which consisted of Theni, Ramnad, Dindigul, Sivagonga, which forms part of Hon'ble Finance Minister's Constituency. Of course, the dam is more than 100 years old, but it is still going strong. Originally, it was intended to hold water upto a height of 152 ft. When apprehensions were raised by the Govt. of Kerala, the height of water stored in Mullai Periyar Dam was reduced to 136 ft. and civil work pertaining to strengthening of the dam was carried out by the PWD department of Tamilnadu Government. Experts have thoroughly studied the structure of the dam and have certified that it is still going strong and can store water upto its maximum capacity, i.e., 152 ft.

In the meantime, when Supreme Court was approached to intervene on this dispute, the Supreme Court have also accepted the views of the experts in the field of architecture and have issued a favourable order that the height of the dam can be increased upto 142 ft. But, still this baseless apprehension and the opposition continues and it is still sought to be amicably settled. Recently, the Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri V.S.

Achutanandan visited Tamilnadu and called on the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, Shri M. Karunanidhi and it has been decided that both Tamilnadu and

Kerala will sit and deliberate and sort out the issue amicably taking care to benefit both the States. When the States involved have themselves decided to settle it amicably through bilateral talks, it is needless to raise it on the floor of this

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil..

House giving rise to further misunderstanding and delaying a settlement that could come about through the bilateral talks.
...(Interruptions)

Hence, I would like to draw the attention of this august House that we must not unnecessarily rake up the issue here. It would be better as decided by the Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamilnadu to settle it among themselves amicably to benefit the people of both the States. The just demand from the people of Tamilnadu is not a new one, it has always been there and even Supreme Court has given its verdict that the height can be increased from 136 ft. to 142 ft. So, let there not be any opposition to this on any ground other than the benefit of the people and meeting of the irrigational needs.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you that it should be amicably resolved. This is a matter of the country. Do not treat it as only your State matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Even friends are divided on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right, Dr. C. Krishnan, Shrimati Bhavani Rajenthiran, Shri Kuppasami have associated with Shri Mohan and Shri Kurup has associated with Shri George.

ADV. SURESH KURUP : Sir, all we demand is that there should be an amicable solution for this. That is our consistent position.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Although, you have different perceptions, different demands, let us resolve it in a manner consistent with our national interest.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.51 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till

Fourteen of the Clock.
