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Title: Regarding raising the height of Mullai Periyar Dam.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (POLLACHI): Thank you very much. I am speaking on behalf of *Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam* headed by Shri Vaiko. I wish to bring to the kind attention of the Government about the painful feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu, particularly, the people of the districts, Theni, Dindugal, Madurai, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram for which the Dam Mullaiperiar provides water for drinking and irrigation.

This Dam was built during 1886 under an agreement with the then King, His Highness the King of Travancore. When built, it was meant for a water level of 152 feet height. The agreement was for 999 years. But during 1970, under the impression that the Dam is weak, the water level of the Dam was reduced to 136 feet. But reinforcement work was carried out by the then Government of Tamil Nadu and the Dam was strengthened, according to the stipulations of the experts. After which, even though the expert committee headed by Shri S.S. Brar and Shri T.K. Mittal said that the water level can be raised to 145 feet, the water level is still maintained at 136 feet only. More than that, the hon. Supreme Court found the Dam to be strong enough and gave a clear cut verdict on 27th February, 2006 to raise the water level from 136 feet to 142 feet. Unfortunately the Government of Kerala has made an illegal legislation to nullify the 27th February, 2006 verdict of the Supreme Court. More so, and it is unfortunate that Indian Naval personnel were sent by the Kerala Government to assess and give a report about the strength of the Dam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Place your speech on the Table. The issue is being discussed by the concerned Ministers representing each Government.

DR. C. KRISHNAN : This act of taking the power and privileges of the Central Government by a State Government should not become or form an example to other States which are also capable to take such untoward steps which might lead to an assault against the unity and integrity of India.

Hence, I would request on behalf of *Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam* that the Central Government should intervene and the water level in the Dam shall be raised from 136 feet to 142 feet and justice be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: *Kalaignar* has already taken up the issue. Why do you want to waste the time of the House?

DR. C. KRISHNAN : My beloved leader, Shri Vaiko, leader of the Tamils, is on a *Pada Yatra* from Madurai to Koodalur for six days to impress upon the Central and State Governments to achieve our long pending demand of raising the Mullaiperiyar Dam level from 136 to 142 feet. Thank you, Sir.