

>

Title: Need to ensure release of adequate water from Left Wing Channel of Neyyar Dam to Tamil Nadu as per the agreement signed between the Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): The construction of Neyyar Dam and its Right and Left Wing Channels were started during the First Five Year Plan period. Under the Plan, Kerala and Tamil Nadu is to receive two-third and one-third of the water respectively from Neyyar Dam. This project is aimed at to provide adequate water to the farmers of 13 revenue villages in Vilavancode Taluk of Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu for their agricultural activities to the tune of 4,048-50 hectares of land. Besides, the project facilitates the farmers to the tail end of its catchment area in Tirunelveli district. This project is fully funded by the Union Government.

However, since 2004, Kerala Government has refused to release water from the Left Wing Channel. With the result, the farmers in the above region are facing lot of difficulties and their livelihood is in jeopardy. Besides, large areas of agricultural land have become uncultivable and infertile. The State Government of Tamil Nadu had taken up the matter several times with their counterpart in Kerala but so far Kerala Government has failed to release water to the farmers in Tamil Nadu who are solely dependent on Left Wing Channel.

Keeping in view the above, I urge upon the Union Government to direct the Kerala Government to release adequate water from Neyyar Dam's Left Wing Channel to Tamil Nadu as per the agreement entered into between the two States.