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Title : Need to inter-link Tamiraparani, Kadana Nadhi, Rama Nadhi and Chitthar rivers for providing water for drinking and irrigation purposes to water scarce areas in Tirunelveli Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Tamiraparani is one of the important rivers flowing in the State of Tamil Nadu. It is the main source of water supply for irrigation and drinking purposes for the people living in Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts.

Every year due to heavy rainfall, Tamiraparani river and its tributaries are flooded and the surplus water becomes waste, unutilized and flows into the sea. Certain areas in these districts are dry regions where the river does not flow and because of slightly higher altitude of the area, it makes the water flow difficult. It is, therefore, necessary to take diversion or forming new canals so that the excess water of this perennial river can be taken to the dry regions. Keeping this in mind, a project is presently undertaken with a massive outlay of Rs. 369 crore to build a flood carrier canal from the existing Kannadian Channel at Vellankuzhi near Cheranmahadevi in Tirunelveli district to the drought prone area of Nanguneri, Thisaiyanvilai, Radhapuram and Sattankulam by interlinking Tamirabharani, Karumeniyar and Nambiayar rivers.

Likewise, the other side of the Tirunelveli and neighbouring districts, the areas comprising portion of Ambasamudram, Alangulam Taluk, Tenkasi, Sankarankovii, Rajapalyam Taluk upto Kovilpatti and Virudhunagar are water scarce. Due to non-availability of adequate river water, there is huge shortage of drinking water and the agricultural lands have also become infertile. In order

to mitigate the problem of water scarcity in this region, another major canal along Ambasamudram, Alangulam Taluk, Tenkasi, Sankarankovii, Rajapalayam Taluk upto Kovilpatti and Virudhnagar should be dug up to take the surplus water by interlinking Tamiraparani, Kadana Nadhi, Rama Nadhi and Chitthar River.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to allocate adequate funds either under NABARD or any other Centrally sponsored programmes to save the dry and rain shadow regions.