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Title : Alarming situation of Mullapperiyar Dam in Kerala and need to reconstruct a new-generation dam there.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): Madam Speaker, I may be permitted to deliver an SOS message, the heart-beat of 50 lakh people of three districts of Kerala –including my constituency – Idukki, Kottayam and Ernakulam.

The Mullapperiyar Dam is in a very dangerous condition. With the on-going monsoon, there is a likelihood of dam being burst. The legendary Damocles' Sword is hovering over the people of Kerala in the form of Mullapperiyar Dam. I request through you to reconstruct a new-generation Dam there. The expert committee which visited the Mullapperiyar Dam day before yesterday has already revealed the alarming situation. The old generational colonial era's Mullapperiyar Dam has been posing us a potential danger. It was commissioned in the year 1895. [p7]

12.00 hrs.

The dam was constructed using rubble and lime *surkki*. Over hundred and odd years, the lime has washed away exposing cavities. As the dam is situated in a junction of two fault zones with high seismic zones, the dam has suffered many earthquakes. At present, the dam is in a very dangerous condition.

Madam, we are in favour of sharing water with Tamil Nadu. We are not opposing it. We are ready to give sufficient water to the people of Tamil Nadu. But we need to construct a new dam in Mullaperiyar. Our people from Idukki and all over Kerala are facing a dangerous position. The only solution is to construct a new generation dam in place of the existing dangerous structure. People of Kerala are eager to give precious water to the people of Tamil Nadu.

Madam, this situation is very dangerous and we have to be practical about it. Therefore, let us construct a new dam at Mullaperiyar and let us cement further the relationship with the people of Tamil Nadu. We are not opposing sharing of water. I supplicate the hon. Prime Minister to convene an urgent high level meeting and to take pragmatic steps to avoid the tragedies. I am requesting this on behalf of all the people from Kerala and especially from my district ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.
