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Title: Need to release water from Neyyar Dam in Kerala for farmers in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (KANYAKUMARI): Kanyakumari is one of the most southern districts in India which accounts for more than 95% of the production of natural rubber in the State of Tamil Nadu. Rubber is cultivated mainly in the hilly areas (on the western ghats) in Vilavancode Taluk. The farmers in this taluk are not in a position to undertake agricultural activities likewise parts of Kanyakumari district owing to non-release of water into the left side channel of the Neyyar dam by the Kerala Government.

Around 9,200 acres of land in Vilavancode taluk was receiving water through the left bank canal of the Neyyar dam for irrigation till 2004. Since then supply of water was stopped. As a result, the farmers are facing lot of difficulties.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is requesting Kerala for release of water to the State from the Neyyar dam But there is no progress in the matter.

In April, 2007, Kerala Government informed Tamil Nadu Government that water from the Neyyar dam could be given to Tamil Nadu after levying charges, on the basis of which a draft agreement had been prepared. After perusal of Kerala Government's communication and official records, it was ascertained that Neyyar was an inter-state river. So, all the basin States had a share over the river water,

The Neyyar dam, the source of water supply for the Kanyakumari branch channel, is situated in Neyyattinkarai taluk in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala. The right side channel taking off from this dam has the capacity of 300 cusecs. The left side channel taking off from the dam irrigates the ayacuts both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The capacity of the left side canal is also 300 cusecs. The ayacuts originally proposed under the Kanyakumari branch channel was 9,200 acres. But only 3,370 acres could be developed. Rules of Regulation for Neyyar Irrigation System were sent by the Kerala Government in 1968. However, the government considered entering into an agreement and accordingly to the proposed agreement and also as per rules of regulation of Neyyar Irrigation System sent by the Kerala Government, a formal supply of 152 cusecs is to be made available at Kollemcode head works. This quantity includes two cusecs for the ayacuts in Kerala lying under Kanyakumari Branch. A per agreement, during drought period, supply should be effected between Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the ration of 1 : 3.

On October 3, 2007, the State Government of Tamil Nadu wrote to the Kerala Government to immediate release water keeping in view urgent requirement to save farming and farmers in Vilavancode Taluk of Kanyakumari District.

Hence, I request the Government of India to intervene into this matter and take necessary steps for release of water in Left Bank Canal of Neyyar in Vilavancode Taluk of Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu as early as possible.