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Title: Need to provide water for irrigation from the Mettur Dam to farmers in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): The 40-year long Cauvery Water crisis is to hit hard this year for the Cauvery Delta Farmers. The river water sharing dispute has not been solved as yet and the monsoon failures have always been adding to the woes of the agriculturists affecting the farm production in the Cauvery Delta Region. This year the traditional date of opening Mettur Dam has not been adhered to. The D-Day looked forward to by the farmers to commence the Sambha cultivation has been given a go by. At this juncture, I would like to point out that even "Kuruvali" cultivation prior to this was greatly affected and not taken up in many places because water was not released in time. It is naturally expected of the Centre to impress upon the upper-riparian-state to share at least equally this natural water resource with the lower riparian state that has got more rights over the water in that river-system.

This year, it is predicted that the Storage level in our Dams would be far below the annual capacity. Hence, it is imperative to see that the irrigation is commenced right now during this Adi Pattam.

It is requested the the Centre may intervene on a humanitarian basis for requesting both the Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to take steps to see that water is released immediately for irrigation.

I urge upon the Union Government to take suitable steps to see that the Mettur Dam is opened for irrigation at the earliest.