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Title: Need to implement the report of the National Water Development Agency on interlinking of Pamba, Achankovil and Vaippar rivers.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Union Government regarding the implementation of the proposal of Task Force on Inter-linking of rivers for the diversion of water from Pamba and Achankovil rivers of Kerala to Vaipar basin in Tamil Nadu on the basis of a feasibility report on Pamba - Achankovil - Vaipar link prepared by the National Water Development Agency.

The report envisages the diversion of 23 tmc of surplus water from the Pamba - Achankovil basin in Kerala into Vaipar basin in Tirunelveli District. Besides enhancing Kerala's power generation capacity by 30%, the diverted water could be used to irrigate 1.01 lakh hectares of land in Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Virudhunagar districts in Tamil Nadu. It will also augment the drinking water requirements in these districts.

According to the project report, the scheme can be implemented in eight years at a cost of Rs. 1,379.91 crore. The two States can reap benefits from the third year. It also states that Kerala will be able to generate 1,114 million units of power per annum. Also there is a provision for assured release of 5.3 tmc ft during the lean period. The other benefits are the potential to control the salinity of Waynad Lake, assured water storage and flow in the Pamba and Achankoil Rivers and the prevention of wasteful discharge into the Arabian Sea and improved water supply to southern districts. The project should be viewed as a symbol of national integration aiming at optimum utilization of land and water resources available in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, humbly urge the Union Government to implement the report of the National Water Development Agency on Pamba - Achankovil - Vaipar Link Project.