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Title: Need to take steps to cancel Pamba-Achankovil-Vyapar Rivers Linking Project.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam Speaker, I wish to raise a matter of urgent public importance which is related to my parliamentary constituency.

There is a Pamba-Achankovil-Vyapar Rivers Linking Project. Since the time of the said proposal, Kerala State is vehemently opposed to, and did not approve of, the proposal of linking River Pamba and River Achankovil with the River Vyapar due to various reasons. The Pamba and the Achankovil are not long distance rivers and they traverse only in Kerala; they are not inter-State rivers. They are not perennial but rain-fed rivers.

A sizeable portion of this coastal wetland zone lies at or below sea level. It is a thickly populated region a major part of which – Kuttanad with 54 villages spread over three districts – is known as the rice bowl of Kerala and is famous for its distinctive patterns of cultivation, sometimes carried out up to two metres below the sea level, with the fields being prone to floods as well as salt water intrusion from the sea.

The linking of the Pamba and the Achankovil will not only hamper the lives of good people of Kuttanad but will also lead to total ecological disaster. So, we strongly object to the proposal to link the Pamba, the Achankovil and the Vyapar rivers and request the Government to drop the proposal outrightly.

Thank you.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, we are all associating.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** आप एसोसिएट कीजिए।

Shri N.K. Premachandran is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** श्री भगवंत मान, यह आपने वया दिया है? पूरे हिंदुस्तान को आप इसमें लेना चाहेंगे, सभी योजनाओं का एक साथ थोड़े न देते हैं। ऐसा नहीं होता है। आप बोलिए।