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Title : Need to take steps to make Pampa river in Kerala pollution free.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Sir, I would request the Government to introduce a Scheme to conserve the River Pampa in Kerala. The Government is planning to introduce an Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission called 'Namami Gange'. I appreciate this initiative, and also request the Government to introduce a similar Mission for the River Pampa. Because Pampa resembles Holy River Ganga in many respects. Pampa is one of the major sources of water to districts in Central Kerala, and it also feeds, Kuttanad – the rice-bowl of the State.

The uniqueness of Pampa is its socio-cultural-religious and ecological significance. Due to its proximity to the Holy Shrine Sabarimala, River Pampa is known as 'Dakshin Ganga'. River Pampa Watershed covers the Periyar Tiger Reserve and Achenkovil Forest Divisions in the Western Ghats. About 40 lakhs people depend on this river for various needs. Despite these factors, River Pampa is shrinking in size due to pollution. As a result, the Biodiversity and the Hydrological terrain of Pampa Basin are facing a major threat.

Therefore, I humbly request the Government to launch a special programme to protect River Pampa.