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Title: Issue regarding implementation of inter-linking of river projects in the country.

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): Hon. Speaker, Madam, Tamil Nadu firmly believes that interlinking of rivers amongst States and intra-linking of rivers within a State will greatly help in optimum utilization of water and drastic reduction in waste going into the seas. We are for necessary legislation to facilitate implementation of the Peninsular Grid involving linking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar at the earliest.

As early as April 16, 2013, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had urged the then Chairman, Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers to expedite the interlinking of rivers. It is hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's firm view that in the interlinking projects, the right of use of water flowing from the existing Inter-State Agreements should not be disturbed and that the aim should be to increase the availability of water to deficit States like Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu had a programme to implement the linking Penniyar (Sathanur Dam) – Palar link; Penniyar (Nedungal Anicut) – Palar link; Cauvery (Mettur Dam) – Sarabanga link; Athikadavu – Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme; and the Tamirabarani – Karumeniyar – Nambiyar link. I urge upon the Centre to grant immediate Central financial assistance including costs of land acquisition as sought by our State.

The long-standing demand for diversion of about 22 TMC feet of water of the west flowing rivers of Pamba and Achankovil in Kerala to Vaippar Basin in Tamil Nadu would benefit the water needy southern districts of Tamil Nadu. I also request the Centre to facilitate a meeting with Kerala to work out the modalities so that the genuine water demands of southern districts of Tamil Nadu could be immediately fulfilled.