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Title: Regarding interlinking of rivers.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Hon. Chairman, Sir, interlinking of rivers is the only way to maximize the use of water available in the country and to redress the issue of water deficit States like Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, hon. Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is much concerned about the interlinking of rivers as it involves crores of people of Tamil Nadu and their welfare. Our Chief Minister had demanded that the Government should come out with a law for interlinking of rivers and demanded that the Government should give priority to it. Our hon. Chief Minister has also demanded that the work on interlinking of rivers such as Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Kaveri-Vaigai-Kundaru be expedited. Our Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has also demanded to divert Pampa river as it will benefit Tamil Nadu with 22 TMC water which is presently going into the sea.

Therefore, priority should be given for interlinking of Pampa – Achhankovil – Vaippar rivers. This will benefit both Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Our Chief Minister has also demanded that the Government should allocate funds for interlinking of six rivers in Tamil Nadu, namely Pennaiyaru – Palaru at both Sathannoor and Nedunghaal dams, Kaveri – Sarpangha, Athikadavu – Avinashi, Thamiraparani – Nambiyaru.

I urge upon the Government to give priority for interlinking of all these rivers as demanded by our hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma as this is the core issue concerning the welfare of crores of people of Tamil Nadu.