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Title: Need for approval of pending river water projects in Tamil Nadu with adequate allocation of funds.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA) : Water is the elixir of life. In the present times, water is also becoming a precious commodity. It will be prudent on the part of any government to use its water resource potential to its optimum level. With this objective in mind, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has time and again stressed the need for the Union Government to allow implementation of proposals relating to inter-linking of rivers within the state of Tamil Nadu and to ensure timely allocation of adequate funds. This can serve as the pioneering model for inter-linking other major rivers of the country. Excess water of river Cauvery due to floods and incessant rains must be diverted to benefit the drought prone-areas of Tamil Nadu by linking river Cauvery with other rivers like Vaigai and Gundar. Inter-linking of Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar will greatly benefit the rain-fed agricultural land in Tiruchi, Pudukkottai, Madurai, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts of Tamil Nadu. The State government of Tamil Nadu had already submitted a Detailed Project Report(DPR) with a cost estimation of Rs.5,166 crore to the Union Government for its approval. Similarly, the proposal relating to modernization of Canals in river Cauvery, at a cost of Rs.11,421 crore, is also under the active consideration of the Union Government. Same is the case with Pennaiyar and Palar river linking projects and Athikkadavu-Avinashi flood canal project. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to grant approval for early implementation of all the above river water projects in Tamil Nadu with adequate allocation of funds.