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Title: Need for early clearance to start strengthening works of Mullai Periyar Dam in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): With regard to Mullai Periyar Dam, the Supreme Court in its order dated 27.2.2006, permitted the Government of Tamil Nadu to raise the water level initially to 142 feet. It also permitted Tamil Nadu to carry out the remaining strengthening works like strengthening the Baby Dam and Earth Dam, raising the upstream parapet wall of the Main Dam by 2 feet. The Court further said that after completion of the remaining strengthening works to the satisfaction of the Central Water Commission, independent experts would examine the safety angle before permitting the water level to be raised to the FRL of 152 feet. This has been affirmed in the Judgment and Decree of the Supreme Court dated 7.5.2014. Following these orders, Tamil Nadu Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs.7.85 crores for strengthening the Baby Dam and other related works so that water level could be restored to 152 feet. In this regard, Government of Tamil Nadu has applied to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, for cutting 23 trees downstream of the Baby Dam, and requested Wild Life, Environment and Forest clearances on 29.5.2015. Wild life and Environment clearances are still awaited from the Centre. Early clearance will pave way for strengthening the dam and eventually raising the storage height to the FRL of 152 feet. In view of the urgency of the issue, I appeal to the Centre to expedite the matter and give necessary clearances at the earliest possible.