

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Avinashi Athikadavu Ground Water Recharge Project in Tamil Nadu.

**SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS):** Avinashi Athikadavu Ground Water Recharge project aims at channelling the surplus water from Pilloor dam during the monsoon season to all the high and dry areas of Coimbatore, Tirupur and Erode districts. The Pilloor dam water would be allowed to flow for 35km after which it would be diverted through two canals at Achampalayam.

The State Government has announced Rs 250 crore in the Budget for the land mark project, which is estimated to cost Rs 2,500 crore. The State has already allotted Rs 3.27 crore to kick-start the project.

Tender for environmental feasibility study for the project, has been awarded to WAPCOS, a mini ratna public sector enterprise under the aegis of Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

While the procedure can't be skipped for a medium irrigation project, it can be put on fast-track. We hope the Centre will do its bit to implement the project that had been pending for the past 60 years. Farmers, however, continue to be sceptical about the implementation of the project.

Hence I urge upon the Government to do its bit to implement the project.

I also further request to conduct feasibility study for Pandiyar- Meyyar Scheme.