

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to rejuvenate river and canal systems of Upper Kuttanad Region in Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): The agrarian community in Upper Kuttanad region, comprising of Thiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikkara, and Karthikappaly Taluks, is home to thousands of farmers and common people.

The once richly irrigated region fed by Pamba-Achankovil, Varattar, Puthanpalliyaar, and Kuttamperur rivers is rapidly drying up. The paddy cultivation in upper Kuttanad region depends upon the network of canals and rivers and as they are drying up with ill-maintained canals, the entire region is facing severe depletion in paddy cultivation.

I would request the Government to declare Central Water Commission as nodal agency and dispatch an expert team to Kuttanad at the earliest to conduct a physical inspection and to convene a meeting with various stakeholders, including officials of Central and State Governments and peoples' representatives to chart an immediate course of action and launch a programme to rejuvenate the rivers and canal systems of Upper Kuttanad Region and revive paddy cultivation and allied activities.