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Title: Regarding new dam construction over Markandeya river in Karnataka -laid.

DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the issue of a new dam constructed by Karnataka across Markandeya river which will affect irrigation in 870 hectares of lands in Krishnagiri district.

Markandeya River is a tributary of Pennaiyar that originates in Karnataka and enters Tamil Nadu in Krishnagiri district. The TN government, farmers and parties have been opposing the dam as it would affect irrigation and drinking water needs of six districts including Krishnagiri.

On the direction of the Supreme Court, Tamil Nadu government in 2019 urged the Union Government to constitute the Tribunal to resolve the issue immediately, but till now, the Tribunal has not been formed and is yet to become a reality.

Hence, I request Union Minister for Jal Shakti to constitute the Tribunal immediately and thereby resolve the water crises safeguarding the interests of farmers and the public of the six districts including Krishnagiri.