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Title: Need to augment supply of water through rail-tankers and set up desalination plants.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** अब शून्य काल ।

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Thank you very much, Sir. The State of Tamil Nadu is reeling under severest water crisis and worst hit after 140 years leading to water emergency. My leader Dr. M.K. Stalin has called for a demonstration throughout the State day before yesterday.

Sir, the new NITI Aayog, the brain-child of the hon. Prime Minister, the former Planning Commission, in its first report has said that India is home to 16 per cent of the world's population and has 4 per cent of freshwater resources at its disposal. It says that 40 per cent of the people will not have any access to water by 2030 in our country.

In its second report it says that 21 cities in India will not have any access to water and more than two lakh people will die due to inadequate access to water. It further says that 600 million people of India will not have any water at all at that point of time. This is the Indian scenario.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, in Chennai city alone 10,000 tanks and lorries are coming to feed the city. This is the state of water in a metro city, which receives the water supply from four lakes - Chembarambakkam, Cholawaram, Pundi and Red Hills. All the water storage tanks are dried up. On May 29th this year, the total water available in the State was 76 million TMC whereas last year it was 2964

million TMC. You can understand how the things are going on. By now all the tanks would have been dried up.

All the rivers in Tamil Nadu like Cauvery, Vaigai, Thenpennai, Palar, and Amaravati are dried up and look like deserts. So, all the water sources are dried up. There is no other source of supply of drinking water to the people.

So, my request and demand to the Government of India is to see that supply of water through rail-tankers is immediately augmented.

The second thing is that at least at 20 places, desalination plants may be allowed to be established throughout the coastal area of 13 districts.

Moreover, at least now, the Government of India should come forward to see that proper arrangement is made for regular supply of water to the Chennai city without fail. This is the most important thing. This is very much needed to see that all the people are thirst-free.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :**

श्रीमती सुप्रिया सदानंद सुले,

श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा एवं श्री बी. मणिकम टैगोर को श्री टी.आर. बालू द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।