

## **Need to take comprehensive measures to protect the river Periyar in Kerala from industrial pollution-laid**

**SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the issue of mass fish mortality events in Kerala that have brought untold suffering to the local communities and raised alarming concerns about environmental degradation. The Periyar River, which is the lifeline for approximately 5.5 million residents of central Kerala, has seen frequent fish killing incidents in the recent past that has led to substantial ecological, economic and social impact. One such devastating incident occurred in May 2024 which resulted in the loss of fish stocks worth over Rs. 41 Crores. Studies have confirmed that these fish kills are directly linked to industrial pollution. A fundamental issue underlying such pollution is the failure of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to carry out its duties. I urge the Government to consider for establishment of a Permanent Surveillance Centre, provide compensation to affected Fishers and Farmers, initiation for comprehensive river ecology restoration and strengthen Pollution Control Mechanism. I, accordingly, call upon the Hon?ble Minister to take swift action to protect the Periyar river from further degradation.