

**Title:** Need to advise Kerala Government to increase the storage capacity of Periyar Dam to 152 feet.

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (PERIYAKULAM): Sir, I rise to mention an important matter which is of serious concern to the people of Theni, Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu. Periyar river which originates in Kerala flows through these three districts, parts of which fall in my Periyakulam constituency. Periyar river water is a major source of irrigation and drinking water in these areas.

Though the storing capacity of the dam is 152 feet, Kerala Government has objected to store water to full capacity. Kerala fears that the dam is very weak and as such has allowed Tamil Nadu to store water only to the height of 136 feet. The reduction of 16 feet of storage capacity has affected farming severely in Theni, Madurai and Ramanad districts.

The Tamil Nadu Government have spent crores of rupees and have reinforced the dam as required. Even the Central Water Commission, which visited the dam certified that the storage capacity could be increased to 152 feet. But the Kerala Government has been persistently refusing to increase the storage capacity for unknown reasons.

Since it is the question of life and death for the people of Theni, Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts, I appeal to the Centre to intervene and prevail upon the Kerala Government to allow increasing the storage capacity of Periyar dam to 152 feet.