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Title : Rise in water level of Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, the Mullaperiyar Dam on the River Periyar was constructed in 1895 by the Presidency of Madras under a lease from the erstwhile Maharaja of Travancore for a period of thousand years. Now, the entire catchment area falls within the Tiger Reserve and it is an Elephant Reserve too[R5].

The Tamil Nadu Government is exclusively utilising the water resources for itself. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make provocative remarks. This does not help you.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Let them hear what I have to say. There is no dispute between the people of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. You should look at it from an Indian view.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : This relates to the safety of the people living in Kerala. We have no objection to Tamil Nadu taking water and using it in any way it likes. There has been a decision by both the States with the approval of the Central Water Commission to keep the water level of the dam at 136 feet. That is because the dam has outlived its safe life period. This is a 110 year old dam built on very conventional methods using lime and *surki*. There has been expert opinion about the safety of the dam. What is happening is, due to heavy rains and great inflow from the catchment area ...(*Interruptions*) How can you say this is false information? These are facts. These have been verified by both the States and the Central Water Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. You mention what is relevant to the Central Government.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : This dam is located in my Constituency. If there is any damage or danger to the dam and the water reached the Idukki Arch Dam and by chance if there is any damage to that dam, four Districts forming the heartland of Kerala – Idukki, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Alleppey – will be washed away. The loss of life would be unimaginable. Kerala's only request is that the level of the water should be kept at 136 feet as agreed upon by both the States and approved by the Central Water Commission. The mud and rubble that has been put before the spillway has to be removed by the Tamil Nadu Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : We have no objection and there is no dispute.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, this is a very serious issue for the people of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: You associate with that. All hon. Members from Kerala associate with this. Their names should be recorded regarding this association. Shri Suresh Kurup, Shri N.N. Krishnadas, Shri C.K. Chandrappan, Shri P.C. Thomas and a few other hon. Members from Kerala associate themselves with Shri K. Francis George on this issue.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : I request the Central Government to immediately intervene and prevail upon the Tamil Nadu Government to keep the water level at 136 feet. It is a question of life and death for the people of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not ignoring it. That is why I have asked you to raise this issue even breaking the rule. You should appreciate that.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, â€¦...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded Mr. Thomas, except that you have associated.