

Title : Regarding removal of toxic sludges in dam right of Noyyal river at orathapalayam in Karur district of Tamil Nadu affecting neighbouring population.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Noyyal River Dam in Orathapalayam of Karur District has become a reservoir of industrial effluents from the dyeing units of Tiruppur banian manufacturing units and knitting companies.

For the past 10 years, about 25 thousand acres of agricultural land in places like Orathapalayam, Chinnamuthur, Puvalarasu, Thengammal Koil in that region have become incultivable and have become unfit for cultivating sugarcane and gingelly the traditional crops there. The people over there find it difficult to get pure drinking water and have to fetch the same wandering several kms in far flung areas. It is reported that when the shutters of the dam were opened in 1994, a vast devastation in the form of pollution to both soil and the ground water with chemical compounds to a stretch of about 100 kms. A survey team came with these findings. 68 revenue villages and 250 remote hamlets have been seriously affected and the cultivable lands have become polluted barren land.

For the second time recently due to overflow of water the shutters were unfettered and this has led to serious protests from the people of this locality as the water resources and the cultivable lands are dangerously hampered. So far the sludge in the river bed has not been dredged out and removed for cleaning up pollutants. Hence, I urge upon the Government to remove the sludge containing toxic chemical compounds lying on the Noyyal river bed particularly near the sluices of the Orathapalayam dam. Since, Noyyal river is one of the tributaries of river Kaveri, the Union Environment Ministry may take up this operation Noyyal sludge cleaning up programme under Cauvery river cleansing scheme allocating sufficient funds. This will help save the cultivable lands and the agricultural community in that area.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.