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Title : Need to revive Bunchkinghan Canal in Andhra Pradesh so as to provide easy and cheap water transport system to the local people.

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): I would like to bring to the notice of this house about the necessity to revive the Buckingham Canal so as to provide easy and cheap water transport system to the people living on the banks of this canal.

Buckingham Canal was constructed during the British regime from Itchapuram in Srikakulam district in AP to Chennai to provide cheap transport facility for transporting agricultural produce, vegetables, fruits etc. It was a very useful channel of transport especially to small farmers and traders. But due to efflux of time and development of other modes of surface transport, this canal has fallen into disuses and is not available for transport. But there is a need to revive this canal to provide easy and cheap water transport system for the people, on the lines of Kerala Water Transport System. Further it would release pressure on the National Highway, being a most important highway linking the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and West Bengal, thereby also reducing pollution and accidents. It would also result in saving of foreign exchange on and diesel.

I would therefore request the Government to take necessary steps immediately for the revival of Buckingham Canal as a means of easy and cheap water transport system.