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Title : Issue regarding raising the height of Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, I seek the intervention of the Central Government on a very grave problem that is being faced by Kerala. Let me at the outset say that this is nothing against the people of Tamil Nadu. This is a matter regarding the closing down of the shutters of Mullaperiya Dam on 1st March. It has been decided earlier to keep the shutters fully open throughout the year to keep the water level at 136 feet. I only ask for the *status quo* to be maintained if this matter has to be settled amicably between the two States. This is a 110 year old dam. It is in a very precarious condition. If something happens to the dam, four to five districts of Kerala, with a population of 40 lakhs, will be affected. It is a very grave matter. We have no dispute or problem in sharing the water with our Tamil Nadu brethren. Only thing we ask is that *status quo* should be maintained. For a long term solution, we need to construct a new dam and there should be a new agreement.

Hence, I seek the intervention of the Central Government in this matter to settle this problem very amicably.

DR. K.S. MAJOR (ALLEPPEY) : Kindly allow me to associate myself with this matter.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : Kindly allow me also to associate myself with this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.

Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi – not present.