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Title: Need to implement the National Waterways Project suggested by NAWAD.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Net-working of rivers is a new phenomenon suggested by an expert body (NAWAD council under the leadership of Shri A.C. Kamraj who is also an expert committee member, inter linking of rivers, Government of India) as a National Water Project Comprising of Himalayan Waterways covering north and north-east of our nation, Central Waterways covering the central regions and the Southern Waterways covering the Southern areas of India. This perception is more beneficial than linking of rivers which may have the risk of complaints from riparian beneficiaries that the water they are entitled to is being diverted. Net-working is a concept of making artificial rivers parallel to or adjacent to major rivers without touching them. The flow of water is not regulated by pumping but by natural flow based on contours and rains and the floods in various regions. This will help water collected by way of floods and rain water without draining away to the sea and going unused to be transmitted to areas where there are no rains at that period. This will give full utility of rain waters of which our nation is adequately rich. The concept will also be a solution for flood control, navigation, power generation, drinking water, employment and irrigation. Large scale tourism promotion will also be possible. Without affecting the environments the huge forest areas also can be made use of. The total length suggested for the National Waterways Project – 15,000 kms and the estimated cost of Rs. 5,33,000 crores. This concept can also be used for other net-working of waterways in States.

I request that the Government take serious note of the project and do the needful to discuss it at various levels and to implement it without delay so that our nation will prosper with great acceleration.