

**Title: Need to advise the Government of Kerala to increase the storage capacity of Mullai Periyar Dam so as to ensure adequate supply of water to the farmers of Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu.**

**SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL):** The Mullai Periyar Dam in Kerala was built by the then Tamil Nadu Government following an agreement signed in 1895 with the Travancore Presidency. The agreement provided for a 152 feet high storage dam with 999 years riparian rights. It was intended to provide drinking water to 65 lakh people and irrigate 2,17,000 acres of land in Theni, Madurai, Dindigul, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts.

But the storage of water was limited to 136 feet in 1985 for no rhyme or reason. The Central Water Commission, which had a thorough study of the stability and technical aspects of the Dam, had recommended that the storage can be raised up to 142 feet.

Periyar River is the lifeline for the people living in the four districts which are chronically hit by deficient rains and drought. The unreasonable reduction of the storage capacity of the dam has driven a large number of farmers to move out to seek other vocations and livelihood. The actual situation is pathetic. The UPA Government is very concerned about the welfare of farmers and the hon. Prime Minister should intervene and take steps to increase the storage capacity of dam to 142 feet as an interim measure to save the farmers from hunger and poverty.