

Title: Need for inter-linking of peninsular rivers.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Interlinking of peninsular rivers to ensure continuous water flow in the major river systems of southern region has been evaluated to be a viable one. The Common Minimum Programme for National Governance includes this feasible project. Vexing inter-State Water disputes and unpredictable weather conditions and monsoon patterns are posing problems to carry on agriculture the lifeline of the country. A lasting solution to make available water both for irrigation and drinking water purposes needs to be evolved. So there is an urgent need to take up either the garland canal scheme or any other suitably modified project to link the rivers in the Southern parts of the country. In the recently concluded National Development Council meeting also, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu emphasized the need to include and fund this project in the 11th Five Year Plan. Hence, I urge upon the Prime Minister and the Union Water Resources Minister and the Planning Commission to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the States concerned for interlinking of the peninsular rivers. I also urge upon the Union Water Resources Minister and the Planning Commission to release about 7,000 crores of rupees as funds for completion of Anti-sea erosion works for coastal protection of Tamil Nadu which has become necessary after Tsunami as requested by Government of Tamil Nadu.