Title: Need to strengthen the Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): I would request my Tamil Nadu brethren not to agitate when I raise this issue. Sir, the condition of the Mullaperiyar Dam is critically unsafe. It was built 110 years ago with *sukhri* and lime. There are major cracks in the Mullaperiyar Dam. The other day, the newspapers have published a photographâ€!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the level has come down.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: When the level has come down, there are major cracks in the Mullaperiyar Dam. This is the photograph published in the newspapers regarding cracks in the Dam. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not worry; let him say what he wants to say.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: When the water level has gone down to 110 feet, the cracks are seen, and the condition below the level, we assume, is more grave.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter was discussed so many times.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: At that time, the water level was very high. [r85]

DR. K.S. MANOJ: At that time the water level was high. Even though the hon. Minister of Science and Technology had stated that Mullaperiyar dam is in Seismic Zone-2, scientists are of the opinion that Mullaperiyar area is in Seismic Zone-3 which is more prone to earthquakes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a provision in the Kerala Budget for that. You should mention that also.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Yes, Sir. In this area, earthquakes up to the intensity of 6.5 on the Richter Scale can take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have mentioned about the photograph and all that. You should mention the provision made in Kerala Budget. That is important.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: An earthquake of 6.5 on the Richter Scale can cause breakdown of the dam which endangers human inhabitations in the neighbourhood. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to constitute an expert team to look into the various safety aspects of the dam and alleviate the feeling of insecurity and fear among the people.

SHRIK. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, I associate myself with this issue and request the Government to take serious note of it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, we would like the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to inform the concerned Minister about this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record except Shri Francis George.

(Interruptions)* …

MR. CHAIRMAN: That paper is not on record.