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Title : Need to undertake inter-linking of rivers in the country.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Floods are caused by extensive deforestation, leading to increase in the height of the river bed due to silting. During rains, the absence of top soils repels water seepage into the ground, thereby renders the area dry during non-monsoon periods.

India has seven major river systems and hundreds of associated rivers and tributaries. While some like the Brahmaputra and Krishna River Systems are causing destruction of life and property through floods, others like the Cauvery are almost dry causing panic and alarm to those dependent solely on it. The paradox of the country languishing due to the excess and deficit of water at the same time, led to the birth of the Plan for Inter linking of Rivers.

The two major components of the plan are the Himalayan and Peninsular components. The aim is to link 37 rivers in the country through 30 links, 14 in the Himalayan component and 16 in the Peninsular. By routing surplus water to water deficit areas, flood and drought situations are expected to be alleviated and a host of other benefits such as increased water for irrigation and drinking, generation of hydro power and other garnered.

It is high time that our Government should focus its attention in the most needed project of inter-linking of rivers which is the need of the hour.