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Title : Need to take steps for inter-linking of rivers in the country.

SHRI MANICKA TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Our country has developed manifold since independence in many areas like Information Technology, Automobile industries, Communication and Heavy Industries. Even though we export technical knowledge and various products to foreign countries and earn foreign exchange, but our country is still dependent on import of agricultural products. It is mainly due to shortage of water for cultivation and the people are not getting enough drinking water even in the capitals of many States. This is due to mismanagement of the available water resources in the country. There is a need to prepare a plan with the advice of the experts for networking of Rivers by construction of waterways in three ways viz. (1) the Himalayan Waters connecting Ganga and the Brahmaputra rivers; (2)'the Central waterways' by connecting river Ganga, Mahanadhi, Narmada and Tapti rivers and 3)'the Southern waterways connecting Godavari, Krishana and Cauvery rivers.

The above three project should be executed with the cooperation of all states on the policy of 'Every State gains and no state is a loser'. On this concept, the excess water mainly flood-water and water flowing into sea should be diverted to the needy states so that states could not be affected by flood as well as the starving states may get water both for irrigation and drinking. If the above project is implemented within 5 or 10 years, India will become stronger in the field of food security, power security, drinking water security, healthy, health security, employment security, eco security and infrastructure.

Hence, I urge upon the Ministry of Water Resources through you Madam to take necessary steps to seek the opinion of expert group to implement this scheme for overall development of our country and to enable India become super power in the world.