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Title : Need to store the flood / excess water of river Bhavani in Tamil Nadu for use as drinking water in drought prone areas of the state.

SHRI C. SIVASAMI (TIRUPPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Tamil Nadu the following ten Panchayat Unions namely Avanashi, Annur, Karamadai, Nambiyur, Tiruppur, Perundurai and Sennimalai are situated in Nilgiris, Tiruppur and Erode parliamentary constituencies. The total population of these Panchayat Unions are nearly 30 lakh. The people and cattle of that area are largely deprived of water. There is a huge shortage of drinking water to cater to the needs of the people of these areas. The people are used to dig bore wells up to a depth of 1,000 feet which affects the groundwater level. If this trend continues, these areas will become a desert within a period of five years.

But in Bhavani river, there is excess water and during the rainy season the overflowing water of Bhavani river creates floods in the nearby villages affecting the life and properties of the common man. The waste water is flowing into the sea. Some places are severely affected by drought on the one hand and there are heavy floods on the other hand. To avoid this situation, the Government should come forward to divert the excess water of Bhavani river into the adjacent tanks and ponds so that the groundwater level is improved.

I submit that before connecting Ganga and Cauvery rivers, the Government should come forward to provide link in between Bhavani and the adjacent tanks and ponds so that the waste water that is flowing from Bhavani river will be utilized for filling the tanks and ponds which would thus facilitate for the implementation of the Avanashi-Athikadavu scheme.