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Title: Need to release funds for deepening the Vaigai Dam and to evict the already compensated encroachers.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (THENI): Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the `Zero Hour' and to raise an important matter of my parliamentary constituency.

Vaigai dam was built 40 years back when late Kamaraj was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Vaigai dam is catering to the needs of the prime irrigation and drinking water source for the five southern districts. Storage of water level is 70 feet. But if the water level is down to 40 feet, water cannot be useable because of silt and sands. The remaining water cannot be used even for cattle. This 40 feet has become a death storage. Local agriculturists in the Valley are facing big difficulties even to raise seedlings which delayed further their agriculture processes. Hence, I would request through you the Government to allot funds to remove the stranded silts and sands from the Dam so as to store more water to cater to the needs of drinking and agricultural activities of the local area. A few thousand acres have been acquired from the local people of that area have already been compensated but still they are evicted. They are again doing farming in these places. Water channels are coming from the adjoining hills which have been encroached by the bushes. Hence, water channels have to be cleaned to ensure water flow into the Dam freely and the situation in the area is worsening due to water logging. Silts and sands have to be removed.

I urge the Government to release necessary funds for deepening the Vaigai Dam and also to evict the already compensated encroachers.