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Title : Need to impress upon the Government of Karnataka to stop the proposed construction of check dam across South Pennar River.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): South Pennar River (Thenpennaiyar) which has its origin in Karnataka flows through Madivala, Agaram, Bellandur, Varthur before reaching to Kodiyalam Lake in Tamil Nadu. From here, it reaches to Kelevarapalli Dam in Hosur. Nearly 36,000 acres of cultivable land in Krishnagiri District get irrigation facilities. People of Krishnagiri District mainly depend on this river for drinking water as also for industrial growth. Around 2,000 and 9,000 acres of agricultural land get irrigated through Kodiyalam Check Dam and Kelavarapalli Dam, respectively. KRP Dam, called as the Krishnagiri Dam, also provide irrigational facility to more than 19,000 acres of cultivable land.

South Pennar River supports the cultivation of various seasonal crops like sugarcane, paddy, ragi, cabbage, potato, beans, brinjal, banana, mango and various fruits, flowers, pan, subari, coconut, etc. which form the livelihood of the people of Krishnagiri District.

Although South Pennar River has its origin in Karnataka, it is the only source of water to the entire Krishnagiri District in Tamil Nadu for centuries together.

However, the Government of Karnataka is planning to construct a Check Dam across South Pennar River near Bangalore and has proposed to divert the river water to the State of Karnataka via Varathur and Mindahalli Lakes. If this proposal is implemented, Krishnagiri district would soon become a desert, agricultural lands may become barren and waste lands; and people will struggle for their livelihood and even to get potable water.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to kindly intervene in the matter and direct the Karnataka Government to stop the proposed construction of Check Dam across South Pennar River (Thenpennaiyar) and ensure that this river water which is entering Tamil Nadu is not diverted to Karnataka.