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Title: Need to include Periyar, Chalakkudy and Kadambrayar rivers in Kerala in the National River Conservation Plan.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): Periyar river is a famous river which flows through Kerala. The total length of the river is 244 Kms. At Aluva, The river bifurcates into the Marthanaadavarma and the Mangalapuzha branches. The Mangalapuzha branch joins Chalakkudy river and empties into the sea at Munambam, and the Marthandavarma branch flows southwards, through the Udhyagamandal area and joins the Cochin backwater (part of Vembanad Lake) at Varapuzha. The famous Aluva Manalpuram and Siva temple is on the banks of river Periyar, where lakhs of people joins during Sivarathri festival. Besides, world famous pilgrim centres like Malayattoor St. Thomas Church and Kalady, the birth place of Aadhi Sree Sankaracharya are also situated on the banks of Periyar. Periyar is a valuable source of drinking water, where a number of projects are functioning at Aluva, to meet the drinking water needs of major parts of Kochi, Kakkanad, Kalamassery, Aluva, Vypin etc. which comprises the industrial capital of Kerala. Agricultural purposes of Ankamali, Perumbavoor assembly constituency area are also met by Periyar river water. Besides, Periyar valley irrigation project based on periyar river meets the irrigation purposes of thousands of people.

Besides, Chalakudypuzha, famous for Athirappilly, Vazhachal and Thoompoormuzhy waterfalls carry hundreds of lift irrigation schemes and 30 Government operated drinking water supply schemes and lakhs of people including Kodungallur constituency directly depend on the river for various uses. Chalakkudy river joins with a tributary of river Periyar and falls into the sea at Kodungallur near the Muzris which is the ancient port of South India. In Muvattupuzha river there is Choondy drinking water project which supply water to Thrippunithura area, Kochin Refinery, FACT, and other firms in Ambalamugal industrial area. Besides, thousands of people in Kunnathunadu assembly constituency also depend on this river for drinking water and agricultural purposes. These rivers are under the threat of heavy pollution to which Lakhs of people depend for their agricultural and drinking water requirements. There is another river Kadambrayar, which is included in the list of most polluted 150 rivers in the country. The Special Economic Zone which include Cochin Smart city and Info Park are situated on the banks of Kadambrayar. Chithrapuzha is still another river facing severe pollution. The pollution also adversely affects the fish resources in these rivers. Hence necessary action may be taken for the protection of these rivers from pollution.

I request that these rivers may be protected by including in the National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) and pollution abatement works may be under taken immediately.