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Title: Issue regarding move of the Kerala Government to construct check dams across the Bhavani River at Attapadi Region.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for permitting me to raise this issue. The Bhavani River, originating from the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu, is passing through Attapadi Reserve Forest in Kerala and reaches again Tamil Nadu. It is a source of irrigation and drinking water for the farmers and the people of Coimbatore, Tirupur and Erode Districts of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Kerala has already constructed 27 check dams across the Bhavani River in Attapadi Region and has now proposed to construct another 100 more check dams to divert the water to Palakkad District.

This is a dangerous move. It will affect thousands of farmers in the above three Districts. Already there is a little inflow at the Bhavanisagar Dam. If the Kerala Government proceeds with construction of more check dams, the said three Districts will be starved off even for drinking water and there would be severe drought. Already, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma cautioned the seriousness and consequences. This is a deplorable move and needs to be halted.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to suitably advise the Government of Kerala not to go ahead with its move to construct check dams across the Bhavani River at Attapadi Region.