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Title: Regarding cleaning of river Vrishabhavathi in Karnataka.

SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Vrishabhavathi river which originates in Bangalore was once a great living river. This river flows through my parliamentary constituency, Bangalore Rural, and Ramanagara district. The waters of Vrishabhavathi were the lifeline for lakhs of people who lived on the banks of the river.

Unfortunately, the river is now dead due to pollution. The banks of the river are heavily urbanized and industrialized. All of Bangalore city's sewage and industrial waste has polluted the river.

Vrishabhavathi river passes through several Sewage Treatment Plants but the cleanup effort has been a total failure. The cleanup is a costly affair and it fails to deliver due to insufficient monitoring and lack of accountability.

The Vrishabhavathi fills up several lakes on its route. The Byramangala lake, Chowkahalli lake, Gopahalli lake and several other lakes, which were once fresh water lakes, are now cesspools.

The water in the entire region where the river flows is contaminated with fluoride and other toxins. Even water from bore-wells is highly toxic. The water along the river is unfit for human consumption.

As a result, environmental and health issues have risen alarmingly. Asthma, skin and heart disease have become common. Therefore, there is an urgent need to rejuvenate the river.

I am sure this problem exists in many other States in the country as well. Rejuvenation of rivers has to be taken up as a national matter and not just be a State related matter.

To rejuvenate rivers, there has to be coordination among the Ministries of Urban Development, Environment, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Water Resources and the State Governments.

I would request the Government of India to take urgent steps to rejuvenate the Vrishabhavathi river and release adequate funds for the revival of this river.

HON. CHAIRPERSON :


Shri K.H. Muniyappa is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri D.K. Suresh.