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Title: Regarding rain harvesting in lakes in Kancheepuram district in Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak in Zero Hour today. I am once again thankful to my leader, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* because of whom I am in this august House today.

I wish to raise an important issue regarding my parliamentary constituency Kancheepuram. Kancheepuram is known as the 'Temple City'. The 192-feet high Ekambaranadhar Temple and the 100-pillar Mandapam in Varadaraja Perumal Temple are very famous. Kancheepuram is famous for silk sarees and they are considered to be one of the best varieties of silk sarees in the country.

Kancheepuram is the first district in the country with the largest number of lakes. It has more than 200 big lakes and ponds such as Maduranthakam Lake, Sirudhavor Lake, Kolava Lake, Thenneri Lake, Uthiramerur Lake, Thandalam Lake etc., and the main source of water for cultivation is by lift irrigation of water from bore-wells. The main and the only source of maintaining underground water level is through recharging from rain water. The Palar River is the main source for irrigation and supplies drinking water to the entire Kancheepuram District and, to an extent, Chennai.

Our leader, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* is a pioneer in the entire country in harvesting rain water for agriculture and public use. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* is the first Chief Minister in the country who enacted a law that every building that is constructed in Tamil Nadu should have rain water harvesting and recharging provision in the building.

Since a large number of lakes is available in Kancheepuram District, it is a natural infrastructure that is available to store rain water and thereby provide natural sub-soil recharging in the adjacent area of these lakes. Therefore, my humble submission to the Union Government and the hon. Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is to provide adequate funds for my Kancheepuram constituency for deepening and desilting of lakes in Kancheepuram.