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Title: Need to release the necessary funds for desalination plant at Nemmeli and Perur near Chennai.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Tamil Nadu geographically had very little surface water and the ground water resources were also fastly depleting. Understanding the basic underlying problem which necessitated conserving and increasing the ground water level, our hon. People's former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had taken pioneering efforts, the first ever in India in the field of rain water harvesting which stands out as a role model for our entire country.

In the Chennai City alone, the projected demand for drinking water by 2017 is 1584 MLD. At present, there are two desalination plants with 100 MLD capacity each, functioning in Tamil Nadu which converts sea water into drinking water. Our visionary leader, hon. People's former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, to avert the huge demand supply mismatch in the future, had proposed a 150 MLD SWRO Desalination Plant at Nemmeli near Chennai at a cost of Rs.1371.86 crore and another 400 MLD SWRO Desalination Plant at Perur near Chennai at a cost of Rs. 4070.67 crore. The requested Centre's share of 50 per cent is pending with the Government of India. The Government of India should release the necessary funds for expeditious completion of these proposed projects.