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Title: Need to allocate funds for cleaning and stoping the sewerage entering the holy river Thamirabarani.

SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN (TIRUNELVELI): Madam Speaker, "*Vatradha*

Jeeva Nathiyaam Engal Thamirabarani Nathi".

I wish to raise a matter which is of public importance. The Government should take efforts on a war footing to stop the sewerage entering the holy river, Thamirabarani which is in my constituency, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.

In this regard, I urge upon the Union Government and the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to allocate adequate funds for cleaning and saving this holy river, Thamirabarani.

Herewith, I register my sincere gratitude to the people's former Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for giving me this opportunity to represent the people of my constituency.

Thamirabarani is one of the perennial rivers in Tamil Nadu which originates from Pothigai hills on the eastern slopes of Western Ghats. Thamirabarani is a symbol of Tamil culture, civilization and an identity to Tirunelveli which is in the far South of India. The natural beauty of Tirunelveli is that this river runs through the centre of the city of Tirunelveli. The water of this river gives a sweet taste and quenches the thirst of the people of Tirunelveli. Its water is used for drinking, irrigation, fishing and electricity generation. This river is having a number of canals, dams and reservoirs. Besides fulfilling drinking water requirements of three districts of southern Tamil Nadu, this river facilitates irrigation 82,000 acres of land.

Of late, Thamirabarani River is greatly polluted due to rapid industrialization on its banks including pulp, paper, textile, various workshops and various small scale industries leading to the discharge of untreated effluents with human and animal wastes as well. The survey conducted at various canals of Thamirabarani River reveals that arsenic, chemical and pollution levels are extremely higher than the permissible limits. Further, the presence of amala plants in the canal greatly absorbs the oxygen leading to death of living things.