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Title : Need to take immediate action programmes for the interlinking of rivers in India.

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of our hon. Minister for Water Resources to take some immediate action programmes for the interlinking of rivers in India.

While river cleaning is of high priority, it is also essential to link rivers in order to curtail the wastage of water. Inter-linking of rivers would definitely help agricultural growth of many States, and thereby result in providing great boost to Indian economy. Inter-linking is aimed at creating additional storage facilities and transfer of water from surplus regions to more drought-prone areas through inter-basin transfers. It is claimed that it would provide additional irrigation in about 40 million hectares, and net power generation capacity of about 30,000 to 40,000 MW. Considering these positive things, we should not bother about the cost of the project of interlinking of rivers, which may be around Rs.2 lakh crore, as it would be the greater investment to make India more prosperous and strong.

Our *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has consistently emphasized the significance of interlinking of rivers. Hence, I would request our Minister for Water Resources to take immediate and concrete steps to implement the dream project of interlinking of rivers.