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Title: Need to provide adequate funds for treating the polluted underground water in Vellore Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): Madam Speaker, River Palar flows across my constituency, Vellore to a distance of about 100 kilometres and the water of this river is used for drinking and irrigational purposes. There is a thick concentration of over 1000 tanneries in Vaniyambadi, Pernambut, Ambur and Ranipet which are situated on the banks of the River. They are engaged in the leather tanning process and in that process, they use about 170 chemicals. After the treatment of leather using these chemicals, they discharge untreated effluents. In those days, when there was not much environmental awareness, they were discharged into the river which contaminated underground water. The Supreme Court, on the principle of polluted pay, directed payment of compensation to the farmers and other affected parties. Despite nearly two decades of the passing of the order, the offending tanneries have not paid up the money either due to the closure or due to their economic conditions. As a result, the affected parties and the farmers have not received due compensation.

I urge upon the Ministry of Environment as a one-time measure to pay off the compensation and later on, they may recover it from the offending tanners. I also urge upon the Ministry of Water Resources to sanction adequate funds in order to rejuvenate River Palar which will be in the interest of lakhs of farmers and other citizens in my constituency.