

an>

Title: Need to accord approval to the proposal the Government of Tamil Nadu to interlink Palar and Pennaiyar rivers and allocate sufficient funds for rejuvenation of the Palar river.

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): Palar is one of the ancient river systems in Southern India and it flows in Tamil Nadu as a life-line to the districts of Kancheepuram, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai and South Chennai. The river flows only a few days in a year but its subterranean flow is of high potential and is tapped for agriculture and industrial units apart from drinking water supply. The most important infiltration well in the river bed supplies water to Kalpakkam Atomic Station and also Chennai suburban area. Interlinking of rivers can improve the water potential of rivers. Before we could take up the linking of rivers at the national level, linking of South Indian rivers especially rivers in Tamil Nadu like Cauvery, Gundar, Pennaiyar and Palar needs to be taken up on a priority basis. Pennaiyar can be linked with Palar in two places from Krishnagiri reservoir and Sathanur reservoir. Government of Tamil Nadu has prepared a detailed project report to link river Palar with river Pennaiyar from Sathanur reservoir at a cost of Rs. 200 crores. This proposal has been sent to the Central Water Commission for approval. As thirty lakh people of Kancheepuram District are entirely dependent on River Palar system, I urge upon the Union Government to give approval speedily and also allocate funds for the rejuvenation of the Palar river.