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Title: Need to increase water level in Mullaperiyar Dam.

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SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Madam Speaker, the Mullaperiyar Dam is being operated by the Tamil Nadu Government under the lease agreement signed between the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Mullaperiyar River is the lifeline of people of Theni, Madurai, Sivaganga and Ramnad Districts of Tamil Nadu. Since the dam is very safe and since it can hold more water, Tamil Nadu Government under the able leadership and guidance of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, had been pleading to raise the water level in the dam from 136 ft. to 142 ft. which was agreed to by the apex Court in May 2014.

Based on the request of our Chief Minister, in June 2014, the Government of India constituted a Supervisory Committee for raising the water level to 142 ft. The Supervisory Committee also decided to implement the decree of the Supreme Court and raised the water level to 142 ft.

Since Kerala had been opposed to raising the water level in the dam, there have been agitations going on in and around the dam. Presently, the dam is being guarded by the Kerala Police. There are apprehensions that there may be a threat to the dam and its appurtenant structures.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been demanding that the dam must be guarded by the Central Industrial Security Force personnel. In the memorandum handed over to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister made this demand.

So, I request the Government of India to deploy CISF personnel to guard the Mullaperiyar Dam and its appurtenant structures immediately in place of Kerala Police.