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Title: Need to sanction additional fund for the Athikadevu Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. NAGARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Several flood canals scheme have been taken up in our country to augment ground water potential. At an estimated cost of Rs. 1862 crores Tamil Nadu has evolved 'Athikadavu-Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme'. At present, it is under active consideration for sanction. Hence, at this juncture, the dry land area between Bhavani and Noyyal rivers near Coimbatore may also be included as beneficiary area by way of linking the dried up Kaushika River. The two thousand year old Kaushika River has dried up leaving ground water table below 1500 feet. ...(*Interruptions*) As infrastructure like road bridges are already available, the linking of Kaushika River to Athikadavu may also be taken up as a component of Athikadavu-Avinashi flood canal scheme. This addition in the project will not require any land acquisition and will benefit about 10 lakh people and provide irrigation facilities in thousands of hectares of land across the stretch of 35 Kilometers. ...(*Interruptions*) It will also provide drinking water source to many villages viz. Agraphara Samakkulam upto Vanjipalayam via Kovilpalayam. Hence, I would urge upon the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to sanction the scheme by way of sanctioning additional requirement of Rs. 200 crores.

...(*Interruptions*)