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Title: Regarding release of funds for linking Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar river.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): Sivagangai district in the South Central region of Tamil Nadu is a traditional agricultural area, a rain-fed region. To overcome the scarcity of water for irrigation, conservation of rainwater has been taken up by way of maintaining channelised village tanks across the district. In order to increase the groundwater potential, and to effectively harvest the rainwater, the Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to link rivers - Cauvery, Vaigai, Manimuttar, and Kundar. The Government of Tamil Nadu, guided by our hon. *Amma*, has sent a proposal with the Detailed Project Report with a request to the Centre to provide the project cost of Rs.5,166 crore. The said project would irrigate 79,374 hectares of land in eight districts – Sivagangai, Madurai, Virudunagar, Tiruchi, Pudukottai, Tutikudi, Thanjavur and Ramanathapuram. This project would link 17 rivers in Tamil Nadu. Hence, I urge upon the Centre to give its approval and release the funds at the earliest for benefiting the large number of agriculturists in Tamil Nadu.