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Title: Need to accord approval of Cauvery, Vaigai and Gundar rivers interlinking project and canal modernization projects in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): As water is becoming a precious commodity, It is prudent on the part of any government to use its water resources potential to its optimum level. With this in mind our visionary leader Makkalin Muthalvar Amma has taken up with Centre the matter relating to permission and funding of the interlinking of rivers within Tamil Nadu, This can serve as the pioneering model project for the linking of major rivers of India. The flood waters of Cauvery must be diverted to the drought prone areas of Tamil Nadu by way of linking cauvery with the rivers Gaigai and Gundar. This will greatly benefit the rain fed agricultural land in the districts of Tiruchi, Pudukottai, Madurai, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar. A detailed project report along with the cost estimates of Rs. 5,166 crore has been sent to the Centre for approval. Similarly, modernisation of canals at a cost of Rs. 11,421 crore has also been sent to the Centre for its approval at the earliest. So is the case with Pennaiyar and Palar link scheme and Athikadavu-Avinashi flood canal scheme. I urge upon the Centre to accord approval and provide funds for the early completion of these projects.