

Title: Need to provide more funds to the State Government of Tamil Nadu for early completion of Hoganekkal drinking water scheme.
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SHRI K.P. MOHAN (DHARMAPURI): Though the Hoganekkal Falls are in the neighbourhood of Dharmapuri, yet about 20 lakh people living in 14 Panchayat Union areas of Dharmapuri have to rely on ground water for drinking water purposes. Ground water available at these places is found to be a health hazard as it contains heavy fluoride, which is very harmful for the health. Therefore, to solve the drinking water problem of the people living in these Panchayat Union areas of Dharmapuri, the Hoganekkal Drinking Water Scheme at a cost of Rs.636 crore was initiated as a Joint Project involving both the Central and State Governments with about 85 per cent of Japanese assistance. The said project was finally cleared by the Central Government in March this year. The remaining 15 per cent of the total cost of the project was to be shared equally by the Central and State Governments, that is, 7.5 per cent each by the Central and the State Governments. Now after the Pokharan-II Nuclear Test, the committed fund from Japan is not forthcoming as declared by that Government. Now the people of the above places fear whether their ambition to have good drinking water through the said project will be fulfilled or not. Even after fifty years of our Independence, the people living in the above places are deprived of drinking water. As the State Government's fund position is depleted, I urge upon the Central Government to release funds immediately for the said project and also take up the matter with the Japanese Government for flow of committed funds from Japan.