

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to provide funds for cleaning of river Thamirabarani in Tirunelveli Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN (TIRUNELVELI): Thamirabarani is one of the perennial river in Tamil Nadu which originates from Pothigai hills on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats. Thamirabarani is a symbol of Tamil culture and civilization and an identity to Tirunelveli city. The natural beauty of Tirunelveli is that Thamirabarani runs through the centre of the city. The water gives sweet taste and quenches the thirst of people of Tirunelveli. The river water is used for drinking, irrigation, fishing and electricity generation. This river is having a number of canals, dams and reservoirs. Besides fulfilling the drinking water requirements of three districts of southern Tamilnadu, the river irrigates 82,000 acres of land.

Thamirabarani River is greatly polluted due to rapid industrialization on its banks including pulp, paper, textile, various medium and large scale industries leading to the discharge of untreated effluents and also human and animal wastes. Examination of Thamirabarani River water indicates that the chemical and pollution levels are extremely higher than the permissible limits. Further, the presence of amala plants in the canal greatly absorb the oxygen level leading to the death of living things. Besides, the increased presence of microbes spreads foul smell in the canals. The presence of high level of toxic substance in the river water and its consumption causes irritation and other skin related diseases. There is huge apprehension among the scientists and farmers that if the present situation is allowed to continue, the crops will be greatly affected.

Madam, in this regard, I urge upon the Union Government and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to allocate necessary funds for cleaning and also to save the holy river running between the Oxford city of south India (palayamkottai) and Tirunelveli.