

Need to expedite the Telugu-Ganga Project to bring Krishna water to Madras and solve the drinking water problem of Madras city

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the very serious drinking water problem which is almost like a drought in the city of Madras. There is a pathetic sight of the residents wandering around without drinking water, leave alone water for any other use. Water supply has been officially restricted to once in two days. Even that water does not reach many of the colonies, many of the large clusters of slums which are in the city. Most of the people are really suffering without water.

There is an alarming drop in the water-table level in Madras and it has been said by some experts that the drop in the water-table is so alarming that it is almost a precursor to near desert-like conditions in the city and at this rate the sea-water will soon infiltrate because the water-table has dropped so low. After that, the only other alternative will be to abandon the Madras city. It is said that such a thing in such a large area as Tamil Nadu has not happened before anywhere else in the world. For more than three decades, the water-table in the city has never dropped so low. Therefore, things have to be viewed on a war-footing.

The chronic water supply problem has always existed. As early as in 1866, during the British time, they conceived a plan to supply water to the city. They built an *anicut* across Kushahtala, near Tamarapakam with a supply channel. That project was conceived for 4.7 lakhs of people. But soon the population of the city outgrew that. After that, in 1881, one Col. Ellis thought of a plan to link the Krishna and Pennar rivers and that scheme had to be given up. Later on, it was in 1951 that the project was taken up, again for the same Krishna

waters that I stand here before you urging upon the House to consider, and that project was also opposed by the farmers of the Krishna Valley in Andhra and that was given up. Finally, it was after 40 years that the senior and revered Congress leader, Shri Satyamurthy, thought of a scheme of water supply to Madras City from the Poondi Reservoir and that scheme was constructed and that scheme catered only to the needs of about 10 lakh people and, today, the population of Madras City is about 65 lakhs. I am happy to say that from that day onwards it was only the successive Congress Governments which took up this issue, which took up this matter, and later, it was Mrs. Indira Gandhi who announced the Telugu Ganga Project. From that day when Mr. Satyamurthy thought of the Poondi Reservoir which catered to ten lakhs of people till today, no further steps have been taken to augment the drinking water supply to Madras City.

Now, Madam, I have a demand to put before the Central Government. The Telugu Ganga Project was signed as early as in 1983 and the work was supposed to be taken up in April 1983 and was supposed to be completed by 1990 and the total project cost was estimated to be Rs. 690 crores. But the water supply is nowhere near even half way and for the future there does not seem to be any prospect of any drinking water supply to Madras City from the Telugu Ganga Project or the Krishna Project. And, Madam, the project cost also has escalated to a great deal. Time and again, the Chief Ministers of both the States have been meeting in this regard. But nothing has come out for political or other reasons. Meanwhile, the need of the people of Madras is very real, is so desperate, and I personally feel, being a resident of this City, Madras, that unless something is done on a war-footing for augmenting water supply to the City, the City will have to be evacuated. I will conclude in one minute.

Madam, my demand to the Central Government is three-fold. I demand that, immediately, on priority basis, this should be taken up and the Minister for Water Resources should convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the concerned States and also convene a meeting of the concerned officers and the senior Ministers in the Central Government to find out what the impediments are in the successful completion of the Telugu Ganga Project. Those impediments have to be speedily removed and the Telugu Ganga Project has to be put back on the rails so that we really get at least the 15 TMC of water. This is a human need which is far greater and far more important than any political consideration.

My second demand is that the Government has to consider immediately the demand for a Southern Grid of river waters so that all the irrigation as well as the drinking water needs of the entire State are met.

Thirdly, Madam, the State Government has approached the Centre for assistance in getting cleared from the World Bank a Rs. 600-crore scheme which is meant, when the Telugu Ganga Project is completed, for certain schemes to be taken up, to be set in motion, for storing and augmenting and supplying water to the people of the City of Madras and for this the World Bank has approved of a project of Rs. 600 crores which should be given to the State Government of Tamil Nadu. I think that if the Central Government gives assistance and endorsement to this project, this can also be taken up so that there is no further delay.

Madam, the matter is very urgent. Unfortunately, the State Government has been callous in this regard, to say the least... (Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had gone to Andhra Pradesh... (Interruptions)... and she had

a meeting with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh... (Interruptions)... But Mrs. Natarajan is trying to politicise the matter... (Interruptions)... Lkie Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan, we are also concerned and we are also associating with her. (Interruptions)... The Tamil Nadu Government has been there for only one-and-a-half years. But her grandfather was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu... (Interruptions)... and even during his period nothing was done... (Interruptions)... Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan has been very candid... (Interruptions)... and I was even appreciative of Mrs. Natarajan because she has taken up the whole issue... (Interruptions)... But she has tried to politicise the issue... (Interruptions)...

THE DESPUTY CHAIRMAN: But you should be very thankful to her because she did not mention about the really in Tamil Nadu and the water shortage!... (Interruptions)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: This is a general subject. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is there only for one and-a-half years. The Tamil Nadu problem is there for hundreds of years.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, Mr. Swaminathan should speak after I finish. I would not interrupt him. I promise.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is there for only one-and-a-half years. She has also gone to Andhra... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam he should speak after I finish. I would not interrupt him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have not finished yet?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I have one more point...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have taken a lot of time. You have taken more than six or seven minutes.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: They have interrupted me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Before interruption also.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I would just finish. I would not interrupt Mr. Swaminathan. I promise. Let me say what I have to say.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let her finish in one minute.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Why does she politicise the matter? The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is there for only one-and-a-half years. She is a responsible person...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I want to finish...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: You had President's rule in Tamil Nadu. What were you doing all that time?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, let me complete.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: It is not only the DMK and the ADMK who were in power. You had President's rule.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, you ask him to let me complete.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The Chief Minister had gone to Andhra. She had discussions with the Andhra Chief Minister. And she is trying all her best.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, the State Government...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Please do not politicise the matter. On this issue, we are agreed. It is not fair to politicise the matter.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): What happened to the Cauvery Tribunal Award? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: What happened to the Cauvery Tribunal verdict. You are not implementing that verdict. (*Interruptions*) You are not implementing the judgment of the Supreme Court. What respect have you got for the judiciary? You don't have any respect for judiciary.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, are they objecting to my request for water for Madras? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: When they talk about Ayodhya they want a judgment. When they come to Cauvery waters, they do not respect the judiciary.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, that matter is over.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Water can come to Tamil Nadu if the Cauvery verdict is implemented.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I have not finished yet. Let me complete.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That matter is over.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Please do not do it to me, Madam. Let me complete. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The Government is not implementing the Cauvery Tribunal verdict. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Special Mention—Shri V. Narayanasamy.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I have not yet finished.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You took seven minutes.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Whenever they have got a handle, they respect the judiciary...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: They are preventing me...
(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. (Interruptions) If you support her that there should be more water for Tamil Nadu, there should not be any agitation. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: We appeal through you, Madam, to the Central Government that they must implement the order of the Cauvery Tribunal.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, I am on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no point for order on a Special Mention. You cannot raise it.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Release the water as per the orders of the Tribunal. Then you can see that we get enough water... (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. Now, that is over. Mr. V. Narayanasamy — Special Mention (Interruptions) That matter is over. Now, Mr. Gohain, (Interruptions) Anything now spoken is not going on record. I request everybody, including Mrs. Natarajan and all the people who are standing to sit down because I have called Mr. Gohain. (Interruptions) Please go back. I am not going to permit this aggressiveness. This is not the way. Please go back. Nothing is going on record.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: **

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: **

SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: **

SHRIMATTI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN. **

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. It is useless for you to speak now because nothing will go on record. That Special

Mention is over. Mr. Padmanabham, that includes you also. I am not permitting. Now, Mr. Gohain, (Interruptions). Please take your seat. Mr. Muthu Mani, please take your seat. Mrs. Natarajan, I have noted the time. I gave you eight minutes on the special mention. Please sit down for a minute. I gave you 7 to 8 minutes before they started interruptions. This is a special mention for which only three minutes are allowed....

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Only three minutes are allowed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You don't have to repeat what I am saying. So, Mrs. Natarajan, I gave you alone single-handedly eight minutes. I cannot allow you any more time.

SHRIMATTI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Let me complete, Madam (Interruptions) in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Congress Members are not allowed to speak. Here also you are not allowing me to speak. (Interruptions).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: (Andhra Pradesh): I am not entering into any controversy, Madam. This is not a controversial matter. It has got another dimension.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let her complete. Only one sentence she would say.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am grateful to you for allowing me to... (Interruptions).

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam, either you allow all of us or you don't allow her. You ask her also to sit down.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is no argument. Mrs. Natarajan, you say one sentence and sit down.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: She has already said what she wanted to any... (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swaminathan please.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: You have already permitted her.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Chair is asking you. You have been in the Chair before and you know it. If I asked you to sit down, please sit down. No, I am not permitting you.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Why should she talk of Tamil Nadu Government? It is not the Government of Tamil Nadu which is responsible for scarcity of water.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: *... (Interruptions)

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I know*

I am aware of it. This is Rajya Sabha, I know it... (Interruptions). Like Mr. Subramanian Swamy, all these Members always want to accuse the AIADMK Government. She has been very reasonable in analysing the problem but why should she refer to Tamil Nadu Government for no purpose? This is not a problem created by Dr. Jayalalitha during the past one and a half years in Madras city.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: She should not have said that*... (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If Members are not going to listen to me, I am not going to allow it. It is enough. Let everybody sit down. I call Shri Gohain now.

श्री रामदास अप्पवाल (राजस्थान) :
मैडम, दूसरे सदन के बारे में किसी प्रकार के शब्द बोलना अनुचित है।
(व्यवधान) ...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: What I said, I endorse it and I repeat it. I stand by it.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Madam, this is not in keeping with the dignity of the House... (Interruptions).

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Mr. Muthu Mani, please sit down. I have called another Member, Mr. Gohain. Dr. Jain, please sit down.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Are you not allowing me to complete?

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, you are not allowing me to speak... (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No I am not allowing you now. I will allow you later.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, this is very important Telugu-Ganga project is very important.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not now. Please don't interrupt the House. Yes. Mr. Gohain.

1.00 p.m.

Bifurcation of NAMRUP Units of the Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation into Independent Establishments

SHRI BHARDESWAR GOHAIN: (Assam): Madam Deputy Chairman, through this Special Mention, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to a fast-deteriorating public sector industry which provides livelihood to about one lakh people, out of which about 8,000 people are directly connected.

The Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation comprises of four units, i.e., the Haldia, Barauni, Durgapur and Namrup units. At present, it is a chronically-sick industry. Since it is a sick industry, it has been referred to the B.I.F.R. The B. I. F. R., at its last sitting, had asked the Corporation to submit their schemes for revamping this industry, if possible if not, to face closure.

The fact is that the other units of the Corporation at Haldia, Barauni and Durgapur, are coal-based units and they are using naphtha as raw material. These three units have a labour problem and as a result of which there is no production by these three units, thereby causing huge loss to the Corporation.