

श्री मोहम्मद आजम खान (उत्तर प्रदेश) : समापति महोदय, मैं अपने आपको इससे संबद्ध करता हूँ।

Proposal to raise water level of Mullapperiyar Dam

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Sir, it is very reliably learnt that there is a strong move to raise the water level of Mullapperiyar Dam in Kerala from 136 feet, without considering the genuine reservation of the Government of Kerala. The proposal to raise the water level of the Dam will adversely affect the environment. The increase of water level tends to destroy the forest and wild life of the surroundings, especially the Tiger Reserve Project of Periyar in Kerala.

The Mullapperiyar Dam was constructed long back and the strength and capacity of the Dam is in doubt. The safety of the Dam is in danger. During the recent continuous monsoon, high leakage of water was found through the Dam, causing apprehension among the people.

If anything happens to the Dam, the population of Idukki, Kottayam and Ernakulam District will be totally affected and they will be devastated. All-party Conference convened by the Chief Minister of Kerala has already appealed to the Government of India not to raise the water level of Mullapperiyar Dam.

Considering all these facts, it is urged that the water level of Mullapperiyar Dam shall not be raised at any cost.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

**Release of Postal Stamp and Coin in the
memory of Maruthupandians**

SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, this is regarding the release of a postal stamp and a coin in the memory of Maruthupandians on their 200th death anniversary. Maruthupandians were the erstwhile rulers of Sivagangai land in Tamil Nadu during the 18th century. That period was called the 'The Golden Age of Sivaganga Kingdom'. According to the Indian history, the ruler had issued a proclamation against the British Rule in

India which was called the 'Thiruchirapalli Proclamation' and which emphasised that the British rulers should quit India. Maruthu brothers organised a disciplined movement against the British Government. They collected various kings of south India and organised a rebellion.

The British troops started war against the brave brothers on 28th May, 1801. The Maruthu brothers carried out guerrilla attacks against them. The war did not end as per the expectations of the British rulers. Because of their brave fighting, the war went on for 150 days. The Maruthu brothers continued guerrilla attacks against the British Army. A prize money was announced by the British Army for giving information about Maruthu brothers. It worked out. The Maruthu brothers were arrested and imprisoned. Finally, they were hanged with their associates in the ruined fort of Thiruppathur, Sivaganga District, Tamil Nadu, on 24th October, 1801. On October 24, 2001, it was the 200th year of the hanging of the Maruthu brothers and the Tamil Nadu Government organised a function and honoured the brothers. But the Central Government has not noticed their sacrifice. So many north Indian kings have been honoured, but the Maruthu brothers have not been honoured. Our Government honoured Sivaji by issuing a coin with his picture. It is expected that the same honour will be given to Marudhu brothers also by issuing a postal stamp and a coin in their memory.

Depletion of grassland at Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary

SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA (Assam): Sir, through this Special Mention, I would like to mention about the Kaziranga National Park, which is being attacked by a destroyer plant called 'Maimoja'. This plant, which is of 'the touch-me-not plant variety', has covered more than 200 acres of land in the National Park. All these are grassland areas and an attraction to the herbivorous animals found here. As a result of this, food has become scarce to the wildlife endemic in this area. The creeper-like plant, which is growing in almost all the ranges in the Park, is destroying the grassland and also climbs to a height of 10-12 feet. Kaziranga is the habitat of the world-famous one-horned rhinoceros. As the plant called 'Maimoja' is attacking the grassland, the officials concerned are worried about the situation, as it might destroy the grassland of the area. Last year, an attempt was made to uproot and destroy the plant, with the help of tractors, but it failed. This plant was never seen in this area before. It is believed that the seed of this