

doubt that Ganga could carry the priority. But the Plan has to be a comprehensive solution for the entire country.

It will require a tough and serious effort. A redirection of the programme should be devised to make the effort effective. It is that way that our rivers, particularly Ganga, will be rejuvenated and cleaned. I believe that can be done. Many good steps we have taken during the recent Kumbh. That effort must continue.

It would be interesting to know why Ganga Action Plan undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests did not meet the desired success.

The Centre for Science and Environment could be of great help to the system to clean Ganga and other rivers.

Demand to expedite clearance of proposals for interlinking of rivers in Tamil Nadu

SHRI T. RATHINAVEL (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to impress upon the need to interlink peninsular rivers on a war footing. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been repeatedly impressing upon the Centre the need to implement interlinking of the rivers Mahanadi- Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery and then on to Gundar as also the diversion of waters of the west-flowing rivers of Pamba and Achankovil to Vaippar in Tamil Nadu under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component. On 27th February, 2012, the Supreme Court directed the Government of India to constitute a Special Committee for the implementation of interlinking of Rivers. However, after the formation of the Committee in May 2013, no further step has been taken to implement interlinking of rivers project. Tamil Nadu being a water-deficit State, I appeal to the Centre to immediately activate the Special Committee for interlinking of rivers. For overcoming water scarcity for irrigation and drinking purposes, Tamil Nadu had sought Central assistance for implementation of Athikadavu-Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs.1,862 crores. Pennaiyar (Sathanur Dam)-Palar Link Scheme and Pennaiyar Nedungal Anicut-Palar Link at an estimated cost of Rs.500 crores has also been proposed to the Centre. These projects may be expedited so that fund is allocated as early as possible. The proposal to divert the flood waters of Cauvery to drought-prone areas by linking the Rivers Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar at a cost of Rs.5,166 crores, that was returned by the previous Government, may be approved expeditiously. I urge upon the Government to expedite these schemes pertaining to Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

Demand to conduct nationwide audit of Mid-day Meal Scheme

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (Karnataka): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the recent media reports about 12 school girls who fell