

[14 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडे (पश्चिमी बंगाल): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्या से स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

### **Need to Legislate to Protect the Lower Riparian States**

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to impress upon the need for bringing a suitable legislation as envisaged in Entry 56 of the Union List given in the Constitution, to protect the interests of lower riparian States. The inter-State river water disputes adjudication under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956, does not provide timely help to the suffering States. The Cauvery water dispute is a glaring example. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was set up in June, 1990, and an interim award was given on 25th June, 1991. After persistent effort by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the interim award was gazetted by the Union Government on 11th December, 1991. Even that did not bring solace to Tamil Nadu. After 14 years of anxious wait, justice is still not in sight. Same is the fate of all the riparian States of 14 major and 9 medium inter-State rivers. Anticipating such situations, our constitution-makers have provided ample power to the Union under Entry 56 of List 1 to legislate for the regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys. Time has come for the Centre to act in this direction. Such a step by the Union will have the advantage of ensuring a quick solution to such disputes. This will also take care of the voices of dissent raised against the linking of major rivers in the country. So, I appeal to the Government to bring a comprehensive legislation under Entry 56 of List 1 and safeguard the interests of lower riparian States.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself his Special mention.

SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with his Special mention.

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Dhinakaran. ....(Interruptions).... Sir, all the Members of Rajya Sabha representing the State of Tamil Nadu associate themselves with his Special Mention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Everybody in the House associate himself with it. ....(Interruptions)... No comments. ....(Interruptions)... No comments, please. Only association. ....(Interruptions)... It will come.