

Press Note 62

M. KARUNANIDHI
CHIEF MINISTER



Date 8-10-09

SECRETARIAT
CHENNAI - 600 009

Date.....

D.O.Lr.No. 28641/ISW.1/2009, Dated 8-10-2009.

Dear PM,

I am constrained to send this letter to you in reference to the 16th meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 16.9.2009, for which the minutes were issued on 7.10.2009. Following media reports, soon after the meeting was held on 16.9.2009, I had written to the Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests on 22.9.2009 that there was already a Supreme Court case in this matter. I had also requested him to consult the Tamil Nadu Government before giving any permission to the Kerala Government for conducting any survey for building a new Mullai Periyar Dam since it was a bilateral issue. While he has not only not responded to my letter dated 22.9.2009, but he has gone ahead and permitted the Kerala Government to conduct the Survey without consulting the Tamil Nadu Government.

Further, I am shocked to see the wording of the minutes of the meeting chaired by him; under para 4.2(8) extracted below:

"..... After detailed discussions and considering the fact that the **old dam was 113 years old, weak and could cause serious disaster in future,**"

I would like to point out that the Expert Committee constituted in June 2000, by the Government of India, Ministry of Water

Resources, had certified that the Dam was safe. Therefore, whether the dam is weak or not, is not within the jurisdiction of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Therefore, the Tamil Nadu Government was left with no recourse except to approach the Supreme Court on 7.10.2009 requesting to grant stay the operation of the permission given on 6.10.2009 to the Kerala Government to conduct the survey for building a new Mullai Periyar Dam.

Further, the agenda notes for the meeting on 16-9-2009 states that this matter is not sub-judice. This is a blatant misrepresentation of facts because the case is pending in the Supreme Court and the next hearing is on 20-10-2009. I had also brought this to the notice of Mr. Jairam Ramesh in my letter dated 22-9-2009.

In the circumstances, I request you to immediately direct the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests to withdraw the decision taken based on erroneous details in para 4.2(8) of the minutes of the meeting.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,

M. Karunanidhi.

(M. KARUNANIDHI)

To
Hon'ble Dr. Manmohan Singh ji,
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

வெளியீடு, இயக்குநர்
செய்தி, மக்கள் தொடர்புத் துறை,
கலைமைச் செயலகம், சென்னை-3.

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