

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 27.5.2012 addressed by Selvi J Jayalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr.Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:-

“As you are aware, the Supreme Court of India appointed an Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Dr. A.S. Anand to study the safety aspects of the Mullai Periyar Dam.

The Empowered Committee had ordered a series of tests to assess the structural stability of the Dam including the core stability test for which vertical holes had to be drilled and the core extracted. Accordingly, the tests were completed. Now, the holes have to be closed, in view of the approaching monsoon.

The Government of Kerala has been preventing the officials of Tamil Nadu from closing these drilled holes, in spite of the clear directions given by the Empowered Committee to close the holes. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also taken up the matter with the Government of Kerala but to no avail.

It is necessary to fill the vertical holes before the onset of the monsoon so as to prevent any damage to the Mullai Periyar Dam. The attempt of the Government of Kerala to prevent us from filling the drilled holes appears to be a ploy intended to ensure that the structural stability of the Dam is weakened, especially in the light of the report of the Empowered Committee which has concluded that the Dam is structurally, seismically and hydrologically safe and the water level could be raised to 142 ft.

The Kerala Police have been stationed at the Dam site only for the purpose of guarding the Dam. The Government of Kerala had given an undertaking to the Supreme Court that it would provide necessary protection to the Dam. However, in practice, the Government of Kerala has been using its Police to stop Tamil Nadu Engineers from carrying out even routine maintenance works on the Dam and its appurtenant structures. This attitude of the Government of Kerala is reprehensible and needs to be set right.

You may recall that in my earlier letters and in the Memorandum I had presented to you on 25.12.2011, I had requested you to order the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force to safeguard the Dam. This request is yet to be acceded to.

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I, therefore, request you to advise the Government of Kerala not to prevent the officials of Tamil Nadu from carrying out the essential work of closing the drilled holes on the Mullai Periyar Dam.

Further, if the Government of Kerala persists with this recalcitrant attitude and if the Government of India does not respond to my request for the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force, the Government of Tamil Nadu will have no option but to deploy its own Police Force to guard the Mullai Periyar Dam in the area leased out to Tamil Nadu.

I look forward to your immediate action in this matter.”

Issued by : Director, Information & Public Relations, Chennai – 9
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