

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 1.7.2016 of Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

“I wish to bring to your urgent notice an important issue relating to the action of the Irrigation Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh increasing the height of the check dam from the existing height of 5ft. to 12 ft. across Palar river at Perumballam village, in Chithoor District near the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border. As you are aware, Palar is an inter-State river and this unilateral action of the authorities in Andhra Pradesh has caused great alarm and apprehension in Tamil Nadu.

You will appreciate that Palar is a River which is already deficit in water supply. This river supports an ayacut of about 4.20 lakh acres in Tamil Nadu. Farmers in the Northern Districts of Tamil Nadu solely depend upon this River for irrigation. The Palar River with its sand strata is the only major source for drinking water supply to several towns and villages in the Northern Districts of Tamil Nadu. Further, water from Palar is also supplied to the Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam.

I wish to point out that the Palar River which is an inter-State River is one of the Rivers mentioned in Schedule “A” annexed to the Madras-Mysore Agreement, 1892. As per Clause II of the Agreement, the upstream State should not, without the previous consent of the downstream State of Tamil Nadu, build any anaicut or any structure to obstruct, divert or store the waters of the River across any part of the fifteen main rivers, named in Schedule “A” appended to the Agreement.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has already filed a Suit on 10.2.2006 (OS No.2 of 2006) in the Supreme Court seeking to restrain the Government of Andhra Pradesh from constructing any structure / works across the River Palar or at any other place through which the River Palar and its tributaries flow or impounding / diverting water therein in violation of the Madras-Mysore Agreement, 1892.

In the circumstances, the Government of Tamil Nadu lodges its strong protest against the action of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in having unilaterally increased the height of the existing check dam at Perumballam village, Kuppam Revenue Mandal in Chithoor District, in violation of the Madras-Mysore Agreement, 1892.

I also request you to immediately intervene in the matter and issue instructions to the officials concerned to take urgent steps to reduce the level of the check dam to its original level and not to store water additionally and ensure the natural flows to Tamil Nadu.

I look forward to your immediate positive response in the matter.”
