

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 2.9.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below :

"I wish to bring to your urgent notice an important issue related to the proposals of the Government of Karnataka to build reservoirs across the river Cauvery at Mekedatu for generation of hydro electric power.

The media had widely reported the statement of the Minister for Law, Government of Karnataka, about the Government of Karnataka's plan to construct a hydro power station at Mekedatu and for this purpose, three reservoirs are planned to be constructed across the river Cauvery near Mekedatu. Further, it was reported that Karnataka proposes to utilize the surplus water of the Hemavathy and the Krishnarajasagar reservoirs at an estimated cost of Rs.500 to Rs.600 crores for drinking water schemes.

I would like to bring to your attention that the proposed reservoirs near Mekedatu are new schemes not contemplated in the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. Further, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal prescribes the total quantity of water to be used for consumptive use. Therefore, this proposal of Karnataka is wholly illegal and is causing great alarm and apprehension in Tamil Nadu, as it will affect the natural flow of the river Cauvery considerably and will severely affect the irrigation in Tamil Nadu. Further, it will set at nought the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The Government of Karnataka should not be allowed to unilaterally execute a scheme without the consent of the lower riparian State. The Cauvery Management Board directed to be constituted by the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is yet to be put in place by the Government of India. In the absence of such a monitoring mechanism, the stand of the Minister of the Government of Karnataka that there is no impediment to executing the scheme of construction of a reservoir as the Final Order has been notified is wholly untenable and is against all principles of federalism. In a federal structure, no upper riparian State can unilaterally interfere with the natural flow of an inter State river without the consent and concurrence of the lower riparian State.

Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu had filed an Interlocutory Application in the Supreme Court to restrain the Government of Karnataka from executing the Shivasamudram and Mekedatu Hydro electric Projects by themselves and also to direct the Government of India to execute the Shivsamudram, Mekedatu, Hogenekkal and Rasimanal hydel projects as a package through the National Hydro Power Corporation Ltd., or any other appropriate Central Power Generation utility so as to derive the maximum benefits of the power potential. The Civil Appeals as well as the Interlocutory Application are pending in the Supreme Court and therefore the entire matter is *sub judice*.

My repeated request to you to instruct the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, for ensuring the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, is yet to be acceded to.

Under the circumstances, I seek your immediate intervention in the matter and request you to advise the Government of Karnataka not to take up any schemes including hydro electric projects in the Cauvery Basin of Karnataka without the prior consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu. I also request you to advise the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, not to accord clearance to any Projects of Karnataka in the river Cauvery till a permanent monitoring mechanism viz., the Cauvery Management Board is formed.

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

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

Dated : 3.9.2013