

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 2.9.2016 of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"As you are aware the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in its meeting held on 11th and 12th August, 2016, recommended the grant of Standard Terms of Reference for conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study on the proposal of the Government of Kerala to build a Dam across the river Siruvani, which is a sub-tributary of the Cauvery, as part of the Attappady River Valley Project. The Committee has decided to recommend this without obtaining the necessary comments of the Government of Tamil Nadu in contravention of its own decision in the meeting held on 28th and 29th March, 2016 and contrary to the letter from the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, on this issue dated 19.9.2013. This decision of the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has caused great unrest amongst the farmers and the general public all over Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has on 2.9.2016, unanimously passed a Resolution expressing regret at the manner in which the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has made its recommendation with unwarranted haste and without obtaining the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and inaccurately recording in the Minutes of the meeting that the Government of Tamil Nadu has not responded to several letters from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Resolution strongly urges the Government of India not to accept the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee made in its 96th meeting held on 11th and 12th August, 2016, for grant of Standard Terms of Reference for conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment study of the Attappady Valley Irrigation Project and not to permit the Governments of Kerala and Karnataka to take up any project in the Cauvery Basin till the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee come into force and judicial references are finally settled.

The text of the Resolution passed unanimously in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 2.9.2016 with its English translation is appended.

I request you to instruct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India to take immediate further action on the basis of the Resolution passed unanimously by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.”

Text of the Resolution placed and carried unanimously in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 2.9.2016.

RESOLUTION

The Siruvani river which originates in the Attappady valley of Kerala State, flows within the territory of Kerala and joins the river Bhavani within the boundary of Kerala's State. This river is a sub-tributary of the Cauvery river which is an inter-state river. That is why the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in its Final Order has taken into account the water availability in the Siruvani river and the Bhavani river basin also as part of the allocated share of Cauvery river waters amongst the States.

In June, 2012, when media reports appeared that the Government of Kerala is attempting to build a dam as part of the Attappady Irrigation Project, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J Jayalalithaa wrote to the then Prime Minister of India on 21.6.2012. In that letter, the Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister, that in a context where the appeals filed by Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court regarding the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's Final Order and while the clarification petitions filed before the Tribunal were still pending, the Government of Kerala may be advised not to take up any scheme and the Central Water Commission should not accord any technical clearance until the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is notified in the Gazette by the Government of India or until the final judicial decisions are received. Subsequently, the Government of Tamil Nadu has written several letters to the Government of India regarding this issue.

On 19.9.2013, the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India wrote to the Government of Tamil Nadu that the Government of Kerala was requested to obtain the consent of the basin States,

and then approach the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal for its consent.

The Expert Appraisal Committee functioning under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in its 92nd Meeting held on 28th and 29th March, 2016, decided that Kerala's proposal for grant of the Standard Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Attappady Valley Project would be considered only after the Government of Kerala obtained the comments of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

In this situation, the Expert Appraisal Committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India in its 96th Meeting held on 11th and 12th August, 2016, has recommended to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, for the grant of Standard Terms of Reference for conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study by the Government of Kerala.

This recommendation is contrary to the letter of the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India dated 19.09.2013 and the decision of the Expert Appraisal Committee functioning under the to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India in its meeting held on 28th and 29th March, 2016. It is regrettable that the Expert Appraisal Committee under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has considered the subject as an additional agenda item in the meeting and granted approval with unwarranted haste. This House deeply regrets that contrary to truth it has been recorded in the minutes of the meeting that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had written to the Government of Tamil Nadu several times to which there was no response.

Hence, this House is of the view that the Committee has taken an adverse decision against Tamil Nadu in unwarranted haste. "The EAC took note of no responses from the Tamil Nadu State instead of several letters sent from the Government of Kerala and MoEF & CC to the Government of Tamil Nadu...." the use of the phrase "instead of" in place of "in spite of" in the minutes, indicates the unwarranted haste.

Therefore, this House strongly urges the Government of India not to accept the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, made in its 96th Meeting for grant of Standard Terms of Reference to the Attappady River Valley Project as the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal have not been obtained, as indicated in the

letter of the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India dated 19.9.2013 and in the minutes of the 92nd Meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee functioning under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Further, this House strongly urges that the Government of India should not permit the Governments of Kerala and Karnataka to take up any project in the Cauvery Basin till the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee come into force and judicial references are finally settled.

**Issued by: Director of Information and Public Relations,
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