

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 3.9.2013 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 :

"Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, a Government of Karnataka Enterprise, has put out advertisements in newspapers inviting Expression of Interest for the restoration and rejuvenation of river Arkavathy and for the modernization of the Hemavathy canals.

This Expression of Interest is for the restoration and rejuvenation of river Arkavathy, and remodelling Hemavathy Left Bank Canal, Right Bank Canal and Right Bank High level Canal. The Expression of Interest is for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report for the rejuvenation of Arkavathy river under the National River Conservation Programme and National Watershed Development. The modernisation of the Hemavathy canals is for seeking assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

I would like to bring to your attention that the rejuvenation of river Arkavathy, and remodelling of Hemavathy Canals are new schemes not contemplated in the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The scope of the projects is also not known. Further, it is apprehended that the remodelling of the Hemavathy project will result in increased drawal of water by Karnataka and expansion of their Ayacut to an extent that is more than what has been allocated by the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, besides affecting the natural flow of the river and consequently severely affecting the irrigation interests of Tamil Nadu. These schemes proposed by the Government of Karnataka are against the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

As you are aware, the Supreme Court has formed a pro tem Committee to monitor the implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. It is shocking that Karnataka, in utter disregard of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, is proceeding with new modernization schemes in the Cauvery basin. The Government of Karnataka should not, therefore, be allowed to take up any new schemes not contemplated in the Final Order or any other schemes in the Cauvery Basin till the formation of the Cauvery Management Board.

Further, my repeated requests to you to order 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, have not been acted upon. I would like to reiterate that the immediate formation of the Cauvery Management Board is imperative to ensure that the Final Order of the Tribunal is not violated with impunity by Karnataka repeatedly.

Under the circumstances, I request you to intervene in the matter and advise the Government of Karnataka and its Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited not to proceed with any projects in the Cauvery Basin till the Cauvery Management Board is formed. Further, the Government of Karnataka may be instructed to advise the Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited appropriately to withhold the Invitation for Expression of Interest called for by it for these two projects and also not to call for any Invitation for Expression of Interest for the projects of Karnataka lying in the Cauvery Basin till the Cauvery Management Board is formed. I also request you to form the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee immediately.

I shall be thankful for your immediate response in this matter."

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

Dated : 4.9.2013