

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 8.11.2014 addressed by Thiru O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:

"I would like to draw your kind attention to disconcerting reports appearing in the media about the Government of Kerala's Plan to construct a Dam with a storage capacity of about 2 TMC ft. of water across the river Pambar at Pattisserry in Kerala at an estimated cost of Rs.26 crores.

I would also like to point out that the river Pambar, is a tributary of the river Amaravathy, which in turn is a tributary of the river Cauvery. It has also been reported that the Chief Minister of Kerala had laid the foundation stone for this project recently and preliminary works have been taken up. This has caused anxiety, deep anguish and uncertainty amongst the farmers of Tamil Nadu. It is apprehended that the irrigation and drinking water supply in the entire area dependent on the Amaravathy river, will be totally affected, if the Government of Kerala is allowed to build the Dam and obstruct the flow of water to Amaravathy Reservoir.

The proposed plan of the Government of Kerala in taking up new projects in the Pambar sub-basin is in violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007. Any new project should have the approval of the Cauvery Management Board and the specific consent of the downstream State of Tamil Nadu.

My Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has repeatedly been urging the Government of India to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007. This request of my Leader has not been favourably considered till now. In the absence of an appropriate mechanism viz., the Cauvery Management Board, it will not be possible to monitor the execution of new projects by the party States.

A visit by the Engineers of Public Works Department to the site on 7.11.2014 has indicated that though work has not yet started, it was ascertained that Government of Kerala may start the work very soon in view of the reports regarding laying of the foundation stone.

May I, therefore, request you to advise the Government of Kerala not to proceed with the proposed construction of the Dam across the

river Pambar at Pattisserry or any other scheme on the river Pambar? I also request you to advise the Government of Kerala to furnish full details of the schemes proposed by the Government of Kerala in the Pambar sub-basin and further request Kerala not to proceed with any of the projects, in any manner, till the Cauvery Management Board is constituted and the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu obtained.

I request your immediate intervention in this matter to protect the interests of Tamil Nadu and also to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.”

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Issued by: DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai-9
Dated : 8.11.2014