



Speech of

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Hon'ble Minister for Public Works & Law

**24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
NATIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**9th July, 2008
New Delhi**

Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources,

Hon'ble Minister of State for Water Resources,

Hon'ble Chief Ministers and

Ministers of State Governments,

Senior Officers of the Union and State Governments,

I am happy to attend the 24th Annual General Meeting of the National Water Development Agency and place our views before this august body on certain important and relevant issues for your consideration. Tamil Nadu is a water deficit State and has been depending on neighbouring States, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh for its requirements of water for drinking and irrigation.

During the 53rd National Development Council meeting held in New Delhi on 29.05.2007 followed by 54th meeting on 19.12.2007, our Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaaignar had urged the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the project for Inter Linking of Peninsular Rivers should be included and funded

as part of the agriculture strategy of the 11th Five Year Plan. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaingar had also sought the support from the Central Government for getting Tamil Nadu's due share of waters without causing any strain in its age-old relationship with its neighbouring States.

Apart from this, our Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaingar made a request for inter linking of rivers particularly the inter-linking of peninsular rivers and also intra-linking of State rivers. I am happy that the Government of India has agreed to our request and also resolved to provide funds for intra linking river projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). I take this opportunity to inform that our Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.Kalaingar has since posed two projects under intra-linking of State rivers and has sought 90% grant under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). I hope the Government of India will consider and accord sanction for the schemes quickly.

Hon'ble Chairman and Members are aware that under the Scheme of inter-linking of Peninsular Rivers, Tamil Nadu has suggested that no link should be taken up either on priority basis or in isolation in case it affects the overall interests of the downstream States. However, creation of storages which is of paramount importance to such States should be taken up at the first instance and I, on behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu, urge that the peninsular rivers linkage should be taken up as a total project. In this context, I consider that there will be no harm in diverting the flood waters flowing waste into the sea, so that, the flood waters can be diverted for optimum utilization in the needy areas for irrigation and especially where there is shortage of drinking water.

I, therefore, appeal through this august Forum that the upstream States should not have any objection for intra river linking schemes to divert flood waters to the needy areas by the downstream States since they will not

