

Text of the D.O. letter dated 10.7.2019 of **Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting **Shri Prakash Javadekar**.

I have on 24.6.2019 written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister seeking his personal intervention to deny permission to the proposal of Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamita for grant of Terms of Reference to obtain Environmental Clearance for Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and Drinking Water Project.

However, it has been brought to my notice that the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro electric Projects functioning under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has included the proposal of Karnataka for grant of fresh Terms of Reference to Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and Drinking Water Project in its meeting scheduled to be held on 19.7.2019. The action of the Committee to include the proposal of Karnataka for discussion in the meeting is a violation of the Notified Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been conveying its strong objections and has been urging the Government of India to reject outright the proposal of Karnataka for its proposed Mekedatu Project, as it violates the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as modified by the Supreme Court. Further, Karnataka has not obtained the prior concurrence of the Government of Tamil Nadu and of other co-basin States. Cauvery basin being a deficit Basin, construction of Mekedatu or any project in any place by upper riparian State will drastically affect the lower riparian State in getting its due share of water. The Government of Tamil Nadu has filed an Interlocutory Application before the Supreme Court against the proposal of Karnataka for constructing a reservoir and also a Contempt Petition against all concerned and the matter is pending in the Supreme Court.

In the circumstances, I request you to instruct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to issue instructions to the Expert

Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro electric Projects to withdraw the subject of grant of fresh Terms of Reference to Karnataka for Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and Drinking Water Project from the Agenda for the 25th meeting of the Committee to be held on 19.7.2019. The Committee may also be directed to desist from entertaining the proposal of Karnataka in future and the present proposal may be rejected and returned to Karnataka.

I look forward to your immediate reply in the matter.

Issued by: Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.
Date: 10.7.2019