

Text of the D.O. letter dated 9.10.2019 of **Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting **Shri Prakash Javadekar**.

Dear Shri Prakash Javadekar ji,

Please refer to my letter dated 10.7.2019 in which I had requested you to reject and return the Mekedatu Balancing-cum-Drinking Water Reservoir Project of Karnataka, as it is against the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 16.2.2018.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court have found that the existing storage facilities available in the Cauvery Basin are adequate for storing and distributing water to the lower riparian States as per the monthly schedule prescribed by it. Therefore, the proposal of Karnataka to build a reservoir is *ex-facie* untenable and ought to be rejected outright. Further, the concurrence of Tamil Nadu and of other co-basin States has not been obtained for the Project.

I would also like to state that Tamil Nadu has filed a Miscellaneous Application before the Supreme Court against the proposal of Karnataka for constructing a Reservoir and also a Contempt Petition against all concerned and the matters are pending in the Supreme Court.

The Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro-electric Projects in the meeting held on 19.7.2019, deferred the proposal of Karnataka's Mekedatu project.

It has been brought to the notice of Tamil Nadu that Karnataka has again approached the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro-electric Projects seeking approval of the Terms of Reference for

Mekedatu Project. The Government of Tamil Nadu once again reiterates its strong objections to the project proposal of Karnataka, as it has no right to construct any reservoir on an inter-State river without the consent of the lower riparian State i.e. Tamil Nadu.

In the above mentioned 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 not to entertain the proposal of Karnataka and to reject the Detailed Project Report of Karnataka seeking grant of Terms of Reference to conduct EIA/EMP Report for Mekedatu Project.

I look forward to your immediate action in the matter.

Issued by: Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.
Date: 10.10.2019