

Press Release

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru O.Panneerselvam met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Thiru Nara Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada at 3 pm on 12th January, 2017 to request for further release of Krishna water to meet the drinking water needs of Chennai city.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu stated that Tamil Nadu is still recovering from the deep sense of grief and sorrow on the untimely demise of the Revered Leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for having shared Tamil Nadu's moments of grief by paying homage to the great departed leader in person, which was a great consolation.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for immediately accepting Tamil Nadu's request to release Krishna water from Kandaleru Reservoir for Chennai City. The officers of the Government of Andhra Pradesh were also thanked for ensuring the flow of water from 9th January, 2017. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu highlighted that this was possible only because of the goodwill and mutual understanding between the two States.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu emphasized that Tamil Nadu is mainly dependent on the North-East monsoon which has totally failed this season leading to a drought situation in the State. It was further indicated that Chennai City largely depends on the rainfall during the North-East monsoon for its drinking water supply. This year, the North-East monsoon was grossly insufficient and the rainfall in the area in and around Chennai was 57% deficient. Even the Vardah Cyclone, which devastated Chennai City and its suburbs in December, 2016 did not bring much rainfall. Water for Chennai City is stored in 4 reservoirs which have a combined gross storage of 11.057 TMC feet. As on date the storage in the 4 reservoirs is just 1.504 TMC feet which is very low and is

inadequate to meet the drinking water needs of Chennai City. As a consequence, there is a dire need of assured water supply from the Telugu Ganga Project to support Chennai's drinking water needs.

Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that as per the Krishna Water Agreement entered into on 18.4.1983, Tamil Nadu has to be supplied 12 TMC feet of water in a year at the Tamil Nadu border. This supply is to be in two spells of 8 TMC feet from July to October and a second spell of 4 TMC feet from January to April. Hon'ble Chief Minister further mentioned that during 2015-2016, Tamil Nadu did not receive any water from the Telugu Ganga Project. During 2016-2017, Tamil Nadu received only 0.991 TMC feet of water.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu further stated that the agreement also covers the cost sharing for the project towards the common components between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Tamil Nadu has so far paid Rs.687 crores to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the project. There are some accounting issues relating to costs which are being reconciled. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu mentioned that Government of Tamil Nadu officers have been instructed to make an immediate on account release of funds towards Tamil Nadu's share of the cost of the project.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister further stated that as information available, on 11th January, 2017, Somasila Reservoir has about 34.81 TMC feet and Kandaleru Reservoir has 13.24 TMC feet of water. The present rate of flow of about 1000 cusecs released from Kandaleru Reservoir for Chennai drinking water supply is inadequate given the acute drinking water supply position. Hence, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to step up the release of water from Kandaleru so that at least 5 TMC feet of water is realised by Tamil Nadu in the coming months.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu reiterated that this was a particularly difficult year for Tamil Nadu and to prevent an acute drinking water crisis in Chennai, adequate water may be released without any

disruption. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu further requested his Andhra Pradesh counterpart to instruct the officers to step up the release of water from today (12.1.2017) onwards.

Once again thanking the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the kind gesture in promptly resuming the release of water, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu expressed the hope that the Government of Andhra Pradesh will continue to release adequate water, as this support will be vital to meet the drinking water needs of Chennai City this summer.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh pointed out that Andhra Pradesh also had a deficient North East monsoon. However the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh stated that he would consider the request of Tamil Nadu positively. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh suggested that detailed modalities may be worked out by the officials of both states.

The meeting was attended by Thiru Edapadi K. Palanisamy, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Highways and Minor Ports, Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Prathipati Pulla Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Thiru Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resources Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tmt Girija Vaidyanathan, Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu, Tmt Sheela Balakrishnan, Advisor to Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Ajeya Kallam, Special Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Thiru S.K.Prabakar, Principal Secretary, Public Works Department, Thiru K.Phanindra Reddy, Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply, and other Senior Officials from both State Governments.

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