

**PRESS RELEASE**

Text of the D.O. letter dated 12.11.2014 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:-

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"Karnataka has been repeatedly violating the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, seriously jeopardizing the rights of the lower riparian State of Tamil Nadu and affecting the livelihood of lakhs of farmers. The latest in the series of violation is their proposal to go ahead with the construction of two reservoirs at Mekedatu.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that my Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had already written to your predecessor on 2.9.2013 that the reservoirs planned by the Government of Karnataka near Mekedatu are new schemes not contemplated in the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, dated 5.2.2007. Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu had filed an Interlocutory Application in the Supreme Court to restrain the Government of Karnataka, among others, from executing the Mekedatu Hydro Electric Project unilaterally by themselves and it should only be executed comprehensively with Sivasamudhram, Mekedatu, Hogenakkal and Rasimanal Hydro Electric Projects as envisaged by the National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd., or any other appropriate Central Power Generation utility, so as to derive maximum benefits of power potential. My Leader had, therefore, urged your predecessor to advise the Government of Karnataka not to take up any schemes including Hydro Electric Projects in the Cauvery Basin of Karnataka without the prior consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu, apart from advising the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, not to accord clearance to any projects of Karnataka in the River Cauvery till a permanent monitoring mechanism viz., the Cauvery Management Board is formed.

Now, the Media has widely reported that Karnataka has invited Global Expression of Interest for a technical feasibility study to construct two reservoirs at Mekedatu to store additional water and also that about 2500 acres of forest land would be submerged.

The plan of Karnataka to construct two reservoirs at Mekedatu across the River Cauvery would be a clear violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has been notified on 19.2.2013 and therefore, the Final Order of the Tribunal has the same force as an Order or a decree of the Supreme Court, as per Section 6 (2) of the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. Further, the Interlocutory Application filed by Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court to restrain the Government of Karnataka from executing the Shivasamudram and Mekedatu Hydro Electric Projects by that State is still pending. Therefore, the whole issue is now subjudice before the Supreme Court.

Under the circumstances, I seek your immediate personal intervention in the matter and request you to advise the Government of Karnataka to withhold the Expression of Interest called for by the Government of Karnataka for the technical feasibility study and advise the Government of Karnataka not to proceed with any further action regarding the technical feasibility study and not to take any steps to execute any irrigation, hydro power, lift irrigation schemes or any other scheme in the guise of drinking water supply in the Cauvery Basin of Karnataka without the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu. I also request you to instruct the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, not to give clearance to any project posed by the Government of Karnataka without consulting the Government of Tamil Nadu.

May I also point out that the request of my Leader for the formation of Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee has not been acceded to till now by Government of India?

I look forward to your immediate positive response in this matter”.

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Issued by : Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.  
Dated: 12.11.2014