

P.R. No.288**Date:14.06.2016****PRESS RELEASE**

Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu met Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India today (14.6.2016) at the Prime Minister's Residence, Race Course Road, New Delhi at 4.45 P.M. The Hon'ble Prime Minister congratulated the Hon'ble Chief Minister on her resounding victory in the Assembly Elections.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu presented a Memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister containing 29 crucial issues relating to Tamil Nadu requiring urgent attention of the Government of India, to safeguard the legitimate interests of the State and to propel the State on to a faster growth trajectory. The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to have a Special Task Force constituted to look into the issues and ensure their speedy clearance. The Hon'ble Prime Minister assured that he would constitute a Special Task Force in the Prime Minister's Office to look into the issues, in consultation with the concerned Ministries and Departments and to speedily clear any bottlenecks.

The issues raised in the Memorandum included Inter-State Water Resources Issues, specifically the Formation of Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, Tamil Nadu's concerns about the Mekedatu Scheme of Karnataka, Restoration of Water Level to FRL of 152 ft in the Mullai Periyar Dam, Inter-linking of Rivers, funding for the Athikadavu – Avinashi Scheme.

Protection of traditional fishing rights of Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay and ensuring their safety and security, retrieval of Katchatheevu Island, reconstruction of St Anthony's Church at Katchatheevu with participation of Tamil Nadu fishermen and a Comprehensive Special Package for Diversification of Fisheries were also raised. The Memorandum also requested the rescinding Deep Sea Fishing Guidelines, 2014 and specifically sought inclusion of fishermen in the List of Scheduled Tribes.

The early commissioning of Unit II of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP), approval of the revised bidding documents for the Cheyyur Ultra Mega Power Project and addressing Tamil Nadu's concerns on the UDAY Scheme were the Power Sector

related issues. The Hon'ble Chief Minister sought the Hon'ble Prime Minister's assistance for reviving the Electronic Manufacturing Hub at Sriperumbudur by resolving the issues relating to the Nokia plant.

Compensation for Tamil Nadu for the adverse treatment by the Fourteenth Finance Commission and early release of pending 13th Finance Commission grants was sought. Tamil Nadu's concerns with the Goods and Services Tax proposals and the early release of Central Sales Tax compensation were highlighted.

With reference to the floods in Chennai and some coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, release of further assistance towards restoration and reconstruction of flood damages, sanction of a special scheme for construction of houses for the urban poor residing in water courses and water bodies, a special relief package for the MSME Sector and modification of National Disaster Response Fund Guidelines to cover MSME units were raised.

The realignment of the proposed Kochi-Bengaluru GAIL Pipeline was raised. Higher Central subsidy for promoting Solar Power in Agriculture, sanction of a scheme for Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut Gardens in Tamil Nadu, concerns regarding the Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), expanding the National Horticulture Mission and Micro Irrigation Scheme in Tamil Nadu and the establishment of APEDA's Regional Office in Tamil Nadu were also included in the Memorandum. Increased allocation for Tamil Nadu under the National Livestock Mission was sought. Exemption was sought from implementing the National Food Security Act until Tamil Nadu's concerns regarding the Act were fully addressed. Adequate Kerosene Allotment was sought for Tamil Nadu, and it was requested that Direct Benefit Transfer for Public Distribution System Kerosene should not be implemented.

Substantially enhanced allocation for the scheme for Modernisation of Police Force was sought.

The Memorandum highlighted pending project and policy issues relating to the Chennai Metro Rail Project including support for securing JICA assistance for Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase -II, merger of MRTS with Chennai Metro Rail Ltd, amendments to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu and changes in the terms on

which Railway lands have been taken on lease by Chennai Metro Rail.

In the Rural Development sector, sanction of Phase X of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), increased allocation under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Rural Sanitation programme and under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission were sought.

In the Textile Sector, additional grants for completion of Common Effluent Treatment Plants in Tirupur, release of pending grants under the Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), sanction of funds under the Integrated Processing Development Scheme (IPDS), and early release of Government of India's share under the Marketing Incentive Component of the National Handloom Development Programme were requested for.

In the Health sector, exemption to Tamil Nadu from National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), speedy release of Government of India funding for increase of 345 MBBS seats in Government colleges and an early decision on the location for setting up an AIIMS in Tamil Nadu were requested.

In the Municipal Administration and Water Supply sector, inclusion of four more Municipalities under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), one time financial assistance to complete Drinking Water Projects taken up under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and release of second instalment of funds for Water Supply and Sewerage Projects taken up under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) was sought.

In the School Education sector, early release of balance grants due to Tamil Nadu as recommended by the 13th Finance Commission, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA) and for implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act was sought. Release of balance funds due under the Post Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was emphasized.

Early approval of the Project for implementation of State led model of Bharat Net in Tamil Nadu and the grant of Digital Addressable System (DAS) License to TN Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd were requested.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested investment from the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) in the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund.

In addition, the Sri Lankan Tamils issue and grant of dual citizenship for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in Tamil Nadu was raised. Restoring the Scheduled Caste status of Scheduled Caste converts to other religions was also sought. Lifting of the ban on the conduct of Jallikattu and adoption of Tamil as an Official Language of the Union and use of Tamil in the High Court of Madras were also requested.

The meeting lasted for 50 minutes. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India assured the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu of early action on the issues raised in the Memorandum.

The text of the Memorandum presented by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is enclosed.

Issued by: DIPR, Tamil Nadu

Dated: 14.6.2016