

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 16.8.2018 by **Thiru Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Thiru Pinarayi Vijayan**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala,

"I am in receipt of your letter dated 15th August, 2018 and I would like to state that Mullai Periyar Dam is safe in all respects viz., hydrologically, seismically and structurally as per the Supreme Court Order dated 7.5.2014. During the past, the Dam was inspected by many experts on several occasions and they had also found that the Dam is safe in all aspects.

As you are aware, the Supreme Court appointed Supervisory Committee inspects the Dam periodically and in the last inspection carried out on 4.8.2018, the Committee has found that the Dam is safe to store water upto 142 ft. Therefore, there is no threat to the safety of the Dam and water is being stored at the permitted level of 142 ft. as per the Orders of the Supreme Court.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been transferring water from Mullai Periyar Dam to Vaigai Basin to the maximum extent possible through the tunnel. When the inflows started to increase in the Dam, there has been continuous co-ordination between the engineers of Tamil Nadu and Kerala and the respective District Collectors. The Water Resources Department of Tamil Nadu is maintaining the releases through the spillways so as not to exceed the permitted water storage level at 142 ft. duly giving periodical warnings to all concerned in Kerala.

The Chairman, Sub-Committee of Mullai Periyar Dam during the inspection on 15.8.2018 has found that the Digital Water Level Recorder is functioning well. In addition, there are several gauge plates installed to ascertain the water level of the Dam.

I would also like to point out that Kerala is not permitting Tamil Nadu officials to gauge the rainfall in the catchment area and Tamil Nadu officials are therefore compelled to assess the inflow only based on the actual rate of raise in water level in the Dam. I would request you to inform your officials to share the rainfall data in the catchment of Mullai Periyar Dam with Tamil Nadu officials on a real time basis.

I would also like to draw your attention to the issue of restoration of power supply to Mullai Periyar Dam and its appurtenant structures. As agreed to by Tamil Nadu and Kerala, a sum of Rs.1.65 crore has been deposited by Tamil Nadu with the Kerala State Electricity Board to restore the power supply. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been in constant touch with the Government of Kerala and the Kerala State Electricity Board for restoring the power supply to the Dam, but of no avail. Hence, I would request you to kindly issue instructions to the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to restore the power supply to the Dam and its appurtenant structures.

The Water Resources Department of Tamil Nadu is managing and regulating the releases from the Dam according to the rate of inflow into the Dam."

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