

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 17.5.2013 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:

"You may recall that I had written to you on 22.2.2013 and 11.3.2013 to forthwith constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as the commencement of the irrigation year is fast approaching. However, the Government of India has not shown the necessary alacrity in constituting the above machinery for the implementation of the Final Order, even though the said Final Order was published in the Gazette of India on 19th February, 2013.

On an application filed by my Government to direct the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal, the Supreme Court, in its order dated 10.5.2013, had recorded the submission of the Additional Solicitor General that "the follow up action pursuant to the notification dated February 19, 2013, is under active consideration of the Central Government" and ordered the constitution of a Supervisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, to ensure the implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal till the Cauvery Management Board is constituted.

In my view this arrangement, at best, is only an interim arrangement and the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order has also categorically stated that "the arrangement made herewith is purely pro term measure for the purpose of ensuring implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated February 5, 2007, notified vide Notification dated February 19, 2013".

Therefore, I am of the firm opinion that the formation of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as per the Final Order of the Tribunal would be the only lasting solution to end the travails and tribulations of the farmers of Tamil Nadu in the Cauvery Delta. Many lakhs of farmers of Tamil Nadu cannot be made to wait any longer for justice which has long been delayed to them as they face season after season of acute agrarian distress forced upon them by a neighbouring State.

To alleviate the misery of the farmers of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India should immediately take steps to operationalize the Tribunal's Final Order which has been Gazetted after a long delay of 6 years. Surely, the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee is a logical corollary of the notification of the Final Order and it cannot be delayed any further?

I, therefore, exhort you to order the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee without any further delay."

Issued by: Director, Information – Public Relations, Chennai.9

Dated : 17.5.2013