

Opening remarks of the Hon'ble Chief Minister for Meeting with the Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakthi, on 18th August, 2020

Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakthi Shri. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Ji,

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Municipal Administration,
Government of Tamil Nadu Thiru S P Velumani,

Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,

Secretary, Water Resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation,
Government of India,

Other senior officers of Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu

At the outset, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister for Jal Sakthi for all the support extended by Jal Shakthi Ministry to Tamil Nadu on various issues and Schemes related to water resources.

As you are well aware, Tamil Nadu is a water deficient State which has no perennial river and the State has to fully depend upon the monsoon. Therefore, I have taken up a number of initiatives to bring water security to the State by launching many water conservation and augmentation programmes like Kudimaramath scheme, which is a community participatory water body improvement scheme. Six thousand two hundred and seventy eight works have been taken up at a cost of Rupees One thousand four hundred and thirty four crore in the last four years.

Similarly, I have also announced that check dams will be constructed across rivers wherever feasible at a cost of Rs.1000 crore over a period of 3 years and it is under progress.

Under the State funds, a number of rivers and canals have been restored, which has resulted in increase of crop coverage in the State and achieved record paddy procurement in the current year.

I would like to highlight some of the issues which need Government of India's generous support.

1. GODAVARI – CAUVERY RIVER LINK

National Water Development Agency (NWDA) prepared a Detailed Project Report and sent to the States concerned for their comments during March, 2019. Tamil Nadu has sent its comments on 4.9.2019 itself with a request to re-work the alignment to Mayanur Barrage instead of Grand Anicut.

I have also written letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and to you in this regard, and requested to allot 200 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu from the Project. I request you to instruct NWDA to quickly complete the preparation of DPR for this Project and take up the work.

2. CAUVERY – GUNDAR LINK

Similarly, Cauvery – Gundar link is proposed within the State and is a part of National Perspective Plan for river development. NWDA has prepared

the DPR, which is yet to be sent to Government of Tamil Nadu. I request you to instruct NWDA to forward the DPR to the State Government, so that the work can be fast tracked.

3. NADANDHAI VAAZHI CAUVERY

I have announced rehabilitation and rejuvenation of river Cauvery and to abate pollution in the river on the lines of 'Namami Gange' Project. Estimate has been prepared for an amount of 10,700 crore rupees and WAPCOS is preparing the DPR. **Cauvery is the life line of Tamil Nadu, not only for agriculture, but also for drinking water. Therefore, I request that this Project may be sanctioned as a special programme like Namami Gange Project and may be taken up as a National Project.**

4. ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

Government of India is implementing this World Bank supported Scheme in 7 States. Tamil Nadu has not been included under the Scheme, even though Tamil Nadu is a water deficient State. Hence, I request that Tamil Nadu be included in the Scheme during the current year.

5. DAM SAFETY BILL

Tamil Nadu has requested certain corrections in certain clauses in the proposed Dam Safety Bill and conveyed to Government of India. **The State which owns, operates and controls the dam should have full operational control with regard to dam safety.** The Government of Tamil Nadu's request for corrections in the Dam Safety Bill may be included before introduction of this Bill in Lok Sabha.

6. Karnataka requested Government of India for approval for construction of a dam across Cauvery at Mekedatu. Central Water Commission (CWC) has given permission to Karnataka for preparing the DPR, against which I have addressed the Hon'ble Prime Minister and you. As you are aware, the Cauvery water is shared between Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and other States based on the Cauvery Tribunal's Order and the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Tamil Nadu has filed an SLP against this Mekedatu Project in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. In spite of this, CWC has forwarded this proposal to Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). Due to the strong opposition by Tamil Nadu this item has been deferred. You are well aware that Cauvery is the life line of Tamil Nadu and any attempt to restrict its flow by an upper riparian State is a violation of the Supreme Court order. Therefore, I request

you to instruct the CWC and CWMA authorities to reject and return the proposal of Karnataka.

7. Similarly, Karnataka has been constructing an anicut across Penniyar River against the agreements in force. Tamil Nadu has filed a case before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and based on the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order, Negotiation Committee meetings have been held by Central Water Commission (CWC). As there is no progress in these meetings, we have requested the Government of India to form a Tribunal immediately. Urgent action will be appreciated.

8. With regard to Jal Jeevan Mission, baseline data of rural household has been updated and uploaded in the month of May. For the current year, 34 lakh households are proposed to be covered by giving tap connections. For 2020-21, against an allocation of 2,375 crore rupees, we have allotted 2,265 crore Rupees to the districts to effect 20 lakh household connections. Remaining 14 lakh households will be covered by converging funds of various scheme.

We have already covered about 4 lakh connections and propose to complete the rest by March, 2021.

My Minister for Rural Development and Municipal Administration, Chief Engineer, Cauvery Technical Cell Mr.Subramanian and officers will give further details of Jal Jeevan Mission during their presentation.

I hope the Government of India will support our initiatives in developing our water resources.

Thank You,

Nanri.

Vanakkam.

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Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.