

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 21.3.2015 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:

"I write this letter to bring to your attention, the repeated violation of the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal by Government of Karnataka. Karnataka continues with its intransigent stand to construct a reservoir at Mekedatu without obtaining any clearance from the Government of India, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal or the Government of Tamil Nadu. According to media reports, the Government of Karnataka had allotted funds to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to construct a reservoir at Mekedatu.

In this context, I would like to point out that my revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on 2.9.2013 had urged the Government of India 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 and further requested to advise the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India 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.

I have also in my letter dated 12.11.2014 brought to your notice that the plan of Karnataka to construct two reservoirs at Mekedatu across the River Cauvery to which Karnataka had invited Global Expression of Interest for a technical feasibility study is a clear violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and requested to advise the Government of Karnataka to withhold the Expression of Interest for the technical feasibility study and also 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.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has filed an Interlocutory Application (I.A.No.20/2014) in the Supreme Court on 18.11.2014, inter-alia, to restrain the Government of Karnataka from proceeding with the construction of reservoirs at Mekedatu or any other new projects across the river Cauvery in Karnataka which are not contemplated and/ or permitted in the final decision of the Tribunal, besides seeking orders to maintain status quo till the disposal of the Civil Appeals and the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board.

I would like to point out that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 5.12.2014, passed a unanimous resolution seeking the Government of India's intervention to advise the Government of Karnataka not to proceed with the construction of 2 new Dams at Mekedatu and schemes in the guise of

drinking water supply through the Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd., and to stop them till the Cauvery Management Board comes into force.

I would like to reiterate that the unilateral action of the Government of Karnataka to proceed with the execution of two new reservoirs across Mekedatu would amount to gross violation of the Final Order dated 5.2.2007 as notified in the Gazette on 19.2.2013 as it would affect the flow of the water to Tamil Nadu.

Under the circumstances, I once again urge you to advise the Government of Karnataka not to proceed with their illegal plan of construction of reservoirs at Mekedatu and also not to take up any scheme in the Cauvery basin without prior permission of Government of Tamil Nadu.

I regret that the repeated request of my revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for the formation of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as notified in the Gazette of India on 19.2.2013 has not yet been acceded to.

May I therefore request you to instruct the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee without any further delay so as to ensure that the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is implemented in letter and spirit?"

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Dated : 21.3.2015