

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 21.11.2020 of Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, addressed to Shri. Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.

I invite your kind attention to the following three requests, which are very essential for the welfare of the people and the agriculturists of Tamil Nadu.

(1) Godavari - Cauvery Linkage

National Water Development Agency (NWDA) prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Godavari – Cauvery (Grand Anicut) Link as Phase - I project of the Peninsular Rivers linkage and sent it to the States concerned, for their comments during March, 2019.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had justified the need to rework the link so as to terminate it in the River Cauvery at Kattalai Barrage, instead of Grand Anicut and had sent its comments to NWDA in September, 2019 and February, 2020. This request of Tamil Nadu is under the consideration of NWDA.

I have written letters to Hon'ble Prime Minister, your goodself and Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, to provide atleast 200 TMC ft. of water to Tamil Nadu from this Phase – I project and ultimately 300 TMC ft. of water in Phase – II, when River Mahanadhi is linked with Godavari.

I request you to take up the matter once again with the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, to expedite the DPR for this project and take up the work on priority basis, so that the water needs of southern States could be fulfilled while mitigating the problem of floods in Godavari.

(2) Cauvery – Gundar Linkage

Cauvery-Gundar linkage is a part of the Godavari – Cauvery linkage mentioned above. This diversion of surplus flow to the drought affected part of Tamil Nadu will benefit several districts in Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has already constructed a Barrage at Mayanur across Cauvery river at a cost of about Rs.255 crores in anticipation of this National Project.

The excess flood water of Cauvery River during surplus years can be diverted upto Gundar and therefore the Cauvery – Gundar

link canal is of utmost importance to the State. NWDA has prepared a draft DPR for Cauvery (Kattalai) – Gundar Project at an estimated cost of Rs.8,277 crores. Godavari-Cauvery linkage will enhance the utility of this project wherein surplus Godavari water can be diverted into this canal and will benefit areas up to Gundar in Virudhunagar district.

Diverting flood water from River Cauvery upto Gundar, would improve the recharge of ground water, meeting drinking water needs, stabilisation of ayacuts in the drought prone areas in the districts of Karur, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar and Thoothukudi.

Considering the importance of this scheme, I had announced that Cauvery (Kattalai) – Gundar Project would be implemented during the current year itself. This scheme is proposed to be executed in three phases and acquisition of land for the project has already begun.

I had written to Hon'ble Prime Minister, your goodself and Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, for implementation of the Cauvery (Kattalai) – Gundar Link Project and sought sanction and funding assistance from the Government of India for this important project.

This project will have a lasting impact on the stabilisation of ayacut in delta area and will confer lasting benefits to the people of Tamil Nadu. Hence, I request this project to be considered as a project of National importance. Though the Ministry of Water Resources has not favourably responded to this project, I request you to direct the Ministry of Water Resources to reconsider the decision in view of its greater impact on vast area of Tamil Nadu.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to take up the matter with the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti once again to consider the project and sanction it on a priority basis and provide financial assistance.

(3) Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery – Rejuvenation of Cauvery and its Tributaries

The much acclaimed "Namami Gange", an Integrated Conservation Mission; Flagship Programme taken up by Hon'ble Prime Minister to abate the river pollution and rejuvenate River Ganga, has been a driving force to initiate rejuvenation of the River Cauvery.

The river Cauvery is the life line of Tamil Nadu and considered as one of the "Sacred river of South India". It is also known as "Ganges of South".

I made an announcement that river Cauvery would be rehabilitated and pollution in the river would be abated on the lines of "Namami Gange" Project.

The objectives of the project is to conserve, rejuvenate and augment the water resources and to effectively stop sewage and industrial effluents from polluting the river Cauvery, by taking up several works like construction of ground water recharge structures; construction of Barrages and artificial recharge; sewage treatment plants; management of solid and liquid waste generated from domestic and commercial sources; upgradation and modernisation of public amenities; river surface cleaning; Bio-diversity conservation and aforestation, etc.

Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared and the project cost is estimated to be Rs.10,700 crores. Since, the State Government cannot execute such a major project, on its own, financial assistance from the Government of India is required.

I request you to take up this matter with the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, to consider this project as a Special Project like Namami Gange and to accord sanction and extend financial assistance.

I request you to use your good offices and instruct the Ministry of Jal Shakti to provide sanction to these projects at the earliest.

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Issued by: Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.