

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O letter addressed to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India by Selvi J Jayalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 20.12.2011 is reproduced below :

"I am shocked to note that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under your Chairmanship has constituted a Team of Experts on 12.12.2011 to formulate a Contingency Response Plan for the Mullai Periyar Dam and downstream areas with a view to mainly developing the submergence / inundation models for various possible scenarios like earthquakes, floods and /or combination thereof. This is nothing but succumbing to the subterfuge of the Government of Kerala and to present a *fait accompli* to the Supreme Court of India and the Empowered Committee constituted by it.

As you are aware, the Supreme Court of India had already decided in February, 2006 that the Mullai Periyar Dam is safe after looking into the reports of various experts and permitted the Government of Tamil Nadu to raise the water level to 142 feet initially. The Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court of India had conducted various tests and is in the process of conducting various other tests and it is expected to submit its report to the Supreme Court in February, 2012. That being the case the Government of Kerala, in order to circumvent the legal process, had approached the National Disaster Management Authority to formulate a Contingency Response Plan in case of a disaster which is a figment of imagination. The objective of the Government of Kerala appears to be a calculated attempt to pressure the Empowered Committee to declare the Dam unsafe.

I would also like to bring to your notice that Prof. D.K. Paul, Earthquake Engineering Department, IIT., Roorkee was proposed as a witness by the Government of Kerala in the pending Suit. The Supreme Court of India had not taken cognizance of Kerala's plea to include him as a witness. Now, the NDMA has included him to represent the Earthquake Engineering Department, IIT., Roorkee in the Team of Experts. There is every possibility that his untested views will influence the team of experts of NDMA.

I am of the view that in as much as the matter is pending in the Supreme Court and the Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court is looking into various aspects, including the safety of the dam, the constitution of a Team of Experts by the NDMA to prepare a Contingency Response Plan for the Mullai Periyar Dam and downstream areas is not warranted at this stage.

May, I therefore, request you to order the withdrawal of the Office Memorandum of the National Disaster Management Authority No.5-72/2011 Mit. dated 12th December, 2011 forthwith?"

Issued by : Director of Information & Public Relations, Chennai-9.
Date : 21.12.2011