



## **MEMORANDUM**

# **SEEKING SUPPORT ON WATER RESOURCES ISSUES AND FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS**

PRESENTED TO

**Shri NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI**

HON'BLE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS &  
SHIPPING, WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND  
GANGA REJUVENATION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

BY

**Thiru EDAPPADI K.PALANISWAMI**

HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU

ON

**23.11.2017**

CHENNAI

**Memorandum presented to Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari,  
Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport, Highways &  
Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and  
Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India  
by Thiru Edappadi K.Palaniswami,  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu  
on 23.11.2017**

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**(i) Formation of Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the Implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal**

Due to the relentless efforts of our revered leader the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007, was notified by the Government of India on 19.2.2013. The constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee is an integral part of the Final Order of the Tribunal.

Our revered leader the **late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma** had been urging the Government of India for the immediate formation of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for effective implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal. I also reiterated this demand in the Memorandum, I presented to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 27.2.2017 and later on in the Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on 23.4.2017.

**The constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee are very essential for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.**

The farmers of the Delta areas of Tamil Nadu who are dependent on Cauvery Water for irrigation are agitated over the long delay in constituting the Cauvery Management Board.

I once again, strongly reiterate **the repeated requests of my Revered Leader the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma that the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee be constituted immediately** in accordance with the Final Order of the Tribunal.

## **(ii) Inter-linking of Peninsular Rivers**

Under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component, our revered leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has repeatedly urged the Government of India to implement the inter-linking of the Mahanadhi- Godavari- Krishna- Pennar- Palar- Cauvery- Vaigai Rivers and further with the Gundar River and also to divert the surplus waters of the west flowing Pamba and Achankovil Rivers to Vaippar in Tamil Nadu. Based on the Supreme Court Order dated 27.2.2012, and our persistent requests, the Government of India constituted the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers. Though the Special Committee has held 13 meetings so far, not much headway has been made in the matter of inter-linking of rivers.

Further, **our Revered Leader the late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had also repeatedly urged the Government of India to nationalise all inter-State Rivers, so that water resources of the country can be optimally utilized.** I reiterated this demand to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the Memorandum I presented on 27.2.2017.

I once again, reiterate the request made by our revered leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for the speedy implementation of the Inter-linking of Peninsular Rivers and for Nationalisation of all inter-State rivers.

**(iii) Extension of supply of water from Krishna river to Kuppam Mandal in Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu in the River Palar**

During the discussions with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh held on 12.1.2017 regarding the release of Krishna water to Chennai city, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh informed that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is linking river Godavari with Krishna and lifting water from the river Krishna for irrigation and drinking water purposes upto Kuppam Tank in Kuppam Mandal of Chittoor District.

The surplus water from Kuppam Tank joins with the river Palar just above the Tamil Nadu border. The distance between Kuppam Tank and Tamil Nadu border is about 20 Kms.

Vellore District in Tamil Nadu is deficient for drinking water supply and irrigation. **If the Krishna water supply upto Kuppam Tank is extended to Tamil Nadu, it will partially meet the drinking water requirements of Vellore District.**

I request that the Government of India may kindly consider the suggestion of the Government of Tamil Nadu in consultation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and extend the supply of Krishna water from Kuppam tank to the

Palar river so that dry and drought prone areas of Tamil Nadu are also benefitted.

#### **(iv) Mekedatu Scheme of Karnataka**

The Government of Karnataka from time to time issues statements on taking up the Mekedatu Scheme. There had been reports that the Government of Karnataka has decided to implement the Mekedatu Multipurpose Drinking Water and Power Project at a cost of Rs.5912 crores, that involves building a balancing reservoir with a capacity of 66 TMC ft. The Government of Tamil Nadu has constantly urged the Government of India to advise the Government of Karnataka not to take up even the investigation of the Mekedatu Project without the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu and till the Cauvery Management Board becomes functional.

I wrote to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 25.2.2017 requesting to kindly instruct the Ministry of Water Resources and the Central Water Commission not to accord techno economic clearance for the Mekedatu or any other project in the Cauvery Basin of Karnataka till the concurrence of all the co-basin States are obtained by the Government of Karnataka and after the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee come into force and the judicial references are finally settled. I had reiterated the position of the Government of Tamil Nadu in the Memorandum I presented to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 27.2.2017.

I once again **request you to instruct the Ministry of Water Resources not to accord any clearance to the Mekedatu Project without the concurrence of all the co-Basin States and until the Cauvery Management Board becomes functional.**

## **(v) Formation of Flood carrier canal from Kannadian Channel**

The Government of Tamil Nadu, in anticipation of the funds from the Government of India has been implementing the project of "Formation of Flood carrier canal from Kannadian Channel" to supply water to the drought prone areas of Sathankulam and Thisayanvilai by interlinking Tamiraparani, Karumeniyar and Nambiyar rivers in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.872.45 Crores.

On 21.9.2017, Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, **to include this project under the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) of NABARD on priority basis during the year 2017-2018 and to extend financial support for this link project.**

Our request may kindly be considered favourably and funds provided during this year itself.

**Flood carrier canal from Kannadian Channel at LS 300 m**





## **(vi) Athikadavu – Avinashi Irrigation, Ground Water Recharge and Drinking Water Supply Scheme**

The scheme envisages providing irrigation facilities and to improve the ground water recharge in the drought prone areas of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts. To alleviate water scarcity in the area by optimally utilizing flood surplus, a detailed investigation for the formation of a Flood Canal at Athikadavu from Pillur Anicut across the Bhavani river has been carried out. This scheme is known as the Athikadavu – Avinashi Scheme. The important component of the project is to utilize the flood surplus of Bhavani River to fill 31 Public Works Department Tanks, 40 Panchayat Union Tanks and 538 other ponds in Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts, besides augmenting ground water.

When the project proposal was sent for financial assistance of Rs.3523 crores, the Government of India requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to suggest alternatives.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has now proposed to implement this scheme at an estimated cost of Rs.1850 crores (2017-2018 price level) by lifting the surplus water of Bhavani River from the downstream of Kalingarayan Anicut by pumping about 1.5 TMC ft. annually to feed 74 tanks and 971 ponds in Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts. This scheme, apart from improving drinking water availability in these drought prone areas, will also provide indirect irrigation for about 24,468 acres and improve the ground water recharge.

The Government of Tamil Nadu will be sending the Detailed Project Report seeking financial assistance of the Government of India shortly.

I request you to consider the scheme favourably and extend financial assistance, as it will be providing facilities to the drought prone areas.

## **(vii) Improvement and Rehabilitation of Irrigation System in Cauvery Basin – National Project**

The Government of India extends financial assistance for Intra-State projects to bridge the gap of irrigation area of more than 2,00,000 hectare for implementation as a National Project.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to improve, rehabilitate and renovate the irrigating system in the Cauvery Basin at an estimated cost of Rs.14,500 crores at 2016-2017 price level. Since the State Government would not be able meet the entire huge cost of the project, the Government of Tamil Nadu on 5.4.2017 has approached the Government of India to grant in-principle acceptance of the proposal as a National Project.

I request that **priority may be given to accept the Rehabilitation, Renovation and Improvement of the Cauvery Basin Irrigation System as a National Project and to provide funds for this project.**

## **(viii) Rehabilitation and Improvement of Grand Anicut Canal in Cauvery Basin**

The Government of India under Extension, Renovation and Modernisation Project has approved the Detailed Project Report for Rehabilitation and Improvement of the several systems in the Cauvery Basin at an estimated cost of Rs.11,420 crores. This includes Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Grand Anicut Canal at an estimated cost of Rs.2298.75 crores for which investment clearance has also been given by the Government of India in June, 2017.

Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to implement the Rehabilitation and Improvement of Grand Anicut Canal as a pilot project.

Government of Tamil Nadu will be approaching the Government of India for funding the project

at a cost of Rs.2298.75 crores. I request the Government of India to sanction the project under NABARD's Long Term Irrigation Fund.

**(ix) Rehabilitation and Improvement of tanks to further augment Chennai City Water Supply**

The population in Chennai city and the surrounding Metropolitan area is growing rapidly and consequently the drinking water needs increase. At present, the available water resources to meet the drinking water supply of Chennai city is about 12 TMC ft. as against the anticipated demand of about 25 TMC ft. The population is expected to grow further and the drinking water supply will have to keep pace with the requirements of the growing population.

Chennai city and the adjacent districts receive rainfall during the North East Monsoon period which is highly sporadic and not dependable. The heavy rainfall that occurs cannot be stored in the tanks situated in and around the Chennai city and its adjacent areas. The Government of Tamil Nadu **in order to store the surplus flood water proposes to integrate the tanks around the city and wherever possible desilt the tanks to increase the storage capacity to meet the drinking water supply needs of Chennai city to some extent. This will also be very useful to control floods.** The Government of Tamil Nadu will be shortly approaching the Government of India to extend financial assistance of about Rs.300 crores for increasing the storage capacity of tanks of Chennai city and its suburbs.

I seek the co-operation of the Government of India to extend liberal funding to this project so that the drinking water supply problems faced by Chennai city could be mitigated.

## **(x) Lining of Canals in Chennai City**

There are three major canals viz., Virugambakkam – Arumbakkam, Otteri - Nalla and Central Buckingham Canal flowing within the Chennai City.

Chennai city is served by North East Monsoon rainfall. During heavy rainfall, the flows in these canals exceed the carrying capacity which causes heavy inundation and damage to the people and public property. Therefore, **there is an imperative need to line these three canals by deepening and providing proper gradient to discharge the entire flood water.** Government of Tamil Nadu will be sending a Detailed Project Report at an estimated cost of about Rs.60 crores at 2017-2018 price level requesting the Government of India to provide funds in the larger interest of the people living in those areas.

I request the Government of India to consider the proposal positively and sanction the requisite funds.

## **(xi) Rehabilitation and Improvement of Dams (Phase II)**

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project with the funding assistance from the World Bank within a period of six years from the year 2012.

As a follow on of the project, the Government of India has requested Government of Tamil Nadu to evolve proposals to rehabilitate and improve Dams in Tamil Nadu.

Accordingly, in **November, 2017 the Government of India has been requested to extend financial assistance to rehabilitate and improve 26 Dams at an estimated cost of Rs.303.65 crores. The project period will be 5 years.**

I request that this project may be expeditiously considered and funding made available during the year 2017-2018 itself so as to implement the project speedily.

## Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project – Mettur Dam



## **(xii) Providing Flood Banks to Kosasthalayar river**

Kosasthalayar river which originates from the Kaveripakkam Tank surplus course, traverses a length of 156 kms. before confluencing in the Bay of Bengal near Ennore. This river has 5 Anicuts which feed 12 Tanks in Tiruvallur District. This river caters to irrigation needs, besides providing drinking water supply to Chennai city through Chembarambakkam Tank and Poondi Reservoir.

Due to the unprecedented rainfall in the year 2015, many breaches occurred on embankments along the river course which are to be strengthened. In order to strengthen the breached portions on both banks of the river, the Government of Tamil Nadu, will shortly approach the Government of India to extend financial assistance of Rs.400 crores. I request that this scheme may be favourably considered by the Government of India and requisite funds provided.

## **Flood Banks to Kosasthalayar river at Karanodai village**



Kosasthalayar River at Karanodai Village  
Retaining Wall required for 100m on left & Right bank in U/s & D/s of Karanodai Village



### **(xiii) Formation of Macro Drain in the suburbs of Chennai City**

The unprecedented rainfall and flood that occurred in Chennai City and in the suburban areas during the year 2015 had caused damage to the people and properties. In order to avoid recurrence of such eventuality in future, it is proposed to construct drainages so that the flood water recedes quickly.

The Government of Tamil Nadu proposes to construct 26 Macro Drains linking several tanks in Kovalam and Adyar Sub Basins. Apart from this, a straight cut channel from Pallikaranai Swamp area for the water to flow into the Bay of Bengal is also proposed to be undertaken as a permanent flood relief measure. The total estimated cost for the Macro Drains and straight cut channel is about Rs.1200 crores at the 2017-2018 price level.

I request the Government of India to sanction the project and provide funds.

#### **(xiv) Providing Flood Banks to Adyar river**

Adyar river originates in Athanur Village in Kancheepuram District. The surplus courses of Manimangalam Tank, Nandhivaram Tank and Chembarampakkam Tank join the river. The river Adyar traverses to a length of 40 kms. before confluencing into the Bay of Bengal near Adyar. The surplus water of 222 tanks in Kancheepuram District infall into Adyar river.

Due to the unprecedented rainfall in 2015, breaches occurred along the river course which are to be strengthened. In order to strengthen the breached parts in both the banks of the river, Government of Tamil Nadu, will shortly approach the Government of India to extend financial assistance of Rs.300 crores. I request that this scheme may be favourably considered by the Government of India and funds provided.

#### **(xv) Dam Safety Bill, 2016**

The Government of India has proposed to enact a Legislation on Dam Safety and sought the views of the State Governments on 9.8.2016. The Bill has several lacunae and will also have adverse impact on the rights of a State which owns dams located in the territory of another State under binding agreements.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is of the firm view that any Legislation to regulate dam safety must ensure that the functions and rights of the State Governments within our Constitutional Scheme are not abrogated or trampled upon in any manner.

This area is governed by Entry 17 of List II (State List) of the

Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Hence, our Revered Leader the late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had on 11.9.2016 requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation not to proceed with the Bill in haste, without discussing the issues raised by Tamil Nadu threadbare.

I reiterate the request that the legislation on Dam Safety need not be brought before the Parliament without consensus amongst all the stake holders including States and Union Territories.

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