

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 25.2.2017 by **Thiru Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi.

I am constrained to bring to your notice about the recent reports in the media that the Government of Karnataka has decided to implement Rs.5912 crore Mekedatu Multipurpose (drinking and power) Project across the river Cauvery that involves building a Balancing reservoir with a capacity of 66 TMC ft. The reports also state that the Government of Karnataka has proposed to approach the Central Water Commission as well as the Supervisory Committee of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for their clearances. This report has caused serious concern to the people of Tamil Nadu.

As you are aware, the States of Karnataka and Kerala have filed Special Leave Petitions (now Civil Appeals) against the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The State of Tamil Nadu has also filed a Special Leave Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court on certain aspects of the Final Order of the Tribunal. The Hon'ble Supreme Court after holding that the Appeals are maintainable, has commenced the hearing of the Civil Appeals. Moreover, the Government of Tamil Nadu has filed Interlocutory Applications in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the Government of Karnataka from proceeding with these Hydro-electric Projects. These Interlocutory Applications are pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the entire matter is *sub judice*.

I would also like to bring to your notice that the Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in the letter dated 8.1.2016 addressed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had informed that the Government of Karnataka had been advised to share their plans for Mekedatu and other Projects with the Co-basin States as required under the Order of the Tribunal and to bring them on board before taking up their Detailed Project Report / Construction. Further, the Government of Karnataka has also assured this Government that it has no plans to proceed with the construction of the Project without first informing the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The unilateral action of the Government of Karnataka to construct a Balancing Reservoir across the river Cauvery near Mekedatu without obtaining the prior concurrence of the Co-Basin States and in violation of the order of the Tribunal will be detrimental to the interests of people of Tamil Nadu.

In the circumstances, I request you to kindly instruct the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation 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.

Further, instructions may also kindly be issued to the Ministries of Power, Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Drinking Water and Sanitation not to accord the clearances for the Mekedatu or any other Project of Karnataka, till the whole issue is settled.

I look forward to your immediate positive response in this matter.

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

Date : 25.2.2017