

PRESS RELEASE

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru O. Panneerselvam met the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on 25.4.2015 at 4.00 p.m. at 7, Race Course Road, New Delhi and handed over the D.O. Letter dated 25.4.2015 in person. The Text of the D.O. Letter is as follows:

"I wish to bring to your kind notice once again, that inspite of repeated requests from my revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Government of Karnataka is proceeding with its programme of construction of a reservoir at Mekedatu, in scant respect to the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 notified by the Government of India on 19.2.2013.

I would like to point out that repeated requests of my revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and the resolutions passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 5.12.2014 and 27.3.2015 and sent to you vide my letters dated 12.12.2014 and 27.3.2015 for immediate action have not been positively acted upon by the concerned Ministries of the Government of India. No action has been taken by the Government of India to constitute 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 yet.

The media had widely reported that the Government of Karnataka is proceeding with its attempt to execute the project of construction of a reservoir at Mekedatu across Cauvery in the guise of providing drinking water, inspite of opposition from Tamil Nadu. Further, the media also has been quoting the views of certain political party leaders of Karnataka that there is no need for the Government of Karnataka to get the approval of the Government of India to construct reservoirs for drinking water purposes. Such an attempt will be a clear violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

In this context, I would also like to bring to your kind notice that the Government of Karnataka has challenged the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and also has sought clarifications to the said Final Order before the Tribunal which are still to be adjudicated upon. Further, the Interlocutory Applications filed by the Government of Tamil Nadu against the unilateral action of the Government of Karnataka for construction of reservoirs across Cauvery and to withdraw the Global Expression of Interest for Technical Feasibility Study to construct two reservoirs at Mekedatu which are not in consonance with the Final Order

of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal are also pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

I would like to reiterate that the unilateral action of the Government of Karnataka to proceed with new irrigation, hydro power projects, lift irrigation projects and construction of check dams in the guise of drinking water supply would amount to gross violation of the notified Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, and it would severely affect the flow of water to Tamil Nadu.

Under the circumstances, I request your personal intervention in the matter and urge you once again to advise the Government of Karnataka not to proceed with their illegal plan of construction of reservoir at Mokedatu, in the guise of supplying drinking water, in utter disregard of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007. Further, the Government of Karnataka may be strongly advised not to embark upon any project without the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu as well as the concurrence of the Cauvery Management Board.

May I also request you to direct the Ministry of Water Resources to accede to the long pending request of my revered leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee without any further delay?"

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Dated : 25.4.2015