

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 26.12.2019 of **Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Naredra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the occasion of launching of "Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)" to strengthen the groundwater resource management in the country with community participation. However, I am constrained to point out that Tamil Nadu has not been included in the scheme.

Tamil Nadu is a water stressed State and has utilised the surface water potential to the maximum possible extent. The vagaries of monsoon made Tamil Nadu dependent on ground water leading to depletion of groundwater in the State. A total number of 541 firkas out of 1166 firkas in the State fall under critical and the over exploited categories.

As you are aware, in order to improve the water resources, Tamil Nadu has been implementing a number of schemes like Kudimaramath scheme with farmers participation, construction of check dams, artificial recharge structures, rejuvenation of rivers and water bodies etc. An innovative mission called "Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission" has been launched as Peoples' movement by Tamil Nadu Government to protect, preserve and augment water resources in the State.

In the circumstances, I request you to kindly instruct the Ministry of Jal Shakti to include the State of Tamil Nadu in the scheme of "Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)", so that ground water resources of Tamil Nadu can be further augmented.

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