

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Text of the D.O.Letter dated 27.8.2016 of **Selvi J Jayalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India :-

"I write seeking your urgent intervention to withdraw the recommendations made by the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in its meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2016, for grant of Standard Terms of Reference for conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study on the proposal of the Government of Kerala to build a Dam across the river Siruvani at Attappady. The Committee has decided to recommend this without obtaining the necessary comments of the Government of Tamil Nadu in contravention of its own decision in the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2016.

The river Siruvani is a sub-tributary of the river Cauvery which is an Inter-State river. As early as on 21.6.2012, I had written to the then Prime Minister to advise the Government of Kerala not to proceed with the Scheme of building a dam of 4.5 TMC ft. across river Siruvani for the Attappady Valley Irrigation Project in violation of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's Final Order. I had also requested that the Central Water Commission may be advised not to accord technical clearance for Kerala's proposal of building the Dam on the river Siruvani. Subsequently, the Government of Tamil Nadu has written several times both to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and to the Government of Kerala strongly objecting to the proposed project.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has not written to the Government of Tamil Nadu about the proposal or that it would be considered in the 96<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. The Expert Appraisal Committee has considered the subject as an additional agenda (Table Agenda) item in the meeting and recommended the grant of Standard Terms of Reference for conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment Study to the Government of Kerala for the Attappady Valley Irrigation Project. It is regrettable that this has been done in unwarranted haste without the subject being part of the regular agenda for the meeting and with no

intimation to the Government of Tamil Nadu, despite the earlier correspondence from Tamil Nadu. In the minutes, it has been recorded that the Ministry of Environment and Forests has written to the Government of Tamil Nadu several times, which is factually incorrect.

I would like to point out here that the Governments of Kerala and Karnataka have appealed in the Supreme Court against the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Government of Tamil Nadu has also approached the Supreme Court on certain aspects of the said Final Order. All the Party States including Kerala have also filed clarification petitions before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal under section 5(3) of the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. These petitions are pending. In these circumstances, it is only proper for the Party States to await the formation of the Cauvery Management Board and further judicial decisions before initiating any new scheme in the Cauvery Basin or its sub basins.

Under the circumstances, I seek your personal intervention and request you to direct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to immediately withdraw the recommendation of the Expert Appraisal Committee made in its 96<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2016, for grant of Standard Terms of Reference for conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Attappady Valley Irrigation Project.

I also request you to advise the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Agencies and the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation not to accord any clearance to the projects in the Cauvery Basin of Kerala and Karnataka till the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee come into force and judicial references are finally settled.

I look forward to your immediate response in the matter.”

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

**Date            : 27.8.2016**