

**Text of Memorandum presented to
Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
by Thiru Edappadi K Palaniswami,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 30.9.2019**

1. GODAVARI – CAUVERY LINKAGE

Request to expedite linking of Peninsular Rivers

Tamil Nadu is a water deficit State. The annual per capita availability of water in the State is 860 cubic meters only, as against the national average of 1869 cubic meters. Tamil Nadu has tapped almost all of its surface water resources and has to look for sources beyond its frontiers to meet the needs of its growing population. The ground water resources are also fast depleting and in some areas the ground water is not available even at 1000 feet.

The only major river system in Tamil Nadu is the Cauvery system and it is also a deficit system. Therefore, there is an urgent need to find alternate sources to meet the water needs of Tamil Nadu.

The Revised National Water Policy emphasizes inter-basin transfer of waters for meeting basic human needs and achieving equity and social justice.

The only solution to water starved Tamil Nadu is to transfer water from Godavari to Cauvery and then to increase the quantity when Mahanadhi is linked with Godavari.

Tamil Nadu has addressed the National Water Development Agency on 4.9.2019 to divert 200 TMC ft. of water at the Tamil Nadu border to meet the growing drinking water needs of Tamil Nadu and to stabilize the area under irrigation by linking Godavari – Cauvery and to increase this quantity to atleast 300 TMC ft. when Mahanadhi is linked with Godavari. Further, Tamil Nadu has requested to rework the alignment at a higher contour, so that the link which is proposed to terminate in Cauvery at Grand Anicut point can be revised as Godavari– Cauvery at Kattalai link point.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the Ministry of Jal Shakti to provide 200 TMC ft. of water from Godavari, by coordinating with the riparian states of Godavari and to finalise the preparation of Detailed Project Report of Godavari – Cauvery at Kattalai link point quickly, so that the water needs of Tamil Nadu are fulfilled.

I further request that financial sanction may be accorded to the Project enabling the water deficit State of Tamil Nadu to derive the benefits of the Project early.

2. REJUVENATION OF CAUVERY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES ON THE LINES OF NAMAMI GANGE

Request financial support for "Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery" programme to restore the sacred River Cauvery and its main tributaries.

The much acclaimed "Namami Gange", an Integrated Conservation Mission; 'Flagship Programme' taken up under your dynamic leadership to abate the river pollution and rejuvenate River Ganga, has been a driving force to initiate reviving the River Cauvery.

During the discussion I had with you and in the memorandum I presented on 15.6.2019, I sought the support for sanctioning financial assistance of the Government of India to rejuvenate Cauvery river on the lines of 'Namami Gange'

Tamil Nadu's initiative was considered positively by the Government of India and the same was included in the Hon'ble President of India's address to the Joint session of Parliament.

Tamil Nadu has prepared Feasibility Report for rejuvenation of the river Cauvery at a rough cost estimate of Rs.9927 crore, which will be forwarded to Government of India seeking financial assistance.

I, request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to support the scheme "Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery" in Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of about Rs.9,927 Crore with financial assistance of Government of India.

3. MODERNISATION OF GRAND ANICUT CANAL SYSTEM

Financial request under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Modernisation of Grand Anicut Canal System of Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing several water conservation and augmentation projects to improve the storage capacity of reservoirs, tanks, etc., and one among them is the proposed Modernisation of Grand Anicut Canal System.

The prime objective of the project is to repair and rehabilitate structures, improvement to Tanks including strengthening of bunds and other works, which are required to be carried out urgently.

The Investment Committee of Ministry of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation had given investment clearance to the project on 5.5.2017, but it was not considered for funding. However, the Government of India has assured Tamil Nadu that the proposed Modernisation of Grand Anicut Canal System would be considered under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, whenever a review is made.

The Regional Office of Central Water Commission, Chennai on 19.8.2019 has forwarded the proposal to the Government of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti for consideration.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the Ministry of Jal Shakti to accord priority to the Scheme of Modernisation of Grand Anicut Canal System of Tamil Nadu for financial assistance under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme or any other external funding for sanction of funds.

4. CHENNAI METRO RAIL PROJECT

Request to Sanction Revised project cost of Phase I and DPR of Phase –II under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis

The Phase – I of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu has been completed and passenger services inaugurated in stages since 2015 and the entire Phase-I is operational from February, 2019 onwards.

The estimated cost of completion of Phase I project of Rs.14,600 crore has been revised to Rs.19,058 crore due to increase in cost of land, construction and foreign exchange rates. The revised cost has been approved by the State Government. It is requested that the sanction of Government of India is accorded at the earliest.

Phase –II of Chennai Metro Rail Project was initially approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu and recommended to Government of India for approval in April, 2017. Due to the introduction of New Metro Rail Policy by Government of India and updating the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) and Alternative Analysis for mode of transport, final DPR for the length of 118.9 km with the total cost of Rs.69,180 crore (including escalation, land and taxes) has been approved by Government of Tamil Nadu and sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India for their approval under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis on January 11, 2019.

Out of 118.9 km, Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) has already approved a loan of Rs.20,196 crore for implementing the stretch of 52.01 km and agreement for first tranche of JICA loan has also been signed. For the remaining stretch, Rs.18,328 crore has been approved in principle for the loan assistance from ADB, AIIB, NDB and World Bank.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to sanction the revised cost of Phase –I and also to approve the DPR of Phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu.

5. Establishment of Government Medical Colleges

Request to establish New Government Medical Colleges at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Namakkal, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Government of India has not given approval for the establishment of any Government Medical College in Tamil Nadu in the Phase-I and Phase-II under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, on the ground that no block of three Parliamentary Constituencies is lacking availability of atleast one Government Medical College.

On this issue, it is reiterated that Tamil Nadu has pioneered in implementation of various schemes in the Health and Medical Education sector, in addition to prioritising and investing enormous amounts of State funds to set up Medical Colleges on its own. In spite of this, there are more than 13 districts which have no Government Medical College in Tamil Nadu. However land and district hospitals eligible for consideration are readily available under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The State also has the challenges of inter district disparities, despite the State's efforts and the implementation of schemes under the National Health Mission, for which the State is continuously taking all efforts to redress and provide access to 'State of Art' health facilities including tertiary care to all within the districts itself.

It is in this background, starting a Medical College at Ramanathapuram was requested under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Despite having a clear case for being considered for sanction of a new Government Medical College at Ramanathapuram, it is disappointing that both in the Phase-I, where 58 Government Medical Colleges were sanctioned and in Phase-II, where 24 Government Medical Colleges have been announced, Tamil Nadu has been overlooked, inspite of having readily available land in its possession and functional district/referral hospital in the districts, without a Government Medical College not only in Ramanathapuram, but also in twelve other districts.

Now, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister has given its approval for establishment of 75 additional Government

Medical Colleges by 2021-2022 attached with existing district / referral hospitals under Phase-III of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored scheme. To increase the availability of healthcare infrastructure and manpower, the Cabinet also sanctioned an expenditure of Rs.24,375 crore during the 15th Finance Commission period i.e. up to 2021-2022. The establishment of new Medical Colleges attached with existing District / Referral Hospitals, would lead to an increase in the availability of qualified health professionals, improve tertiary care in Government sector, utilize existing infrastructure of districts hospitals and promote affordable medical education in the country. New Medical Colleges would be set up in under-served areas having no Medical College, but having at least 200 bedded District Hospital. It was also stated that preference will be given to Aspirational Districts and District Hospitals having 300 beds.

Keeping the needs of the district in mind, the Government of Tamil Nadu again reiterated the fact that so far, in the first two phases of this important Centrally Sponsored Scheme, no district had been selected in Tamil Nadu for establishment of a new Government Medical College. The Government of Tamil Nadu requested the Government of India to consider long standing demand to establish a new Government Medical College in the aspirational Districts of Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar and in the already backward districts of Dindigul, Namakkal, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur under Phase-III of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (60 : 40 ratio) and to issue suitable orders in this regard at the earliest.

On 20.9.2019, Detailed Project Reports have been submitted to the Government of India for establishing a new Medical College in the above six districts.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to relax the condition, so as to facilitate sanction of a Government Medical Colleges at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Namakkal, The Nilgiris and Tiruppur Districts

under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Establishment of New Medical Colleges attached with existing District / Referral Hospitals".

6. REQUEST FOR AIR SERVICES

Request to introduce (i) flight services between Salem and Chennai under UDAN Scheme and (ii) flight services from Coimbatore to UAE.

(i) Flight services between Salem and Chennai under UDAN Scheme

The Flight operations to Salem under Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN commenced from 8.6.2017. The flight operates in the morning. However, there is a demand for operation of flights during evening hours. A request in this regard has already been made to Civil Aviation Ministry.

I request Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the Ministry of Civil Aviation to operate evening flight service between Salem and Chennai.

(ii) Flight Services from Coimbatore Airport to UAE

Many passengers from Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur Districts of Tamil Nadu are travelling to Dubai in the UAE. So, there is a demand for operation of flight from Coimbatore to Dubai.

I request Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Civil Aviation Ministry to introduce direct flight services from Coimbatore International Airport to Dubai.

7. RELEASE OF PENDING GRANTS-IN-AID

Pending Grants-in-aid from Government of India for major schemes as on 30.9.2019

Grants-in-aid to the tune of Rs.7,825.59 crore are yet to be released to Tamil Nadu by the Union Government. The major schemes have been listed below:-

Annexure				
ARREAR RECEIVABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (as on 30th September 2019)				
(Rs. in crores)				
Sl. No.	SCHEME	Arrear receivable from GoI	Administrative Dept.	Central Ministry
1	GST Compensation 2018-19 - 553.01 (April to June 2019) 2019-20 - 581.40 (3720.40-3139.00 = 581.40)	1134.41	CT &R	M/o Finance
2	Post-Matric scholarship schemes for Scheduled caste students (Anticipated in 2018-19)	383.74	AD&TW	M/o Social Justice & Empowerment
3	Sarva Shiksha Abiyan (SSA)	2109.08	Sch. Edn	M/o Human Resource Development
4	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (including spill over approved for 2015-16 & 2016-17)	1092.22	Sch. Edn	M/o Human Resource Development
5	Grants for Flood Management Programme	342.94	PW	M/o Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
6	Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009	220.82	Sch. Edn	M/o Human Resource Development
7	Family Welfare Programme (liquidation of arrears)	68.88	H&FW	M/o Health and Family Welfare
8	Construction of Fishing Harbours	15.13	AHD&F	M/o Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
9	Relief and Rehabilitation of repatriates and refugees from Sri Lankan	67.49	Public	M/o Home Affairs
10	Increase of MBBS seats of existing State Government Medical Colleges	60.84	H&FW	M/o Health and Family Welfare
11	Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)	35.01	SW&NMP	M/o Women and Child Development

12	Marketing incentive component of National Handloom Development Programme	75.79	HHT&K	M/o Textiles
13	Command Area Development & Water Management Programme (CAD&WMP)	81.13	Agri	M/o Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
14	One time Additional Central Assistance for Annual Plan 2014-15	76.00	PD&SI	M/o Finance
15	Disaster Relief Assistance for flood in 2015	66.90	Rev	M/o Finance
16	National Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme For Fishermen	123.84	AHD&F	M/o Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
17	Repair Renovation And Restoration Of Water Bodies	25.50	PW	M/o Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
18	Post Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Tribe Students	39.53	AD&TW	M/o Tribal Affairs
19	Pre Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Tribe Students	3.01	AD&TW	M/o Tribal Affairs
TOTAL		6022.26		

	Finance Commission Grant			
20	13th Finance Commission grants pending (Others)	522.91	Finance	M/o Finance
21	Finance Commission Grants for Local Bodies (Performance)	1196.27	RD&MAWS	M/o Finance
22	SDRF	84.15	Rev	M/o Finance
GRAND TOTAL		7825.59		

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the concerned Ministries of Government of India to release the above funds at the earliest.

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