

I/173332/2024

The Hindu- 25- May-2024

# NGT directs Kerala to submit approval for construction of check-dam on Silandhi river

## The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed Kerala to submit the approval required for the construction of a check-dam across the Silandhi river. If there is no proper approval, the project proponent (Kerala) should stop the project until clearance is obtained, it said.

The dam, being constructed in Idukki district, has raised concerns as the river, a tributary of the Amaravathi, is the source of ir-

rigation for farmlands in Karur and Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu. Hearing a *suo motu* case based on a news report, the Bench directed Kerala to provide details of the project.

The counsel appearing for Kerala informed the Bench, comprising Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana and expert member Satyagopal Korlapati, that the dam was being constructed under the Jal Jeevan Mission to draw 3 million litres per day to supply drinking water to a nearby rural local body.

Noting that the check-

dam could obstruct the flow to the Amaravathi dam in Udumalaipettai and seriously affect more than 55,000 acres of fertile agricultural land in Tamil Nadu districts, the Bench directed the Kerala government and its Water Resources and Forest Departments to ensure that the approval is in place, and if there is no proper approval, the project proponent should stop the project until the clearance is obtained.

The Bench listed the matter for hearing on July 23.

I/173332/2024

Deccan Chronicle- 25- May-2024

# Stalin writes to Centre on 'new' Mullaiperiyar dam

**G BABU JAYAKUMAR &  
D SEKAR | DC**  
CHENNAI, MAY 24

The decades old inter-State dispute over the 128-year-old Mullaiperiyar Dam that belongs to Tamil Nadu but located in Kerala has erupted once again with Chief Minister MK Stalin strongly objecting to the Union Government considering Kerala's proposal to take up a study for constructing a new dam to replace the existing one, built across River Periyar in Idukki district.

Kerala's proposal to take up a study for constructing the new dam at Mullaiperiyar was in violation of the orders of the Supreme Court, Stalin said in his letter to the Union Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, on Friday.

Earlier, after news of Kerala's plans came out, leader of the opposition in the State Assembly,



Edappadi K Palaniswami, urged the DMK government to wake up from its slumber and act according to the Supreme Court ruling. He said that the government apathy on ensuring the State's rights on the Mullaiperiyar dam had led to suffering among the people in the districts of Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram, the region that receives water from the dam.

Stalin, urging the Union Minister to instruct the officers concerned at the Union Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEF), and the Member Secretary of the Expert Appraisal

Committee (EAC) to drop the item from the agenda for the EAC meeting on May 28 and also not to take up any such proposal from Kerala in future, said: 'Considering the sensitivity of the situation, I solicit your immediate personal intervention in this regard.'

"We are informed that the Expert Appraisal Committee(EAC), under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEF), has included the above proposal by M/s.Irrigation Design & Research Board (IDRB), Government of Kerala in the agenda of its upcoming meeting," he said. ■ P4

# Stalin writes to Centre on 'new' Mullaiperiyar dam

FROM PG 1

The proposal for constructing a new dam was against the directions of the Supreme Court since the existing dam had been repeatedly found to be safe in all aspects by various Expert Committees and had been ruled so by the Supreme Court in its judgments dated February 27, 2006 and May 7, 2014, he said

In 2018, when Kerala attempted to get approval for the ToR for EIA study for the new dam, Tamil Nadu took up the issue with the Supreme Court and it was clearly ruled that any such step would require the Court's permission, he said.

Kerala's IDRDB taking up EIA study for a new dam as well EAC considering the request would definitely amount to contempt of Supreme Court

orders, he said, adding, "Our objections on this issue have already been communicated in detail by the Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources department to the Secretary, MoEF and all the members of EAC."

"We intend to take strong legal action, including contempt petitions, if the earlier orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are not adhered to by the various stakeholders in this issue," the Chief Minister said.

Palaniswami recalled the legal battles waged by the AIADMK government under J Jayalalithaa starting with the demand for raising the storage level to 142 feet and told the DMK government to make efforts to increase it to 152 feet, which was the level before the dispute broke out in the early 1980s.



I/173332/2024

The Morning Standard- 25- May-2024

# Mullaiperiyar dam issue: Stalin against Kerala's move

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

STRONGLY objecting to the union government's decision to consider Kerala's proposal to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA) study for constructing a new dam at Mullaiperiyar, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday warned of strong legal action, including contempt petition in the Supreme Court, if Kerala government, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and its Experts Appraisal Committee (EAC) fail to adhere to the earlier orders of the SC on the issue.

In a letter to Union Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav, Stalin urged him to instruct the officers concerned to drop the item to consider the EIA for the new dam from the agenda of the EAC meeting scheduled for May 28.

The CM also urged the MoEF to not take up any such proposals from Kerala in the future.

"Our objections regarding the issue have already been communicated in detail by the Additional Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department, to the MoEF Secretary and other members of the EAC," the CM said in his letter.

Pointing out that taking up Kerala's proposal for a new dam for consideration will violate the orders of the Supreme Court, Stalin said, "We are informed that the EAC, under the aegis of the MoEF, has included the above proposal by M/s Irrigation Design & Research

Board (IDRB), Government of Kerala, in the agenda of its upcoming meeting. The proposal for constructing a new dam by Kerala, purportedly in lieu of the existing Mullaiperiyar dam, is against the directions of the SC."

The letter said, "The existing dam has been repeatedly found to be safe in all aspects by various expert committees and has been ruled so by the SC in its judgments dated February 27, 2006, and May 7, 2014. Later in 2018, when Kerala made an attempt to get approval for the ToR for EIA study for the proposal for a new dam, the issue was taken up by Tamil Nadu at the SC and it was clearly ruled

that any such step would require SC's permission," Stalin pointed out.

He also reiterated that the current act of Kerala on EIA study for a new dam would definitely be in contempt of the orders passed by the SC. Palaniswami recalled the legal battles waged by the AIADMK government under J Jayalithaa starting with the demand for raising the storage level to 142 feet and told the DMK government to make efforts to increase it to 152 feet, which was the level before the dispute broke out in the early 1980s.

Other political parties like the Congress and the PMK had already objected to the Union Government considering Kerala's proposal and urged the State government not to allow the construction of a new dam and demolish the existing one.



**Our objections regarding the issue have already been communicated in detail by the Additional Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department, to the MoEF Secretary and other members of the EAC — MK Stalin, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister**

Hindustan- 25- May-2024

# जलाशयों का जल स्तर 76% गिरा

नई दिल्ली, एजेंसी। देश में भीषण गर्मी के बीच 150 प्रमुख जलाशयों के भंडारण स्तर में लगातार गिरावट जारी है और यह कुल भंडारण क्षमता का 24 प्रतिशत रह गया है।

पिछले वर्ष समान अवधि के दौरान के जल स्तर के मुकाबले मौजूदा जल स्तर में 21 प्रतिशत की कमी दर्ज की गई है। आधिकारिक आंकड़ों से यह जानकारी सामने आई है। केंद्रीय जल आयोग (सीडब्ल्यूसी) ने शुक्रवार को देश भर के 150 प्रमुख जलाशयों के ताजा भंडारण स्तर की स्थिति पर अपना साप्ताहिक बुलेटिन जारी किया, जिसमें पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में जल स्तर में भारी गिरावट दर्ज की गयी है। दक्षिणी क्षेत्र, जिसमें आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, कर्नाटक, केरल और तमिलनाडु शामिल हैं, सबसे अधिक प्रभावित है।