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D.O. Letter No. 40715/C.Spl.1/2008-82, Dated 07.02.2024

Dear *Shri Velraji,*

Greetings!

I invite your kind attention to the letter of the Director, Project Appraisal (South) Directorate, Central Water Commission, dated 04.10.2018 addressed to the Secretary, Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), requesting the views of the Authority on the Feasibility Report of the proposed Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir cum Drinking Water Project of Karnataka, which Project was opposed by Tamil Nadu. Central Water Commission was requested to withdraw the permission given through Project Appraisal (South) Directorate to Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited (CNNL) to go ahead with the preparation of DPR, since Tamil Nadu had already objected to this Inter State Project proposal and also pointed out that prior concurrence was not obtained from the State of Tamil Nadu and other co-basin States, vide, letter No. 40715/C.Spl.1/2008-53 dated 27.11.2018.

When the above subject was proposed for discussion in several Cauvery Water Management Authority meetings, Tamil Nadu vehemently opposed for any discussion on this new storage project, which is not a permitted project as per the Final Award of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal (CWDT) dated 05.02.2007 and the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 16.02.2018, as the mandate of Cauvery Water Management Authority is only for implementing the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 16.02.2018 and therefore, discussion was deferred on those occasions. However, the matter was proposed for discussion in the 28th Cauvery Water Management Authority meeting held on 01.02.2024 at the instance of Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu strongly objected to take up the agenda. Based on the views of all the Members of the Cauvery Water Management Authority, the Chairman decided to return the project back to Central Water Commission for examination of various technical / economical aspects of the project for establishing its feasibility or otherwise, and further necessary action at their end.

At this juncture, I would like to bring to your kind notice that the State of Tamil Nadu had already filed M.A. No. 3127 of 2018 in C.A. No. 2453 of 2007 on 30.11.2018 and M.A. No. 93 of 2022 in C.A. No. 2453 of 2007 on 27.08.2021 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, praying to direct the CWC to reject and return the DPR for the proposed Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir cum Drinking Water Project, furnished by Karnataka, vide its letter dated 18.01.2019, and to restrain the Ministry of Environment and Forest and its agencies from entertaining any application for clearance relating to Mekedatu Project, pending disposal of M.A. No. 3127 of 2018. The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India is also a party to these Applications. These applications are still pending and hence the matter is sub-judice.

I, therefore, request you not to take any action on the proposed Mekedatu Project of Karnataka, even if requested by the State of Karnataka or by its instrumentalities or any other organizations, and also request you to instruct the concerned Directorates of Central Water Commission not to entertain any request for processing or giving clearance to the Project. I request your early response.

Warm regards.

Yours Sincerely,

Sandeep
07.2.24

(SANDEEP SAXENA)

To

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