

DURAIMURUGAN
MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES



SECRETARIAT
CHENNAI - 600 009.

Minister (JS)

Dy. No

Date

Date.....

D.O. Letter No. 40715 / C. Spl.1 / 08- , Dated 23.2.2024

Dear Thiru. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Avargale,

Vanakkam!

Kindly recall the Memoranda, which I presented to you on 05.07.2023 and 19.09.2023, regarding the proposed Mekedatu Reservoir Project of Karnataka, wherein it was requested among others, to advise the concerned officers in the Ministry to reject the Mekedatu Project proposal of Karnataka, and to direct CWC not to consider the DPR of Mekedatu Project.

The State of Karnataka now and then raises this issue in the public fora, which causes anxiety and unrest among the farmers of Cauvery Delta in Tamil Nadu. Recently, in the Budget for 2024-2025, the Government of Karnataka has stated that it is constituting various Committees and Planning Department exclusively for executing the Mekedatu project, and also allocating funds for the project, which has further evoked the feeling of uncertainty on this issue.

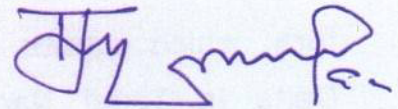
You may be aware that in the last meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority held on 01.02.2024, the Authority decided to return back the DPR of the proposed Mekedatu Project to CWC and accordingly, the Authority has returned the DPR of the project to CWC on 09.01.2024. In this connection, you may kindly recall that during our earlier meetings, you specifically informed us that the Mekedatu project proposal will not be cleared without the concurrence of Co-Basin States. You were also kind enough to respond to our letters and Memoranda on this issue, vide, the letter dated 13.12.2023, wherein it is mentioned that Mekedatu matter is sub-judice. Since then the status has not changed.

Secretary (WR, RD & GR)

In the meanwhile, the Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department and the Chief Secretary, have also written to the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Central Water Commission on 07.02.2024 and 20.02.2024, respectively, requesting them not to take any action on the proposal of Karnataka, until the Hon'ble Supreme Court decides the Applications filed on this issue.

I once again emphasize that the Mokedatu project proposal is a sensitive issue and the farmers of Cauvery Delta in Tamil Nadu are very much agitated. They are already concerned that they did not get the due share of Cauvery water in this water year 2023-24. **I, therefore, request you to direct the concerned officers in the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Central Water Commission not to consider the DPR of Mokedatu Project, till the Hon'ble Supreme Court decides the issue.**

Yours sincerely,



To
Thiru Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,
Minister of Jal Shakti,
Government of India,
6th Floor, Shram Shakti Bhawan,
Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110 001.