

Centre 'no' to CISF deployment in Mullaiperiyar dam

J. VENKATESAN | DC
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The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that it will not be possible to deploy Central Industrial Security Force for the protection of the Mullaiperiyar dam without Kerala asking for such deployment. The case comes up for hearing on Friday.

In its response to TN's application for CISF deployment, the Centre said the issue was examined by the Union home ministry and it was made clear to Tamil Nadu that since 'law and order' and 'policing' was a state subject, unless there was a specific request from Kerala, the Centre cannot deploy CISF forces in the state. It said "overall the consent of the state of Kerala is a must and unless the state agrees for such deployment, the CISF could not be deployed in the Mullaiperiyar dam."

The Centre pointed out



that CISF was a zero budget force; its deployment is completely at the cost of the client state/organisation, which among other things include salary for personnel deployment, TA/DA, raising and supervision charges etc.; the client should provide all the gadgets as per the requirement

and there has to be pre-induction formalities. All this could be done only with the consent and specific request of the state/client. It said Kerala had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court giving an assurance that full protection will be given to the dam. The issue of safety of the dam was considered by the

● The consent of the state of Kerala is a must and unless the state agrees for such deployment, the CISF could not be deployed in the Mullaiperiyar dam, the Centre said

expert committee at its meeting on November 24, 2014, and after deliberations a security protocol was adopted.

In its application, the Tamil Nadu government sought a direction to the Centre and Kerala to deploy Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Mullaiperiyar dam for guarding the dam and the appurtenant structures as Kerala had failed to do so. Tamil Nadu maintained that its officials had the full authority to carry out all incidental and other activities for the day to day maintenance and repairs for the safe upkeep of the dam and it could be subjected to any restrictions on free access to

the Mullaiperiyar dam.

It said, "the stand of Kerala on the one hand is, it is fully and unequivocally committed to the protection of the Mullaiperiyar dam but on the other hand there is no protection even to the officer in charge of maintenance of the dam. The policemen at the dam site were inactive, when unauthorised persons enter the dam premises without obtaining proper permission and pushed down the officer who prevented them to enter. This is a clear case of failing to give protection and avoiding the responsibility on the part of the officials of State of Kerala."

Referring to Kerala's communication that it had decided to replace the Police Security Guard by the newly constituted State Industrial Security Force (SISF), TN said "in the light of the various incidents that have taken place in the past, the applicant state is not agreeable to the deployment of the State Industrial Security Force."

Panel tables report before NGT on mega car park

DC CORRESPONDENT
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The two-member committee, constituted to study the proposed construction of mega car park near Kumili in Idukki district by Kerala government, tabled its report before the Southern Bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday.

The Tamil Nadu government claims the car park site falls within the water spread area of Mullaiperiyar reservoir, which is under its leased area.

The first bench, comprising judicial member M. Chokalingam and expert member P.S. Rao, has accepted the committee report and posted the case

for further hearing to July 10. The bench has asked both sides to file objections and replies on the date of next hearing.

On September 5 last year, NGT had put on hold the construction of the mega car parking facility ordering status quo following an application from Tamil Nadu. The court has refused to vacate the injunction, though Kerala government filed an appeal. Instead, NGT constituted a two-member committee to study the facts of the case.

TN will file its reply after going through the findings of the committee report. Abdul Saleem, special government pleader for the state told DC.