

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1196

ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

DAM CONSTRUCTION AT CAUVERY AT MEKEDATU

1196. SHRI P. WILSON

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) Government's stand on the expression by the Chief Minister of Karnataka to build a dam/reservoir on the Cauvery at Mekedatu even though Mekedatu was not a part of the awards of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal or the ruling of the Supreme Court and any unauthorised construction across the river could harm Tamil Nadu; and
- (b) Government's plan of action to stop this act as the final judgement of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal asserted that no irrigation project can start without the riparian State's consent and it would violate both the 2007 final order of the CWDT and the 2018 verdict of the SC?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Feasibility Report (FR) of Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir cum Drinking Water Project, Karnataka was submitted to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for "in principle" clearance for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR). CWC accorded 'in-principle' clearance on 24.10.2018 for preparation of DPR by project authority (Government of Karnataka) subject to certain conditions which *inter alia* include: "As the main objective of this scheme as stated in the FR is to implement the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal (CWDT) Award as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, acceptance of Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) would be a pre-requisite for consideration of the DPR by the Advisory Committee of MoWR, RD & GR".

Subsequently, the DPR of the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir cum Drinking Water Project was submitted by Government of Karnataka to CWC in January 2019 and the DPR was referred to CWMA. Discussion on the DPR of the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir cum Drinking Water Project was included as an agenda item during various meetings of the CWMA. In the 18th meeting of CWMA held on 02.12.2022, after deliberations, it was decided that the CWMA will take a uniform stand for taking up discussions on Mekedatu project as well as any other project in Cauvery Basin till the Hon'ble Supreme Court gives a decision on the I.A. 84201 of 2022 filed by the State of Tamil Nadu.
