

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.421**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

**Mullai Periyar dam and blue flag beach certification programme**

421. SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government towards Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu's letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024, which objects to the Central Government's consideration of the Kerala Government's proposal to conduct a study for constructing a new Mullai Periyar dam as it is against the Supreme Court's order dated 14.05.2014, along with the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken towards and the current progress of blue flag beach certification programme in Tamil Nadu along with the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (b) The Ministry has received a proposal no. IA/KL/RIV/459542/2024 on Parivesh portal on 08.05.2024 for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) for conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for proposed new Mullaperiyar Dam in an area of 39 ha. (CCA 92963 Ha) located at Village Periyar, Taluk Peerumade, District Idukki, Kerala by M/s Irrigation Design & Research Board (IDRB), Govt. of Kerala. In view of inter-state issues raised by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the Ministry sought the opinion of Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Jal Shakti vide letter dated 26.06.2024. The CWC, vide letter dated 16.07.2024, has inter alia informed that Hon'ble Supreme Court constituted an Empowered Committee in 2010 to assess the safety aspects of Mullaperiyar dam. In the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 11.02.2019 in Contempt Petition (C) no. 96 of 2019 in Original Suite no. 3 of 2006 it has been stated that *"The question as to whether any study could at all be carried out or not can always be considered and this move on the part of the State of Kerala can be questioned in case the respondents make any application to this court for any such permission."*

(c) The Blue Flag Certification for beaches and marines is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). The Blue Flag Beach must comply with 33 Blue Flag Criteria. Blue Flag certification is a recognized eco-

label working to bring together the tourism and environmental sectors at local, regional and national levels.

The Kovalam Beach, Chengalpattu was the pilot beach in Tamil Nadu for Blue Flag certification programme and was implemented by the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, Government of India with support from Government of Tamil Nadu. The Kovalam Beach, Chengalpattu is certified as the blue beach since September 2021 onwards. As conveyed by the Government of Tamil Nadu, in the Budget Speech for the year 2021-2022, the Government of Tamil Nadu had made a mention of obtaining Blue Flag Certification for 10 Beaches in Tamil Nadu in the next 5 years at a total cost of Rs.100 crores.

In continuation, it has been informed that the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, Tamil Nadu has issued sanction order for implementation of Blue Flag beach under the Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources and Blue Economy (TN-SHORE) project/ Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission with world bank assistance through G.O. Ms. No.11, dated 10.01.2024. Work order has been issued to National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), for carrying out the Baseline Survey and prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the selected beaches under Blue Flag Certification Programme in Tamil Nadu. NCSCM has submitted DPR for 4 beaches namely, Marina beach in Chennai, Kushi beach in Ramanathapuram district, Kameshwaram beach in Nagapattinam district and Silver Beach in Cuddalore district.

\*\*\*\*\*