

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2468

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026

MEKADATU PROJECT

2468 Shri P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government is aware of the strong objections raised by Government of Tamil Nadu to the latest guidelines issued by Government Central Water Commission for appraisal of water resources projects in the Cauvery Basin, including the presumptive concurrence clause;
- (b) whether these guidelines were issued without consultation with Tamil Nadu and other lower riparian States, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has taken note of Tamil Nadu's urgent demand for constitution of a Tribunal based on representation dated 4th March, 2026 on the proposed Mekedatu project for adjudication of dispute, as the Mekadatu project contrary to judgement?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Central Government has received representations from Government of Tamil Nadu and was suitably replied.

As per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Central Government vide Notification dated 01.06.2018 constituted Cauvery Water Management Scheme, 2018 consisting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) to implement the CWDT's Order as modified by Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.02.2018. As per Para 3 (d) and Para 17 (2) of the Notification dated 01.06.2018, CWMA and CWRC have representatives from Co-basin States namely Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union territory of Puducherry. Further, as per the powers, functions and duties of CWMA specified under Para 10 of the said Notification dated 01.06.2018, CWMA is mandated with responsibility of playing the role of a regulator and implementer of the Tribunal Award (as modified by Hon'ble Court) in the Cauvery basin. In view of powers, functions and duties of CWMA, Guidelines for appraisal of Water Resources Projects in Cauvery basin has been issued by CWC in supplement to the "Guidelines for Submission, Approval and Acceptance of Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects 2017". As per the said Guidelines, Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) shall convey regarding conformity or otherwise of the proposed water utilization in the project with the CWDT Award (as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court). In case of non receipt of the views from CWMA, CWC shall appraise the DPR as per extant Guidelines of CWC for Inter State River Basin and Tribunal Award(as modified by Hon'ble Supreme Court).

(c) Yes, the Government of Tamil Nadu filed a complaint to DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti to constitute of a Tribunal under Section 4 of Inter State River Water Dispute Act, 1956 for adjudication of the water dispute with regard to the waters of the Inter State River Cauvery and the River Valley thereof.
