

**Demand to take steps to stop construction of two
reservoirs across Cauvery at Mekedatu in Karnataka**

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of our dynamic leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, informed the Centre that Karnataka was undertaking a new power project which was not permitted by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in its final award. The Tribunal had made it clear that such a project, if implemented, should be consistent with its decision. Initially, Karnataka wanted to build the two power projects through National Hydro Power Corporation Limited with the Centre's approval. Now, without any approval, it wanted to execute the projects on its own.

Tamil Nadu said the aim of the Tribunal's final award was that hydro projects should not affect the water release patterns. The proposed construction would impact the daily and monthly flows into the Mettur dam during the crucial period from June to September, seriously affecting the interests of Tamil Nadu farmers. Further, any new scheme should be taken up only with the consent of the Cauvery Management Board, ordered to be set up in the final award and the consent of the lower riparian States.

Karnataka informed the Union Ministry of Power that since there was no specific directive in the final award that projects be taken up through NHPC, the projects at Shivasamudram and Mekedatu, both within its territory, were being taken up through Karnataka Power Corporation which had started preliminary works. I, therefore, urge the Government to intervene in this matter immediately and stop Karnataka from going ahead with construction of the reservoirs.

Demand for modernization of Thoothukudi airport in Tamil Nadu

SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Special Mention.

The 'Sea Gateway of Tamil Nadu' and the Port Town of Thoothukudi is a fast-growing industrial city too. Due to the concerted efforts of Makkalin Mudhalvar, hon. Amma, now Thoothukudi is an 'emerging energy and industrial hub' of South India. All major industries like shipping, agriculture, fishing, power and chemical industries are situated in Thoothukudi. To cater to these developmental initiatives and to handle growing business activities, there is a need for expansion of Thoothukudi Airport. The State Government and the Airports Authority of India have plans to develop and modernize this Airport to handle more traffic and wide-bodied aircrafts. In 2008, the AAI had requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to provide a total of 586 acres