

Construction of Mekedatu dam

2467. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPARAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any final decision on the request of Tamil Nadu Government regarding restraining State of Karnataka Government in constructing Mekedatu dam across river Cauvery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has written to Karnataka Government in this regard referring to the final order of Cauvery Water Tribunal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (e) Screening Committee of Central Water Commission (CWC) in its meeting held on 24.10.2018 has accorded "In-Principle" clearance for preparation of DPR of Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project by project authority (Government of Karnataka) with the condition that Government of Karnataka would resolve the inter-State matters amicably by due consultations with co-basin States of Cauvery Basin. The Central Government has also constituted Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to give effect to the decision of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Administrative Secretary in-charge of Water Resources Department of all the co-basin States, including Tamil Nadu is a member of this Authority. Acceptance of the DPR by CWMA is a pre-requisite for consideration of DPR by the Advisory Committee of Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Lack of safe drinking water and sanitation

2468. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of safe drinking water and sanitation are the most serious challenges of the 21st century in developing countries like India;

(b) whether unsafe water and poor sanitation are primary causes for the vast majority of water borne and primarily diarrhoeal diseases; and