

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 728

ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

CONSTRUCTION OF DAM AT MEKEDATU

728. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka is proposing to construct a dam across the Cauvery at Mekedatu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether objections have been raised by the State of Tamil Nadu for constructing a dam at Mekedatu;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to instruct the State Government of Karnataka not to go ahead with the construction of Mekedatu Dam over the Cauvery as it will further reduce the release of water to Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The Government of Karnataka has proposed to construct a dam across Cauvery at Mekedatu. The project envisages a Balancing Reservoir to augment drinking water supply to Bengaluru Metropolitan Region with incidental power generation. It envisages the construction of 99-meter-high, 735-meter-long concrete gravity dam, underground power house, water conductor system. The project plans to utilize additional consumptive use of 4.75 TMC of water to provide drinking water facility to Bangalore Metropolitan Region and its surrounding areas in the Cauvery basin and to regulate 177.25 TMC and generate 400 MW of power annually. The Estimated Cost of the project is Rs. 9,000 Crores at 2018-19 Price Level.

(c) & (d) The Water Resource Department, Government of Tamil Nadu has raised its objections for constructing a dam at Mekedatu. Also, the Government of Tamil Nadu has presented a Memorandum to Government of India on Cauvery matters and stated that Mekedatu project is in violation to the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and its implementation would cause grave injuries to Tamil Nadu's farming community and jeopardize the livelihood of the people of Tamil Nadu and affect their legal rights.

(e) Consent for preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir cum Drinking Water Project, Karnataka was accorded by the Central Water Commission (CWC) on 24.10.2018 subject to certain conditions. Subsequently, the DPR of the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir cum Drinking Water Project submitted by the Government of Karnataka in January, 2019 was referred to Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) by Central Water Commission (CWC). Taking into account the views of the majority of the Members of the CWMA in the 28th meeting, CWMA decided to return the project back to CWC for examination of various technical/economical aspects of the project for establishing its feasibility or otherwise.