

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. Letter dated 16.11.2014 addressed by **Thiru O.Panneerselvam**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Oommen Chandy**, Chief Minister of Kerala, is reproduced below:-

I am in receipt of your D.O.No.16360/ISWC1/2014/WRD dated 14.11.2014 regarding the increase in the level of Mullai Periyar Dam.

You are aware, the Mullai Periyar Dam is owned, maintained and operated by the Government of Tamil Nadu. This has been crystallized in the judgment of the Supreme Court in O.S.No.3 of 2006 dated 7.5.2014. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the same order had decreed the Suit in favour of Tamil Nadu and permitted Tamil Nadu to raise the water level in the Mullai Periyar Dam from the temporarily brought down level of 136 ft. in 1979 to 142 ft. initially, with specific direction that Kerala cannot obstruct Tamil Nadu from increasing the water level of Mulla Periyar Dam to 142 ft. and from carrying out repair works as per the judgment dated 27.2.2006.

You are also aware that the people in the 5 Districts of Tamil Nadu are dependent on the waters of the Periyar Reservoir and the Vaigai Reservoir. The combined total live capacity of both the Reservoirs prior to 1979 was 16.31 TMC ft. This had been reduced to 11.85 TMC ft. to enable Tamil Nadu to carry out strengthening measures as suggested by Central Water Commission with the concurrence of the Government of Kerala. This is being partially restored to 13.41 TMC ft. when the water level is kept at 142 ft. as per the Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.2.2006 and 7.5.2014. The Government of Tamil Nadu could not utilise a quantity of about 26.23 TMC ft. due to the reduction in storage in the Mullai Periyar Dam from 1979 and it had created undue hardship to the farmers of the 5 Districts in Tamil Nadu. The Vaigai Dam is primarily dependent on the North East Monsoon. Therefore, Tamil Nadu has to utilise the flows of the Mullai Periyar Dam to meet the entire requirements of the Vaigai Basin depending on its own catchment and the diversion of water from the Mullai Periyar Reservoir. The operation of the Mullai Periyar Reservoir is managed in such a way as to obtain optimum utilisation of the available water considering the probable monsoon rainfall and the need. Therefore, the Government of Kerala cannot interfere with the regulation of flows from the Mullai Periyar Dam.

The increase in the water storage level in Mullai Periyar Dam from June 2014 onwards is gradual and steady and not sudden. The rainfall in the catchment area is also not heavy.

I would also like to inform that the Government of Tamil Nadu on 1.11.2014 had already replied to the letter of Government of Kerala dated 31.10.2014, wherein among others, it had been categorically stated that the Mullai Periyar Dam is structurally, hydrologically and seismically safe to initially store water up to 142 ft. and also that the contention of Kerala to restrict the storage to 136 ft. is against the decree of the Supreme Court dated 7.5.2014. In this context, I would also like to point out that the Supreme Court appointed Supervisory Committee in the meeting held on 3.11.2014 had decided that there is apparently no immediate justification to open the Gates.

Further, the representation presented to the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee on Mullai Periyar Dam by the Government of Kerala dated 12.11.2014 had already been examined by this Government and a detailed report sent to the Chairman of the Committee on 15.11.2014 with a copy to the Chief Secretary, Kerala.

I, therefore, request you to extend full co-operation to implement the orders of the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to store water up to 142 ft. in Mullai Periyar Dam.

Issued by: Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai- 9.
Date:16.11.2014