K. GNANADESIKAN, I.A.S.
CHIEF SECRETARY

SECRETARIAT
CHENNAI-600 009

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

D.O. Letter No.14722/C.Spl.1/2015- , Dated: 15-9-2015

Dear Thiru Shashi Shekhar,

Kindly refer to your letter dated 14.9.2015, convening the 5th meeting of the Supervisory Committee on 28.9.2015.

In this context, I would like to bring to your attention that during the current water year (2015-2016), the Government of Karnataka has not ensured the flows due to Tamil Nadu at Billigundulu as per the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. As on 13.9.2015, there is a huge shortfall of 38.516 TMC ft. As against 111.333 TMC ft. prescribed in the Final Order of the Tribunal, we have only received 72.817 TMC ft.

The Government of Karnataka in its reply to my letter dated 25.8.2015 requesting the releases as per the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, sought to justify the lower releases on the pretext that this year is a "distress year". However, on verification with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), it has been ascertained that during this water year of 2015-2016, the rainfall in the Cauvery catchment in Karnataka i.e. South Interior Karnataka has been normal and the IMD has indicated that there is only (-)1% deviation as on 9.9.2015. Therefore, the contention of the Government of Karnataka that this water year should be considered as a "distress year" is not correct and is contrary to the factual position.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has in its Final Order clearly defined that the irrigation season is from 1st June to 31st January of the next year. However, Karnataka has drawn water for its summer irrigation during the year 2014-2015, in contravention to the Final Order of the Tribunal. If only Karnataka had carried over the storage as on 31st January to 1st June, 2015 as mandated by the CWDT, there would not have been any difficulty for Karnataka to ensure the flows due to Tamil Nadu as prescribed in the Final Order of the Tribunal.

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I, therefore, request that as Chairman of the Supervisory Committee you may advise the Government of Karnataka to immediately make good the shortfall of 38.516 TMC ft. at Billigundulu as on 13.9.2015 and also to ensure future releases as per the Final Order of the Tribunal.

The agricultural operations are in full swing in the Cauvery delta region. Adequate irrigation for the standing crops has to be assured, so that the farmers are not put to hardship. In view of the deficit in release of water due to Tamil Nadu as per the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, I request you to immediately convene the meeting of the Supervisory Committee as the matter cannot be kept pending up to 28.9.2015.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

To

Thiru Shashi Shekhar, I.A.S.,
Secretary to Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and
Chairman, Supervisory Committee on Cauvery
Shram Shakti Bhavan
Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110 001.

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