

**SIDDARAMAIAH**

CHIEF MINISTER

CM/165/GOI/2023



VIDHANA SOUDHA  
BENGALURU - 560 001

Date : 13/09/2023..

**Respected Sir,**

The CWRC in its 86th Meeting held on 12.09.2023 has directed the Member from Karnataka to ensure the releases from its reservoirs, so that the flows at the rate of 5000 cusecs are realized at Biligundlu, starting from 13.09.2023 (8.00 AM) for next 15 days and thereafter, the hydro-meteorological conditions/storage position in the eight designated reservoirs in the Cauvery basin will be reviewed.

Considering the prevailing drought conditions in the Taluks of Cauvery river Basin in Karnataka, the availability of water in the reservoirs of Karnataka as of today and drinking water for human and livestock, industrial and irrigation requirements in Karnataka from this month to the end of water year, Karnataka is not in a position to release any more water from its Reservoirs so as to contribute to the decided flows at Biligundlu on inter-State border.

A few relevant facts in support of the distress situation in the water availability are brought to your kind notice, which are as below:

- a. The inflow into Karnataka reservoirs from 1.06.2023 to 11.09.2023 has been only 104.273 TMC in comparison to the last thirty-year average of 228.793 TMC.
- b. The shortfall is as high as 58.93% if the distress in the catchment area upto Biligundlu is considered. This has increased from 53.322% as on 24.08.2023 to 58.935% as on 10.09.2023 in a short span of 17 days.
- c. ***Karnataka has the commitment of 106.20 TMC comprising of 70.20 TMC for irrigation of the existing crops, 33.00 TMC for drinking water from September, 2023 to July,2024 and 3.00 TMC for industrial uses. It has a storage of 53.287 TMC in four Karnataka reservoirs as on 11.09.2023 and incoming are lesser. Evidently, this quantity is not sufficient to meet its own requirements.***

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- d. The IMD forecast for the next two weeks from 12<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September paints a grim picture and the IMD forecast shows the situation in the next 2 weeks would not be any more promising.

In contrast, it cannot be denied that the State of Tamil Nadu is not facing distress of any sort and in this regard the following shall be of relevance for consideration of the Authority:

- a. By implication, Tamil Nadu has used a whopping 99.776 TMC in 92 days (from 12th June, 2023 to 11th September, 2023).
- b. The statement by Tamil Nadu in the rejoinder that it has only 5.60 lakh acres of irrigation as of 23.08.2023 is misleading and is not correct.
- c. Karnataka does not benefit from the North-East Monsoon. At the moment, the indications are that the North-East Monsoon rainfall is normal. As a result, the inflow realized by Tamil Nadu at Mettur Dam from the uncontrolled catchment below KRS and Kabini Dams upto Biligundlu alone will be an additional 60 TMC.
- d. The ground water in the Delta System in Tamil Nadu which is estimated as 30 TMC at the canal head regulators on the basis of finding of the Tribunal as 20 TMC on field.
- e. The yield available in the river below Mettur upto Delta from the basin in Tamil Nadu.
- f. Furthermore, Tamil Nadu has withdrawn a whopping 99.776 TMC in the last 92 days (from 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 to 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023), which only fortifies the stand of Karnataka that Tamil Nadu is also expecting that the North East rainfall will be normal.
- g. The live storage at Mettur reservoir as on 12.09.2023 is 24.233 TMC. If the additional flow of 60 TMC is taken into consideration, then Tamil Nadu has sufficient water to meet the remaining requirements if the previous bad years of 1987 – 88, 2002 – 03, 2003-04, 2012 – 13, 2016 – 17 and 2017 – 18 are referenced.

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- h. Tamil Nadu has utilised about 100 TMC in about 92 days from June to middle of September of this year more than what it had utilised in the earlier distress years of 1987-88, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2012-13, 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- i. Tamil Nadu has opened extensive areas for growing paddy crops as if it is a normal year disregarding the distress condition in the upper catchment of Karnataka Reservoirs.

The State of Karnataka has complied with and respected the previous directions issued by CWMA/CWRC so far. It is brought to your kind notice that the majority of Taluks in Cauvery Basin in Karnataka are reeling under severe drought conditions due to acute water stress due to failure of South-West Monsoon.

The decision of CWRC needing Karnataka to release water from KRS and Kabini, put together, so as to realise 5000 cusecs at Biligundlu for the next 15 days cannot be practically implemented without endangering the interests of the farmers for irrigation and human and livestock depending upon the Cauvery River system for drinking water.

Therefore, it is requested to move the CWMA to consider the pleadings of Karnataka and to review the decision of CWRC which has directed Karnataka to release 5000 cusecs for next 15 days so that Karnataka is relieved of the burden and to safeguard the interests of the farmers and people in this drought affected year.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

To:

**Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat ji,**  
Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti,  
Government of India.