

**PRESS RELEASE**

Text of the D.O. letter dated 13.1.2018 of **Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Siddaramaiah**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

"On the happy occasion of Makara Sankaranthi, I extend my warm greetings to you and the people of Karnataka.

I invite your kind attention to the notified Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, dated 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2007, according to which Tamil Nadu has to get 192 TMC ft water in a year at Billigundulu, as per the monthly schedule specified in the order. But as on 9.1.2018, only 111.647 TMC ft has been realized at Billigundulu against 179.871 TMC ft due by that date, leaving a deficit of 68.224 TMC ft.

In this irrigation year 2017-18, the Mettur reservoir could be opened for irrigation only on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017 against the normal date of 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, as the inflow into the reservoir was poor and the storage was inadequate. Though the Samba cultivation commenced soon after and the rainfall due to the North East Monsoon was helpful in the beginning, the intensity of rainfall became heavy and destructive by the end of October, 2017. The young crop could not withstand the onslaught of such rainfall and got damaged to a considerable extent. The farmers of the Cauvery delta had to replant the crop, as a result of which the crop period got extended. These standing crops need irrigation in the critical stage of crop growth maturity, namely, milky and dough stage, for which irrigation has to be extended beyond January 2018. At this instance, I would like to point out that the farmers of Cauvery delta lost their crop last year, 2016-17, due to deficit inflows into Mettur reservoir.

The storage in the Mettur reservoir as on 12.1.2018 is a meagre 21.27 TMC ft (utilizable storage 16.27 TMC ft). This is grossly inadequate to meet the irrigation needs of the standing crops and drinking water needs during the summer months.

The crop season in Karnataka is already over and there is a gross storage of about 49.82 TMC ft as on 12.1.2018 in the State's four major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin. After reserving the minimum needs of drinking water supply and perennial crops, Karnataka can release at least 15 TMC ft to Tamil Nadu to make up a part of the shortfall, which is required to meet the crucial needs of the standing crops in the Cauvery delta.

I request you to consider the plight of the large number of farmers of the delta who depend on the success of this crop to meet their livelihood and instruct your officers to release 7 TMC ft of water immediately and the balance within a fortnight, from the existing storage for saving the standing crops."

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**Issued by: Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.**

**Date: 13.1.2018**