

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding construction of dam at Meghadathu on river Cauvery by Karnataka Government.

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): The Government of Tamil Nadu has firmly opposed the construction of a dam across the Cauvery River at Mekedatu.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu functioning in the footsteps of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is committed to protect the interests of the farmers, especially in matters relating to river water-sharing disputes with neighbouring States.

The hon. Chief Minister, Edappadi K. Palaniswami had urged the hon. Prime Minister to ask Karnataka not to carry out any work with regard to the construction of a Dam at Mekedatu. He had categorically reiterated that Tamil Nadu will not allow a dam across the Cauvery River at Mekedatu.

The Tamil Nadu Government had raised very strong objections to the construction of a new dam at Mekedatu and has taken up this issue with the Centre since the Mekedatu project will only create more complications. ... (*Interruptions*) The construction of the new dam at Mekedatu would reduce the river's downstream flow and jeopardise livelihoods of millions of farmers in Tamil Nadu. ... (*Interruptions*) Besides turning delta districts into a desert, the Mekedatu dam would affect hydro power projects in Mettur.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government not to give any nod for the construction of the dam across the river Cauvery at Mekedatu. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri G. Hari, Shri P.R. Sundaram, Shri P.R. Senthilnathan, Shri K. Ashok Kumar, Shri V. Elumalai, Shri T.G. Venkatesh Babu and Shrimati V. Sathyabama are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri S.R. Vijayakumar.