

**12.53 hrs.**

Title: Need to implement the interim award of Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are on the eve of yet another *kurvai* season in the Cauvery delta and it would appear from the meteorological reports that are coming in, that once again, the Cauvery delta -- which has been the rice bowl of India for thousands of years -- is going to be converted yet again into a desert owing to the complete failure of the Cauvery River Authority to ensure the implementation of the interim award of the Cauvery Tribunal.

Sir, for the last 12 years, the farmers of the Cauvery delta have been repeatedly cheated of their dues. It is not only a question of water. It is a question of justice. Sir, it is shocking that five years after the Cauvery River Authority was established with none less than the hon. Prime Minister as the Chairperson, not in one year, not in one month, not in one week and not even on one day has the interim award of the Cauvery Tribunal been respected. I think, it is the duty of the Prime Minister of India, especially as he is the Chairperson of the Cauvery River Authority, that he rises to his responsibilities, and before the crisis comes upon us -- not as he has been doing year after year after the crises has come upon us -- he should exercise his full responsibilities and ensure that as per the Award of the Tribunal, waters reach Cauvery delta.

\* Not Recorded.

I demand an answer from the Prime Minister on this issue, and I trust that what I have submitted just now is the view of all the Tamil Nadu Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Sir, we have also given notices to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak on the same issue?

DR. V. SAROJA : Yes, Sir, we have also given notices to speak on the same issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, because she wants to speak on the same issue, let her speak. After her submission, you may raise your issue.

DR. V. SAROJA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my Party, AIADMK, on behalf of all the Members of my Party AIADMK, on behalf of the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and also on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I rise here to raise a very important issue.

I urge upon the Government to convene a meeting of the Cauvery Monitoring Committee and CRA to discuss the issue of 'distress sharing formula' and also to evolve a strategy of implementing the same in Tamil Nadu.

In this regard, on 21.4.2003, the Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu had written a letter to the Union Water Resource Secretary to convene this meeting at the earliest date. All of us know that it is customary that every year, June 12<sup>th</sup> is the date fixed for opening the Mettur Dam for the benefit of farmers in the Cauvery delta area.

I would like to point out in this connection that the total capacity of the Mettur Dam is 92 tmcft; the average storage as on January was only four tmcft; now it is 3.5 tmcft -- 6 tmcft, which is nothing but a dead-storage. I would like to impress upon the Government as well as the hon. Prime Minister of India that if this Ministry wants to continue the same situation in Tamil Nadu, we will continue to have withered paddy, blighted sugarcane, shrivelled palmyra trees, distraught women holding pots demanding drinking water and desperate men reduced to tears by the dry expanse, that is, their farmland.

I once again demand that the meeting should be convened at the earliest date by the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister. It was based on the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court in February that they decided that 4500 cusecs of water should be released. The Government of Karnataka had also promised to release 1200 cusecs of water. But then, they had not done so. Even now, they are turning a deaf ear to the cries of the people of Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : It cannot be 1200 cusecs because the annual release itself is only 205 tmcft. Please ask her to correct the figure. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be no argument please.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA : I urge upon the Government of India and the Karnataka Government which is being ruled by the Congress to settle the dispute and release water for the benefit of the people of Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'. Why should there be a debate on this?

DR. V. SAROJA : I am sorry. It is 1200 cusecs. I urge upon the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister to convene the meeting of CMC at the earliest date, without any further delay. With these few lines, I conclude. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All those hon. Members who are present in the House belonging to her Party will be associated with this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Last year, there was an unprecedented drought in the Cauvery delta areas particularly in the districts of Thanjavur, Mayavaram, Nagapattinam, and Pudukkottai and also in Pondicherry. Due to this unprecedented drought, farmers and agricultural labourers were facing a lot of problem. Due to this severe drought last year, the agricultural labourers

who had not found anything for their food, were in search of rats and other things for their daily feed.

Those who were opposing the Cauvery River Water Tribunal are now supporting the demand to convene an urgent meeting of the Tribunal. On behalf of DMK, I support the move. I also urge upon the Government to convene that meeting and find out a solution for the problems faced by the farmers. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (SALEM): Sir, the Government has to respond to this issue. This is an issue concerning the entire State of Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, would you like to raise the issue tomorrow if the Minister is present at that time?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, this is an issue concerning the entire State of Tamil Nadu. We want a categorical reply from the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Now let the Minister respond. Please sit down. The Minister wants to respond to the issue concerning Tamil Nadu. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): Sir, I want to say only one word. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Every hon. Member is not permitted. Moreover, you have not given me a notice. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

**13.00 hrs.**

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, your Leader has already spoken. I cannot permit all the Members to speak. It is not possible.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VADODARA): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter....(Interruptions)  
It is not fair.â€¦ (Interruptions)

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन और संस्कृति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती भावनाबेन देवराजभाई चीखलीया) :अध्यक्ष महोदय, डा.वी. सरोजा ने जो मामला उठाया है, मैं आपके आदेशानुसार माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को सूचित करूंगी।

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