

**Memorandum presented to Shri Narendra Modi,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
by Thiru Edappadi K Palaniswami,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 27.01.2019**

**1. i. CONFERMENT OF "BHARAT RATNA" ON
THIRU C.N.ANNADURAI, LATE CHIEF MINISTER
OF TAMIL NADU**

Thiru C.N. Annadurai was known as Perarignar Anna for his outstanding intellectual capacity. He was a great social reformer, writer, orator, litterateur and a tall Dravidian leader. His literary and political works, both in Tamil and English, bear the stamp of his genius and rank among the best in these genres.

He was the ideological fountainhead of major Dravidian parties. He stood for a politics that foregrounded social equality, self-respect and linguistic pride. He condemned the backwardness and superstitious practices of the society and advocated science and education for eradicating them. He was for preserving the identity and antiquity of Tamil language and its culture. He fought for the upliftment of downtrodden and women's rights. He was an orator par excellence in Tamil, no less in English as well. He mesmerised the masses through his oratorical skills. He created a knowledge revolution among the poor and simple, by his sparkling speech. "Kadamai, Kanniyam, Kattupadu"– (Duty, Decorum,

Discipline) - the politico philosophical magical words coined by him.

Perarignar Annadurai had the distinction of converting the Dravidian ideology into a political formation and was instrumental in a regional party forming a Government for the first time in India. He served as the Chief Minister of Madras from 1967 till 1969. During his tenure as Chief Minister, "the State of Madras" was renamed as "Tamil Nadu".

He legalised self-respect marriages and introduced two language policy and "A rupee for a measure of rice scheme" in the Public Distribution System. He was the pioneer who championed the cause for State Autonomy.

Perarignar Annadurai was one of the Country's finest Parliamentarians and his speeches in the Parliament were well received and acclaimed by other Parliamentarians, cutting across party lines. Perarignar Annadurai is still remembered with fondness by a large number of people of Tamil Nadu, even now, 49 years after his demise. Several institutions and organisations in Tamil Nadu have been named after him.

Under his stewardship, people believed that the State was entering a new epoch. Abolition of levy on dry lands, assignment of wastelands to the landless poor, free education for students up to pre-university class, implementation of prohibition policy, development of Tamil

were among some of the far reaching initiatives undertaken by him.

The advent of the political party headed by Perarignar Annadurai as a party in power in the State of Tamil Nadu marks a watershed. He was a titan among the politicians living in his era and was well respected even by his worst critics. He was mild mannered, accommodative, upright and fought tirelessly for improving the socio-economic conditions of the people.

In view of his contributions to Tamil Nadu, in particular and India as a whole, the Tamil Nadu Cabinet unanimously resolved on 9.9.2018 that this statesman needs to be honoured befittingly with the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna and accordingly recommended to the Government of India to award "**Bharat Ratna**" to the Hon'ble Late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Perarignar Annadurai posthumously.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly confer the "Bharat Ratna" on Hon'ble Late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru C.N. Annadurai, posthumously.

ii. CONFERMENT OF "BHARAT RATNA" ON SELVI J JAYALALITHAA, LATE CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU

The late Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa is very fondly remembered by the people of Tamil Nadu as Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. The highest civilian honour – Bharat Ratna would be the most fitting way to recognize the extraordinary public service, phenomenal achievements and the remarkable life of one of the most influential political leaders of independent India. Our revered leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma overcame many obstacles in her life to reach the pinnacle of political achievement – of capturing the hearts, minds and imagination of the people of Tamil Nadu. She did so through formulating people-friendly and growth oriented policies founded on empathy and compassion, ensuring their effective implementation through administrative acumen and sound fiscal management and carrying out her political and administrative tasks by the dint of determination, dedication, perseverance and unstinted hard work. Vast sections of the Tamil population looked up to her as their leader, in whom they had implicit trust and in fact they deified her. Her initiatives won universal acclaim and were widely admired not only by other States in the country, but also by other countries.

The late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, excelled in academics and extra-curricular activities from her

early days as a student. Through her days as an accomplished and popular film actor, apart from being a consummate professional, she used every free moment of her time to read extensively and gain knowledge. In her early days in politics, she distinguished herself as an effective Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, speaking on important issues including State Autonomy and Internal Security, which won acclaim from the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi.

The late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma overcame political vicissitudes and took over the mantle of the leadership of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. She led the AIADMK Party to a memorable electoral victory in 1991 and repeated the feat in 2001, 2011 and 2016, assuming office as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, a record six times for a total period of 15 years. In between, she also led her party to strong performances in the elections to the Lok Sabha, in 1998, 1999, 2009 and most memorably in 2014. What is particularly remarkable is the manner in which in the last 3 elections – in 2011, 2014 (Lok Sabha) and 2016, she has strongly consolidated the popular mandate of the AIADMK party in the State. Today, the AIADMK has 50 Members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and is the third largest political formation in the country. This is entirely due to the massive public support built up by our revered leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister

of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, through sustained performance and political acumen. She was unarguably the most charismatic, dynamic and determined political leader that India has ever seen. She relentlessly challenged the male dominated politics of Tamil Nadu that worked to block her at every step of the way. She reached the top on her own, with no political background and became Chief Minister, not once, but six times.

The late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puartchi Thalaivi Amma was uncompromising in her insistence on the perfect maintenance of law and order in the State. The Police force has been adequately funded and provisioned and its morale maintained at a very high level as the Late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, gave the Police Force a free hand to ensure that law and order is well maintained. Tamil Nadu has remained a haven of peace and tranquillity due to the efforts of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Firm action was taken against extremist elements and terrorists. The activities of the forest brigand Veerappan were curtailed and the threat was finally neutralized by the Tamil Nadu Police.

The late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma pioneered All Women Police Stations and Women Commando Force in the State and ensured adequate recruitment of women in the State Police and thereby gave a very high sense of safety for women and the vulnerable. The late Hon'ble

Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma pioneered the path breaking Cradle Baby Scheme and the Girl Child Protection Scheme in the State which reversed the declining female sex ratio. The Cradle Baby Scheme was appreciated by Saint Mother Teresa as a great gift to children in Tamil Nadu and lauded the late Hon'ble Chief Minister's welfare projects for girls, destitute women and the aged. The late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's schemes to promote enhanced work participation by women included the distribution of essential equipment like mixies, grinders and fans which eased the domestic drudgery of women, the increase in the maternity leave eligibility for women to 9 months, the enhanced financial benefits under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme. Enhanced financial assistance under the Marriage Assistance Schemes and provision of 8 gram gold coin, incentivized female education by postponing the age of marriage. Empowerment of women through Self Help Groups and enhancement of livelihood through provision of economic assets to women including milch animals, sheep and goats was ensured. All these innovative measures remarkably enhanced the status of women in Tamil Nadu and proved to be model schemes for other States in the country.

Our revered leader, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma transcended caste, creed and religion

in her concern to ensure social justice and to protect the interest of minorities, weaker sections and the vulnerable. Our revered leader the late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was instrumental in securing the constitutional protection for Tamil Nadu's long standing policy of 69% reservation for Backward, Most Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The interests of the minorities were consistently protected and the State was kept free of communal strife.

When she assumed office as Chief Minister in 1991, Tamil Nadu's per capita income was still below the national average. Today it is nearly 75 per cent above the national average. Tamil Nadu's economy under the leadership of the late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma registered the strongest consistent growth and Tamil Nadu has become the second largest State economy in India.

It is not only strong economic growth in Tamil Nadu that has been a significant achievement, but also under the leadership of the Late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Tamil Nadu is one State that has sustained its level of social sector expenditure. Late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had in her first term in office itself formulated a "Social Safety Net" for which protected allocations were made in the Budget year after year in the areas of Health, Education, Nutrition, Welfare of Women and Children, Welfare

of the Differently Abled, Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and Social Security. The allocations have consistently grown through her successive tenures. The scheme to distribute free bicycles to all students in Government and Aided Higher Secondary Schools ensured greater mobility, while the scheme to distribute laptops bridged the digital divide and a new generation was prepared for the challenge of modern information technology. The Amma Unavagams (Canteens) which supply affordable and hygienic cooked food to the poor with dignity is an initiative which has been internationally acclaimed and is now sought to be replicated elsewhere in the country. Such efforts have paid rich dividends in terms of human development achievements in the State.

Alongside the human development achievements recorded in the State, consistent investments in infrastructure were also championed by the late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. This sustained performance has won appreciation from development economists across the world and is now an established model of development. The Tamil Nadu Vision 2023 reflected the far sighted perspective of the late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to set Tamil Nadu on a high growth path trajectory by ensuring sustained investments in the infrastructure, education, health and other related sectors. The Late Hon'ble Chief Minister,

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's singular efforts ensured that the State which had a huge power deficit in 2011 when she assumed office, became a power surplus State by 2016. Major investments were also made in the Roads, Urban Development, Transport and related sectors.

Desalination, as a permanent solution for the perennial drinking water shortage in various parts of Tamil Nadu, was first initiated by the late Hon'ble Chief Minister. As early as 2001, Late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made Rain Water Harvesting mandatory in all Government and residential buildings which became an example for many States to follow. The high quality of human resources and of infrastructure and the very well maintained law and order situation have made Tamil Nadu a very attractive investment destination. The State continues to maintain its position with the largest number of factories and factory employees in the country. Even the President of the World Bank expressed his appreciation to the later Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for the fact that usually Governments either follow a welfarist agenda or a business friendly agenda, but Tamil Nadu was a rare exception where the State continued to be business friendly even as it ensured that adequate attention and funding was provided for the welfare of the people. He had further stated that, "Tamil Nadu's record in implementing projects was really fantastic". The efforts of the

later Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to encourage major automobile manufacturers like Ford and Hyundai to invest in Tamil Nadu was instrumental in the State becoming home to many large automobile manufacturers and Chennai has come to be known as the Detroit of India. In addition, investment was encouraged in a range of sectors and Tamil Nadu has one of the most diversified industrial bases in the country. When the Late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma assumed office as Chief Minister in 2011, the State was crippled with severe power shortage. The Late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma ensured that utmost priority was given to the power sector by enabling power projects and also by stepping up solar energy production which paved the path to make Tamil Nadu a power surplus State.

The Late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma played a very big role in the development of the field of sports in the State over the last two and half decades. High cash incentives to the sportspersons and their coaches were instituted to encourage them. The later Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma also started reward schemes for promoting the not so popular disciplines like kabaddi, weightlifting, fencing, etc., which gave a boost for the sportsmen of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi's foresight in implementing rain water harvesting to enrich the water table and to check global warming shows that she was a champion of environmental causes. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was a multifaceted leader who demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities.

Coupled with performance in all spheres of governance and administration, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made a strong and persuasive case for ensuring that the autonomy of States was respected and State Governments were given the necessary legislative, administrative and fiscal space to function effectively to fulfill the aspirations of the people of the State. The late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma steadfastly and through legal avenues ensured that the rights of the State were protected – be it the Cauvery issue, Periyar issue or the rights of the Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu fishing in their traditional fishing waters of the Palk Bay.

The administrative responses to disasters that struck the State, in particular the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2005, received international acclaim. After the unprecedented floods in Chennai in December, 2015, Tamil Nadu disbursed flood relief to 14 lakh families by direct transfer to their bank accounts at one shot.

Above all, the late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma represented the hopes and aspirations of millions of people of Tamil Nadu and Tamil people wherever they resided across the globe. The Late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was an inspirational figure. Her commanding leadership, brave decision making capacity, shrewd understanding of politics and determination to fight for regional rights will be remembered forever. She gave voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless. She was responsible for the remarkable socio-economic transformation of Tamil Nadu. She brought peace, tranquility, and discipline in all spheres of society and administration, and enviable prosperity to Tamil Nadu. Her appeal extends beyond Tamil Nadu and won her admirers and followers across the country. Such an inspirational figure who touched the lives of millions and whose life story will inspire millions more to strive for the greater public good through social and public service, richly deserves the nation's highest civilian honour. It would be a fitting tribute to a great leader, an able administrator, an inspiring icon who overcame many obstacles and vicissitudes in public life to devote her life for the benefit of millions of people.

The Tamil Nadu Cabinet resolved on 9.9.2018 to reiterate to the Government of India, its original decision taken in the Cabinet meeting held on 10.12.2016

recommending the award of "Bharat Ratna" to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J. Jayalalithaa, posthumously.

The Late Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was astute, diplomatic and independent as a political leader. She had endeared herself to the people of Tamil Nadu by her words and deeds and her legacy lives on. People, particularly women adore her as their "AMMA". She was nationalistic in her outlook and progressive in her thinking. She tirelessly strove for the betterment of Tamil Nadu and Tamils. She rightly deserves the highest civilian award of our country, the "Bharat Ratna".

I reiterate our request to confer the Bharat Ratna posthumously on Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Late Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and request you to take immediate steps for the same.

iii. RENAMING THE CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION AS "PURATCHI THALAIVAR DR. M.G.RAMACHANDRAN CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION"

The Tamil Nadu Cabinet has unanimously resolved and recommended to rename Chennai Central Railway Station after "**Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran**" in commemoration of his birth centenary. The Hon'ble former Chief Minister Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, who is affectionately known as "Puratchi Thalaivar" (Revolutionary Leader), was a self-taught genius, an iconic film personality, who became Tamil Nadu's most popular mass leader.

The birth centenary of Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, Hon'ble former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu which fell in 2017, is being celebrated by the Government of Tamil Nadu in a glorious and befitting manner.

Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran was one of the most illustrious, charismatic and popular Chief Minister of the State, who rode like a colossus during the turbulent transitional socio-political period of the State for more than three decades as an actor supreme and as a political leader invincible, till his death in 1987.

Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran is remembered nationally and internationally for having launched several innovative welfare programmes which have become model to be emulated throughout the country. He

was socially conscious and politically committed and his yardstick for governance, was whether a welfare scheme would ultimately benefit the poor. "The Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. Nutritious Meal Programme" implemented in all the Schools in Tamil Nadu, is a manifestation of his commitment for the welfare of the weaker sections of the society. The scheme has been commended by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as worthy of being followed by other states, now religiously being adopted by the Government of India as a pan-Indian Programme.

As Chief Minister, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran placed great emphasis on socio-economic development of the masses, especially poor and downtrodden. He was instrumental in laying the foundation for the rapid socio-economic growth that the State of Tamil Nadu has witnessed in the last four decades. In order to encourage community participation and promote the goal of self-sufficiency at the village level, he introduced the popular "Self Sufficiency Scheme".

With an innate understanding that knowledge provides children the power to dream of a bright future and attain it, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran introduced a comprehensive package for school children, which included supply of free books, uniforms, footwear, free education upto higher secondary level and the popular Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme. This had far reaching results in terms of improving school attendance

and reducing drop outs appreciably, especially in rural schools.

Dr. M.G. Ramachandran's love for Tamil language and his vision for the development of language manifested in establishing an exclusive Tamil University for Tamil language so as to provide higher research in the Language. As a champion of the cause of women, especially their education, he established Mother Theresa Women's University at Kodaikanal.

To the people of Tamil Nadu and to Tamils across the world, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran continues to be an inspirational figure who is always remembered for his qualities of magnanimity, generosity, commanding leadership and determination to fight for the legitimate rights of the States.

As desired by him, his residence at Chennai has been converted into a school for the hearing and visually challenged children, after his demise. Dr. M.G. Ramachandran's life story continues to inspire millions to strive for greater public good through dedicated service.

To honour the memory of Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M.G. Ramachandran, a great and an illustrious son of the nation, it is felt that it would be proper if, on the occasion of his birth centenary, the Central Railway Station at Chennai, one of the most prominent and iconic landmarks be

named after him. In view of the above, the Tamil Nadu Cabinet unanimously resolved on 9.9.2018 to recommend to the Government of India to rename Chennai Central Railway Station after "Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran".

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly take steps to rename Chennai Central Railway Station as "Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station" in commemoration of his birth centenary.

2. CAUVERY – MEKEDATU PROJECT

Request to withdraw the permission given by CWC to the Government of Karnataka for preparation of Detail Project Report for Mekedatu Project

Due to the untiring efforts of our Revered Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and due to the intervention of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 was published in the Gazette of India on 19.2.2013. The Hon'ble Supreme Court on 16.2.2018 delivered the judgment on the Civil Appeals filed by the Party States upholding the decisions of the Tribunal with slight modifications.

As per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 18.5.2018, the Government of India notified the Cauvery Management Scheme, 2018 in the Gazette of India on 1.6.2018 to give effect to the decision of the Tribunal as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment has affirmed that the "upper riparian State shall not take any action so as to affect the scheduled deliveries of water to the lower riparian States."

However, the Government of Karnataka much to the consternation of the people of Tamil Nadu has planned to construct a reservoir, with a capacity of 67.16 TMC ft. at Mekedatu across Cauvery River and approached the Central

Water Commission for preparation of a Detailed Project Report for the Mokedatu project. I am constrained to point out that the Central Water Commission has given permission to the Government of Karnataka to go ahead with the preparation of a Detailed Project Report in blatant violation of the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

I have already detailed these facts in my letter dated 27.11.2018 to you and requested you to instruct the Central Water Commission to forthwith withdraw the permission given by it to Karnataka.

The action of Karnataka in proposing a reservoir and that of Central Water Commission in giving permission for preparation of a Detailed Project Report have caused deep anguish and apprehension in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu will be denied its due share of water, which has been given to us by the Supreme Court after a protracted legal battle.

Therefore, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has resolved on 6.12.2018 condemning and opposing the action of the Government of Karnataka, and the Central Water Commission for having given permission to Karnataka on 22.11.2018 to prepare a Detailed Project Report for construction of a reservoir at Mokedatu. Further, the Legislative Assembly has urged that the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India should immediately order the Central Water Commission to withdraw the permission given

to Karnataka for preparing the Detailed Project Report. In addition, the Legislative Assembly has also requested the Government of India to direct the Government of Karnataka or its Agencies not to take up any construction work at Mokedatu or at any other place in the Cauvery basin of Karnataka State, without the consent of the State of Tamil Nadu, in violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The resolution of the Legislative Assembly was sent to you by me on 6.12.2018 for immediate action.

The Government of Karnataka on 21.1.2019 has informed the Hon'ble Supreme Court that it has sent the Detailed Project Report for the Mokedatu Project to the Central Water Commission for according further clearances. This unilateral action of Karnataka is highly objectionable and is a gross violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgement of the Supreme Court.

I have written to you on 25.1.2019 requesting to reject and return the Detailed Project Report of Karnataka for the Mokedatu Project.

I request you to immediately direct the Ministry of Water Resources to instruct the Central Water Commission to withdraw the permission given to the Government of Karnataka for preparation of the Detailed Project Report for Mokedatu project and also

outrightly reject and return the DPR for this project.

I further request you to direct the Government of Karnataka not to take up any construction activities in the Cauvery basin of Karnataka without the prior consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

3. MULLAI PERIYAR DAM

(i) Request to withdraw the permission granted to Kerala for conducting study for construction of new Mullai Periyar Dam

The Supreme Court in its decree dated 7.5.2014 in O.S.No.3 of 2006 had held that the Mullai Periyar Dam is structurally, hydrologically and seismically safe. The Court has also held that for the construction of New Dam, there has to be agreement of both the States.

The Government of Kerala in violation of the decreed order of the Supreme Court, unilaterally approached the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley and Hydro-electric Projects for baseline data collection for preparation of EIA/EMP Report and the Committee gave its recommendations to the Government of Kerala for the grant of Terms of Reference for conducting a study.

I brought the above fact to your notice on 24.10.2018 and sought your intervention and requested you to direct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to forthwith withdraw the recommendations to grant ToR for Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the construction of New Dam by Kerala at Mullai Periyar. I further requested you to advise the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and its Agencies to desist from entertaining and considering any proposal of the Government of Kerala on New Mullai Periyar Dam in future and also to negate the proposals

which are in violation of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

However, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in November, 2018 has accorded Terms of Reference for pre-construction activities for preparation of EIA/EMP Report to Kerala in violation of the decree of the Supreme Court dated 7.5.2014.

I request you to instruct the concerned authorities to forthwith withdraw the Terms of Reference granted to the Government of Kerala for undertaking pre-construction activities for preparation of EIA/EMP Report for construction of a New Mullai Periyar Dam.

(ii) RESTORATION OF WATER LEVEL TO FRL 152 FT.

The Supreme Court in its Order dated 27.2.2006, while permitting the Government of Tamil Nadu to raise the water level initially to 142 ft. has also permitted Tamil Nadu to carry out the remaining strengthening works like, strengthening the Baby Dam and Earth Dam, raising the upstream parapet wall of the Main Dam by 2 ft. etc. After completion of the remaining strengthening works to the satisfaction of the Central Water Commission, independent experts are to examine the safety angle before the water level is permitted to be raised to the FRL of 152 feet. This has been affirmed in

the Judgment and Decree of the Supreme Court dated 7.5.2014.

Following these orders, the Government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned a sum of Rs.7.85 crore for strengthening the Baby Dam and other related works so that water level can be restored to the FRL of 152 ft. The Government of Tamil Nadu has applied to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for clearance to cut 23 trees downstream of the Baby Dam, and requested Wild Life, Environment and Forest clearances for carrying out the works.

The Nodal Officer of the Forest Department, Government of Kerala after 18 months has informed in November 2016 that on the advice of the Government of Kerala, the proposal of the project proponent is negated. This rejection by the Government of Kerala is against the decree of the Supreme Court dated 7.5.2014.

When the Government of Tamil Nadu approached to appropriately advise the Government of Kerala in the matter, the Government of India in May, 2018 has requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to approach the inter-State Zonal Council, Southern Zone with regard to the matter of cutting of 23 trees and removal of shrubs, before considering for forest clearance.

The Supreme Court in the judgments dated 27.2.2006 and 7.5.2014 had categorically held that Tamil Nadu could carry out the remaining strengthening works to restore the water level in the Dam to FRL 152 ft., subject to the stipulations made therein. The suggestion of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to approach the Inter-State Council for this miniscule matter is against the judgments of the Supreme Court. The Government of Kerala and the Government of India are duty bound to accord the requisite clearances when the project proponent approaches them for implementing the judgments in letter and spirit.

I request you to instruct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to advise Kerala not to deny the required clearances and direct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to accord the clearances to enable the Government of Tamil Nadu to carry out the works and to restore the water level in the Dam to FRL 152 ft.

4. DAM SAFETY BILL

Request not to proceed further in the process of Legislation on Dam Safety

I, on 15.6.2018 wrote to you urging the Government of India not to legislate an Act on Dam Safety till such time all the States are consulted and consensus is evolved. The Resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 26.6.2018, expressing the concerns of the people of Tamil Nadu, on the proposed Dam Safety Bill was also sent to Government of India for immediate action.

However, the serious concerns of Tamil Nadu have not been addressed at all by the Government of India and a Bill has been introduced in the Lok Sabha without obtaining the views/comments of the State Governments.

I again wrote to you on 14.12.2018 expressing the main concerns of the Tamil Nadu as below and urging you to withdraw the Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha till such time Tamil Nadu's concerns are addressed and a consensus evolved among all the States:-

- a) The 1st proviso under Section 23(1) of the Dam Safety Bill, 2018 specifies that where the specified Dam in one State is owned by another State, then the National Dam Safety Authority would act as the State Dam Safety Organization for that particular dam. This implies that the dam owning State would have no rights over the safety and maintenance of the dam located in another State. Tamil Nadu's Mullai Periyar, Parambikulam, Thunakkadavu and Peruvaripallam Dams are owned,

operated and maintained by the Government of Tamil Nadu by virtue of Inter-State Agreements, but are located in a neighbouring State. Further, the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India upheld the rights of Tamil Nadu on Mullai Periyar Dam in the judgment and decree dated 7.5.2014.

Therefore, to deny Tamil Nadu the right to be the Dam Safety Authority with regard to these four dams and vesting the powers to the National Dam Safety Authority would tantamount to encroaching on the rights of Tamil Nadu which is unconstitutional. It is also a violation of the federal principles enshrined in our Constitution. Therefore, I request, that the clause should be suitably amended to ensure that the Dam Safety Organisation of a State should have jurisdiction over the dams owned, controlled, operated and maintained by it even though they are located in another State.

- b) Tamil Nadu had suggested to include a new sub clause to enter upon Forest and Wild Life Sanctuary areas for ensuring proper maintenance of the dams by the dam owning States as detailed below :-

“Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, the Dam maintenance officials / personnel shall have the right

to enter into the Forests and Wild Life Sanctuary area to carry out dam safety, maintenance and rehabilitation measures”.

This clause should be included in the Bill to ensure access to the dams by technical personnel for those dams which are located in forest areas and wild life sanctuaries. However, this suggestion was also not incorporated in the Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12.12.2018.

In the circumstances, I request you to kindly instruct the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to withdraw the Dam Safety Bill, 2018 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12.12.2018 and also request you not to proceed further with the process of legislation on Dam safety till such time Tamil Nadu’s genuine concerns are addressed and a consensus evolved among all the States.

5. GAJA CYCLONE

i. LONG TERM MITIGATION AND PERMANENT RESTORATION:

Multi-hazard Resistant Housing: Accord a special sanction of 2 lakh additional houses to the affected coastal districts under PMAY(G) Special Projects to Tamil Nadu

Gaja Cyclone has inflicted extensive damages to houses of the poor people living in kutchha houses and huts, especially in the districts of Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Pudukottai. The destruction of houses will adversely affect the living conditions of poor who will have to reconstruct their houses with the immediate relief assistance of Rs.5,200/- sanctioned under SDRF. Even if they temporarily restore their huts, they will still continue to live under the threat of natural disasters year after year.

One of the key observations made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister is to learn lessons from each disaster to strengthen our resilience and build the infrastructure better. As a permanent solution, support has to be extended to the poor landless labourers working in different sectors both in rural and urban areas to build multi-hazard resistant concrete houses.

It is requested that taking in to account that coastal districts of Tamil Nadu are always subject to natural disasters at recurring intervals, Government of India may sanction an

additional allocation for Tamil Nadu to build multi-hazard resistant houses at a cost of Rs.3, 00,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs only) per house for about 2 lakh people both in rural and urban areas. A special sanction of Rs.6,000 crore may be made for reconstruction of the houses for the poor in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.

Multi-hazard Resistant Power Transmission

Several districts plunging into darkness during the disasters caused by cyclones is a recurring feature in Tamil Nadu. This is due to the crippling of the power infrastructure especially the transmission lines, high tension and low tension poles, transformers and damages to substations caused by the high speed winds gusting up to 100 km.ph. to 160 km.ph. during cyclones. This crippling of power infrastructure, besides upsetting the normalcy of the people affected, will also have a telling impact on the economy of the State as well as the various sectors dependent on power supply.

Year after year during North East Monsoon the power sector comes under tremendous stress due to the cyclones which are common during this period. The TANGEDCO is forced to spend thousands of crore on a regular basis. In order to overcome the recurring damages to the power sector it is imperative to convert High Tension and Low Tension overhead lines into underground cables at least in the town areas of the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, which will

approximately cost Rs.7077 crore (Rupees 3710 crore for conversion of High Tension overhead lines and Rs.3367 crore for conversion of Low Tension overhead lines into underground cable lines).

Therefore, it is requested that a special package of Rs.7077 crore may be sanctioned by Government of India for conversion of High Tension and Low Tension overhead lines into underground cables in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.

**Enhanced allocation under NADP/RKVY
(Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana):**

Gaja Cyclone wrecked havoc in the 4 coastal districts of Tamil Nadu due to which, there was extensive damages to the Coconut, Cashew, Mango trees and Banana plantations also. There is a minimum need to extend assistance to the affected farmers to re-grow the Coconut, Cashew, and Mango trees which play a significant role in generating income and providing employment in the rural areas. In addition, there is also a need to restore the area of coverage that has been lost due to the Gaja cyclone. Taking into account the extensive damages, it is requested that an additional allocation may be made under NADP/RKVY Scheme to provide assistance to the farmers who have lost their crops. It is requested that Rs.625 crore may be sanctioned under NADP/RKVY scheme as a special case to farmers who have lost the trees/crops during the Gaja cyclone.

Permanent Restoration of Damaged Roads

The roads in the cyclone affected districts have been very badly damaged. Since smooth restoration and rehabilitation efforts in various sectors require proper road connectivity to all areas including interior areas. Rs.378 crore is required for permanent restoration of very badly damaged roads.

Rural Infrastructure:

The infrastructure in Village Panchayats was severely hit by Cyclone "Gaja". Therefore an amount of Rs.705.17 crore is needed towards permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure in the villages such as roads, drinking water, electric poles, etc.,

Livelihood support:

Support for landless Labourers

Rural farmers are largely dependent on their livestock to offset the negative impact of the vagaries of monsoon on crop cultivation. Unfortunately the Cyclone GAJA, has devastated the livestock wealth in several districts of Tamilnadu shaking the very axis of their hope and livelihood. As per the preliminary estimates approximately 1002 cattle, 4441 sheep and goat and 74,908 poultry have died due to the Gaja cyclone. The Department of Animal Husbandry proposes to provide succor to the affected farmers by means of assistance through special package of "Free distribution of Milch cattle

and Sheep/Goats” and “Scheme for Poultry Development” which will provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to the Gaja affected people and ensure sustained income generating opportunities.

10,000 affected farmers will be provided with recently calved crossbred Milch Cows capable of producing 7 to 10 lts milk per day @ one cow to each affected farmer. Cost of each milch cow shall be approximately Rs.35, 000 to Rs.40,000 and the total cost will be Rs. 40 crore.

50,000 affected farmers will be provided with 4 Goats / sheep of 6-8 months age at an unit cost of Rs.15,000 and at a total cost of Rs.75 crore. Similarly, 50,000 affected farmers will be provided with 50 numbers of 4 week old backyard or native chicks at a Unit cost of Rs.7,000 and at a total outlay of Rs.35 Crore. The total cost of the livelihood programme shall be Rs.150 crore. Each farmer needs to be provided with any one of the above mentioned activities in tune with the guidelines of the above schemes depending on their abilities.

Support for fishermen

Gaja cyclone has caused wide spread damages to fishermen's properties and affected their livelihood. In order to mitigate the livelihood loss to the fishermen in Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts, alternative and allied livelihood support activities such as sea weed farming, Marine cage culture of fin fishes , Capacity building programmes to fisherwomen in value added fish products , Fish Marketing, capacity building for fisher youth in modern fish marketing, Marine water sports, Marketing infrastructure support to fisheries cooperatives and Fish Landing Centres through insulated fish transport vehicles and retail fish marketing support to fisherwomen and retailers through small transport vehicles with accessories may be taken up at a cost of **Rs.60.00 crore**. A similar alternative livelihood support need to be extended to calamity prone areas in other coastal districts as this will diversify the livelihood of Fishermen and the pressure on marine resources will be reduced. Therefore, a separate project needs to be funded to ensure sustainability of livelihood in Fisheries sector at a cost of **Rs.40.00 crore**. This livelihood support will ensure the calamity prone coastal fishermen population to have sustainable and increased income which will uplift their socio economic status.

Special programme to support recultivation of tree crops

'GAJA' cyclone has also caused loss of lives and loss of livestock. There is a need to increase the Gratuitous grant for such losses. Similarly, the damage caused to agricultural fields is beyond the coping capacity of the farmers and the input subsidy needs appropriate upward revision, particularly for paddy, banana and sugarcane. The coconut plantation had been damaged extensively causing substantial loss of livelihood and export earnings. Over 40 lakh coconut trees were damaged.

It is therefore necessary to launch a special programme to support farmers for recultivation of tree crops like coconut, cashewnut, etc. We need the support of Government of India in this regard.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the concerned Ministries to sanction funds for permanent restoration of cyclone affected coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.

ii. REQUEST TO REVISE THE NORMS FOR SCALE OF ASSISTANCE UNDER SDRF NORMS

'GAJA' cyclone caused extensive damage to 12 coastal and non-coastal districts, particularly in the delta region of Tamil Nadu. I have visited the affected areas on 20th and 28th of November. I have personally seen large scale damages that occurred to Power infrastructure, Huts and Houses, Fishing

boats, Agriculture and Horticulture crops including perennial crops, Livestock and other public infrastructure.

Perennial crops such as coconut, casuarina, mango, jackfruit, cashew etc. have been uprooted causing total loss of livelihood to farmers. **The present SDRF norm provides only Rs.102 as input subsidy for a fallen coconut tree, whereas at least Rs. 7,500 is required for a fallen coconut tree, at the rate of Rs.1,500 per tree per year for 5 years, till the time it starts yielding.**

The fishermen community has been worst hit by the cyclone as they have lost country boats, mechanized boats, FRP boats, catamarans, fishing nets and even large boats used for deep sea fishing. At many places, the high tide has pushed the slush to the shore, making it difficult for fishermen to restart their occupation for many more days. The present relief allocation will not even cover a fraction of the damages suffered by them and needs immediate upward revision. A relief of Rs.10 lakh each for fully damaged mechanised boat, Rs.1.5 lakh each for fully damaged FRP Vallam and Rs.65,000 each for fully damaged catamaran has to be given. Similarly, for partially damaged mechanised boats, FRP vallams and catamarans, relief amount may be revised to Rs.5 lakh, Rs.30,000/- and Rs.15,000/- respectively. The compensation for damages of nets and OBM/IBE engines has to be raised to Rs.25,000/- and Rs.10,000/- respectively. Most importantly,

relief for loss of livelihood should be provided at the rate of Rs.5,000/- per family for approximately 34,000 fishermen families in the four coastal districts affected by 'GAJA' cyclone.

You are well aware that, Tamil Nadu has been witnessing severe cyclonic storms such as Thane, Vardah, Ockhi, etc. You had visited Kanniyakumari after Ockhi cyclone in 2017, when a representation was submitted by me requesting to revise the norms for scale of assistance under SDRF. It is brought to your kind attention that the existing SDRF norms will not be sufficient to provide for even a fraction of the loss suffered by the cyclone affected people.

A committee was constituted by Government of India to rationalize the norms taking into consideration the difficulties faced by the coastal States that face frequent cyclonic storms. I understand that the committee has submitted its report with recommendations and it is pending for notification. **I request you to kindly ensure that the new norms be notified and made effective from November, 2018 so that the people affected by 'GAJA' cyclone are provided adequate relief.**

6. CAUVERY MODERNIZATION

Improvements and Rehabilitation of Irrigation Systems in Cauvery Basin for Efficient Irrigation Management under AIBP

A Detailed Project Report for improvements and rehabilitation of irrigation systems in the Cauvery basin for efficient irrigation management excluding the components proposed for an ADB supported programme at an estimated cost of Rs. 17,600 crore has been prepared for submitting to Central Water Commission, Government of India, New Delhi.

A concept paper on the Improvements and Rehabilitation of Irrigation system in the Cauvery Delta for efficient Irrigation Management” at an estimated cost of Rs 11,420 crore (2012 – 13 price level), was deliberated in the Screening Committee of the Central Water Commission and the “in-principle” consent of the Central Water Commission for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was accorded vide CWC, Project Appraisal(S), New Delhi in May, 2013. Based on the concept paper, a DPR has been prepared for Nine Components for an amount of Rs.17,600/-crores at the price level of 2018-2019.

The improvements and rehabilitation are planned for the age old irrigation systems in the following sub basins of Cauvery:

	Rs.in crore
I. Cauvery sub basin	- 5200.00
II. Vennar sub basin	- 4965.32
III. Grand Anicut Canal subbasin	- 2158.68
IV. Lower Coleroon sub basin	- 1400.00
V. Lower Bhavani project	- 2850.00
VI. Kattalai High Level Canal Project	- 350.00
VII. Noyyal Sub basin	- 250.00
VIII. Raja Voikkal Project	- 200.00
IX. Ground Water Recharge Schemes	- 225.00
Total	- 17600.00

The main components included in the proposal are

- a. Lining and strengthening the banks of "A" class channels of the distribution net-work
- b. Repair and reconstruction of regulators, grade walls, head sluices, other cross masonry structures on the River systems and also on the main canals.
- c. Improvements to the Drainage system and strengthening of banks
- d. Rehabilitation of tanks
- e. Rehabilitation of the existing pumping schemes and extending the pumping network where possible

The total cost of the scheme works out to Rs.17,600 crore. The total ayacut benefited is 16.06 lakh acres (6.50

lakh hectares). The Project Implementation has been planned for 3 years. The Project will provide the following tangible benefits:

1. There will be saving in total quantum of water utilizable on account of implementing the Extension, Renovation & Modernisation (ERM) works.
2. Unwarranted leakage in this system can be arrested.
3. The tail end farmers will get their due share of water for irrigation.
4. Water User Associations to be formed to help in proper maintenance of structures in the command area and better management of available water.
5. The existing canal network can be transformed into an all-weather canal system thereby increasing its life.
6. The present water use efficiency will be enhanced considerably.
7. Through the Water User Associations, farmers can be trained to adopt new scientific methods of cultivation thereby increasing yields and in turn income.
8. With significant savings in water, the existing gaps in the irrigation coverage will be reduced to a great extent.

9. Water supply for domestic and industrial needs could be provided.
10. Flood protection to irrigated areas can be provided, reducing crop losses.
11. Regular employment for Agricultural labourers in the region can be assured.

The DPR for one of the nine components, the Grand Anicut Canal sub basin has been approved by the CWC in October, 2016 and also placed in the 6th meeting of Investment Clearance Committee of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, New Delhi held on 05.05.2017. The investment clearance of the project was approved and communicated by the MoWR to Tamil Nadu on 7.6.2017.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly instruct the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to approve the remaining components of the Project and to provide funding for the project under an appropriate programme.

- 7. PERMANENT CYCLONIC MITIGATION MEASURES – FISHERMEN OF TAMIL NADU**
 - i. Permanent Naval Station for carrying out Operations by Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard**

It is requested that a permanent station may be set up by Indian Coast Guard with appropriate infrastructure and a Control Room at Kanniyakumari or Kolachal. This permanent station should be designed in such a way that any Search and Rescue Operation can be carried out jointly by Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Indian Air Force when there is a cyclonic event or any other reason for rescue of distressed fishing vessel or they are required to be guided to safety. If such a permanent infrastructure is created, it will be possible to quickly mobilize Central Agencies for a Search and Rescue Operation in this cyclone prone area. This is extremely important as large number of fishermen are engaged in short duration as well as long duration deep sea fishing which makes them exposed to risks. The suggested facility is essential to reach out to the fishermen on high seas and rescue them, even if Transponders are given. Moreover a Naval Station in Kanniyakumari District could be of strategic importance. The Ministry of Defence may be advised to expedite the decision in this regard.

(ii) Communication Equipment for Sea going Fishermen:

In Tamil Nadu, as on date, there are 31,757 motorised country crafts and 5913 Mechanised fishing boats registered under uniform online registration of fishing crafts. Among the

mechanized fishing boats, 1500 mechanized fishing boats are deep sea, going on multiday fishing boats venturing beyond 150 nautical miles and they operate for a period of 15-30 days per voyage. These boats are mostly operated from the fishing bases at Chennai, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari districts.

Fishing being a high risk profession, thousands of fishermen engaged in fishing in Tamil Nadu do encounter some form of distress or other at sea, which has the potential to cause loss of life and/or damage to property. Most of the time, the loss of life is due to the absence of proper communication equipment, tracking devices and lifesaving appliances.

The following communication equipments would meet the requirements of all types of fishermen/ boats:

a) Providing High Frequency (HF) communication system for Deep Sea venturing fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

Use of High frequency (HF) provides a long range service in both the ship to shore and the shore to ship directions, especially for usage by the deep sea fishing marine fishermen mainly during distress situation.

High Frequencies designated for marine communications range between 4000 kHz to 27500 kHz and are called "U" band. In order to provide a proper and efficient

communication system for the deep sea vessels of Chennai, Nagapattinam, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu, it is proposed to provide 1500 HF communication equipment on 90% subsidy besides establishing HF control rooms in four locations in Tamil Nadu. Necessary marine frequency in the HF range would have to be obtained from Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing, Government of India. An amount of **Rs.109 crore** may be provided for procurement of High Frequency (HF) communication system for Deep Sea venturing fishermen, along with necessary allocation of frequency and provision to operate HF sets by the fishermen.

b) Providing Satellite Phone, NAVTEX

Satellite phones use Low Earth Orbiting (LEO)/(MEO) Medium Earth Orbiting / Geo stationary satellites. Hence providing Satellite phone and HF will give synergy in terms of communication coverage and cost. The Satellite Phones comes with relatively low upfront cost, but higher operational cost and are easy to operate as an ordinary cell phone.

Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) is a vital element of the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS), using the Feature of Radio telex or narrow band direct printing for the automatic broadcast of information. It is used onboard vessels to provide short range maritime safety information automatically.

It is proposed to provide 1500 Satellite phones and 1500 NAVTEX equipment on 90% subsidy and a fixed operating cost for a period of one year, besides establishing required control rooms in four locations in Tamil Nadu. Early sanction of **Rs.50 crore** is requested for procurement of Satellite phones and NAVTEX for Deep Sea venturing fishermen.

c) Providing NavIC for Deep Sea venturing fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

NavIC is the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) developed and operated by ISRO which Provide Navigation signals in L and S bands. It provides two types of services – Standard Positioning Service (SPS) and Restricted Service (RS) with encryption. The Coverage over India and 1500 km around India with position accuracy better than 20m and time accuracy better than 50ns. This device can reach Alert messages on Cyclone, High Waves & Tsunami and warning message on approach of International boundaries as well as information on Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) where the better yield of fish available to fishermen. An amount of **Rs.10 crore** may be provided for procurement of 10,000 Units of NavIC receiver for fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

d) Supply of Distress Alert Transmitters to the Fishing Boats in Tamil Nadu

The Distress Alert Transmitter is user friendly and seaworthy equipment which can easily be operated by any crew of the boat.

Government of India in their letter No.12014/1/2013-Fy (T-1), dated 29.07.2015 have issued administrative approval for the procurement and supply of 30,000 Distress Alert Transmitters (DATs) to the fishermen / fishing vessels of Tamil Nadu, at a total central financial liability of **Rs.36 crore**, limiting the central assistance to 75%. It is requested to release the amount early. So far, early 1600 Distress Alert Transponders have been supplied.

e) Transponders

Assistance may be extended for installing transponders, which are satellite based locational devices in the fishing vessels. These devices will be very useful to locate deep sea going vessels so that the alerts received from IMD and INCOIS can be analyzed and the deep sea fishing vessels which are at risk can be alerted about the threat and guided to safety, so as to prevent loss of lives. More than 3,000 fishing vessels which are involved in deep sea fishing have to be provided with transponders. Already Government of India has provided transponders in 500 boats. Another 2,500 transponders are additionally required to equip other multi day fishing boats.

f) Providing Dedicated Marine information services in SW/MW Radio:

A dedicated **Marine information services in** radio channels may be launched by INCOIS in coordination with IMD and AIR, which can issue bulletins in regional languages of the fishermen at a scheduled frequency throughout the year. This will go a long way in reducing the vulnerability of deep sea /multiday fisher men groups, since the fishermen can move to secure locations based on the weather bulletin. Moreover, this is a very cost effective technology.

Development of Integrated Fishing Infrastructure in Kanniyakumari District

There are 4 fishing harbours developed in Kanniyakumari District namely Chinnamuttom, Muttom, Colachel and Thengapattinam. Out of the 4 fishing harbours, 3 have been completed and put to use. The Thengapattinam fishing harbor is yet to be completed. However, all these four fishing harbours do not have the capacity and facilities to accommodate the large fishing vessels owned by the fishermen of Kanniyakumari District. There is a need to develop one of these harbours into an integrated harbour with facilities for a) berthing large vessels b) Cold storage c) processing and packaging and d) Quality testing facilities to ascertain SPS compliance and facilitate exports. The **integrated harbour is vital during cyclonic storms/ depression for safe berthing of the large fishing vessels and to prevent** damage to property and loss of life during

the berthing of the vessels at short notice. Augmentation of the capacity and facilities in the other harbours will also generate numerous jobs in allied fishing activity, in addition to generating foreign exchange through exports. In addition to the harbour facilities, there is a need for structural interventions such as groynes, break waters etc., to ensure shore protection and minimize the risks of loss of lives.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly issue suitable instructions to Ministry concerned to allocate an amount of Rs.400 crores for establishing these structures, which may be considered on priority basis.

8. CHENNAI FLOOD MITIGATION

Permanent Flood Mitigation/Management measures for Chennai

During your visit to Tamil Nadu in November 2017, in response to our request, you had kindly agreed to provide Rs.1,500 crore as a Special allocation for flood prevention in Chennai. The comprehensive measures needed for flood

prevention have now been studied and costs have been more precisely estimated.

The Greater Chennai city and its urban neighbourhood spread over the river basins of Kosasthalaiyar, Cooum, Adyar and Kovalam are connected through the Buckingham Canal that is formed parallel to the coast in the tidal flats. This system also functions as a unique system for draining surface run-off from the isolated water sheds sandwiched in the above 4 basins through the river mouths viz., Ennore creek, Cooum river mouth, Adyar river mouth and Kovalam creek. In addition to this, many macro drains such as Madhavaram- Manali Lake Canal, Old Napalayam Canal (North Chennai), Secretariat Canal, Semmencheri Canal (South Chennai), various tanks surplus courses like Kadapakkam lake surplus present in Greater Chennai Corporation will be treated holistically to mitigate the risks.

Chennai city is facing the fury of floods, almost every year during North East Monsoon. The only way to mitigate this problem is to construct Integrated Storm Water Drain Network, which will drain out the surplus water caused by heavy rains effectively and prevent flooding in future.

The Greater Chennai and its Peri-Urban areas spread over an almost flat terrain along the coastal plains having an average altitude of only 2.00m above Mean Sea Level. The

entire surface runoff drains into the Bay of Bengal only through the outlets namely, Ennore creek on the North, Cooum and Adyar river mouths in the centre and Kovalam creek in the South. The drainage network behind the above outlets formed with natural flood bowls like Ennore backwaters, Pallikaranai marshland and Muttukadu backwaters spread over tidal flats and vast areas of flood plains along the natural rivers, are no longer able to render their functions due to the changes in the land use induced by rapid urbanization and industrial needs resulting in inundation in the upstream areas.

In order to have a comprehensive and Integrated Flood management system of Greater Chennai City, its Peri-Urban areas, and surrounding rural areas it is proposed to undertake permanent mitigation measures such as formation of surplus channels for missing links in the river basin, formation of diversion canals, strengthening of embankments with both masonry and earthen structures, formation of storm water drains, adopting cut & cover systems, providing RCC lining and bed to macro canals, rehabilitation of water bodies, groynes, reconstruction of anicuts and improvement to surplus courses. The works would be executed by the State Public Works Department and the Greater Chennai Corporation.

The fund requirement for each of the major sub basin are detailed below : -

Sl. No.	Subject	(Rupees in crore)
<u>Projects to be executed by the Public Works Department</u>		
I	Integrated flood mitigation system in Adyar Basin	780.00
II	Integrated flood mitigation system in Kosasthalaiyar Basin.	225.00
III	Integrated flood mitigation system in Kovalam Basin	810.00
IV	Integrated flood mitigation system in Cooum Basin	215.00
V	Integration flood mitigation system in Araniyar Basin	550.00
VI	Integration flood mitigation system in Buckingham Canal	110.00
Total (A)		2690.00
<u>Projects to be executed by the Greater Chennai Corporation</u>		
VII	Integrated storm water drain construction in Kosasthalaiyar Basin	2518.00
VIII	Integrated storm water drain construction in Kovalam Basin consists of three components (i) M1 & M2 components - Pallikaranai water shed (ii) M3 component - South coast water shed	973.00 270.00
IX	Purchase of machineries for Chennai Corporation	100.00
X	Restoration of 210 small water bodies in Chennai Corporation	200.00
Total (B)		4061.00
Grand Total (A) + (B)		6751.00

Hon'ble Prime Minister is requested to kindly intervene and direct NITI Aayog to allocate 50% of the total cost of Rs.2690

crore, for the construction of the Integrated Flood Management System (Sl.Nos.I, II, III, IV & V as indicated in the Table above) to be executed by the State Public Works Department as a special case over a period of three years, for which the State of Tamil Nadu would provide the balance 50% as matching funds. Otherwise, it can be recommended to any of the multilateral financial agencies like JICA, ADB, World Bank etc.

As far as the Projects to be undertaken by the Greater Chennai Corporation namely construction of Integrated Storm Water Drain network (Sl.No.VIII - comprising M1, M2 and M3 components as indicated in the table above) in Kovalam Basin at a cost of Rs.1243.15 crore to a length of 360km, KfW has agreed to sign the loan agreement by mid 2019. In the meanwhile, KfW (German Development Bank) has given go ahead with the tendering and awarding of works in M3 component of Kovalam Basin at a cost of Rs.270.38 crore. KfW is undertaking revision of DPR for M1 & M2 components and likely to give approval for this project by April 2019 at a tentative cost of Rs.973 crore.

Regarding construction of Integrated Storm Water Drain in Kosasthalaiyar basin (Sl.No.VII as indicated in the table above) it was put up to multilateral financial agencies like JICA, ADB, World Bank etc., and also to Indian agencies like

NITI Aayog and MoUHA for financial assistance for the last 2 years, but funding assistance could not be obtained.

However, in the 96th Steering Committee meeting of Department of Economics Affairs held in New Delhi on 22.01.2019, in-principle approval was accorded and the same was forwarded to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for allocation in the forthcoming years. This is a critical work to be undertaken in Kosasthalaiyar Basin which houses 2 major ports, 5 National and State Highways and more than 50 large scale Industrial houses and the Metro Hub of North Chennai. These works would mitigate the flooding of North Chennai areas and protect the infrastructure as indicated above. Hence, I request the kind intervention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister so that the ADB prioritizes this project and sanction the project at the earliest.

Hence, I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly instruct the concerned Ministries to allocate necessary funds from Government of India or recommend to the International/Bilateral funding agencies for taking up the Integrated Storm Water Drain Network in Kovalam and Kosasthalaiyar Basin as well as the restoration of water bodies (Sl.No.X as indicated in the Table above) and purchase of machineries (Sl.No.IX as indicated in the Table above) so that the recurrent floods and the damages caused by it to Greater Chennai Corporation

and neighbouring areas can be comprehensively mitigated.

9. FINANCE

i. Special assistance towards compensation for the unfair treatment meted out by 14th Finance Commission to State of Tamil Nadu

The 14th Finance Commission has recommended an increase of 10% in vertical devolution from 32% to 42% to the States. Though the share in central taxes due to vertical devolution has been increased from 32% to 42%, in reality, the effect has been neutralised by reduction in the horizontal devolutionary share of central taxes to Tamil Nadu from 4.969% to 4.023%. This reduction in the inter-se share to Tamil Nadu is 19.04%, which is the highest erosion in share amongst all States. Thus, the combined effect on Tamil Nadu's overall share in Central taxes has increased from 1.59% to 1.69% only.

The average increase in share of central taxes during the year 2015-16 over 2014-15 is 46.06% among fifteen major States and 49.85% among all the States, whereas Tamil Nadu could get an increase of only 20.98%. This is the lowest amongst all the States. Further, Tamil Nadu is the only State to get an increase in share of central taxes lesser than 30%. By discounting the 18% growth rate in central tax collection, Tamil Nadu has benefitted only by 2.98% additionally over and above normal growth due to the increased share recommended by 14th Finance Commission, while all other States benefitted by 31% on an average over

and above the growth rate in central taxes. It is also pertinent to note that some of the States have been greatly benefitted by the 14th Finance Commission award, registering very high growth rates ranging from 60% to 88% over 2014-15. From the above, it is clearly evident that the increased devolution in central taxes for Tamil Nadu is purely due to the normal growth in central tax revenue and not due to the 14th Finance Commission's increase in devolution percentage. Ideally, this fact should have been addressed by 14th Finance Commission itself through special compensation grant to States who have been adversely affected while adopting the new allocation criteria formulated by the Commission. Unfortunately this was not done.

Therefore, Tamil Nadu may be sanctioned with a special assistance of Rs.2000 crore for the special projects to compensate the reduced devolution that the State received under the 14th Finance Commission.

ii. Early clearance of Climate Change Projects for funding under Green Climate Fund (GCF) and National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) by Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change

Tamil Nadu is one among the States which is very vulnerable to Climate change. The State has 46% of rain fed cropped area and 95% of Surface water has already been utilised. In the wake of these issues, in order to mitigate the impact of climate change, 11 projects involving financial outlay of Rs.4544.77 crore has been submitted by Government of Tamil Nadu to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Climate Change for clearance by the National Steering Committee on Climate Change and forwarding for funding.

Pending status of GCF proposals of TN as on 3.10.2019			
Proposals approved by the State Level Steering Committee			
S. No.	Name of the project	Total Financial Outlay (million USD)	Total Financial Outlay (Rs. in crore)
1	Protection and Restoration of Appa and Koswari Islands of Gulf of Mannar, TamilNadu	15.78	102.58
2	Improved Resilience of Urban Ecosystems through targeted restoration of Wetlands	21.55	147.00
3	Shoreline Management of Tamil Nadu Coast to address Sea Erosion caused by Climate Change	178.68	1220.00
4	Augmentation of Groundwater for Climate Resilience of vulnerable communities	211.83	1445.00
5	Climate Proofing of Rainfed Watersheds in Tamil Nadu	66.18	370.00

6	Mitigating Enteric Methane Emission from Livestock in different farming systems of Tamil Nadu through farmer friendly feed technologies / feeding practices	11.74	79.85
7	Sustainable Water Security Mission (SuWaSEM) for Tamil Nadu	71.83	490.00
8	Purchase of Smart Electric buses under Green Climate Fund submitted by Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) Limited	74.65	500.16
9	Tamil Nadu Green Gramam - Sustainable Energy Village	21.99	150.06
Total		674.23	4504.65

Pending NAFCC Proposals

Status of NAFCC proposals			
S. No.	Name of the project	Total Financial Outlay (million USD)	Total Financial Outlay (Rs. in crore)
1	Climate resilient fodder production through hydroponic mode to augment livestock productivity in Tamil Nadu, India.	2.34	16.1015
2	Modernization by using Micro Irrigation System with Automation in V.Velur distributary offtake at L.S.44/400 Km of Parambikulam Main Canal in Udumalpet Taluk of Tiruppur District, Tamil Nadu, India.	3.49	24.02
TOTAL		5.83	40.1215

GRAND TOTAL		680.06	4544.7715
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I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly instruct the Ministry concerned to fast tracked for funding under GCF / NAFCC Fund, for these projects.

iii. Local Body Grant

Release of Performance Grant for the year 2017-18 and First instalment of Basic Grant for the year 2018-19 to Local Bodies.

The Ministry of Finance, Government of India have released a sum of Rs.631.98 Crore and Rs.758.06 Crore as the second instalment of Basic Grant for the Year 2017-18 under 14th Finance Commission to the Urban Local Bodies and Rural Local Bodies respectively on 17.9.2018 and the same has been released to the Local Bodies by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Utilization Certificate for the second instalment of Basic Grant for the year 2017-18 has been furnished to Government of India on 1.11.2018.

The 14th Finance Commission had allocated an amount of Rs.365.37 crore and Rs.194.78 crore to the Urban Local Bodies and Rural Local Bodies respectively in Tamil Nadu, as the Performance Grant for the year 2017-18 and Rs.1462.18 crore and Rs.1753.87 crore to the Urban Local Bodies and Rural Local Bodies respectively in Tamil Nadu, as the Basic Grant for the year 2018-19.

Nine months have already lapsed in the financial year 2018-19. All Urban Local Bodies and Rural Local Bodies are in dire need of funds to carry out their day to day affairs to provide its citizen basic amenities. The severe cyclonic storm Gaja has caused severe damages in nearly 13 districts of the State of Tamil Nadu. Non release of Performance Grant for the

year 2017-18 and the Basic Grant to the Local Bodies for the Financial Year 2018-19 as recommended by the 14th Finance Commission, is causing serious financial constraint on Urban Local Bodies and Rural Local Bodies. If the fund is released immediately, it would help the "Gaja Cyclone" affected areas. This was appraised to the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India and it has recommended to the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, the release of Local Body Grant funds to Tamil Nadu.

Hence I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India to release the Performance Grant of Rs.560.15 crore (Rs.365.37 crore to ULBs and Rs.194.78 crore to RLBs) for the year 2017-18 and the Basic Grant of Rs.3216.05 crore (Rs.1462.18 crore to ULBs and Rs.1753.87 crore to RLBs) for the financial Year 2018-19 to Local Bodies in Tamil Nadu under 14th Central Finance Commission.

iv. Pending Grants-in-Aid

Pending Grants-in-aid from Government of India for major schemes as on 23.1.2019

Grants-in-aid to the tune of Rs.10,883.84 crore are yet to be released to Tamil Nadu by the Union Government. The major schemes have been listed below:-

ARREAR RECEIVABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (as on 23rd Jan 2019)			
Sl. No.	SCHEME	Arrear receivable from GoI	Central Ministry
(Rs. in crores)			
1	GST Compensation 2017-18 - 455.16 2018-19 - 604.29 (till Nov.19)	1059.45	Finance
2	Post - Matric scholarship schemes for Scheduled Caste students	985.80	Social Justice & Empowerment
3	Sarva Shiksha Abiyan (SSA)	2109.08	Human Resource Development
4	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (including spill over approved for 2015-16 & 2016-17)	1092.22	Human Resource Development
5	Grants for Flood Management Programme	342.94	Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
6	Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009	210.36	Human Resource Development
7	Family Welfare Programme (liquidation of arrears)	35.24	Health and Family Welfare
8	Construction of Fishing Harbours	37.86	Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
9	Relief and Rehabilitation of repatriates and refugees from Sri Lankan	100.52	Home Affairs
10	Increase of MBBS seats of existing State Government Medical Colleges	60.84	Health and Family Welfare

11	Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)	35.01	Women and Child Development
12	Marketing incentive component of National Handloom Development Programme	78.73	Textiles
13	Command Area Development & Water Management Programme (CAD&WMP)	81.13	Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
14	One time Additional Central Assistance for Annual Plan 2014-15	76.00	Finance
15	Disaster Relief Assistance for flood in 2015	66.90	Finance
16	National Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme For Fishermen	93.03	Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
17	Repair Renovation And Restoration Of Water Bodies	25.50	Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
18	Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Adolescent Girls-SABLA	5.32	Women and Child Welfare
19	Post Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Tribe Students	2.65	Tribal Affairs
20	Pre Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Tribe Students	1.99	Tribal Affairs
TOTAL		6,500.58	
Finance Commission Grant			
21	13th Finance Commission grants pending	522.91	Finance
22	Finance Commission Grants for Local Bodies	3776.20	Finance
23	SDRF	84.15	Finance

GRAND TOTAL	10,883.84	
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I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to instruct the concerned Ministries of Government of India to release the above funds at the earliest.

V. Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST)

Request for IGST settlement due to Tamil Nadu for the financial year 2017-2018 and 2018-19.

The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) collected is meant for distribution between the Centre and the States. Approximately 50% of the IGST will accrue to the Centre and 50% to States. States would receive IGST in proportion to the consumption of goods and services on the destination principle. The actual accumulated amount of IGST is Rs.1,81,418 crore for the financial year **2017-2018** as on March 2018. The said amount has to be settled in the ratio of 50:50 between the Centre and the States. The amount apportioned to the States is Rs.90,709 crore. The share of Tamil Nadu roughly works out to Rs.6,757.82 crore of which Rs.1,304 crore has been settled and a balance of Rs.5,453.82 crore remains unsettled.

I had already addressed you, sir, on 3.12.2018 for **early settlement of the unsettled IGST to Tamil Nadu which was to the tune of Rs.5,454 crore.** This amount may be settled at the earliest.

The accumulated amount of IGST for the financial year **2018-2019** is being settled by Government of India on adhoc basis. So far, a sum of Rs.1,10,000 crore has been settled between the Centre and the States. Tamil Nadu received a sum of Rs.4,097.50 crore. Settlement of the balance amount may kindly be expedited.

VI. Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation

Following the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 2017, the States have been assured a growth of 14% in GST and any shortfall, the same will be met using GST compensation by the Central Government. Based on that, Tamil Nadu is yet to receive Rs.455.16 crore for the period from July 2017 to March 2018 and Rs.604.29 crore from April 2018 to November 2018. Therefore, a total of Rs.1,059.46 crore is pending in the form of GST Compensation arrears to Tamil Nadu. This amount may be released to the State at the earliest as per the commitment under the GST Act.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the concerned Ministries to release the pending funds to Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

10. INDUSTRIAL HUB FOR DEFENCE PRODUCTS IN SALEM

Promotion of an industrial estate at the vacant lands in Salem Steel Plant by setting up an industrial hub for defence products

Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance had announced the formation of two Defence Industrial Production Corridors in the Union Budget 2018-19. Subsequently, the Hon'ble Union Minister for Defence Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman had announced that one of the two Defence Industrial Production Corridors would be located in Tamil Nadu. The establishment of this corridor will certainly take the State of Tamil Nadu to a new trajectory of growth and development, apart from bringing in high-technology production to the State, which has got the potential to rise up to the expectations of the requirements of the Defence.

Tamil Nadu has the best eco-system available for the formation of high technology Defence Clusters which require skilled man power, high quality infrastructure, un-interrupted power supply, peaceful labour relations, excellent law and order and enabling environment of Ease of Doing Business. The State Government would extend its full support for the formation of the Defence Cluster in the State and facilitate all the investments that will be attracted in the Cluster.

In this regard, the unutilized lands available to the tune of 1400 acres, with the Salem Steel Plant ever since its

inception can be considered for the establishment of the Defence Industrial Cluster, since it is located on the proposed Chennai-Vellore–Salem-Hosur-Coimbatore-Trichy Corridor route and also has all the advantages that Tamil Nadu possess as mentioned above.

On 6.2.2018, the Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India has been addressed by the State Government to re-convey the lands not utilized by the Salem Steel Plant for the development of an Industrial Park. I request your kind intervention in the matter and arrange for re-conveyance of the unutilized lands in the premise of Salem Steel Plant to establish the Industrial Hub for Defence Products.

This area will be an ideal location for the formation of the proposed Defence Industrial Cluster and more importantly taking this unutilized land will mean that the proposed Defence Cluster can start without any delay due to fresh land acquisition and related issues.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the Defence Ministry to implement this Project at the earliest.

11. POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP

Request to reconstruct the sharing pattern as 60:40 basis and release the arrears

The Government of Tamil Nadu has a strong belief that Social and economic upliftment of under privileged sections of the society would be possible and sustainable only by ensuring their educational progress especially in the field of higher education and hence Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in its true letter and spirit.

The State of Tamil Nadu would like to draw attention to the recent revision of guidelines for the Scheduled Castes Post Matric Scholarship scheme, wherein it has been stated that the fees claimed against the Management quota/Spot admission seat in any institutions / Universities will not be reimbursed with effect from April, 2018. In Tamil Nadu, large number of Scheduled Castes students belonging to poor economic background who are not able to get admission under the government quota on merit, have been availing the benefit under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme under management quota seats in self financing colleges. As a result, the number of Scheduled Castes students joining the Higher and Technical Education Institutions in the State has increased tremendously. In fact, this scheme has largely benefitted the State to achieve a higher Gross Enrolment Ratio of more than 45%. Non-reimbursement of fees for management quota seats under the new guidelines, will

create a huge set back in achieving the goal of social equity and social justice, as it will deny opportunities to the poor Scheduled Castes students in the fields of higher and technical education. This may cause serious resentment and unrest among the Scheduled Castes community. Further, extending the scheme to management quota is permissible under Para III (ii) (a) to (i) of the revised guidelines of the scheme. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India has already been addressed in this regard.

Another important issue is the sharing pattern between the Centre and State for funding the scheme. Presently the expenditure under the scheme at the end of the five year plan period is taken as the committed liability of the State for the next five years. While the committed liability of Tamil Nadu was Rs.353.55 crore in 2011-12, with effect from 2017-18, it has risen to Rs.1526.46 crore. This puts an unbearable burden on the State Government finances. It also results in a situation, where this Central sector scheme will be largely (if not fully) funded by the State from its own resources. Therefore, it is requested that in line with other Central Schemes, the scheme may be funded with a sharing pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and the State. In this issue the Hon'ble Prime Minister has already been addressed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister vide Letter dated 30.5.2018 and

14.6.2018. Further the release of funds by the Government of India to the State Government under this scheme over the years has been both delayed and inadequate. Up to 2017-18, the State is yet to receive arrears of Rs.985.80 crore from the Government of India. It is requested that, the release of this arrear amount to the State of Tamil Nadu may be expedited, to release the strain on the State Government's finances.

The 2018-19 academic year has already started and the student admission in the educational institutions has been completed and an early favorable decision on the issues highlighted above will be of immense help to the State of Tamil Nadu.

I therefore request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to issue suitable directions to Ministry of Social Justice to reconstruct the above scheme with a sharing pattern of 60:40 basis between the Centre and the State and also direct the Ministry to release the arrears amounting to Rs.985.80 Crore up to 2017-18 at the earliest.

12. FIRE WORKS INDUSTRY

Request to Save the employment of 8 lakh people in Fireworks Industry in Tamil Nadu

About 850 fireworks manufacturing units are functioning in Tamil Nadu. These units are mostly located in Virudhunagar District and contribute 90% of the fireworks produced in the

country. They provide employment to more than 8 lakh people mostly women, directly or indirectly. All the manufacturers observe very high standards of safety and have evolved as a well regulated industry over a period of time.

In the recent past, the Industry is facing a major setback due to filing of Public Interest Litigations by a few NGOs and individuals before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to ban manufacture, sale and use of fireworks in any form. The manufacturers of fireworks have suffered very severe financial losses and there has also been loss of employment due to imposition of ban on sale of fireworks in National Capital Region during the 2017 Diwali season.

Even though the ban was subsequently lifted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, few more Public Interest Litigations have been filed before the Supreme Court of India and the same have been admitted. This has created fear and uncertainty in the minds of the firework manufacturers. 850 factories went on strike indefinitely from 13.11.2018 as they are unsure about the outcome of the pending Public Interest Litigation, W.P.(Civil) No.728/2015, which is further posted for next hearing on 11.12.2018.

Use of fireworks during Diwali and many other religious and cultural festivals is deeply rooted in our tradition. Even the developed countries like U.S.A., Singapore, Japan,

Australia and the EU nations allow massive display of fireworks during celebration of religious, cultural and National events such as Christmas, New year, Independence day, etc. The state government will facilitate improvement in chemical technology, better quality fireworks which lead to lesser pollution.

As per rule 3(b) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, only when the level of any of the pollutants mentioned in the table under Schedule VII goes beyond the prescribed limit in the said table for two consecutive days shall the alarm bells ring and continuous monitoring and further investigation instituted. In the case of fireworks, almost all reported scientific data has revealed reversing of the level of pollution to the level prior to the use of fireworks, within 24 hours.

It is learnt that the manufacturers of fireworks in Tamil Nadu use nitrate salts for its production, which is much less polluting than chloride salts, which are used extensively in fireworks manufactured in other parts the world. Further, none of the firework manufacturers in Tamil Nadu are using the chemicals prohibited under various Pollution Control Rules or by the Supreme Court of India.

The manufacturers of fireworks in Tamil Nadu are using safe and environment friendly chemicals which are compatible to the health of the works as well as to the environment and are producing fancy crackers. Hence, there is no recorded

long term effect on the environment. Since the use of fireworks is attached to our socio cultural traditions, any ban on production, sale and use of the same will adversely affect the sentiments of the people of India. It will also affect the livelihood of 8 lakh people and push them into poverty.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to carry out necessary amendment to Rule 3(b) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and exempt the fireworks manufacturing industry from various provisions of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, thereby saving the livelihood of 8 lakh families dependent on fireworks industry.

13. UDAN SCHEME

Request flight operations to Hosur, Neyveli & Ramanathapuram and evening flight service to Salem.

I would like to thank you for the efforts taken by Ministry to promote Air connectivity between Regions under the UDAN scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu. People in and around Salem District have welcomed the scheme and are benefitted by the flight services to Salem Airport.

Similarly, Hosur is an important industrial hub in Krishnagiri District, which was selected under the UDAN Scheme in the first phase and flight operations are yet to start for want of "No Objection Certificate" from Bangalore International Airport. The Hosur Airport, will be an engine of growth to the industrial hub of Krishnagiri and neighbouring Districts and also will develop the Chennai – Bangalore Industrial Corridor.

Neyveli has also been selected in the Phase-I of UDAN Scheme and bidding process with airline operators has been completed.

I would also like to point out that Ramanathapuram has been included in the Phase-II of the UDAN Scheme. Rameswaram is an important Pilgrimage and Tourism centre, attracting tourists from all over India.

Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to instruct the Ministry of Civil Aviation to start Air operations to Hosur, Neyveli and Ramanathapuram as expeditiously as possible. I also request that an evening flight service between Salem and Chennai may be introduced under the UDAN Scheme.

14. GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE AT RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT.

Establishment of New Medical College at Ramanathapuram District under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Government of India has not given approval for the establishment of any Government Medical College in Tamil Nadu in the Phase-I and Phase-II under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on the ground that no block of three Parliamentary Constituencies is lacking availability of at least one Government Medical College.

On this issue, I would like to state that Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in the implementation of various schemes in the Health and Medical Education, in addition to prioritising and investing enormous amounts of State funds to set up Medical Colleges on its own. In spite of this in Tamil Nadu, there are more than 13 districts, which have no Government Medical College, but have readily available land and district hospitals eligible for consideration under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The State also has the challenges of inter district disparities, despite our efforts and the implementation of schemes under the National Health Mission. The State is continuously taking all efforts to redress and provide access to 'State of Art' health facilities, including tertiary care to all, within the districts itself.

It is in this background that the need for establishing a Medical College at Ramanathapuram becomes very relevant. You are already aware that the Government of India itself based on backwardness, identified Ramanathapuram as one of the two backward districts, with an aim to quickly and effectively developing them and included them in the aspirational districts initiative. Ramanathapuram district has been historically backward and geographically remote, with a long coast line. Rameswaram temple, an internationally acclaimed tourist centre which attracts lakh of pilgrims from all over India and across the world, is located in this district. At present, the district lacks a tertiary medical care facility in the form of a Government or Private Medical College, because of which people of the district have a travel all the way to Madurai, which is located at a distance of 110 kms, to avail tertiary care. Hence, there is an urgent need to establish the tertiary medical care facility in this district. Sanction of a new Government Medical College under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme would go a long way in addressing the need for establishing such a tertiary medical care institution for this aspirational district. I would like to also mention that Ramanathapuram already has a functional District Headquarters Hospital and adequate land, as per the requirements stipulated by the Medical Council of India (MCI).

Despite having a clear case for being considered for sanction of a new Government Medical College at Ramanathapuram, it is disappointing that both in the Phase-I, where 58 Government Medical Colleges were sanctioned and in Phase-II, where 24 Government Medical Colleges have been announced, Tamil Nadu has not been considered, in spite of land and a functional district/ referral hospital being readily available in the district.

Even though Government of India is taking a position that the present proposal for establishment of 24 Government Medical College was based on a criteria to have at least one Government Medical College for three Parliamentary Constituencies in India.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to relax the condition to facilitate sanction of a Government Medical College at Ramanathapuram District under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Establishment of New Medical Colleges attached with existing District / Referral Hospitals".

15. CONTINUATION OF CENTRAL RESEARCH STATIONS/INSTITUTIONS.

Request to continuation of CPRS, Ooty; CIBA., Chennai; SBI., Coimbatore; NRCB., Tiruchirapalli; Central Press, Coimbatore to safeguard the interests of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has been pioneering various research activities. The proposals by the Central Government to close some of the research and other Central institutions in the State will adversely impact the scientific research work in Tamil Nadu which are beneficial to farmers and fishermen.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that in the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, potato is grown in hills. Potatoes are mainly grown in hilly districts of Dindigul, the Nilgiris, Krishnagiri and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu State covering nearly 5,500 Ha. **It is understood from media reports that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken a decision to shut down the 'Central Potato Research Station' (CPRS), a well known Premier Institute functioning at Muthorai, Ooty in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.**

This Institute was founded in 1957 and has been serving the potato farmers for the past 70 years in coordination with the State Government as well as with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). The Institute is

well equipped with a hi-tech laboratory, seed production and multiplication facilities located in an area of 45 acres. This CPRS is the only station in the whole of South India researching on Potato cyst nematode and Potato early blight which are major diseases affecting potato cultivation and help the farmers to keep these maladies in check and grow the potato crop profitably.

CPRS-Ooty released the India's first nematode resistant variety "Kufri Swarna" in the year 1985 and this variety is still predominantly grown in many areas across the Nilgiris. This is one of the two Institutes where Potato farmers are getting disease free seeds. If this Research station is closed, farmers of Tamil Nadu and other southern states of India, have to depend on the Potato Research Station at Jalandhar, Punjab, which is located far away, to access disease free planting materials, which in turn will increase the cost of cultivation. Moreover, the varieties of North India are not suitable for Southern hills.

In the above circumstances, the closure of the said Institute "CPRS" at Ooty will have detrimental impact on the interest of the Potato farmers of this State and entire South India.

I therefore request you to direct the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the Indian Council

of Agricultural Research not to close the CPRS, Ooty in order to safeguard the interests of the Potato farmers of this State as well as farmers in other southern States of our country.

As regards the proposed closure of the other Central institutes like the Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture (CIBA) in Chennai, Sugarcane Breeding Institute (SBI) at Coimbatore, National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) at Tiruchirappalli and the Central Press at Coimbatore, I had already requested you through my letters and Memorandum to continue the operation of these Institutions for the benefit of Tamil Nadu and its people.

I request you to consider the above favourably.

16. CHENNAI METRO RAIL PHASE-II

Request to sanction Phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis

I would like to bring to your kind notice that the phase-I of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu has been completed and passenger services are running since 2015 and the last underground section of 10 km will be opened to passenger service shortly.

Phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail Project was initially approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu and recommended to Government of India for approval in April, 2017. Due to the introduction of New Metro Rail Policy by Government of India and updating the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) and Alternative analysis for mode of transport, final DPR for the length of 118.9 km with the total cost of Rs.69,180 crore (including escalation, land and taxes) has been approved by Government of Tamil Nadu and sent to the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India for their approval under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis on January 11, 2019.

For Phase-II, Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) has already approved a loan of Rs.20,196 crore and

agreement for first tranche of loan has also been signed. Rs.10,351 crore has been approved in principle for the loan assistance from ADB, AIIB, NDB and World Bank.

I also request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the authorities to sanction Phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis between Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu, as was done for Phase-I.

Issued By :- DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.