



Letters from
Selvi J Jayalithaa
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
[2011 - 2014]

Preface

அஞ்சாமை ஈகை அறி(வு) ஊக்கம் இந்நான்கும்
எஞ்சாமை வேந்தர்க்கு(கு) இயல்பு

(குறள் 382)

*“Unfailing courage, charity, wisdom and zeal
These four are qualities regal”*

(Kural 382)

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J. Jayalalithaa always stands for the cause of Tamils and Tamil Nadu, Her words and deeds always centre around the people and their welfare.

Our Hon'ble Chief Minister has written a number of letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh from 23.05.2014. All these letters were written in connection with the burning problems and issues pertained to Tamil Nadu such as, release of Tamil Nadu fishermen abducted by Srilankan Navy, reduction of diesel and petrol prices, release of Cauvery River Water, Food Security Bill, National Counter Terrorism, etc.

These letters have been compiled in the form of a book by the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Tamil Nadu.

This book will surely be a most valuable document of historical value for our posterity.

M. Rajaram, IAS

Secretary to Government

Tamil Development & Information Dept.



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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

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to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

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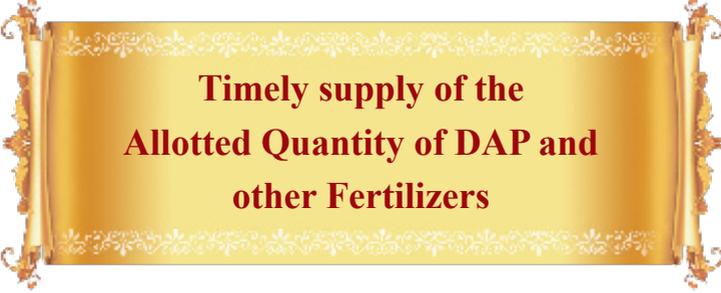
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**Timely supply of the
Allotted Quantity of DAP and
other Fertilizers**

D.O. letter dated 23.05.2011

After the new Government took charge under my leadership, the Agriculture sector is being given the highest priority. As per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, the South West Monsoon is expected to commence as per schedule. The current availability of water in the major reservoirs across the State is encouraging. In the light of these favourable factors, the State is geared up for cultivation during the ensuing Khariff season.

I wish to bring to your kind notice that the State has been given an allocation of 2 lakh tonnes of DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate) by the Government of India for the Khariff season 2011. With regard to the allocation of 47,000 tonnes of DAP up to May 2011, the State has received only 20,000 tonnes. There

is already a shortfall of 27,000 tonnes. We will require an additional 30,000 tonnes of DAP during June 2011 for the Kuruvai cultivation .

I request your kind intervention for ensuring the timely supply of the allotted quantity of DAP and other fertilizers.

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**Enhance the
Allotment of Kerosene**

D.O. letter dated 01.06.2011

I wish to draw your kind attention to the reduced allocation of kerosene made by the Government of India for Tamil Nadu under the II Public Distribution System. You are aware that kerosene is one of the important items under the Public Distribution System to protect card holders against inflationary pressures.

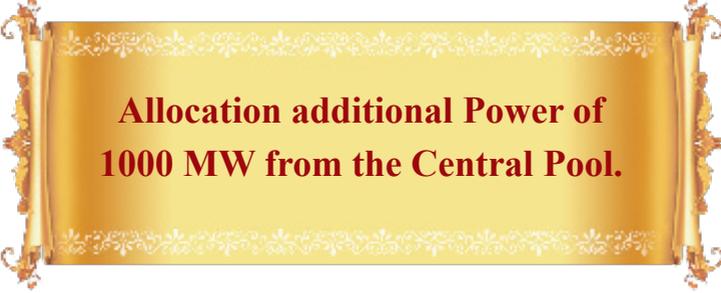
There are 1.95 crore Ration card holders in our State enjoying various entitlements. Kerosene is supplied to them as per the approved norms. The actual requirement of kerosene is 65,140 kilo litres per month for our State. Recently, the Government of India has drastically reduced the allocation of kerosene to 44,580 kilo litres for the month of June, 2011, from the earlier allocation of 52,806 kilo litres per month. This allocation itself was a reduced one

from the earlier allocation of 59,780 kilo litres given up to March, 2010. This gradual reduction of kerosene attocattentc our State 'over the last two years has been putting the Public Olstrtbutlon System under severe stress.

You will appreciate that it would be very difficult for the State Government to meet the genuine domestic needs of the public with reduced quantity of kerosene.

I 'request your kind intervention to enhance the' allotment of kerosene from 44,580 kilo litres to 65,140 kilo litres per month to our State immediately.

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**Allocation additional Power of
1000 MW from the Central Pool.**

D.O. letter dated 06.06.2011

I would like to draw your kind attention to the severe power shortage faced by the people of Tamil Nadu.

Due to increasing demand and stagnant generation of power, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board has been resorting to scheduled load shedding of about 1500 MW and frequent unscheduled load shedding. This has badly affected the industrial sector and the domestic consumers. Agriculture is the worst hit sector due to irregular and inadequate supply of power to agricultural pump sets, thus affecting food production.

I wish to inform you that additional generation of power in Tamil Nadu may take one or two years, since many new projects are in various stages of construction. Even the Central power projects such as the Koodangulam Atomic Power station (2 x 1000 MW)

and Neyveli Thermal Power Station Stage II expansion (2 x 250 MW), which were expected to commence power generation by the year 2009 are yet to be completed and commissioned causing serious concern to the State Government.

I have taken several steps to improve energy efficiency and to reduce the gap between; supply and demand. Despite these efforts, I am afraid that the power shortage is likely to continue for some more time due to lack of capacity for additional generation of power. Therefore, I request your personal intervention to immediately allocate additional power of 1000 MW from June 2011, to May 2012, from the Central Pool to meet the genuine needs of the farmers and the public. I also request you to kindly issue instructions to speed up the completion of the ongoing Central Power Projects in Tamil Nadu.

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**Release of Fishermen Arrested by the
Govrment of Sri lanka**

D.O. letter dated 07.06.2011

I would like to bring to your attention, a recent incident of arrest of 4 Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Police. The following four fishermen of Rameswaram Island 1) Thiru Jayakumar, 2) Thiru Prabhat, 3) Thiru Sundar and 4) Thiru Marimuthu went fishing in a mechanized boat bearing Registration No. TN/12/MFB/252 from Rameswaram base on 1.6.2011 and were expected back on shore on 2.6.2011.

On 2.6.2011, when the fishermen were out at sea, sudden inclement weather and heavy winds resulted in the destruction of their boat. The above four fishermen of the capsized boat swam for about 8 hours through mid-sea and landed on the coast of Nainatheevu of Sri Lanka. They surrendered before the army check post, and were handed over to the Kayts Police on

3-6-2011. They were then, produced before the Kayts Court on 6.6.2011 and were remanded to Police custody till 17.6.2011.

The families of the arrested four fishermen and various fishermen Associations in the Rameswaram area have appealed to the Government of Tamil Nadu for early release of these apprehended fishermen. The Government of Tamil Nadu is also in constant touch with the officials of the Sri Lankan High Commission for arranging their early release.

I would like to seek your kind intervention in the issue and request you to ensure that the Government of Sri Lanka releases the above apprehended fishermen without further delay.

The Government of Tamil Nadu and the fishermen will be grateful if these members are released immediately as a gesture of goodwill by the Sri Lankan Government, who have already assured in various bilateral meetings that the Indian fishermen who inadvertently stray into Sri Lankan waters will be released expeditiously without prolonged legal hurdles.

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Frequent Incidents of Arrest and Detention of Tamilian Fishermen

D.O. letter dated 21.06.2011

“It has been brought to my notice that 23 fishermen of Tamil Nadu who accidentally strayed into Sri Lankan waters while fishing were taken into custody by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken to Thalaimannar Police Station yesterday (20.6.2011) afternoon.

After my Government took charge in May, 2011, 4 fishermen whose boat had capsized were arrested and remanded to custody by Kayts Court in Sri Lanka. I had written to you about this on 7th June, 2011. In your letter dated 15th June, 2011, you had informed me that the matter had been taken up with the Sri Lankan Government. These fishermen were released on 17th June, 2011, and I thank you for your kind intervention in this regard.

I wish to reiterate that the frequent incidents of arrest and detention of Tamil Nadu fishermen crossing

the International Maritime Boundary Line which is very close to the shore off Rameswaram in the Palk Bay area, is worrisome. This also creates a lot of tension and unrest among the fishermen in Tamil Nadu. I had discussed this vexatious issue when I called on you at New Delhi on 14.6.2011. I also discussed this issue with Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor, on two occasions, once when he called on me before leaving for Colombo on 9th June, 2011, and again during our discussions on 14.6.2011.

I am distressed to note that the Sri Lankan Navy has again taken into custody 23 fishermen along with 5 boats because they strayed accidentally into Sri Lankan waters. I seek your kind intervention in this issue and request you to ensure that the Sri Lankan Government releases the 23 fishermen taken into custody immediately.”

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**Inclusion of Badaga community
in the list of Scheduled Tribes**

D.O. letter dated 28.07.2011

I would like to draw your kind attention to the long pending request of the Badaga Community in the Nilgiris District in Tamil Nadu to include them in the list 'of Scheduled Tribes. This issue has been pending for a long time.

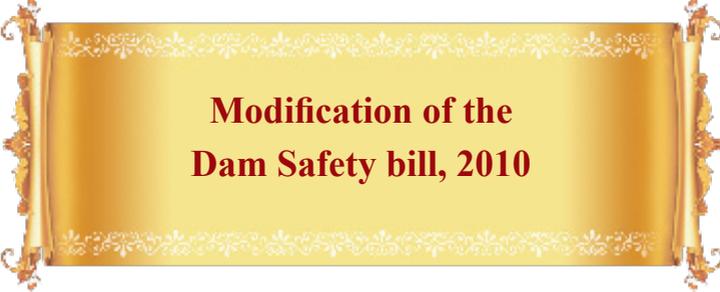
During my earlier tenure, I wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, on 5.9.2003 with a detailed analysis of various attributes of the Bad'aga Community such as primitive traits, a distinctive culture, shyness of contact with the public at large, geographical isolation and social and economic backwardness to declare them as a Scheduled Tribe (copies enclosed). In the Census of 1931, the Badagas were classified as a Tribe.

The Badagas of Nilgiris District made a representation to me recently to take up the issue again with the Government of India. The evidence produced by the Badagas reveals that they have been living in the Nilgiris hills for several centuries along with other Tribes, such as Todas. The Badagas are an ethnic and Linguistic Minority Tribal Group with a distinct culture and heritage of their own. Their oral literature, belief and faith reveal their attachment to Nakkubetta and Nilgiris through DEWA and HETHE HABBAS, which are animistic in nature.

The criterion of Primitive Tribe, one of the characteristics indicated for Scheduled Tribes, can no longer be applicable to many of the Scheduled Tribes in the country due to their upliftment through various developmental programmes of the Government since Independence, whereas it is very much relevant and applicable in the case of the Badagas of Nilgiris. In view of the above, it is clear that the broad characteristics indicated for classification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe have been satisfied, thus making them eligible for qualification as a Scheduled Tribe.

I request that immediate action may kindly be taken to consider the request of the "Badaga" Community to include them in the list of Scheduled Tribes, at the earliest.

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**Modification of the
Dam Safety bill, 2010**

D.O. letter dated 29.07.2011

I am constrained to bring to your kind notice certain provisions of the Dam Safety Bill, 2010, currently referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, which are detrimental to the interest of Tamil Nadu.

Sub-clause 26(1)' of the Bill states that without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, all specified dams shall fall under the jurisdiction of the State Dam Safety Organisation or State Dam Safety Cell, as the case may be, of the State in which the dam is situated in matters related to dam inspections, analysis of information, reports or recommendations regarding safety status and remedial measures to be undertaken to improve dam safety; and in all such matters full co-operation shall be extended by the concerned Non-State Dam

Safety Organisation or the Non-State Dam Safety Cell and the owner of the specified dam.

The wording in the clause viz: “the State in which the dam is situated” makes it explicitly clear that any specified dam will fall under the jurisdiction of the Dam Safety Organization (5050) or the State Dam Safety Cell of the State In whose territory the dam is situated.

I wish to point out that these provisions will directly interfere with the safety and functioning of the Dams owned, operated and maintained by a State Government, in a Situation wherein the same dams are located in the territory of another State.

Four Dams namely, Mullai Periyar Dam, Parambikulam Dam, Thunakadavu Dam and Peruvuripallam Dam are owned, operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu, whereas these Dams are Situated in the territory of Kerala State.

In the event of the Dam safety Bill, 2010, being passed in Parliament it will be detrimental to the interests of Tamil Nadu, since the control of these four Dams will automatically go to Kerala State in whose territory these Dams are situated though they are owned by

Tamil Nadu State. This will create a number of practical problems for the safety I operation and maintenance of the Dams.

In view of the above problems, the following modifications and additions are suggested for incorporation in the Dam Safety Bill, 2010.,

Sub-Clause .. 26(1) should be revised as :

“without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, all specified dams shall fall under the jurisdiction of the State Dam Safety Organisation or State Dam Safety Cell, as the case may be, of the State owning the dam and under whose control the dam is operated and maintained in matters related to dam inspections, analysis of information, reports or recommendations regarding safety status, and remedial measures to be undertaken to improve dam safety”, Similarly Sub-Clause 26(2) should be revised as :

“The authorized representative of the Central Dam Safety Organization, concerned State Dam Safety Organization or State Dam Safety Cell as the case may be in respect of dams referred to in sub-clause 1 above, for the purposes of making any inspection or investigation necessary for the implementation of the

provisions of this Act, may enter upon any part of the specified dam or its site as and when required and apply such investigation methods as may be considered necessary, “Similar modifications will have to be made in sub clause 26(3) and sub-clause 26(4) and Clause 13.

A new Sub-clause 26(6) is suggested to be added to the Bill to ensure proper maintenance of Dams without interference as follows:

“Not with standing anything contained in any other law, the Dam maintenance officials I personnel shall have the right to enter into the Forests and Wild Life sanctuary area. to carry out dam safety, maintenance and rehabilitation measures”,

I, therefore, request you to kindly give directions to the concerned Ministry to carry out the above said modifications/additions in the Dam Safety Bill, 2010, so that the interests of Tamil Nadu State are protected.

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**Objection to the proposed
All India Common Medical
Entrance Test**

D.O. letter dated 2.08.2011

“It has been brought to my notice that the Government of India has decided to introduce a National Eligibility cum Entrance Examination for admission to Undergraduate and Post Graduate Medical Courses. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken steps since 2005 and finally abolished the Entrance Examination for the Professional Courses from the year 2007–2008.

This was done after detailed examination by an Expert Committee which found that rural students and students from lower socio economic backgrounds are unable to compete with the urban elite students in such Common Entrance Examinations as they lack the requisite training institutions and materials.

The rural poor students cannot afford the fees charged by the coaching centres, which impart training to face such competitive examinations. This will be particularly true in the case of a national level examination as the students who pass the 12th Standard based on our State syllabi will not face a level playing field as the topics covered for the entrance exam are likely to be different, leading to the need for separate training classes.

A large number of socially and economically backward meritorious rural students have benefited because of the decision to abolish the Common Entrance Examination for professional courses. Tamil Nadu has also been able to manage its medical manpower requirement in the rural areas due to the large number of rural students who get admission to undergraduate courses in government medical colleges due to our existing admission policy.

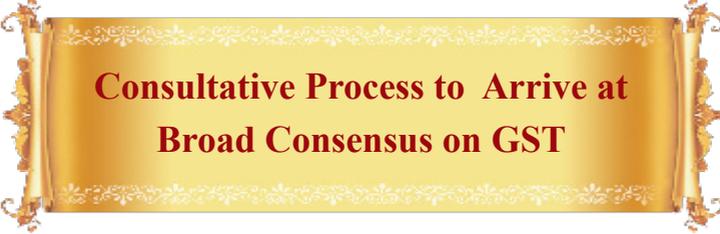
As part of its policy of upholding social justice, Tamil Nadu has been following 69% reservation for Backward and Most Backward Communities and Scheduled Castes and Tribes in professional courses. The introduction of a Common Entrance Test would create confusion and litigation in the smooth implementation of this reservation policy both in undergraduate and postgraduate admissions.

Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu has reserved 50% of its medical Post Graduate seats for doctors who have completed three years of rural service with special weightage for those working in hilly and tribal areas. The Government has also successfully obtained and enforced bonds from those completing post graduate education in Government Medical Colleges to serve the State for a minimum period, which has helped to meet the need for specialist medical manpower. It will be legally difficult to implement these policy initiatives if a Common Entrance Test is introduced as we would have to fall in line with the regulations of the national test, which may not have such enabling provisions.

We had earlier been assured by the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Welfare that the States would be consulted and our views considered before evolving any policy decision with regard to the conduct of an All India Common Entrance Test. The Government of Tamil Nadu had also given its views as above, specifically stating that the All India Common Entrance Test will interfere with the rights of the State Government in administering the education system and would create problems in implementing the reservation policy followed uniquely in our State. However, it is now learnt that the Government of India has gone ahead with the decision to implement the common entrance test.

The Government of Tamil Nadu strongly protests the move to conduct an All India Common Entrance Test for admission to Under Graduate/Post Graduate Courses in the Medical Colleges as proposed by the Government of India. In view of all the facts pointed out, I request that Tamil Nadu may be exempted from the test and allowed to continue with its existing system for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate medical seats.”

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Consultative Process to Arrive at Broad Consensus on GST

D.O. letter dated 18.08.2011

“As you are aware, the Constitution (115th Amendment) Bill, 2011 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha in the Budget Session. The Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, whose Chairman has addressed the States for their views in this regard. While the views of the Government of Tamil Nadu are being communicated separately to the Parliamentary Standing Committee, I wish to convey, through this letter, the strong reservations of my Government with regard to the manner in which the Government of India is endeavouring to bulldoze through this piece of Legislation which encroaches upon the powers vested with the States by the Constitution of India.

It is universal knowledge that the State Governments, being closer to the people, have greater responsibilities

in terms of providing basic services and implementing developmental schemes. In our constitutional scheme, the States' resources are limited. Sales Tax is the only major buoyant source of revenue on which the States depend. Therefore, any tax reform measure driven by the Government of India should neither reduce the revenue flow from this source nor should it adversely affect the fiscal autonomy of the States. Even if some losses are compensated by the Centre for some time, the reforms must not make a permanent dent in our resources.

Our main concern with the GST is that, in the name of harmonization, the State's already limited authority to levy taxes should not be snatched away. Further, constitutional mechanisms like the GST Council and the GST Dispute Settlement Authority impinge on the legislative sovereignty of both the Parliament and the State Legislatures. We also strongly believe that harmonization will not be achieved merely by adopting a common rate for all the commodities across the country when the States are having diverse resource bases and requirements. Therefore, the implementation of GST with two rates initially and converging into a single rate later is not workable. In States like Tamil Nadu, where the tax neutral rate is as high as 17%, this will lead to a huge loss i.e., more than Rs.5000 crores loss per annum. Any proposal of GST structure will have to address these concerns.

A broad consensus on the framework of GST tax structure, procedure, etc. should first be arrived at through a proper consultative process. At this juncture, the States are not clear about very critical issues including the tax structure, methodology of Integrated Goods & Services Tax, powers of the State in altering tax rates, in levying cess, giving exemptions to certain commodities of local importance, and the compensation mechanism. When there is no clarity on such critical matters, pressing for the enactment of the Bill will not yield any results, and is bound to be counter productive. Approval of this Amendment Bill by any of the States will amount to entering into an unknown territory fraught with risk and uncertainty. Therefore, I am of the opinion that before the Government of India pushes through this Bill in the Parliament, it is necessary that the consultative process among all States and the Centre is taken forward to come to a broad understanding on the framework of the GST. As Shri Sushil Kumar Modi has taken over as the Chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers now, we should pursue this matter further in the Empowered Committee and reach an understanding on key issues.

A'propos the contents of the Constitution (One Hundred and Fifteenth Amendment) Bill, 2011, we have

some concerns on the way the GST Council and the GST Dispute Settlement Authority are being contemplated. Though the proposed Article 279-A contemplates setting up of the GST Council as an advisory authority which will take decisions through consensus, the GST Dispute Settlement Authority proposed under Article 279-B will have an overriding authority on the States, as its decisions are binding on the States. This means the States virtually lose their authority to fix tax rates, which is unconstitutional and not acceptable in a federal set up. The Council and the Authority also impinge on the Parliament's authority.

The Bill suggests that the Entertainment Tax collected by local bodies alone will be excluded from GST. But in some States, including Tamil Nadu, for administrative reasons, Entertainment Tax (the proceeds of which are meant primarily for local bodies) is collected by the State Government. In the Amendment Bill, it is proposed to subsume Entertainment Tax not directly collected by the local bodies.

The Bill proposes to keep Tobacco and Tobacco products as a specific entry '84' in List I of the Seventh Schedule enabling the Union Government to levy Excise duty over and above GST, while the States have not been vested with this power.

Other issues like a time frame for convergence of the tax rates for essential goods and luxury goods, adoption of a uniform threshold for levying of SGST and CGST, usage of the State tax machinery for collection of CGST up to a threshold level, formation of an autonomous body for computation and disbursement of compensation, guarantee for abiding by a pre-agreed compensation framework, evolution of a workable IGST model, institutional and infrastructural preparedness across the States, etc. are not covered by the Amendment Bill. However, there is no point in proceeding with the enactment of the Amendment without addressing them completely and taking the States into confidence.

Any tax reforms should have an objective of improving economic efficiency, encouraging economic activity and benefiting the common man and should be put in place giving due regard to the constitutional scheme of distribution of powers and fiscal autonomy of the States. In a federal set up, implementation of a comprehensive tax reform like GST hinges on constructive collaboration and co-operation between the Union and the State Governments and needs to be based on a spirit of mutual confidence and respect. The manner in which the Government of India is undertaking the implementation of GST amounts to

interfering with the fiscal autonomy of the States thereby having the potential to jeopardise the federal framework of distribution of fiscal powers between the States and the Union.

I therefore, request your personal intervention in this regard to take the States on board by continuing the consultative process to arrive at a broad consensus on the key issues with regard to GST and only thereafter consider the Amendment Bill.”

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**Appointment request for the All
Party Delegation seeking the Halt
of Koodankulam Project**

D.O. letter dated 19.09.2011

“You are aware that the Nuclear Power Plant at Koodankulam is ready to be commissioned very soon. The last few days have been very agonizing for the people of Koodankulam as they are under great apprehension in the wake of the Fukushima disaster and other similar calamities reported in the press. It is only natural that the people living here fear for the safety of their families and for themselves.

While many welfare measures have been taken by my Government for the benefit of fishermen living along the 1076 KM. long coast line of Tamil Nadu, an issue relating to the Government of India project is disturbing the normal life of the people in the Koodankulam area.

The scope and magnitude of this issue is creating a fear psychosis among the people and villages surrounding

Koodankulam. It is surprising to note that till date no responsible Minister or concerned higher authorities from the Government of India have visited the people or even attempted to assuage their misgivings.

It is unfortunate to see that the Centre is abdicating its responsibilities. The Prime Minister should have sent a high level team to allay the fears and misgivings of the people in the Koodankulam area.

It was naturally expected that at least the Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan, who hails from Tamil Nadu, would have made an attempt to visit these people. Instead, in an interview to the press, she said that the subject comes under the purview of the Atomic Energy Commission and her Ministry has nothing to do with it, thereby abdicating her duties as a Minister and absolving herself of any responsibility. Her remark that the Government officers would take care of the issue is callous in the extreme.

Since the Atomic Energy Commission is directly under your control, on behalf of the people and villages surrounding Koodankulam, I request you to send the concerned competent authorities to hold discussions with the people of Koodankulam, address their fears and convince the people to their satisfaction.

Since nobody from the Government of India has so far deigned to visit Koodankulam, I propose to send an all party delegation led by Thiru O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu, along with representatives of the people to call on you.

I request you to kindly issue suitable instructions to the concerned authorities that further work on this project may be halted, until this issue is settled.

I request you to kindly bestow your personal attention on this serious issue and also to indicate your convenience to meet the delegation.”

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**Intervention in the matter of
Sri Lankan Attack on
Tamilian Fishermen**

D.O. letter dated 10.10.2011

“I would like to bring to your attention, various incidents of attacks and harassment of fishermen of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy and Sri Lankan miscreants while fishing in the Palk Bay area, which is a matter of great concern to the Government of Tamil Nadu. As you are aware, the fishermen of Tamil Nadu have, from time immemorial, been fishing in the Palk Bay area in order to earn their livelihood. This Government accords the highest priority to protecting the fishing rights of its fishermen and ensuring their safety.

I wish to inform you with deep anguish that since this Government took charge in May, 2011, there have been as many as 16 incidents of attacks / harassment and apprehension of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri

Lankan Authorities. Four fishermen of Rameswaram were apprehended on 7.6.2011 by the Sri Lankan Authorities and they were released on 17.6.2011 only after the matter was brought by me to your kind notice through my D.O.Letter. Subsequently, again on 20.6.2011, 23 fishermen fishing in 5 boats were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Authorities. Again, I had to bring this to your kind attention through my letter dated 21.6.2011 in order to seek their release.

There is a uniform pattern of either the personnel of the Sri Lankan Navy harassing / attacking the fishermen of Tamil Nadu fishing in the Palk Bay area or miscreants from Sri Lanka committing such acts. A number of Indian fishermen have been injured in such attacks and there have been a number of instances of theft of their fish catch, damage to their fishing nets and snatching away of the personal belongings of the fishermen.

The Indian fishermen, especially belonging to Nagapattinam and Ramanathapuram Districts of Tamil Nadu, venture out to sea for fishing only with the constant fear of being attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy / Miscreants.

The Foreign Secretary, Government of India, Shri Ranjan Mathai called on me at Chennai on 8.10.2011.

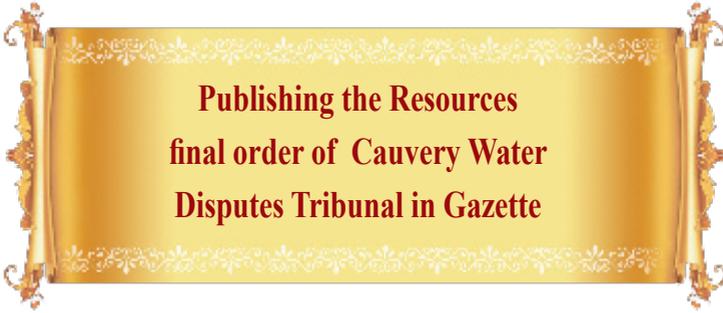
I brought the various incidents of attacks and harassment to his notice and requested him to take up the above issues with the Government of Sri Lanka who, on the one hand were participating in various Indo-Sri Lanka Meetings in order to resolve the fishermen's problems and on the other were resorting to violence against our fishermen.

However, it is distressing to note that on the same day, i.e., on the evening of 8.10.2011, even before the Foreign Secretary reached Colombo, the Sri Lankan Navy again chased away our fishermen in the sea by firing in the air, off Mandapam coast of Ramanathapuram District and this incident has been widely reported in the print and electronic media.

I request your kind intervention in this issue of great concern and request the Government of India to convey its serious objection to the Sri Lankan Government with regard to the continuous incidents of harassment and attacks on the fishermen of Tamil Nadu who seek to eke out their living peacefully in their traditional areas of fishing in the Palk Bay area. I would also like to emphasize that the harassment of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu should be viewed as an act of provocation and aggression against India by Sri Lanka, similar to acts of firing across the borders of India by neighbours such as Pakistan and

China. The attack on the fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu should be viewed as a national issue and not as an isolated problem of Tamil Nadu alone.”





**Publishing the Resources
final order of Cauvery Water
Disputes Tribunal in Gazette**

D.O. letter dated 17.10.2011

“As you are aware, the river Cauvery which is the life line of Tamil Nadu, feeds more than 80% of canal irrigation in Tamil Nadu. The quality of life and the food security of the State of Tamil Nadu depend on the timely release of Cauvery water for irrigation. The Government of Karnataka, which is the upper riparian State, is duty bound to ensure the stipulated monthly flows during the irrigation season every year and failure to do so adversely affects the agriculture and consequently the economy of the State.

The dispute over the sharing of waters of the river Cauvery arose in the 1960s, when Karnataka started to execute irrigation projects without the concurrence of the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government

of India, on the directions of the Supreme Court, constituted the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in 1990 and forwarded the complaint of the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal for adjudication. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal gave its Interim Order on 25.6.1991 which was gazetted by the Government of India on 10.12.1991 based on the opinion rendered by the Supreme Court on 22.11.1991 in Special Reference No.1 of 1991, even though a Section 5(3) Petition seeking explanation or guidance from the Tribunal as well as the Suit and Special Leave-Petitions of the Government of Karnataka were pending before the Supreme Court.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal under section 5(2) of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, has given its Final Order on 5.2.2007 allocating the waters of the river Cauvery among the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry for their beneficial use.

The Governments of Karnataka and Kerala have challenged the Final Order in the Supreme Court and Tamil Nadu has gone on appeal to the Supreme Court on certain aspects of the Final Order of the Tribunal. Later on, the Government of India also impleaded itself in

the appeals pending in the Supreme Court. Further, the Governments of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Union Territory of Puducherry and the Government of India have also filed applications under section 5(3) of the Act of 1956 seeking explanation or guidance from the Tribunal and they are all pending since May, 2007.

The Government of Karnataka has consistently taken the stand that, after the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, there is no enforceable governing regime, since the Interim Order has ceased to exist after final adjudication and though the Final Order has not been gazetted, the purported Final Order dated 5.2.2007 should be considered as protem governing regime on all matters including distress sharing and irrigated areas in Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka has also further stated that this suggestion of karnataka should not be understood as acceptance of the correctness of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

In these circumstances, it is incumbent on the Government of India to notify the Final Order of the Tribunal in the Gazette of India for it to become effective and binding on the parties to the dispute and a mechanism for the implementation of the Final Order to be established.

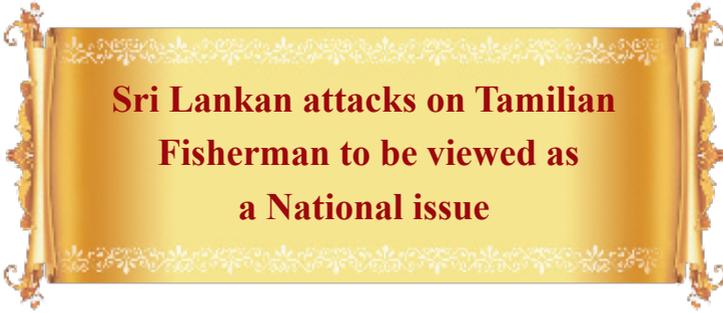
You may recall the Memorandum I had presented to you in person on 14.6.2011 requesting you to instruct the Ministry of water Resources to publish the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in the Gazette of India and place in position the Cauvery Management Board.

I am of the considered view that notwithstanding the pendency of the Civil Appeals and Reference Petitions and without prejudice to the outcome of these Petitions in the Supreme Court and the Tribunal, the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 should be published in the Gazette of India as required under section 6(1) of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

May, I, therefore, request you to kindly issue instructions to the Ministry of Water Resources to publish the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 in the Gazette of India and place the Cauvery Management Board in position immediately?

I will be grateful for early action in this regard.”

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**Sri Lankan attacks on Tamilian
Fisherman to be viewed as
a National issue**

D.O. letter dated 07.11.2011

“I am writing this letter with a deep sense of concern about the safety and well being of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu, who are now being attacked almost on a daily basis by the Sri Lankan Navy / miscreants, while they pursue their traditional occupation of fishing in the Palk Bay area. I have already brought to your attention on 10.10.2011 my deep anguish over the fact that, since this Government took charge in May, 2011, there have been a large number of incidents of attacks / harassment and apprehension of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Authorities. I had also personally apprised the Foreign Secretary, Government of India, Shri Ranjan Mathai on 8.10.2011 at Chennai about the continuous incidents of attacks on and harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy / Miscreants.

In your letter dated 3.11.2011, you have been kind enough to inform me that you had expressed your deep concern over the incidents of attacks on the Indian (Tamil Nadu) fishermen to the President of Sri Lanka during your meeting with him at New York in September, 2011. You had also mentioned that the Sri Lankan side had 'promised to seriously investigate these incidents'. While thanking you for also reiterating that the welfare, safety and security of our fishermen have always received the highest priority of the Government,

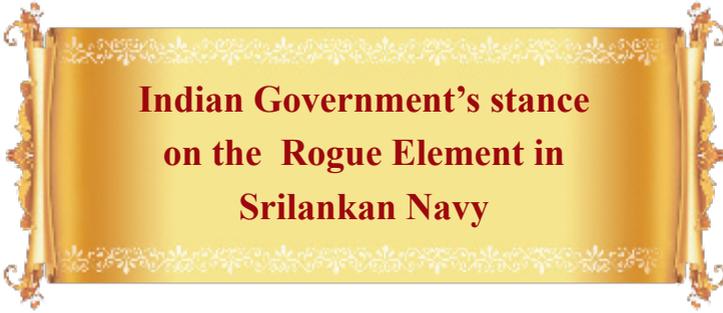
I am constrained to point out that all the concerns of the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard have only fallen on deaf ears where the Sri Lankan Authorities are concerned. So far, since May, 2011, there have been over 22 incidents of attacks/harassments and apprehension of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Authorities. The irony is that even after my letter to you on 10.10.2011, there have been at least 6 more major incidents in which the Tamil Nadu fishermen have been blatantly attacked, harassed and injured.

On 4.11.2011, there was an incident in which naval personnel in a Sri Lankan Naval ship came near a mechanized boat off the coast of Kodiakarai of Nagapattinam District, cut the ropes of the nets of the fishermen and threw stones at the boat, in which one fisherman sustained severe head injuries. Likewise on 5.11.2011, Sri Lankan Navy personnel attacked a mechanized fishing boat off Rameswaram base near Katchatheevu and the boat driver sustained serious injuries and had to be admitted in a hospital.

May I also point out that there seems to be a definite pattern of attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy/ miscreants to create a fear psychosis amongst the innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen with a view to forcing them to desist from eking out their livelihood in their traditional areas of fishing in the Palk Bay area? There is a deep feeling of unrest and concern among the fishermen community in particular and the entire State in general due to such incidents that have not stopped despite our repeated appeals to the Government of India and the diplomatic efforts of the Government of India.

I request you to kindly take a strong stand against the Government of Sri Lanka with regard to such attacks on our fishermen and convey your serious apprehension through tough words and action, since as already stated by me on 10.10.2011, the attacks should be viewed as a National issue and not as an isolated problem of Tamil Nadu alone.

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**Indian Government's stance
on the Rogue Element in
Srilankan Navy**

D.O. letter dated 16.11.2011

“Kindly refer to my letters dated 7.6.2011, 21.6.2011, 10.10.2011 and 7.11.2011, in which I have brought to your attention various incidents of apprehension, as well as attacks on and harassment of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy, which has caused great unrest amongst the people of Tamil Nadu. I had also requested you to treat the attacks on fishermen as a National issue since such attacks should be construed as attacks on India.

I further wish to inform you with a deep sense of agony that, despite my letters to you and despite your taking up the issue with the Government of Sri Lanka and their stated assurances in this regard, the attacks on our fishermen continue unabated and the situation is worsening day by day.

In the latest incident which occurred on 15.11.2011, a fisherman of Rameswaram was seriously injured when Indian fishing boats were attacked, allegedly by the Sri Lankan Navy personnel, near the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) off Kachatheevu. It has been reported that as many as 15 Sri Lankan Navy men came in a high-speed patrolling vessel and pelted stones on the Tamil Nadu fishermen, which resulted in a severe head injury to one fisherman, Mr. Selvaraj. He started bleeding profusely and was brought ashore with the help of his fellow fishermen and thereafter admitted to hospital for treatment.

The above incident has been flashed widely in the media, creating a lot of unrest among the fishermen of Rameswaram who venture into the sea braving all odds to eke out their livelihood in the sea. The continued occurrences of such incidents of attack has also created a feeling of insecurity among the fishermen community and despair over the apparent inaction of the Government of India to prevent such attacks despite our repeated requests.

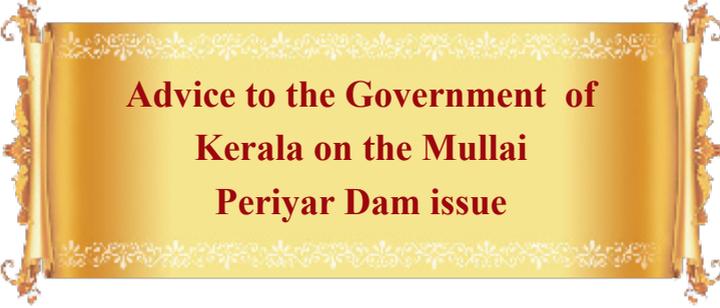
I have already shared my apprehension of the double standards adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka, which, while issuing statements on the need for

treating the straying fishermen on a humanitarian basis, continues to be silent on the attacks launched by its own Navy.

I strongly feel that the Government of India should assert itself with the Sri Lankan Government to control the rogue elements in the Sri Lankan Navy who continue to indulge in acts of physical assault on our innocent fishermen who, for several generations, are engaged in fishing solely for their livelihood in the Palk Bay area.

I solicit your urgent action in this regard.”

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**Advice to the Government of
Kerala on the Mullai
Periyar Dam issue**

D.O. letter dated 23.11.2011

“It has been reported in the media that the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Kerala Thiru Oomen Chandy met the Hon’ble Prime Minister and represented that the construction of a new dam in the place of the existing Mullai Periyar Dam, will be the only solution to safeguard the people of Kerala. The Government of Kerala has been harping on this point for quite sometime, in spite of the fact that the existing dam has been proved to be safe and can store water up to 142 Ft. as decided by the Supreme Court as early as in 2006. The Government of Kerala seems to be intent on whipping up a fear psychosis and panic among the people of Kerala and to influence the Empowered Committee, appointed by the Supreme Court of India, by submitting a report

based on fear perception rather than facts.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 27.2.2006 had pronounced that initially the water level in the strengthened Mullai Periyar Dam can be raised to 142 ft. The Apex Court in unambiguous terms had concluded that the dam is safe and the Government of Tamil Nadu had already taken safety measures to keep the dam in as good condition as a new dam.

As early as in 1979 when the Government of Kerala raised the issue about the safety of the Dam, the Chairman, Central Water Commission, who inspected the Dam concluded that there was no danger to the dam and suggested certain strengthening measures, which were carried out by the Government of Tamil Nadu from 1980-1994, with the concurrence of the Government of Kerala. After taking all these measures the dam is safe and its functioning is as good as that of a new dam.

The Government of Tamil Nadu reiterates its view that the existing dam, after it has been retrofitted through strengthening measures is functioning in as good

a manner as a new dam.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is also concerned about the safety of all the inhabitants downstream of the Mullai Periyar Dam and is doing and will do all that is necessary to ensure that the dam remains safe.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is of the firm view that the retrofitted Mullai Periyar Dam falling in Zone – III has been designed to withstand an earthquake as per IS Code. The reported tremor which occurred on 18.11.2011 did not have even an iota of impact on the dam. In fact, the tremor was not even felt in the vicinity of the dam.

The Empowered Committee, constituted as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, has conducted and is still conducting various tests / studies on the dam and there have been no adverse remark.

In the circumstances mentioned above, I request you to kindly use your good offices and advise the Government of Kerala to:-

(i) honour the rights guaranteed to the Government of Tamil Nadu under the 1886 Agreement followed by the Supplemental Agreements of 1970 in letter and spirit;

(ii) abide by the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.2.2006 and consequently repeal the amended Act of 2006; and

(iii) advise the Government of Kerala not to venture upon a new dam as the present dam is functioning well and also since the whole issue is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Empowered Committee; not to whip up fear and panic among the people to gain political mileage.”

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**Total Disagreement with
Indian Coast Guard's Outrageous
stand on Tamil Nadu Fisherman**

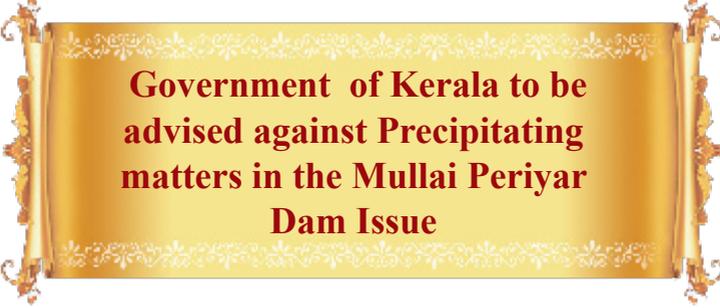
D.O. letter dated 26.11.2011

I wish to bring to your notice that, in a Public Interest Litigation under W.P.No.4190/2011 filed before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court for directing the Indian Coast Guard to give protection to the Indian (Tamil Nadu) fishermen who conduct fishing for their livelihood in the Palk Bay waters, the Indian Coast Guard in its Counter Affidavit filed before the Court, has contended that Tamil Nadu fishermen cross the IMBL, conduct fishing in Sri Lankan waters by poaching and are using nets banned in that country. It has also been suggested by the Indian Coast Guard in their Counter Affidavit that Tamil Nadu should proclaim a 'No Fishing Zone' within 5 Nautical Miles (NM) distance from the Indo-Sri Lankan International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and impose strict punitive measures against the defaulters.

While expressing my total disagreement with this illogical, preposterous and absolutely outrageous stand taken by the Indian Coast Guard before a Court of Law, I wish to remind you of the stand of my Government on this issue as elucidated in the Memorandum handed over to you by me in New Delhi on 14-6-2011.

To recapitulate, from time immemorial, the fishermen of Tamil Nadu have been traditionally fishing in the waters of the Palk Bay without any geographical or political boundaries. I understand that the issue of allowing fishing in each others' waters on a mutually agreed basis is being discussed by the Joint Working Group (JWG) involving Indian and Sri Lankan Authorities. That being the case, it is really surprising that the Indian Coast Guard has taken such a blatantly condemnable stand. If this stand is implemented, it will mean that the Tamil Nadu fishermen have to stop fishing and starve, which I am sure, is not the intention of the Government of India. I, therefore, request you to instruct the concerned authorities to rectify this stand before the concerned Court of Law at the earliest before any irredeemable damage is done.

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**Government of Kerala to be
advised against Precipitating
matters in the Mullai Periyar
Dam Issue**

D.O. letter dated 29.11.2011

“I am constrained to write this letter in continuation of my letter dated 23.11.2011 regarding Kerala’s approach to the Mullai Periyar Dam issue.

It has been reported in the media that the Government of Kerala continues its shrill pitch and maintains that the Mullai Periyar Dam is not safe and that the only solution would be to construct a new dam in spite of the pending Suit in the Supreme Court.

Reports of vandalism against Tamil Nadu State transport buses, apart from mischievous and vicious provocation across the State border being indiscriminately indulged in, have come to my notice. While a lot of restraint from our side is being exercised, it would be prudent to advise the Government of Kerala to ensure

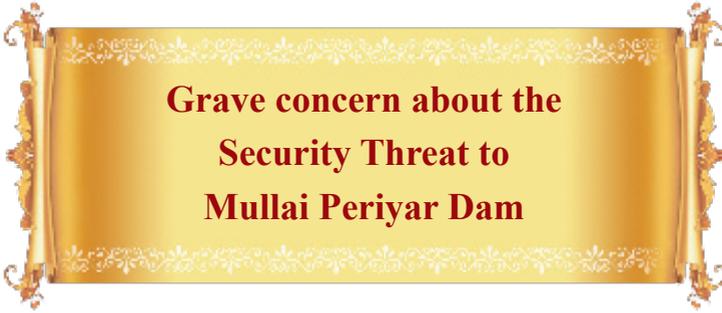
that miscreants refrain from disturbing the public order and disrupting normal life.

I once again reiterate that the retrofitted Mullai Periyar Dam is safe and is functioning as good as new. I am of the view that the Government of Kerala should be advised to desist from this approach for building a new dam and not to escalate the issue, when the matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court and the Empowered Committee.

In the circumstances, as already requested in my earlier letter dated 23.11.2011, may I once again request you to advise the Government of Kerala not to precipitate matters in the interest of both the States?

I look forward to your immediate response in this matter.”

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**Grave concern about the
Security Threat to
Mullai Periyar Dam**

D.O. letter dated 01.12.2011

“I have received your fax dated 1.12.2011. While I concur with your view that both our States have wide ranging mutuality of interests and co-operation on several fronts and these should be fostered notwithstanding legal disputes and technical issues pending in the Supreme Court of India, I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your notice unwarranted provocations from across the border and also our anxieties on the fear psychosis generated in Kerala.

May I draw your attention to the fact that the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, after considering the report of the Expert Committee of the Government of India, ordered raising of the level of storage in the Mullai Periyar Dam to 142 feet? The Government of Kerala in order to nullify the Supreme Court order has amended the Kerala Irrigation

and Water Conservation Act, 2003, in 2006, fixing the FRL level, the constitutional validity of which is before the Supreme Court of India. The Empowered Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of the former Chief Justice of India Thiru A.S.Anand, is looking into the safety of the dam.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had carried out a series of measures from 1980 to 1994 on the recommendations of the Chairman, Central Water Commission, to strengthen the dam and after all these measures have been carried out, the retrofitted Mullai Periyar Dam is as good as new. The Supreme Court of India had also factored this in while pronouncing its judgment in 2006, allowing Tamil Nadu initially to store water up to 142 feet.

Under the aegis of the Empowered Committee appointed by the Supreme Court, a series of studies/tests such as scanning the upstream face of the dam, testing the cable anchors, non-destructive tests have been conducted and some are in progress. Recently my Government has sanctioned Rs.1.38 crores for the core sample test alone.

Further, in your letter, you have indicated that there have been twenty two tremors in the last four months. As per the Indian Meteorological Department data, there have been only four mild tremors in the last four months,

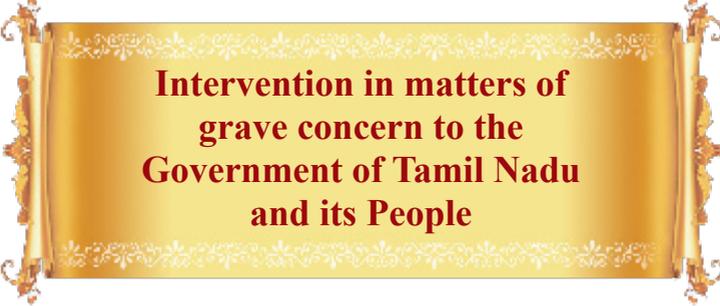
that too far away from the vicinity of the Mullai Periyar Dam site, which did not have any effect on the seepage in the dam. The seepage of the dam is well within the permissible limits as per the Indian Standards code. The possibility of tremors of even medium magnitude does not exist in the Mullai Periyar Dam site. The possibility of the Mullai Periyar Dam breaching due to flood waters and collapsing is not logical since all eventualities have been factored in during the strengthening of the dam.

While my Government and I would always seek to protect the safety and security of every Indian, we should also guard against unfounded fears overtaking reason and ground realities. Informed decision making at the Government level should be based on reason rather than on extraneous factors.

May I take this opportunity to request you to kindly ensure that the Government of Kerala abides by the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, which has taken into consideration all the safety aspects of the dam and allow the water level to be raised to 142 feet?

Please rest assured of my co-operation and goodwill.”

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**Intervention in matters of
grave concern to the
Government of Tamil Nadu
and its People**

D.O. letter dated 04.12.2011

“I would like to bring to your notice the grave concern of my Government about the security threat to the Mullai Periyar Dam.

There have been reports of mob vandalism organised by certain political parties of Kerala at the Dam site. A mob of 200 people damaged the gate at the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board facility at the dam yesterday (3.12.2011) and today (4.12.2011) certain lumpen elements marched towards the dam from Vallakadavu (Kerala) with a JCB and some implements, with the intention of letting out water and wanting to damage the Mullai Periyar Dam. As I have pointed out earlier, the orchestrated campaign of fear mongering carried on by the Kerala Government has led to this situation wherein the very security and safety of the Dam is being deliberately threatened.

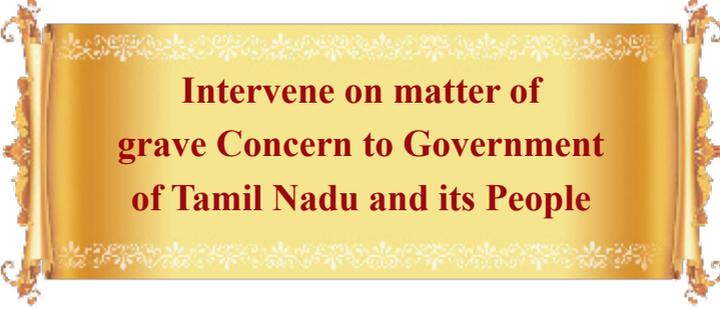
It would be pertinent to point out that dams much older than Mullai Periyar Dam are functional. In Tamil Nadu itself we have the Kallanai built by Karikaala Cholan in the 2nd century A.D., which is more than 1900 years old and is still functioning without any problem. The secret of the longevity of Kallanai is regular maintenance. People in the Delta area of Tamil Nadu are not living in any fear of the dam bursting or collapsing. Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Department maintains the Godavari anicut and Krishna barrage which dates between 1845 and 1855. May I also bring to your notice that the materials Major Pennycuick used to construct the Mullai Periyar Dam are the same that Karikaala Cholan used for the Kallanai 1900 years ago : stone and surki ?

The Advocate General, Kerala, has gone on record before the Division Bench of the Kerala High Court submitting that even in the case of any eventuality, the Idukki Reservoir, the Kulamavu and Cheruthoni Dams will take the waters. The State Government of Kerala on its own admission recognises that all safety measures are in place.

The current situation of fear and panic mongering by the Kerala Government is beyond comprehension, and requires mature and informed decisions and wise handling at the level of the Prime Minister.

In view of the violent activities reported at the Dam site, it is imperative that Central forces be deployed at the Dam immediately. I, therefore, request you to order the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Dam site to avert any man made catastrophic consequences immediately.”

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**Intervene on matter of
grave Concern to Government
of Tamil Nadu and its People**

D.O. letter dated 07.12.2011

“I seek your kind intervention on matters of great concern to the Government and the people of Tamil Nadu State.

1. Restoration of Kerosene to April - 2011 levels:

The allocation of kerosene in the Public Distribution System was drastically reduced from June, 2011 onwards. The earlier allocation of 52,806 KL per month was reduced to 44,580 KL per month from June, 2011. This was after the AIADMK Government under my leadership took charge in May, 2011.

Consequently, the people of Tamil Nadu have been put to great hardship. There has been no prior notice to the State Government and no discussions were held in

this regard. May I request you to kindly ensure that the Public Distribution System allotment of kerosene is completely reverted to levels that obtained in April, 2011? I also request a 5% enhancement from the April 2011 levels.

2. Restoration of Central Pool Power Allocation:

The supply from the Central Generating Stations to Tamil Nadu has come down by 700 MW since March 2011 and still continues even after the AIADMK Government took charge in May, 2011. I request you to kindly look into this issue and direct the Central Generating Stations to keep up their power supply commitment to Tamil Nadu. Further, my earlier request for additional allocation of 1000 MW from the Central Pool due to the unexpected delay in commissioning of the new power projects under the Central Sector to tide over the present acute power crisis in the State may be considered on priority basis.

3. Special Financial Assistance:

My Government has inherited a very fragile financial system, precariously poised on the brink of deterioration with very unsustainable deficits and enormous debts - the result of irresponsible and inept administration of

the State finances by the predecessor DMK Government. As you are aware, we have been taking the requisite steps with grit and resolve to emerge from this slide by adopting daring measures such as increase of VAT rates, State excise duty, bus fares, increase of milk prices, etc.

The process of development which is languishing has to be galvanized. The revenue buoyancy in the State is also in need of a renaissance. I request you to kindly sanction an additional financial assistance of Rs.25,000 crores for development projects for Tamil Nadu partly as grant and partly as loan. May I emphasize that judicious use of this package by my Government in various projects will accelerate national growth? The financial summary of Tamil Nadu is enclosed. With best wishes in anticipation of a favourable reply.”

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Allaying Fears on the Koodankulam taken

D.O. letter dated 17.12.2011

“I was amazed to see in the media that at a Joint Press Conference with the Russian President you had announced that the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Project will be “operationalised in a couple of weeks”.

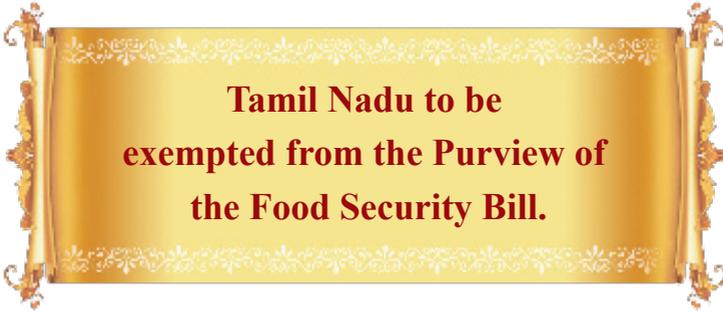
May I recapitulate that following our Cabinet Resolution that further works are to be halted until the fears of the local people are allayed and after the presentation of a Memorandum to you by a Delegation led by the Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India constituted an Expert Committee to interact with the

nominees of the local people to explain the position of the safety aspects?

The State Government is facilitating the interaction through local officials. The satisfaction of the people of the area is of paramount importance to my Government and the State of Tamil Nadu.

May I add that it is imperative that necessary measures to allay the fears of the people are undertaken before any precipitate action is embarked upon?”

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D.O. letter dated 20.12.2011

“The Union Government has sent the Draft National Food Security Bill, 2011, and has invited the views of the State on the same. Now, I have come to know that the proposed Bill has already been approved by the Cabinet and is likely to be introduced in Parliament shortly. I have gone through the provisions of the Bill which contemplates securing food security through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and nutritional support to vulnerable sections of the public like pregnant women, lactating mothers and children from 6 months to 14 years of age. The Bill also aims to address the issues of malnutrition, starvation or condition akin to starvation. Under the Targeted Public Distribution System, the Bill advocates the provision of food entitlement at 7 kg. per person per month and 3 kg.

per person per month to persons belonging to Priority House Holds (PHH) and General House Holds (GHH) respectively at different subsidized rates.

As you are aware, my Government has been successfully implementing the Universal Public Distribution System for the last several years. Through this Universal Public Distribution System, the Government has been able to address the issue of food security for all without exception. In addition, my Government has ordered the supply of rice free of cost to all under the Universal Public Distribution System. This has been well received by the public. Apart from rice, wheat and sugar, special PDS commodities like Toor dhall, Urid dhall, fortified Palmolein and fortified Atta are also supplied to the public at heavily subsidized prices.

Another unique feature of the Universal Public Distribution System in my State is that no private individuals are permitted to run fair price shops. Only the Co-operative Societies and the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, apart from a few Women Self Help Groups, are permitted to run the fair price shops which number 32,977. The annual food subsidy for the State is Rs.5000 crores. There is a strong administrative

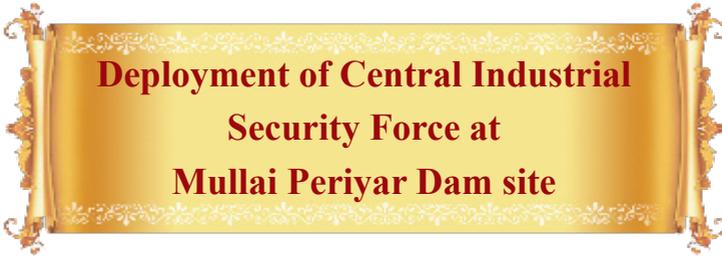
monitoring, vigilance and grievance redressal mechanism operating in the State in respect of PDS.

In contrast, the proposed Central Bill on food security is replete with confusion and inaccuracy. For instance, the proposed classification of target groups into PHH and GHH for the purpose of delivery of food entitlements will surely invite sharp criticism and furious opposition from everybody concerned. The very basis of such classification is unscientific and unacceptable. Similarly, no reason has been adduced for restricting the coverage under TPDS to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population under the proposed Central Bill.

Like the BPL norms proposed by the Union Planning Commission, the categorization of households and arbitrary restriction of coverage as contained in the Central Bill will lead to controversy and make a mockery of providing food security. The most significant point is that forced implementation of TPDS as contemplated under the Central Bill will entail an additional financial burden of about Rs.1800 crores per annum with no statutory commitment forthcoming from the Government of India.

In view of the foregoing reasons, I would like to register my strong opposition to the Draft National Food Security Bill, 2011. On the contrary, I request the Union Government to not only continue to supply food grains to Tamil Nadu at the existing price and along the same pattern but also to restore the monthly allotment of kerosene. In a federal structure like ours where the States are in close and direct contact with the people, the choice of designing and implementing popular welfare schemes is best left to the States. The Union Government should not attempt or be seen to attempt encroaching into the domains of the States. I therefore, request that Tamil Nadu may be exempted from the purview of the Food Security Bill and my views as expressed above may be taken on record while deciding the matter.”

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A decorative scroll with a gold background and ornate borders. The text is centered and written in a bold, red, serif font.

**Deployment of Central Industrial
Security Force at
Mullai Periyar Dam site**

D.O. letter dated 09.02.2012

“I invite your attention to Media reports about the Government of Kerala deciding unilaterally to install “real time monitoring system for water build up” in the Mullai Periyar reservoir. According to the Media reports, the Government of Kerala has entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, to install “real time monitoring system for water build up” in the Mullai Periyar Dam.

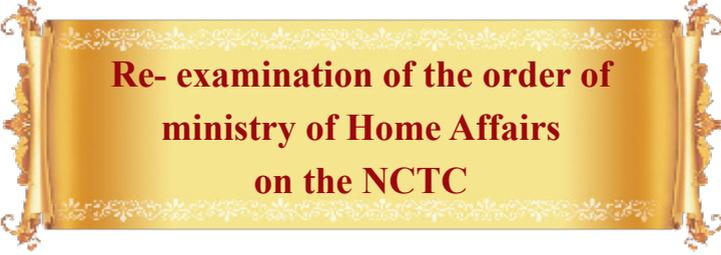
As I had pointed out in my earlier letters, the Government of Kerala is persistently engaged in fear mongering about the safety of the Mullai Periyar Dam even though the Supreme Court had held in 2006 that the dam is safe and water could be stored initially up to 142 ft. Currently, the Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court under the Chairmanship of Justice Dr. A.S. Anand is fully seized of the matter regarding the

safety of the Mullai Periyar Dam and is likely to submit its report to the Supreme Court shortly. The move by the Kerala Government to install real time monitoring devices is yet another attempt to exacerbate fears in Kerala about the safety of the Dam. It is also an attempt to present a “fait accompli” to the Supreme Court when the matter is sub judice.

The Mullai Periyar Dam and its appurtenant structures are owned and maintained by the Government of Tamil Nadu. This unilateral action of the Government of Kerala in ordering real time monitoring of the Mullai Periyar Dam in association with the Government of India, Ministry of Science & Technology, without the consent of Tamil Nadu is a blatant violation of the Principle of Federalism and the Constitutional framework. May I, therefore, request you to direct the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, to immediately desist from entering into any agreement with the Government of Kerala and to annul any agreement if already entered into ? I also request you to direct the Department of Science & Technology and the Government of Kerala not to proceed further in any activity against the established rights of Tamil Nadu, since Tamil Nadu is the incontrovertible sole owner of the Mullai Periyar Dam and all its appurtenant structures.

I had in my letter dated 4.12.2011 requested you to order the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force at the dam site. This unilateral action of the Government of Kerala interfering in the management of the Mullai Periyar Dam only strengthens the basis for my earlier request for the deployment of Central forces at the dam site. I, therefore, request you to order the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force at the dam site forthwith.”

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**Re- examination of the order of
ministry of Home Affairs
on the NCTC**

D.O. letter dated 17.02.2012

“You are well aware of my strong commitment to supporting all measures and efforts taken for strengthening the unity and integrity of India and for upholding its sovereignty. The security of India should not be compromised under any circumstances. With this as the prelude, I would like to draw your attention to a recent office memorandum of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Letter No.III-11011/67/05-15.IV, dated 3.2.2012, which speaks about the establishment of a National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) under the Intelligence Bureau from 1st March, 2012.

The office memorandum in this regard speaks about the following: (Para 3.1 & 3.2) The Director, NCTC, shall be specified as the Designated Authority under Section 2(e) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Act, 1967. The officers of the Operations Division of the NCTC shall have the power to arrest and the power to search under Section 43A of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

(Para 3.3) NCTC shall have the power to set up inter State Intelligence Support Teams (INSIST).

(Para 3.5) The NCTC shall, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Order, have the power to seek information, including documents, reports, transcripts, cyber information and information of every other kind in whatever form, from any agency furnishing or obliged to furnish such information. The agency furnishing or obliged to furnish the information may do so under such conditions of confidentiality as may be reasonable in the circumstances of the case.

The above provisions of the order smack of a tendency to abrogate power with no attendant responsibility. The power of arrest and seizure that was vested with the Joint Secretary in the Home Ministry, Government of India and the Secretary, Home Department, in the State Government is now sought to be transferred to officers of the LB. in the N.C.T.C. This is highly objectionable and can be misused to suit ends that are motivated by reasons other than fighting terrorism. Moreover, setting up of inter-state intelligence teams by the NCTC

is tantamount to usurping the legitimate rights of the States.

Tamil Nadu can pride itself on an excellent track record with regard to counter terrorist measures. You are well aware of the firm stand that my Government has always taken vis-a-vis terrorist organizations. From my experience, I can definitely say that, availability and transmission of advance intelligence, maining in a state of alertness and modernization of equipment coupled with advanced training are the key elements of any anti-terrorist establishment. Mere setting up of centres to collect and assimilate intelligence alone will not serve the purpose.

The NCTC that is proposed to be set up from 1st March, 2012, suffers from the deficiencies that I have highlighted. I share the concerns of other State Chief Ministers who have expressed reservations against the attitude of certain Ministries in the Government of India acting in a high handed manner without due consultation with the States. Matters of Public Order and Police are in the State list of the Constitution of India and is it unreasonable to expect that when a major initiative such as a National counter terrorism mechanism is sought to be established, the States should be taken into confidence?

May I therefore, request you to re-examine the provisions of the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the NCTC in the light of the observations made by me so that a counter terrorism mechanism that is purposeful and duly representative of the role of the States emerges?”

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**Government of Tamil Nadu to be
consulted before granting visits
to Sri Lankan Dignitaries**

D.O. letter dated 07.03.2012

“As you are fully aware, the people of Tamil Nadu are greatly exercised over the conduct of the Sri Lankan Government while dealing with Sri Lankan Tamils and their rights. The local perception is that the Sri Lankan Government has completely failed in ensuring the local Tamils’ right to live with dignity, self- respect and equal constitutional status on par with the Sinhalese.

Against this background, there have been instances in the recent past when Sri Lankan VIPs and other dignitaries come on private visits to Tamil Nadu without informing the State Government. During one such visit of Thirukumaran Nadesan, brother-in-law of the Sri Lankan President, to Rameswaram on 9.1.2012 and 10.1.2012, there was an attempt to attack him. As there was no information to this Government either from the Sri Lankan Government or from the Government of India, no precautionary security measures could be taken.

My attention was also drawn to the letter from the Deputy High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Southern India addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu and the letter from the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. The tone and tenor of the letter is unwarranted, unacceptable and totally unjustified.

The difficulties faced by this Government owing to the frequent visits of Sri Lankan Officials/Army Officers and VIPs without informing the State Government were already brought to the notice of the Ministries of External and Home Affairs by this Government's letters dated 16.9.2011 and 24.2.2012.

Hence, in view of the prevailing situation, it would be appropriate that the Government of Tamil Nadu is given prior intimation about the visits of Sri Lankan dignitaries and it would also be appreciated if the Government of India discourages such frequent visits to Tamil Nadu and allows such visits only after consulting the Government of Tamil Nadu in future.”

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Easing congestion in the Power Transmission corridor

D.O. letter dated 09.03.2012

“You are aware that Tamil Nadu is reeling under an acute power crisis.

Major Power projects to be executed by Central Public Sector Undertakings, namely, M/s BHEL, M/s NLC & M/s NTPC are inordinately delayed. To offset part of the deficit, Tamil Nadu is trying to procure power from various other States. Tamil Nadu has been fairly successful in finalizing contracts for a sizable quantum of power. However, the non-availability of a Transmission Corridor has deprived Tamil Nadu of receiving the contracted power.

To cite some examples, Tamil Nadu has contracted a capacity of 500 MW from Gujarat. Of this, only 203 MW could be transmitted to this State. The 727 MW of Night Power contracted from Dadri Power Station (Uttar

Pradesh) of M/s NTPC was also curtailed. Tamil Nadu has contracted to an extent of 1750 MW of power from outside Tamil Nadu for the month of March, 2012. However, the corridor availability has been released to the extent of 350 MW only by the Central Load Despatching authorities. This has caused indescribable anguish in Tamil Nadu.

The power deficit situation in Tamil Nadu has been aggravated by the prevailing corridor congestion. The problem of corridor congestion has also been represented to the Central authorities several times.

I request you to kindly intervene in the matter and ensure that the required quantum of 1000 MW of power transmission lines is released to enable Tamil Nadu to receive power contracted by the TNEB.

I had, in my Memorandum presented to you on 14.6.2011 in person, requested 1000 MW of additional power for the State for a period of one year only till the central power utilities which supply power to Tamil Nadu commence their production. Of this, only 100 MW was recently allotted. This inaction and non-responsiveness to our repeated requests during this unprecedented power crisis only shows callousness and indifference on the part of the Centre.

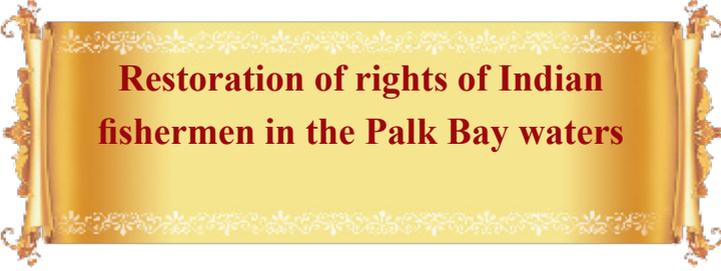
The amazing alacrity shown in superimposing fetters on the rights of the States may also be bestowed on concern for the essential needs of the States and attention to fulfilling them.

May I, therefore, once again request you to kindly intervene and ensure that the congestion in the corridor is eased to enable Tamil Nadu to avail of contract power?

I also request you to use your good offices for allotting 1000 MW to Tamil Nadu as earlier requested by me.

Rest assured Sir, of my continued goodwill and co-operation.”

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Restoration of rights of Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay waters

D.O. letter dated 17.03.2012

“I would like to bring to your kind attention, yet another incident of harassment of Tamil Nadu (Rameswaram) fishermen by Sri Lankan fishermen that occurred on 14.3.2012. Four fishermen of Rameswaram ventured into the sea for fishing in a mechanized fishing boat bearing registration No.TN/10/MFB/604 from Rameswaram fishing base on 14.3.2012 in their traditional fishing areas of the Palk Bay waters. Some Sri Lankan miscreants hurled petrol bombs on their boat. As a result, the boat of the Tamil Nadu fishermen sank in the sea. The four fishermen were rescued by another boat bearing registration No.TN/10/MFB/641, fishing in the nearby vicinity, and brought to shore on 15.3.2012 morning.

In this context, I wish to inform you that the incidents of harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen continue unabated

despite the assurances given by the Government of Sri Lanka, that Tamil Nadu fishermen will not be harassed. Many a time, Tamil Nadu fishermen who are harassed by Sri Lankan Navy/miscreants, do not even come forward to lodge a complaint, fearing a backlash from the Sri Lankan Navy.

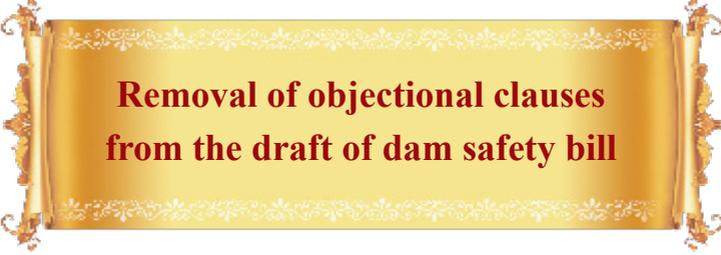
The continued occurrence of the incidents of harassment also proves that the Government of Sri Lanka has not taken serious measures to curb the incidents of violence against Tamil Nadu fishermen. Sri Lankan miscreants watching the Indian (Tamil Nadu) fishermen being blatantly harassed by the Sri Lankan Naval personnel, get emboldened to attack Tamil Nadu fishermen as was done on 14.3.2012. These recurring attacks confirm my earlier statement that the Sri Lankan Government is adopting double standards with regard to fishermen's issues.

I am also deeply pained to point out that the issue of attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen is not being treated as a National issue. No serious action is initiated whenever such attacks occur. It would not be out of context to further mention that in the recent 4th Joint Working Group Meeting held at Colombo, on 13-14th January 2012, it was reiterated that the highest priority is being accorded

to the well being, safety and security of fishermen by both the countries, and it was agreed that use of force could not be justified under any circumstances. The assurances given remain only on paper and are not being honoured by the Sri Lankan Government. The recent incident of attack proves that all the discussions aimed at ensuring the safety of our fishermen while fishing is an exercise in futility.

I wish to reiterate that the consistent policy of my Government is to restore the fishing rights of the Indian fishermen in their traditional fishing areas in the Palk Bay waters where they have been traditionally fishing from time immemorial. I, therefore, request you to kindly take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government and its President urgently, and ensure that no such brutal incidents occur in mid-sea again.”

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**Removal of objectional clauses
from the draft of dam safety bill**

D.O. letter dated 17.03.2012

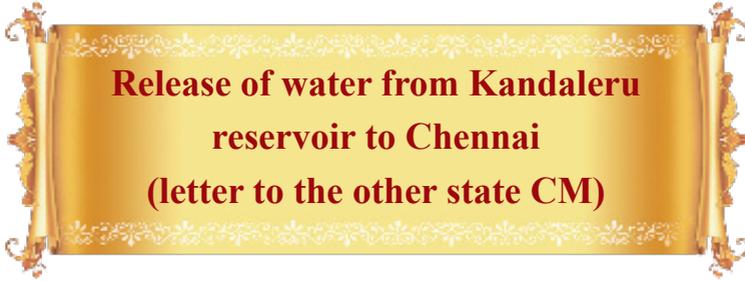
“I am writing this letter in continuation of my letter dated 29.7.2011 regarding the legislation on Dam Safety.

I had mentioned in unequivocal terms, the objection of my Government to sub-clauses 26(1), (2), (3) and (4) and clause 13 of the draft Dam Safety Bill, 2010, which would be detrimental to the interests of Tamil Nadu. I am told that the Standing Committee on Water Resources and the Ministry of Water Resources have not considered the objection of my Government to sub-clauses 26(1), (2), (3) and (4) and clause 13 of the draft Dam Safety Bill, 2010. My Government’s apprehensions are genuine and if they are not addressed, it would be tantamount to taking away the control over the maintenance of the dam from the State which owns the dam, consequently affecting hundreds of farmers and agricultural production.

In the circumstances, I once again request you to kindly order the Ministry of Water Resources to delete the objectionable clauses pointed out by the Government of Tamil Nadu from the draft bill, so that the interests of Tamil Nadu are fully protected.

I shall be thankful for your immediate response in this matter.”

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**Release of water from Kandaleru
reservoir to Chennai
(letter to the other state CM)**

D.O. letter dated 24.03.2012

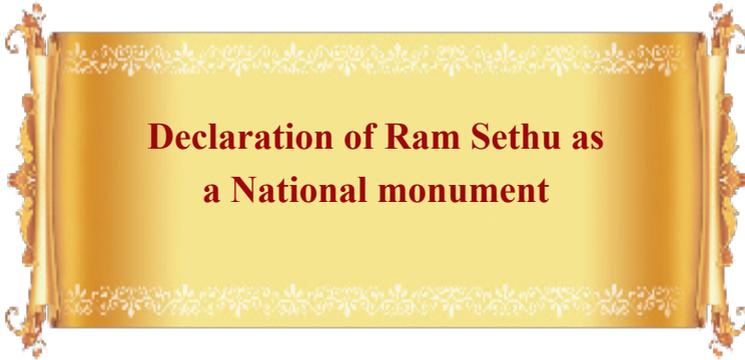
“ I would like to thank you for the release of Krishna water from Kandaleru from 23.6.2011 pursuant to my letter dated 4.6.2011. As you are aware, a quantity of 4 TMC ft. of water is due from January to April for the augmentation of drinking water supply to Chennai City, as per the Krishna Water Agreement.

As the water storage in Kandaleru Reservoir is 37 TMC ft. as on 24.3.2012, it would not be difficult for Andhra Pradesh to release water from the Kandaleru Reservoir for the drinking water requirements of Chennai City.

May I, therefore, request you to order immediate

release of water from the Kandaleru Reservoir to Chennai to meet the drinking water requirements of Chennai City in the ensuing months?”

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D.O. letter dated 28.03.2012

“You are aware that writ petitions have been filed in the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India regarding the Sethu Samudram Channel Project. Based on the strong opposition to the earlier Alignment 6 cutting across the ancient structure popularly known as Ram Sethu due to its immeasurable historical, archaeological and heritage value, a number of Writ Petitions were filed in the Madras High Court and in the Supreme Court of India.

A writ petition (C) No.15 of 2007 was filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India by me in the year 2007 praying for (a) a direction in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus directing the third and fourth respondents, namely, the Tuticorin Port Trust and Union of India, Ministry of Culture, to declare Adam’s Bridge/Ram Sethu as a National Monument and take over, preserve

and maintain the same and (b) forbear the first and second respondents, namely, the Union of India, Ministry of Shipping/Surface Transport and Sethu Samudram Corporation Limited from in any manner destroying/damaging the said Adam's Bridge/Ram Sethu in the process of execution of the Sethu Samudram Project and to pass further orders as deemed fit by the Supreme Court of India.

I wish to point out that, in the meantime, an Expert Committee under Dr.R.K.Pachauri was appointed by the Government of India in 2008 based on directions from the Supreme Court of India and the summary of the report of this Committee has been forwarded to the State Government for its remarks. I have had the report of the Expert Committee examined by the concerned Departments of my Government and a letter is being sent separately to the Ministry of Shipping communicating the views of the State Government.

It may have been brought to your notice that the case came up for hearing before the Supreme Court of India on 27.03.2012 and the Hon'ble Judges have directed the Additional Solicitor General to obtain the remarks of the Government of India before 29.03.2012 on the declaration of the site as a National Monument.

In view of the strong objection raised to the earlier alignment due to its archaeological, historical and cultural importance, I request you to take necessary action to communicate the views of the Government of India to the Supreme Court that it would take immediate steps for declaring the site as a National Monument without any further delay. The State Government would separately be filing a counter to express its stand in this regard.”

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**Request to allot entire Power
generated from Koodankulam
to Tamil Nadu**

D.O. letter dated 31.03.2012

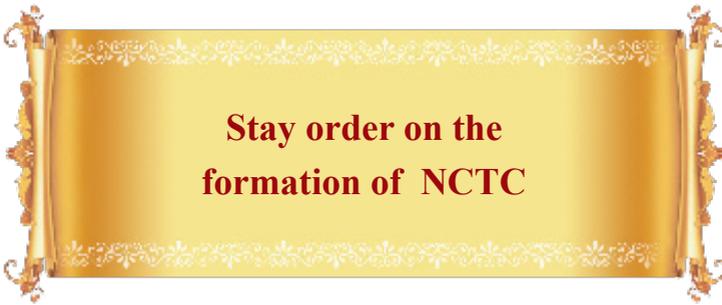
“As you are aware, the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant comprises two Units of 1000 MW each. The total generation capacity of the two Units is 2000 MW out of which Tamil Nadu has been allocated a share of 925 MW only. In this context, I would like to recall that I had already made a request for allocation of 1000 MW from the Central Pool last year against which a mere 100 MW was made available to Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is facing a severe power shortage and it would therefore be proper and justifiable that the entire power to be generated from the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant is made available to Tamil Nadu. This is also inevitable as the transmission corridor congestion problem still continues and has also been brought to your notice.

I hope that this request will be positively considered by you. May I also reiterate that we require and deserve this power?

Rest assured Sir, of my continued co-operation.”

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D.O. letter dated 02.04.2012

Please recall- my earlier letter conveying my strong objections to certain provisions of the Office memorandum issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the proposed formation and functioning of the National Counter Terrorism Centre and the manner in which the NCTC was sought to be constituted without consulting the State Governments. Many other Chief Ministers have also conveyed similar views in their communications to you.

Consequently, a meeting was convened by the Union Home Secretary with the Chief Secretaries / Home Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of all the States on the 12th March, 2012. In spite of our reservations on the subject, I requested my officers

to attend the meeting. At that meeting, several States registered their strong objections and even Congress ruled States clearly stated that the NCTC in its present proposed form cannot be carried forward. I am also informed that, in response to a query at the meeting by one of the States, the Union Home Secretary clarified that the NCTC Office Memorandum had not been withdrawn and that, therefore, this is deemed to have come into effect from 1st March, 2012.

It is surprising that, against this background, a meeting of Chief Ministers has been convened on the 16th of April 2012, to discuss various matters relating to Internal Security. Among those issues listed for discussion, the subject of NCTC also figures as one of the items. It is indeed unfortunate that, without taking into consideration the views and sentiments of various State Chief Ministers, the constitution of the NCTC is sought to be steamrolled into existence.

At this juncture, I request that the formation of the NCTC may first be ordered to be held in abeyance and a separate meeting of Chief Ministers may be convened only to discuss this matter.

The views of various Chief Ministers will have to be given due consideration and a purposeful discussion

on counter terrorism should be made possible. I request an early reply in this matter.”

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**Vehement objection to National
Commission for Human Resources
for Health Bill 2011**

D.O. letter dated 10.06.2012

“I would like to place on record my vehement objection to the National Commission for Human Resources for Health (NCHRH) Bill, 2011, which has now been referred to the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare by the Rajya Sabha.

The new Bill effectively puts the leadership and decision making process with regard to medical, dental and paramedical education in the hands of about twenty five persons, all of whom are nominees of the Central Government. This undermines the powers of the State Governments, which are left with no role to play in policy issues related to health manpower planning, curriculum and course design as well as approval of new institutions offering courses in medicine and allied

disciplines. Need based planning for medical, dental and paramedical manpower should follow regional and local demands. This would best be achieved only by giving adequate representation to the States in policy making bodies.

I firmly contend that the status quo may be maintained with regard to the functioning of the existing National and State Councils. These may be strengthened and improved with increased participation of the State Governments at the level of the National Council.

I, therefore, strongly reiterate my opposition to the NCHRH Bill which usurps the powers of the States in the critical area of health human resources by creating new structures which hit at the very root of federalism.”

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Compensate State for revenue losses due to the CST Reduction

D.O. letter dated 14.04.2012

“I wish to draw your attention to certain outstanding issues regarding compensating States for the loss in revenue on account of reduction of the rate of Central Sales Tax (CST) for 2010-2011 and the subsequent years. The Chairman, Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, has already conveyed the objections of the State Governments, including Tamil Nadu. But it is unfortunate that the Government of India is still sticking to its unreasonable stance.

Though the Government of India had agreed to compensate the States for the revenue loss for the year 2010-2011 also, the eligible compensation for 2010-2011 was arbitrarily restricted by deducting the additional revenue realised through the revision of Value Added Tax

(VAT) rate from 4% to 5%. I would like to point out that the action of the Government of India in linking CST compensation with the additional revenue on account of VAT rate revision is unilateral, arbitrary and untenable. There is no link between CST rate reduction and VAT rate enhancement. It was never a part of the guidelines for CST compensation.

Secondly, the decision to stop CST compensation from 2011-2012 is equally objectionable. The CST rate was reduced only as a precursor to the introduction of Goods and Service Tax (GST). Since it is the Government of India's responsibility to introduce GST by evolving a consensus and by putting in place appropriate mechanisms, the States cannot be expected to bear the loss on account of its failure to introduce GST. The Government of India has a moral responsibility to compensate the States till GST is introduced. Moreover, States like Tamil Nadu are suffering huge revenue loss on account of the CST rate reduction. In fact, our State could have realised an additional revenue of Rs.2000 crore between 2007-08 and 2010-11, even after taking into account the Government of India's compensation. This tax loss pushed back the

revenue base to a lower level and the State continues to suffer incremental revenue loss which is in the range of Rs.1500 crore to Rs.2000 crore per annum in the next three years.

I must also point out that such unilateral and unreasonable actions by the Government of India do not augur well for fostering a spirit of co-operative federalism especially at a time when the Government of India is trying to build a consensus among the States for GST.

Therefore, I request that the following issues need to be sorted out expeditiously through your personal intervention:

i) Non implementation of GST from 1-4-2010 should not be taken as a ground to stop the CST compensation and the Government of India has to provide compensation till GST is introduced as the revenue loss suffered by the States is substantial and permanent.

ii) Revision of VAT rate from 4% to 5% should not be linked to the CST compensation for 2010-2011 as it was not part of the original compensation package and the VAT revision had nothing to do with the CST.

iii) If further delay is expected in implementing GST, then the CST rate must be restored immediately to the original 4%.

I am confident that you will give due consideration to these issues and have them sorted out at the earliest.”

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Request to postpone restricting power grid frequency band width

D.O. letter dated 15.04.2012

“You are well aware that the Country as a whole is facing severe power shortage. The Government of India is finding it difficult to achieve even 50% of the planned capacity addition target. Under the circumstances, the directive of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission for tightening the Grid frequency is likely to play havoc with the power utilities, especially in Tamil Nadu which is already facing severe transmission congestion problems.

The operating Grid frequency bandwidth of 49.5 Hz to 50.2 Hz is proposed to be further restricted to 49.7 Hz to 50.2 Hz in the name of ensuring

Grid stability. The Unscheduled Interchange (UI) charges at the minimum frequency of operation proposed are also raised from Rs.8.73 per unit to Rs.9 per unit. The cost of power drawn at frequency below the set level would further increase the cost of power to the utility.

The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation - TANGEDCO, (erstwhile TNEB) which is already in a debt trap would be subjected to severe financial stress on account of this move to an extent of over Rs.350 crores per year. As the Grid stability has not been adversely affected in the recent past with the existing frequency bandwidth and considering the prevailing power shortage situation, such a drastic move is totally unwarranted at this stage. Further, this may result in increasing the duration of enforced load shedding in Tamil Nadu causing irreparable loss to consumers, particularly in rural areas, which may adversely affect agricultural production and the economic growth of the State.

This issue was taken up by my Minister for Electricity with the Union Minister for Power by his D.O. letter dated 23.1.2012, but it was of no avail. Considering the damage that would be caused to the power utilities, the TANGEDCO has been forced to take this issue to the High Court of Madras to obtain an interim relief.

However, in order to effect a durable solution to the problem, I request you to advise the authorities to postpone the proposal for further tightening of frequency bandwidth to a future period when the demand-supply situation and inter-state connectivity in the Country improves.”

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Appointment of new Chairman

D.O. letter dated 19.04.2012

“I understand that the Chairman of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal Shri Justice N.P. Singh has tendered his resignation on health grounds.

As you are aware, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has given its Final Order on 5.2.2007 allocating the Cauvery Water among the States. However, the Final Order is yet to be notified. Meanwhile, the petitions under section 5(3) of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, seeking explanation or guidance by the party States and the Government of India are pending before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal since 2007.

The Government of Tamil Nadu on 16.3.2012 filed a Civil Miscellaneous Petition before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal to take up the pending applications filed by the party States and the Central Government under section 5(3) of the said Act and dispose of the same at the

earliest. The Tribunal on 23.3.2012 had also issued notice about listing of this Civil Miscellaneous Petition before the Tribunal on 17.4.2012. However, this Civil Miscellaneous Petition was not take up due to the resignation of Shri Justice N.P. Singh.

At this crucial juncture, the resignation of Shri Justice N.P. Singh as Chairman of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has caused deep concern and anxiety in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu.

The Tribunal cannot function without the Chairman as required under section 4(2) of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, with its two members. As per section 5A of the said Act, the proceedings of the Tribunal can only be continued if a person is nominated as the Chairman of the Tribunal.

In the circumstances, I seek your personal intervention to appoint a new Chairman for the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal immediately.”

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A decorative scroll with a gold and brown color scheme, featuring ornate scrollwork on the sides and top. The text is centered on the scroll in a bold, dark red font.

**Discussion of amendment to
the BSF Act in
Chief Minister's Meeting**

D.O. letter dated 19.04.2012

“The Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security that was held on 16th April, 2012, ended on a note of optimism for the State Governments with the promise of the Ministry of Home Affairs agreeing to step back in areas concerning Public Order and the Police. I am sure that the meaningful discussions will be faithfully recorded and action taken in a manner consistent with the sentiments expressed by the Chief Ministers.

In the context of the Conference, I wish to highlight an issue concerning the amendments to the BSF Act, 1968. This item was contained in the Supplementary Agenda notes that reached us only on the day of the Conference.

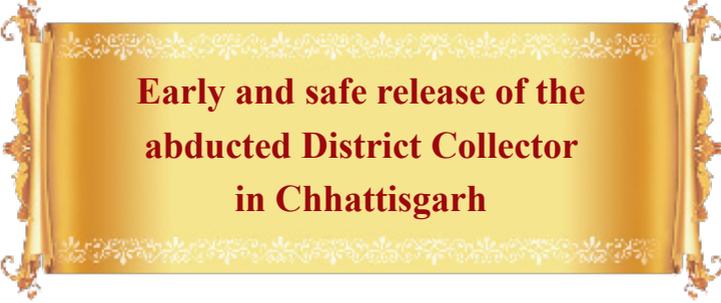
Hence my views expressed at the Conference did not carry my State's response to this matter.

I wish to categorically register my disapproval of the manner in which the subject was sought to be introduced as a supplementary agenda item. The members of the Rajya Sabha had, as early as on the 29th March, 2012, requested that the subject be discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers. With more than two weeks at their disposal, I am surprised that the Ministry of Home Affairs had proposed this as a supplementary agenda item. The provisions of the proposed amendments to the BSF Act smack of a desire to smuggle in a mechanism inspired by the same goals as those behind the setting up of an operations division in the NCTC, through the back door.

It was heartening to note that, based on my request, you directed the Union Home Minister to convene a separated meeting of Chief Ministers to discuss matters concerning the NCTC on 5th May, 2012. Since the amendments proposed to the BSF Act seem to have a

similar motive, it would be appropriate if these are also discussed at the same Conference. I also request that no further action on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha may be taken, till the views of the Chief Ministers are heard and the way forward, finalized. I look forward to an early reply in the matter.

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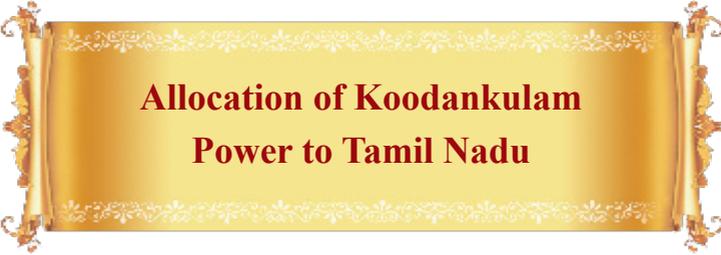
**Early and safe release of the
abducted District Collector
in Chhattisgarh**

D.O. letter dated 23.04.2012

“As you are already aware, Thiru Alex Paul Menon, IAS., the Collector of Sukma District in Chhattisgarh State was abducted by Maoists on 21st April, 2012, while he was on an official inspection and review tour in a remote village bordering the State of Odisha. The abducted officer is from Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu and as such his family members are very worried over the safety of the officer. It is very unfortunate that the officer was abducted while he was discharging his official duties as the District Collector. I am sure the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs would have already taken steps to ensure the safe release of the abducted officer at the earliest. I would like to stress the fact that the local people including the family members of the abducted officer are greatly exercised over the incident, especially since the Officer is not keeping well,

and they are fervently looking forward to the good news of the early release of the abducted officer. I, therefore, strongly urge that immediate steps be taken by the Government of India towards securing the early and safe release of the abducted officer and thereby bring relief to his family members.”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Allocation of Koodankulam Power to Tamil Nadu

D.O. letter dated 25.04.2012

“While drawing your attention to my letter dated 31st March, 2012, I would like to state that details with regard to action on the allocation of the entire power to be generated from the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant to Tamil Nadu are yet to be known. Now I understand that nuclear fuel loading is going to take place in the next few days in the first Unit of the Plant of 1000 MW capacity.

It is expected that criticality will be reached in the following 20 days or so, leading to power generation from the first Unit of the Plant.

It is against this background that I take this opportunity to remind you of my earlier request. I am sure that you will do the needful by accepting the absolutely justified demand of our State.

I look forward to an early positive response from you.”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Revision of interest on RIDF loans

D.O. letter dated 26.04.2012

“The State Governments have been using the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as a cost-effective financing option for taking up various essential infrastructure activities in rural areas. Tamil Nadu is one of the front-running States both in terms of sanction of projects as well as drawal of funds from RIDF. At present, Tamil Nadu has a bank sanction of Rs.2184 crores for which funds will be drawn in 2012-2013 and subsequent years. We had proposed such massive investment using RIDF loan only on the assumption that the lending rates would remain reasonable.

Now, I understand that the Reserve Bank of India has revised the interest rate for RIDF loan to 8% per annum. Such a high rate will make RIDF loans unviable and the States will be forced to cut down on investment in rural infrastructure which is vital for inclusive development. What is more shocking is that the higher interest rate of 8% is made applicable to the drawals after 1.4.2012 even for those projects which have already been sanctioned in the previous financial years. You will agree with me that once a project is sanctioned, it is not fair to alter the conditions during the project period. This unilateral action by the Reserve Bank of India has totally taken us by surprise and has upset the financial projections. As a result, Tamil Nadu will have an additional interest burden of Rs.229 crores on the projects already sanctioned and under implementation.

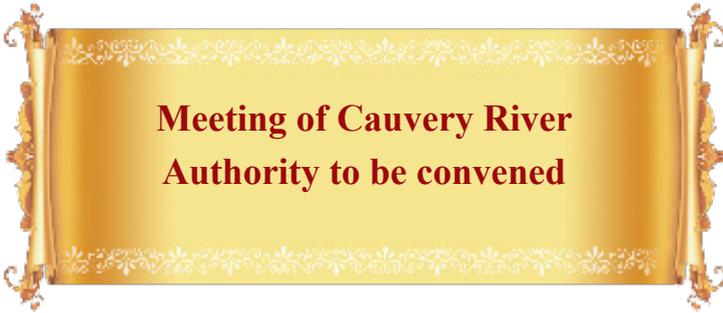
Therefore, I request your personal intervention for the following:

(i) The interest rate on RIDF loan should be restored to its original rate of 6.5%.

(ii) If at all the interest rate has to be enhanced, it should be kept around 7% and made applicable only to the loans for those projects which will be sanctioned from 2012-2013 onwards.

I am confident that an amicable solution will be found for this issue at your behest at the earliest in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.”

★★★★★★



**Meeting of Cauvery River
Authority to be convened**

D.O. letter dated 18.05.2012

“The Cauvery River Authority last met on 10.2.2003 and its meeting is long overdue.

In my D.O. letter dated 17.10.2011, I had requested you to issue instructions to the Ministry of Water Resources to notify the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 in the Gazette of India and to place in position the Cauvery Management Board for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. However, the Minister of Water Resources informed me that it would be appropriate to consider notification of the Order dated 5.2.2007 of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal once the matter is disposed of by the Supreme Court.

I would like to bring to your notice that the Government of Karnataka is not ensuring the flows in

the Cauvery as per the monthly pattern prescribed in the Interim Order in force or as per the Final Order dated 5.2.2007 of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in the crucial months of June to September.

Further, the Government of Karnataka has been unjustly utilising the water for summer irrigation from February to May by depleting the storage in its 4 major reservoirs. The combined gross storage in the 4 major reservoirs of Karnataka as on 1st February, 2012, was 58.50 TMC ft. The combined gross storage in the 4 major reservoirs as on 14.5.2012 is 28.176 TMC ft. The Government of Karnataka has depleted a storage of about 30.33 TMC ft. from 1.2.2012 to 14.5.2012, besides utilizing the flows of about 11 TMC ft. Thus, the total utilization from 1.2.2012 to 14.5.2012 is about 41 TMC ft. Due to depletion of storage during summer months, the Government of Karnataka impounds all the initial monsoon flows in its reservoirs and releases water only when they start surplusing, thus affecting the inflows into the Mettur Dam, which consequently affects the Kuruvai crop very badly and also delays the cultivation of the Samba crop.

As you are aware, the finalization of the Distress Sharing Formula evolved by the Central Water Commission

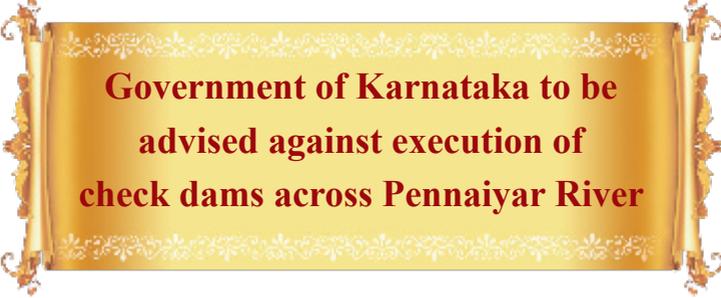
is eluding a solution which has ultimately deprived Tamil Nadu of adequate water which should have been released by Karnataka either as per the Interim Order of the Tribunal or by the formula evolved. The Cauvery Monitoring Committee in its 24th meeting had decided to refer the formula to the Cauvery River Authority for consideration when noticeable distress condition occurs in future. Such a distress situation may arise at any time.

There is another issue which requires immediate consideration by the Cauvery River Authority. The Interim Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal which is in force specifies that the Government of Karnataka shall not increase its area under irrigation beyond 11.20 lakh acres. The Government of Karnataka is not furnishing yearwise details of the area under irrigation.

In the circumstances, I request you to kindly convene the meeting of the Cauvery River Authority forthwith to decide the issues.

I look forward to your immediate positive response in this matter.“

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**Government of Karnataka to be
advised against execution of
check dams across Pennaiyar River**

D.O. letter dated 19.05.2012

“I wish to bring to your urgent notice an important issue relating to the proposals of the Government of Karnataka to build check dams and diversion structures across the Pennaiyar River which originates in Karnataka but flows through Tamil Nadu.

The Pennaiyar River flows through the Districts of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu and is the lifeline of the people living in these Districts. The river irrigates an ayacut of nearly 4 lakh acres.

I understand that the Government of Karnataka has proposed to construct check dams and diversion structures across the Pennaiyar River which is causing great alarm and apprehension in Tamil Nadu. Any attempt to withhold the flows by constructing check dams and diversion structures across the Pennaiyar River will be a serious breach of the existing Inter- State Agreement on this issue. This will also be a body blow to the farmers of Tamil Nadu besides affecting the basic drinking water supply position.

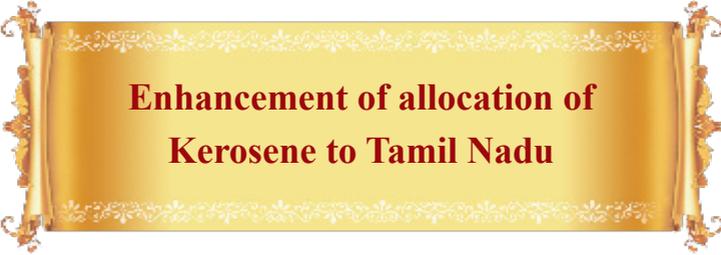
As you are aware, the Pennaiyar is an Inter-State River and is also one of the Rivers mentioned in Schedule 'A' annexed to the Madras-Mysore Agreement of 1892. As per clause-II of this Agreement, the upstream State should not, without the previous consent of the downstream Tamil Nadu State, build any new anicut or any structure to obstruct, divert or store the waters of the river across any part of the river. The Government of Karnataka has neither sought the consent of the Government of

Tamil Nadu nor have they furnished any information to the Government of Tamil Nadu, despite the Government of Tamil Nadu taking up the matter with the Government of Karnataka to furnish the details of the schemes and also urging them not to commence any work without the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, request you to kindly intervene in this matter urgently and advise the Government of Karnataka to stop forthwith the execution of any check dams or diversion structures etc., across the Pennaiyar River.

I shall be thankful for an immediate response in this regard.”

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Enhancement of allocation of Kerosene to Tamil Nadu

D.O. letter dated 25.05.2012

“You may recall that in my D.O. letter dated 1.6.2011, I had requested enhancement of the allocation of kerosene to Tamil Nadu from 44,580 KL allocated for June, 2011, to 65,140 KL per month which is the actual requirement. This was followed by another request on the same lines as contained in the Memorandum submitted by me personally to you on 14.06.2011. I had also brought to your notice the unfair treatment meted out to my Government in this matter by specifically pointing out that the Central allotment of 52,806 KL for the months of April and May, 2011, was reduced to 44,580 KL without any reason. Now, the allocation has been further whittled down to 39,429 KL for the quarter April-June, 2012 again without any reason or logic. While I have been all along pointing out to you that the poor people in the rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu depend on kerosene supplied through the Public Distribution System (PDS), this callous approach on the

part of the Government of India in consistently reducing the allocation is tantamount to penalizing the poor people of Tamil Nadu simply because they voted for the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government which is in power at present.

I can only term this as totally arbitrary. The deliberate reduction in the allocation of kerosene by the Government of India to Tamil Nadu even to the extent of 50% of the actual requirement is absolutely unreasonable, unacceptable, unfair and unjust. Hence, I request you to kindly reconsider the whole matter and ensure justice by enhancing the allocation of kerosene to 65,140 KL per month or at least to 52,806 KL which was allotted for April-May, 2011.”

★★★★★★



**Government of Kerala to be advised
against preventing Tamil Nadu officials
at the site of Mullai Periyar Dam**

D.O. letter dated 27.05.2012

“As you are aware, the Supreme Court of India appointed an Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Dr. A.S. Anand to study the safety aspects of the Mullai Periyar Dam.

The Empowered Committee had ordered a series of tests to assess the structural stability of the Dam including the core stability test for which vertical holes had to be drilled and the core extracted. Accordingly, the tests were completed. Now, the holes have to be closed, in view of the approaching monsoon.

The Government of Kerala has been preventing the officials of Tamil Nadu from closing these drilled holes, in spite of the clear directions given by the Empowered Committee to close the holes. The Government of Tamil

Nadu has also taken up the matter with the Government of Kerala but to no avail.

It is necessary to fill the vertical holes before the onset of the monsoon so as to prevent any damage to the Mullai Periyar Dam. The attempt of the Government of Kerala to prevent us from filling the drilled holes appears to be a ploy intended to ensure that the structural stability of the Dam is weakened, especially in the light of the report of the Empowered Committee which has concluded that the Dam is structurally, seismically and hydrologically safe and the water level could be raised to 142 ft.

The Kerala Police have been stationed at the Dam site only for the purpose of guarding the Dam. The Government of Kerala had given an undertaking to the Supreme Court that it would provide necessary protection to the Dam. However, in practice, the Government of Kerala has been using its Police to stop Tamil Nadu Engineers from carrying out even routine maintenance works on the Dam and its appurtenant structures. This attitude of the Government of Kerala is reprehensible and needs to be set right.

You may recall that in my earlier letters and in the Memorandum I had presented to you on 25.12.2011, I

had requested you to order the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force to safeguard the Dam. This request is yet to be acceded to.

I, therefore, request you to advise the Government of Kerala not to prevent the officials of Tamil Nadu from carrying out the essential work of closing the drilled holes on the Mullai Periyar Dam.

Further, if the Government of Kerala persists with this recalcitrant attitude and if the Government of India does not respond to my request for the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force, the Government of Tamil Nadu will have no option but to deploy its own Police Force to guard the Mullai Periyar Dam in the area leased out to Tamil Nadu.

I look forward to your immediate action in this matter.”

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Increase in allotment of Kerosene to Tamil Nadu

D.O. letter dated 10.06.2012

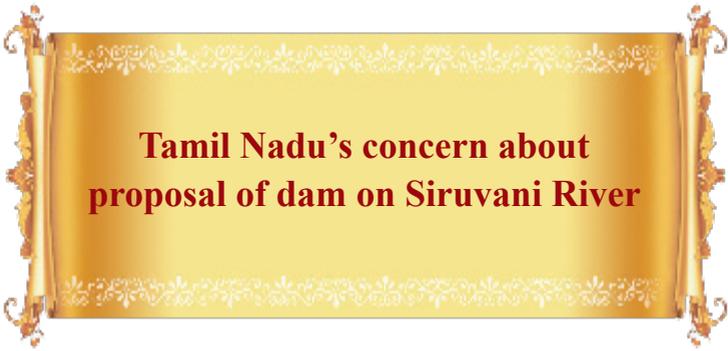
“You may recall my D.O. letter dated 25.5.2012, in which I have reiterated my request for the enhancement of allocation of kerosene to Tamil Nadu from 44,580 KL to 65,140 KL per month, which is the actual requirement of the State. Further, in that letter, I have cited my earlier D.O. letter dated 1.6.2011 addressed to you and also the Memorandum submitted by me personally to you on 14.6.2011, in which the above request for enhancement of kerosene allotment to Tamil Nadu had been insisted upon. The sudden drastic reduction of the allotment of kerosene to the State from 52,806 KL for the months of April and May, 2011, to 44,580 KL in June, 2011, caused great hardship. After the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government came to power in this State, the allotment was further reduced to 39,429 KL for the quarter April 2012-June 2012, without any reason or logic. I had

requested you to enhance the allotment to at least 52,806 KL per month to tide over the acute shortage of kerosene faced by the people of Tamil Nadu.

Now the Government of India has given a monthly allotment of 42,460 KL with an increase of just 3,031 KL per month. The increase in allotment now effected is negligible when compared to the drastic reduction effected by the Government of India from 52,806 KL in May, 2011, to 44,580 KL in June, 2011, which was further reduced to 39,429 KL from April, 2012. Thus, my Government has been subjected to great hardship with an unreasonable, cumulative reduction of the order of 13,377 KL (52,806 KL – 39,429 KL) per month.

As Tamil Nadu's Public Distribution System kerosene requirement is 65,140 KL per month, I once again request you to allot at least 52,806 KL per month which was the allotment at the time when my Government assumed power in the State. I hope you will also co-operate with me in mitigating the sufferings of the rural poor and the vulnerable population segment in the State.”

★★★★★★



**Tamil Nadu's concern about
proposal of dam on Siruvani River**

D.O. letter dated 21.06.2012

“I would like to draw your kind attention to disconcerting reports appearing in the media about the Kerala Government’s plan to construct a dam across the river Siruvani at Attapadi. It appears that Kerala has planned to build a dam of 4.5 TMC ft capacity on the river Siruvani for the Attapadi Irrigation Scheme. This has caused concern among the people of Tamil Nadu as the inflows into the river Bhavani would be considerably reduced if Kerala goes through with its plan. Further, there is wide apprehension among the people that the entire city of Coimbatore and its adjoining areas, dependent on Siruvani for their drinking water needs, will be totally affected if Kerala is allowed to build the dam.

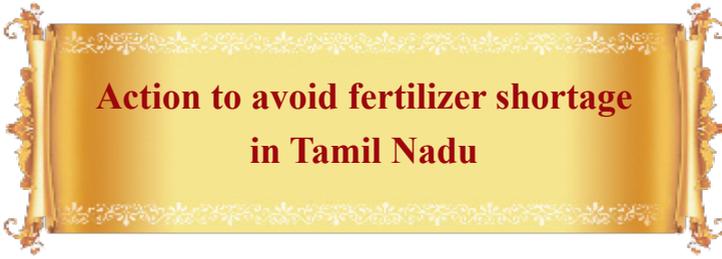
The Government of Kerala had agitated this issue before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal claiming 4.5 TMC ft of water for the Attapadi Irrigation Scheme. The Government of Tamil Nadu objected to the claim and the Tribunal in its Final Order dated 5.2.2007 has allocated only 2.87 TMC ft of water to Kerala for the Attapadi Irrigation Scheme. Therefore, the present proposal of Kerala is in violation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

The Governments of Kerala and Karnataka have appealed in the Supreme Court against the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Government of Tamil Nadu has also approached the Supreme Court on certain aspects of the said Final Order. All the Party States have also filed clarification petitions before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal under section 5(3) of the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. These petitions are pending. In these circumstances, it is only proper for the Party States to await either the notification of the Final Order or the judicial decisions before initiating any new scheme in the Cauvery Basin or in its sub basins.

May I, therefore, request you to advise the Government of Kerala not to proceed with the proposed Attapadi Irrigation Scheme or any other scheme on the river Siruvani in violation of the Tribunal's Final Order? I also request you to advise the Central Water Commission not to accord technical clearance for Kerala's proposal of building the dam on river Siruvani.

I request your immediate intervention in this matter to protect the interests of Tamil Nadu.”

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**Action to avoid fertilizer shortage
in Tamil Nadu**

D.O. letter dated 26.06.2012

“It is with a sense of deep pain and anguish that I write this letter to you to protect the interests of the farmers of Tamil Nadu. The introduction of the Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme (NBS) by the Government of India from 1st April, 2010, coupled with an unreliable supply of fertilizers to the State is indeed threatening to deprive our farmers of their basic means of sustenance and livelihood.

The annual consumption of Chemical Fertilizers in Tamil Nadu is about 28 Lakh Metric Tonnes (MT). With the introduction of the NBS policy, liberty has been given to the Manufacturers/Importers of Chemical Fertilizers to fix the MRP based on their cost of production/import. Since then, these fertilizer companies have been

hiking the retail price of fertilizers at will, causing extreme hardship to farmers.

Consequently, the prices of various fertilizers have gone up two to three times after the introduction of the NBS policy. The increase has been particularly steep since April, 2012. To cite a few examples, between 17th April, 2012, and 18th June, 2012, the MRP of a 50 kg bag of DAP and MOP marketed by Indian Potash Limited has increased from Rs.910/- to Rs.1200/-, and Rs.680/- to Rs.840/- respectively.

The rate of a 50 kg bag of DAP (IPL) has gone up to Rs.1200/- from Rs.486.20 (an increase of 247%), a 50 kg bag of MOP (IPL) now costs Rs.840/- as against Rs.231.66 (an increase of 363%), the rate of a 50 kg bag of Complex 10:26:26 (IFFCO) has increased to Rs.1110/- from Rs.374.24 (an increase of 297%) and the rate of a 50 kg bag of Complex 20:20:0:13 (Greenstar) has increased to Rs.858.76 from Rs.327.40 (an increase of 262%) since 2010.

To add insult to injury, despite such a phenomenal increase in Fertilizer prices in the current year, the

Department of Fertilizers, GOI, has reduced the subsidy for 2012-2013 for DAP to Rs.14,350/- per MT from Rs.19,763/- per MT fixed last year, and for MOP to Rs.14,400/- per MT as against Rs.16,054/- per MT fixed last year.

I understand that the Department of Fertilizer has also proposed a hike of another 10 per cent in Urea prices and has also planned to cut subsidies further on the pretext of subsidizing bio-fertilizers. Faced with a steep price rise and having to digest a sharp reduction in subsidy, our farmers have been hit hard in terms of economic returns from farming. I have tried to mitigate the blow delivered by the Central Government and protect our farmers' interests by waiving the levy of 4% VAT on the sale of fertilizers. This waiver of 4% VAT on Chemical Fertilizers, Bio-fertilizers, Pesticides etc., from 12th July, 2011, onwards, has afforded some relief to our farmers.

However, since the pricing of fertilizers is governed by various policies of the Central Government, I strongly urge you to immediately withdraw the NBS policy and reintroduce the fixed MRP policy for all fertilizers. Otherwise a situation will emerge wherein farming will

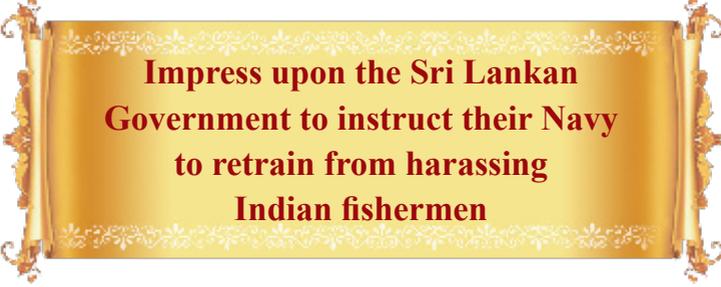
become absolutely unremunerative, resulting in large tracts of land being left uncultivated.

The timely supply of fertilizers in adequate quantity is another area to which I would like to draw your urgent attention. Fertilizer is the most critical input in farming. But there was a shortfall of 1.1 Lakh MT of MOP for the Kharif Season in 2011. Further, the State also faced short supply of DAP and Urea during August-November 2011 (Samba Season) to an extent of 33,967 MT and 1.37 Lakh MT respectively. Despite all these constraints, due to effective measures and timely steps taken by my Government, Tamil Nadu has performed well and is expected to record an all time high level of food-grains production of 103.85 lakh MT during 2011-2012. But the supply of fertilizers continues to be dismal in the current financial year also. While the DAP requirement for April to May 2012 was 48,000 MT, the fertilizer firms supplied only 20,603 MT, resulting in a shortfall of 27,397 MT. In the month of June 2012, the allocation of DAP is only 23,000 MT against the estimated requirement of 30,000 MT. I strongly urge you to immediately allocate the estimated full requirement of DAP to the State to meet

the demand for the Kuruvai cultivation, which is already underway.

I wish to conclude by reiterating the points made earlier that the Nutrient Based Subsidy policy should be immediately withdrawn and that the previous system of fixed MRP of Fertilizers should be restored to protect the farming community and to ensure food security for the Nation. I also request you to issue immediate directions to the Department of Fertilizers to allocate the full requirement of fertilizers for Tamil Nadu so that our farmers are not faced with fertilizer shortages. I shall be thankful for your personal intervention in the matter.”

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**Impress upon the Sri Lankan
Government to instruct their Navy
to refrain from harassing
Indian fishermen**

D.O. letter dated 27.06.2012

“I would like to bring to your kind attention yet another incident of harassment of fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy on 26.6.2012. About 704 mechanized fishing boats went for fishing in the sea from Rameswaram fishing base on 25.6.2012. Fishermen in 45 boats fishing near Katchatheevu on 26.6.2012, were harassed by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Sri Lankan Navy is reported to have chased the fishermen and cut the ropes and damaged nets of 10 boats resulting in huge loss to the fishermen.

You are aware that I have brought to your kind attention the various incidents of attack on Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy/Miscreants within the past 12 months and sought your intervention. This latest incident of harassment has shocked the State of Tamil Nadu and created a psychological fear in the minds of our fishermen.

I wish to reiterate that from time immemorial the fishermen of Tamil Nadu have been traditionally fishing in the waters near Katchatheevu, notwithstanding any geographical or political boundaries.

I request you to kindly take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government and impress upon them the need to instruct their Navy to exercise restraint and refrain from harassing innocent Indian fishermen pursuing their livelihood in their traditional waters.”

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D.O. letter dated 04.07.2012

“I invite your kind attention to my letter dated 28.6.2012, wherein I have sought your intervention in preventing the incidents of harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. I am deeply pained to bring to your notice two more incidents of apprehension of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy on 2.7.2012.

One vallam with 3 fishermen went fishing from Mukundarayachathiram fishing base in Rameswaram on 29.6.2012. The above vallam and the crew are reported to have been arrested near Kalpiti Island by the Sri Lankan Navy, alleging transportation of tobacco products. The fishermen and crew were reportedly taken to Neer-Colombo for further enquiry.

In another incident, one mechanized fishing boat with 5 crew members which went fishing from Rameswaram base got grounded in the sea near Katchatheevu. A search boat with 5 crew members was sent to locate and tow the grounded boat back to the fishing base. It has been reported that both the boats with all the 10 crew members onboard have been detained by the Sri Lankan Navy and they have been lodged in a Sri Lankan Jail.

You are aware that already 5 Rameswaram fishermen are languishing in Sri Lankan jails due to a fabricated case since 29.11.2011. The arrest of 13 more Rameswaram fishermen with their 3 boats has further confirmed the unrelenting, harsh attitude of the Sri Lankan Navy towards our Tamil Nadu fishermen who seek to eke out their livelihood by fishing in the traditional Palk Bay waters.

I, therefore, request you to kindly take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government and arrange for the immediate release of all the fishermen of Rameswaram arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy.”

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**Ministry of defence to be advised against
giving training to Sri Lankan
Armed Force in India**

D.O. letter dated 16.07.2012

“You may recall the Resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in June, 2011, urging the Government of India to take up with the United Nations Organisation the issue of declaring those found guilty of war crimes as war criminals, and also to initiate action by working with other Nations for the imposition of an economic embargo on the Government of Sri Lanka till the Tamils who are now living in camps in Sri Lanka are resettled in their own places and are allowed to live with dignity and with equal Constitutional rights on par with the Sinhalese citizens.

Tamils across the world feel that the sentiments of the Tamils have been trampled on by the Government of India not only by its inaction on this resolution, but also by continuing to give preferential treatment by way

of providing technical training to defence personnel belonging to Sri Lanka.

When nine personnel belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force were undergoing technical training at the Air Force Station, Tambaram, Tamil Nadu, I had issued a Press Statement condemning this action of the Government of India and requesting that these Sri Lankan Air Force personnel should be sent back to Sri Lanka. Instead of sending them back to Sri Lanka, the Government of India is now providing training to these personnel at the Yelahenka Air Force Station, Bengaluru.

Again, it has now come to my notice that Air Vice Marshal Jegath Julanga Diaz of the Sri Lankan Air Force and Rear Admiral S. Ranasinghe of the Sri Lankan Navy, who are undergoing training at the National Defence Academy, New Delhi, along with 25 other trainees belonging to various countries have arrived at Coonoor, The Nilgiris District, Tamil Nadu, on 15.7.2012 and are visiting the Defence Service Staff College, Wellington, on 16.7.2012 as part of their training programme. Imparting training to personnel belonging to the Sri Lankan Armed Forces in Defence Training Institutions in India and allowing them to visit Tamil Nadu reveals the utter disrespect shown to the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu.

The people of Tamil Nadu are frustrated and outraged by this callous and adamant attitude of the Government of India in persistently giving training to personnel belonging to the Sri Lankan Armed Forces in India.

I, therefore, request you to give suitable instructions to the Ministry of Defence to desist from giving any training to personnel belonging to the Sri Lankan Armed Forces anywhere in India and send such personnel back to Sri Lanka immediately.”

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Enquiry into the incident of the death of a TAMILIAN in Dubai Seas

D.O. letter dated 17.07.2012

“I wish to bring to your kind attention, an incident of death of a Tamil Nadu fisherman in the Dubai seas, due to shooting by an American US Naval ship on 16.7.2012.

The following fishermen of Ramanathapuram District had gone to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to work in a fishing boat on contract basis (daily wage basis) for eking out their livelihood and to support their families:

1. Thiru A.Sekhar, aged 25 years
2. Thiru M.Panduvanathan, aged 22 years
3. Thiru K.Muthukannan, aged 32 years
4. Thiru R.Muthumaniraj, aged 27 years

The above fishermen were reported to have been engaged in fishing in a civilian vessel (about 30 feet long)

at a place called Jabel Ali, a frequent docking point for American Naval vessels, about 30 miles south-west of Dubai on 16.7.2012. Reports published in the media reveal that a security team on board the US Naval Ship 'Rappahannock' fired at their fishing boat using a .50-calibre machine gun at about 6.00 PM (IST) on 16.7.2012, after it "disregarded warnings and raced towards the ship".

I am pained to inform you that one of the fishermen A.Sekhar, belonging to Thoppuvalasai village in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu, died due to the above mentioned shooting by the US Naval Ship. The other three fishermen, whose names are mentioned at Sl. Nos: 2,3 & 4 above, sustained bullet injuries and have been admitted in hospital for treatment.

I also wish to bring to your kind notice that, in a similar incident which took place in February, 2012, in the sea off Cochin, 2 fishermen, one belonging to Tamil Nadu viz. Ajeesh Bingo of Kanniyakumari District and another from Kerala were killed due to shooting by the Security Personnel on board an Italian Cargo vessel viz. "ENTRICA LEXIE". Efforts were then made by the Government of India to obtain compensation for the families of the deceased fishermen from the concerned Italian Merchant Ship Company.

I, therefore, request you to kindly take up this matter with the Governments of the United States and Dubai, UAE, to cause a detailed enquiry into the incident. I also request you to ensure that due compensation is paid to the families of the deceased and injured fishermen. The Indian Embassy Officials concerned may kindly be asked to render all necessary medical and other assistance to the injured. As the dead and injured fishermen are innocent fishermen who were conducting fishing in the sea only for their livelihood, please ensure that justice is rendered.”

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**Arrangement for the release of
23 Rameswaram fishermen**

D.O. letter dated 23.07.2012

“I wish to bring to your kind notice yet another incident of apprehension of Rameswaram fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy on 22.7.2012 which has occurred for the second time, within a period of 15 days, in the month of July. Five Mechanized fishing boats bearing Registration Nos: TN/10/MFB/228, TN/10/MFB/400, TN/10/MFB/279, TN/10/MFB/863 and TN/10/MFB/273, which went for fishing on 21.7.2012 from Rameswaram base, with 23 fishermen onboard, have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy and are at present under custody at Thalaimannar in Sri Lanka, having been remanded for two weeks.

The above fishermen were fishing in the sea off Katchatheevu, in their traditional fishing waters, when they were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy. As I had already informed you, in my previous letters, the incidents

of apprehension and harassment by the Sri Lankan Navy have become a regular occurrence in the past two months, especially after the end of the fishing ban period. The intention of the Sri Lankan Navy to instill fear in the minds of the fishermen and prevent them from conducting fishing in their traditional waters is very obvious from the above incident of apprehension. The above actions of the Sri Lankan Navy have created a feeling of insecurity in the minds of the fishermen, who feel that there is no guarantee for their life and property in the sea, in the prevailing situation.

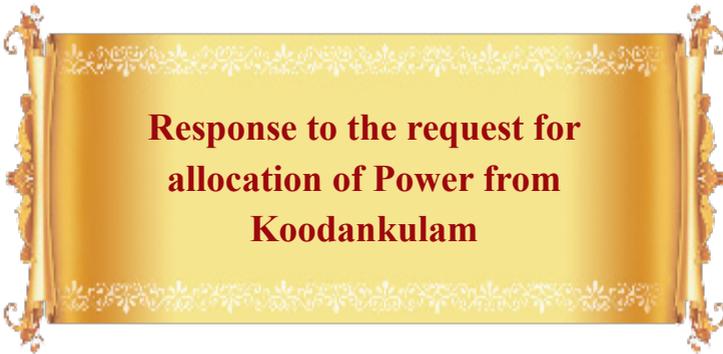
It would not be out of context to mention that the Sri Lankan Navy temporarily suspends apprehension and harassment activities only at times when diplomatic level meetings are convened between India and Sri Lanka on the fishing issue and resumes such activities immediately thereafter, much to the woe of our fishermen. The fishermen of the districts adjoining Palk Bay, especially from the Rameswaram area, are targeted by the Sri Lankan Navy, making it impossible for the fishermen to conduct fishing which is the only occupation they know for the sustenance of their families.

I, therefore, request you to kindly arrange for the immediate release of the 23 Rameswaram fishermen with

their five boats to Tamil Nadu urgently. Kindly take up this issue with the Sri Lankan Government and request it to instruct its Navy to refrain from arresting fishermen who conduct fishing in their traditional waters only for eking out their livelihood. I also wish to point out that unless the Government of India intervenes in this issue there is every possibility of recurrence of such incidents in the coming months.

I solicit your urgent action in this regard.”

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**Response to the request for
allocation of Power from
Koodankulam**

D.O. letter dated 19.08.2012

“I would like to draw your attention to my earlier letters dated 31st March, 2012 and 25th April, 2012, wherein I have sought your assistance for the allocation of the entire power to be generated from the First Unit of 1000 MW capacity in the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant to Tamil Nadu. To my dismay, no response has so far been received from you. I am given to understand that nuclear fuel loading in the First Unit of the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant is

to happen within the next few days.

May I take this opportunity to remind you of my earlier request and expect a quick response? I am sure you will appreciate my State's justified demand in this matter and convey a positive response soon.”

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Ending harassment of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

D.O. letter dated 20.08.2012

“I wish to bring to your kind notice, a worrisome incident of attack and harassment of innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy on 18th August, 2012. Five Fibre Glass Reinforced Plastic Vallam boats belonging to Vellapallam and Vanavanmadevi fishing villages in Vedaranyam taluk of Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu ventured into the sea for fishing on 17.8.2012 and 18.8.2012 with 18 fishermen on board. When they were fishing in the sea at a depth of 15 fathoms near Vellapallam area on 18.8.2012, the fishermen in the above 5 fishing boats were brutally attacked by Sri Lankan Naval personnel who came to the spot in a boat bearing Number D-146. The Naval personnel, besides attacking the fishermen, seized their ice boxes, food and other fishing implements in the boats and dumped them into the sea. They also cut the nets laid by the fishermen.

Serious injuries were inflicted on one fisherman, Thiru Kuppusamy, S/o Ramiah, with a knife on his right wrist, in addition to 7 other fishermen who sustained minor injuries due to assault with rubber rods. All the injured fishermen were given medical treatment in the Government Hospital at Nagapattinam on their return to the shore on 19.8.2012.

This incident is yet another instance of the high handedness of Sri Lankan Naval personnel who keep on targeting the poor and innocent fishermen of Tamil Nadu while they try to eke out their livelihood through fishing. I am distressed to once again have to point out that the incidents of harassment of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy simply continue unabated. I had already informed you in my letter dated 23.7.2012 that, unless the Government of India intervenes in this issue, there is every possibility of recurrence of such incidents in the coming months and this incident reinforces our apprehension.

The Sri Lankan Navy, emboldened by the soft handling of the issue by the Government of India, is attacking/harassing the fishermen of Tamil Nadu with impunity. The Statements at diplomatic level meetings of the two countries stating that “the use of force on fishermen cannot be justified by any means” remain only

on paper and are honoured more in the breach by the Sri Lankan Navy, who seem to be making a mockery of the entire diplomatic process.

I, therefore, request you to kindly take up this issue strongly with the Sri Lankan Government and ensure that the Sri Lankan Navy strictly refrains from harassing Indian fishermen who conduct fishing in their traditional waters for their subsistence and ensure that such incidents do not occur in future.

I solicit your urgent action. ”

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**Government of Karnataka to be
advised to release water from
its reservoirs**

D.O. letter dated 23.08.2012

“I had, in my letter dated 18.5.2012, brought to your notice the urgent need for convening a meeting of the Cauvery River Authority to decide certain specific issues. My request is yet to be acceded to.

The Interlocutory Application filed by the Government of Tamil Nadu before the Supreme Court in July 2012, came up for hearing on 13.8.2012. The Government of Tamil Nadu sought a direction to the Union of India to convene a meeting of the Cauvery River Authority. The Hon’ble Supreme Court sought the views of the Government of India regarding convening a meeting of the Cauvery River Authority.

You are aware that, according to the Rules and Regulations for the conduct of the business of the Cauvery River Authority, the quorum for the meeting shall be 3

members in addition to the Chairperson and further, the decision shall ordinarily be by consensus and that, in case no consensus is reached, the decision may be left to the Chairperson. You may recall that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 6.2.2003 in an I.A. filed by the State of Tamil Nadu (I.A. No. 3/2003 in O.S. No.3/2002), inter-alia, had directed that in the absence of unanimity or consensus, the decision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is the Chairperson of the Cauvery River Authority shall be decisive. Therefore, without prejudice to the pending proceedings in the Supreme Court, the Hon'ble Prime Minister as the Chairperson may convene a meeting of the Cauvery River Authority and the Distress Sharing Formula can be adopted as a situation of distress has arisen now.

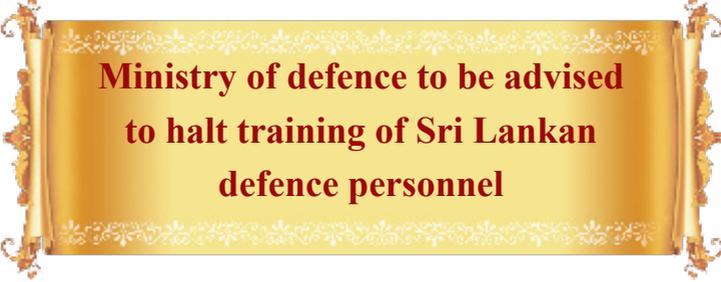
I wish to bring to your notice that the Government of Karnataka has not released any water from its reservoirs during the irrigation year of 2012-2013, while it has opened the reservoir for its irrigation. However, the Mettur Dam could not be opened till date due to the reluctance of the Government of Karnataka even to share minimum flows. According to the Interim Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal which is in force, as on 23.8.2012 Mettur Dam should have realised 95.480 TMC ft. against which only a meagre quantity of 9.187 TMC ft. has been

realised. Further, according to the Distress Sharing Formula evolved by the Central Water Commission, Mettur Dam should have realised about 43.837 TMC ft. as on 23.8.2012. The farmers in the Cauvery Delta, having lost the Kuruvai crop, are hoping at least to raise one single Samba crop for their livelihood. It is, therefore, imperative that the Government of Karnataka is advised to release water to make good the shortfall quantity as per the Distress Sharing Formula and also to share the flows in this distress situation.

May I, therefore, once again request you to kindly convene a meeting of the Cauvery River Authority forthwith?

I, further, request that pending convening the meeting of the Cauvery River Authority, the Government of Karnataka may be advised to release water for raising the Samba crop in the Cauvery Basin of Tamil Nadu.”

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**Ministry of defence to be advised
to halt training of Sri Lankan
defence personnel**

D.O. letter dated 25.08.2012

“I would like to draw your attention to my D.O. letter dated 16.7.2012 wherein I have expressed in no unclear terms the strong views of my Government on imparting training to defence personnel belonging to Sri Lanka. Because of my vehement opposition nine personnel belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force who were undergoing technical training at the Air Force Station, Tambaram, Tamil Nadu, were relocated to the Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru. This action itself was not proper because instead of sending these personnel back to Sri Lanka, the Government of India exhibited excessive enthusiasm and concern for these personnel by relocating them to Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru, in order to enable them to complete their training.

Such a reprehensible attitude on the part of the Government of India is even now reflected in permitting

two defence personnel of the Sri Lanka namely (1) Major Dissanayaka Mohottalalage Vengra, of the Sri Lankan Army and (2) Captain Hewawasam Kandaudage, of the Sri Lankan Navy to undergo 11 months training at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, from 19.5.2012 onwards. It is very clear that this fact of ongoing training since May, 2012, has been mischievously concealed from my Government, showing scant regard for the views of my Government as well as for the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, request you to give suitable instructions to the Ministry of Defence to immediately halt the training being given to the Sri Lankan defence personnel at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, and arrange to send them back to Sri Lanka immediately.”

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**Sending Sri lankan defence personnel
back to Sri Lanka**

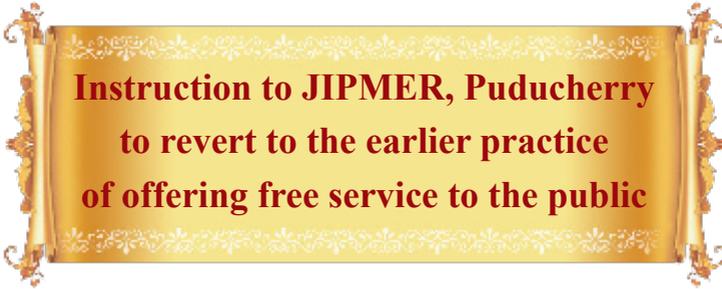
D.O. letter dated 28.08.2012

“As you are aware, in my letter dated 25.8.2012, I had categorically stated that the on-going training being given to the two Defence personnel of Sri Lanka, named in my letter, at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Tamil Nadu, should be immediately halted and the personnel sent back to Sri Lanka. Instead of acceding to my request, I am surprised to learn that the Government of India has openly declared that the said training will go on since Sri Lanka is a friendly country. This betrays the total insensitivity on the part of the Government of India towards the views of my Government as well as the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu.

I once again reiterate that the Government of India should give up such a condemnable attitude and show

more consideration and regard for the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu by sending the Defence personnel back to Sri Lanka immediately.”

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**Instruction to JIPMER, Puducherry
to revert to the earlier practice
of offering free service to the public**

D.O. letter dated 03.09.2012

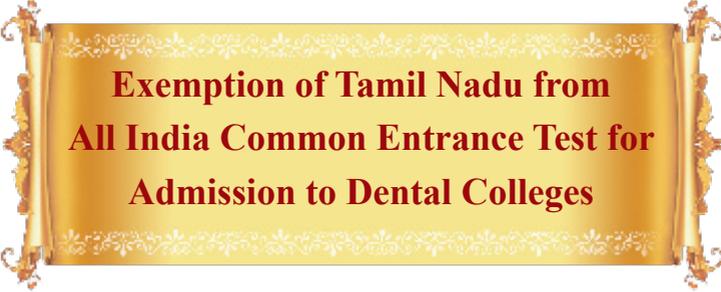
“It has been brought to my notice that the Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) has introduced user charges for various medical investigations and procedures. This will badly affect poor patients not only from Puducherry but also from the neighbouring districts of our State, namely, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai, who have been availing of health care services free of cost in this institution.

In this context, I wish to place on record that the AIADMK had vehemently opposed the Bill to convert JIPMER into an autonomous institution in Parliament, even at the introduction stage in 2008. Overruling our strident objections, the Bill had been passed with an

assurance that the existing free services to the public would be continued without any change. Introduction of user charges for routine investigations and medical procedure amounts to renegeing on the solemn assurance given in Parliament.

So as to ensure that the people of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are not adversely affected, I request you to instruct JIPMER to revisit the decision to introduce the new user charges and revert to the earlier practice of offering free services to the public as assured in 2008.”

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**Exemption of Tamil Nadu from
All India Common Entrance Test for
Admission to Dental Colleges**

D.O. letter dated 07.09.2012

“It has been brought to my notice that the Dental Council of India has issued a Gazette notification regarding the introduction of a National Eligibility Entrance Test for both BDS and MDS courses. In this context, I would like to record my strong objection to the introduction of these tests for the same reasons for which I had already objected to the introduction of a National Eligibility Test for entrance to undergraduate and postgraduate medical courses in my earlier letter to you dated 30.7.2012.

As already stated, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken steps since 2005 and finally abolished the Entrance Examination for professional courses from the year 2007-2008. This was done after detailed examination

by an Expert Committee that found that such Common Entrance Examinations put rural students and students from lower socio-economic backgrounds at a disadvantage due to lack of geographical and financial access to requisite training institutions and materials.

I had also pointed out that such entrance examinations result in the growth of expensive coaching centres which charge high fees which the poorer students cannot afford. The need for such coaching classes will be specifically felt in the case of a national level examination as the students who pass the 12th standard based on our State syllabi will not face a level playing field as the topics covered for the entrance exam are likely to be based on the NCERT/CBSE curriculum and syllabi.

As part of its policy of upholding social justice, Tamil Nadu has been following 69% reservation for Backward and Most Backward Communities and Scheduled Castes and Tribes in professional courses. The introduction of a National Eligibility Entrance Test would create confusion and litigation in the smooth implementation of this reservation policy both in undergraduate and postgraduate admissions.

The Government of Tamil Nadu therefore strongly protests the move to conduct an All India Common Entrance Test for admission to Under Graduate/Post Graduate Courses in Dental Colleges as proposed by the DCI. I request that Tamil Nadu may be exempted from the test and allowed to continue with its existing system for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate dental seats.”

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**Strong objections by Government of
Tamil Nadu to all India Common
Entrance Test for admission to
Medical Colleges**

D.O. letter dated 30.9.2012

“I would like to draw your attention to my earlier letter dated 30.07.2011 wherein I had conveyed the Government of Tamil Nadu’s strong protest against the move to conduct an All India Common Entrance Test for admission to Under Graduates / Post Graduates. However, despite the State’s protest it has been brought to my notice that the Government of India has notified the National Board of Examination (NBE) for conducting the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test for Post Graduate Courses and has gone ahead issuing a public notice for admission to MD / MS / Post Graduate Diploma Courses for the 2013 session.

As already stated in my earlier letter, the State

Government has already taken a policy decision to abolish the entrance examination for professional courses. This was done after detailed examination by an Expert Committee that found that such Common Entrance Tests put rural students from poor socio economic backgrounds at a disadvantage due to lack of geographical and financial access to requisite training institutions and materials.

Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu has reserved 50% of its medical Post Graduate seats for doctors who have completed three years of rural service with special weightage for those working in hilly and tribal areas. The Government has also successfully obtained and enforced bonds from those completing Post Graduate education in Government Medical Colleges to serve the State for a minimum period, which has helped to meet the need for specialist medical manpower. It will be legally difficult to implement these policy initiatives if a Common Entrance Test is introduced as we would have to fall in line with the regulations of the National Test, which may not have such enabling provisions.

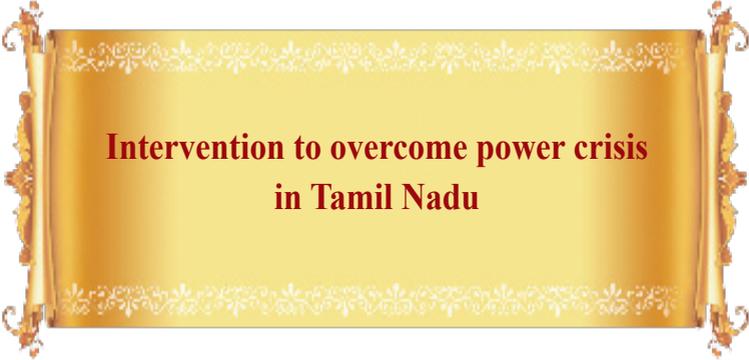
We had earlier been assured by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare that the States

would be consulted and our views considered before evolving any policy decision with regard to the conduct of an All India Common Entrance Test. The Government of Tamil Nadu had also given its views as above, specifically stating that the All India Common Entrance Test would interfere with the rights of the State Government in administering the education system and would create problems in implementing the reservation policy followed uniquely in our State. Even after repeated requests, by this public notice, it is now clear that the Government of India has not considered our case and has gone ahead with the decision to implement the Common Entrance Test and in the notice has stated that NEET-PG is a mandatory test for gaining entry to MD/MS/PG Diploma courses in all medical colleges under the ambit of post graduate medical education of the Medical Council of India.

We are surprised and distressed by this unilateral decision of the Government of India which has been taken without taking into account our protest and inspite of the stay against the Common Entrance Test obtained in W.P No 341/2011 and 342/2011 in the Madras High Court which holds good until it is vacated or until the writ petition is disposed of.

The Government of Tamil Nadu strongly protests the move to conduct an All India Common Entrance Test for admission to UG / PG courses in Medical Colleges and reiterates that Tamil Nadu should be exempted from the test and allowed to continue with its existing system for admission to Under Graduate / Post Graduate Medical seats.”





Intervention to overcome power crisis in Tamil Nadu

D.O. letter dated 23.10.2012

“I would like to draw your kind attention to my earlier letters regarding the acute power shortage prevailing in the State and the necessity to allocate additional power of 1000 MW to Tamil Nadu to partly mitigate the crisis. However, a meagre quantum of 100 MW alone was allocated to Tamil Nadu. Even out of this quantum, only about 78 MW is being made available to the State.

There is severe shortage of power in Tamil Nadu due to the failure of the South West Monsoon and the constraints we face in buying power from sources outside the Southern Region due to corridor congestion.

Due to the demand - supply gap of about 4000 MW which is the highest in the Southern Region, widespread load shedding is being resorted to causing severe hardship to the consumers. The Agriculture Sector has also been amongst the worst hit due to the failure of the monsoon and inadequate power supply, thereby affecting food production.

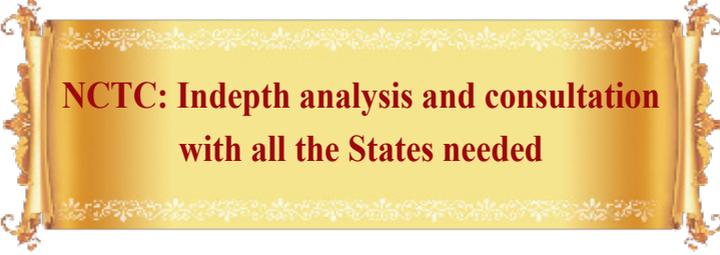
I have already pointed out that the deficit situation in Tamil Nadu has been aggravated due to corridor congestion and have repeatedly requested your urgent intervention to ensure that the required quantum of 1000 MW of power transmission capacity is made available to enable Tamil Nadu to receive the power contracted by the TANGEDCO.

The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi has proposed to surrender power from various Central Generating Stations for the period from 1.11.2012 to 31.3.2013 for a quantum of 230 MW

Round the Clock (00.00 to 24.00 hrs) and 1491 MW during 00.00 to 6.00 hrs. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, TANGEDCO, has requested the Ministry of Power, Government of India, New Delhi, to reallocate the entire quantum of surrendered power to Tamil Nadu and to arrange to provide the necessary corridor on priority basis for availing of the above power.

I request your kind intervention to tide over this acute power crisis in Tamil Nadu.”

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**NCTC: Indepth analysis and consultation
with all the States needed**

D.O. letter dated 20.02.2012

“In continuation of my letter dated 17.2.2012 on the proposed NCTC, may I emphasise that the disturbing provisions of the recent Office Memorandum of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs need indepth analysis and consultations with all the States?

I reiterate that I share the concerns of the other Chief Ministers who have voiced their reservations and objections in this regard and request that the consultation process should be commenced forthwith.

I urge the Government of India to ensure that the objectionable Memorandum which is scheduled for

implementation from 1st March, 2012, is immediately withdrawn in deference to the apprehensions expressed by the constituent States. I also request you to start the consultation process with the States immediately keeping in view the fact that matters of Public Order and Police are in the State List of the Constitution of India.”

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**Letter Address to Hon'ble CM by
Hon'ble PM in Reply to the
letter dated 07.03.2012 written by CM**

D.O. letter dated 11.03.2012

“Thank you for your letter of March 7th about private visits to Tamil Nadu by Sri Lankan VIPs and other dignitaries.

I am asking our authorities to bear your views in mind when they handle such visits in future and to share such Information as they may have about such visits with the Government of Tamil Nadu beforehand.”

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**Cauvery Management Board and
Cauvery Water Regulation Committee**

D.O. letter dated 22.02.2013

“At the outset, I would like to convey my happiness at the publication of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 in the Gazette of India on 19.2.2013. I would like to sincerely thank you very much for the notification.

As you would recall, I had been consistently urging you to order the Ministry of Water Resources to notify the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 in the Gazette of India and to constitute a Cauvery Management Board, without prejudice to the pending Civil Appeals and Reference Petitions in the Supreme Court and the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal respectively.

Now that the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, has notified the Final Order of the Tribunal in the Gazette of India, it is binding on all the parties to the dispute. Further, as per Section 6(2) of the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, the decision of the Tribunal after it is published in the Gazette of India will have the same effect as that of an Order or a Decree of the Supreme Court.

In this context, you may be aware that in the Final Order, the Tribunal has concluded that it would be absolutely necessary to establish a mechanism which should be entrusted with the function / supervision / operation of reservoirs and with regulation of water releases therefrom and has accordingly recommended the establishment of a Cauvery Management Board and a Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, with its composition, role and functions.

In the circumstances, I request you to kindly ensure that the Ministry of Water Resources constitutes a Cauvery Management Board and a Cauvery Water Regulation Committee forthwith, so as to give effect to all the provisions of the Final Order of the Tribunal.

I shall be thankful for your immediate positive response in this matter.”

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**Urging Sri Lankan Authorities
to release Indian Fishermen**

D.O. letter dated 04.03.2013

“I wish to inform you that 16 fishermen from Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu, who were engaged in fishing in the Gulf of Mannar in 3 Mechanized Fishing boats bearing Registration Numbers TN/12/MFB/429, TN/12/MFB/431 and TN/12/MFB/003, are reported to have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of 3.3.2013. The fishing boats and fishermen were reportedly taken to Kalpitiya Police Station for further investigation and it is learnt that they have been produced in Court.

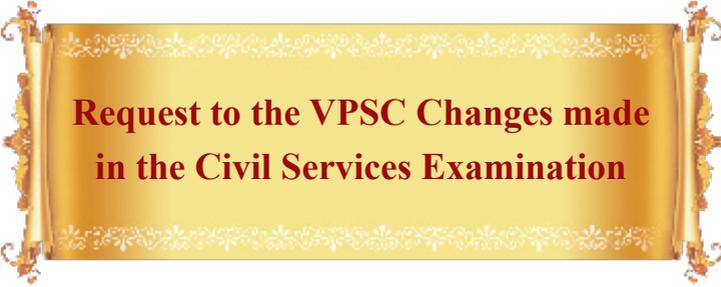
I am pained to point out that the incidents of apprehension and harassment of innocent Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy have become a regular occurrence in the past few months creating a feeling of insecurity and fear amongst the fishermen community.

The families of the arrested 16 fishermen and various Fishermen Associations have appealed to the Government of Tamil Nadu to secure the early release of these apprehended fishermen since they were only pursuing their livelihood in the Gulf of Mannar area, where they have been fishing all along. The Sri Lankan Government has always assured us in various bilateral meetings that Indian fishermen who are apprehended while fishing will be released expeditiously without prolonged legal hurdles.

I, therefore, request you to kindly urge the Sri Lankan authorities to immediately release the 16 fishermen with their 3 boats without filing any cases against them.

I solicit your urgent action in this regard”.

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Request to the VPSC Changes made in the Civil Services Examination

D.O. letter dated 13.03.2013

“I invite your kind attention to the recent changes notified by the Union Public Service Commission in the scheme of the Civil Services Examination for the year 2013 onwards. These changes are highly discriminatory and appear to be calculated to bias the system against Civil Service aspirants from non-Hindi speaking regions of the country.

There are four major changes in the pattern of examination which adversely affect the interests of students from Tamil Nadu, particularly those from rural backgrounds. First, students who have had Tamil as their medium of education up to the high school level and who have subsequently done their graduation in the English

medium earlier had the option of writing the Civil Service Examination in Tamil. This option has been removed with a new stipulation that the Main Examination including optional papers can be written in the Tamil medium, only if the candidates had studied in that medium up to the graduation level. This denies them the opportunity to write the examination in their mother tongue Tamil. However, there is no such stipulation for candidates who wish to appear in the Hindi medium. Considering that both Tamil and Hindi are languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, this clearly discriminates against not just Tamil speaking candidates, but against all candidates from the non-Hindi States, and in particular against rural students from the SC/STs, BC&MBC & other marginalised sections of the population who would have had their mother tongue as the medium of instruction up to the school level. This is violative of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India and places such candidates at a disadvantage when compared to those students writing the examination in English or Hindi.

The second objectionable and discriminatory change is that candidates wanting to opt for the literature of a

language as their optional paper can do so only if they had studied the literature of the language at the graduation level as the main subject.

This is not just discriminatory but also illogical since such a stipulation has not been made for any other optional subject. Therefore, a student graduating in Mathematics can take History as an optional, but not Tamil Literature. This is illogical, discriminatory and unfair.

The third change notified by the Union Public Service Commission is that unless there is a minimum of 25 candidates opting for a particular language medium, those candidates will have to write the examination in English and Hindi only. This is inexplicable, discriminatory and violative of the Constitutional right to equality.

The fourth change is to remove the compulsory qualifying paper in an Indian language and the inclusion of an English composition and précis writing section as an evaluated portion of the Essay paper instead of the qualifying English paper. This change also clearly favours urban, English educated candidates and acts against rural students belonging to disadvantaged sections.

The changes made by the UPSC are invidious, discriminatory and militate against the federal nature of our polity and the constitutional equality bestowed upon regional languages like Tamil which are part of the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India. These changes clearly infringe on the Right to Equality in Public Employment enshrined in Article 16 of the Constitution of India. They work to the disadvantage of students coming from rural backgrounds who have studied in their native tongues at the school level and pursued higher education in another medium. All regional languages should be accorded equal status in a federal structure and aspirants to the Country's civil services should have the option to take the examination in any language, particularly their mother tongue, listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

I apprehend that these retrograde changes brought in by the Union Public Service Commission without adequate consultation with the State Governments are undemocratic and unilateral and will have the effect of unfairly denying the youth of Tamil Nadu their fair chance of representation in the Civil Services, and ultimately, hamper the governance of the country.

I urge you to intervene in the matter and prevail on the Union Public Service Commission to reconsider these invidious, unfair and discriminatory changes made in the scheme of the Civil Services Examination.

May I request an early response in the matter as it affects the future of several thousand young Civil Service aspirants in the State of Tamil Nadu?”

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**Intervention in harassment of Indian
Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy**

D.O. letter dated 14.03.2013

“It has been brought to my notice that 9 Mechanized Fishing Boats of Tamil Nadu with 53 fishermen onboard, which ventured into the sea for fishing on 13-3-2013 from Rameswaram fishing base, were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken to Thalaimannar and Delft Island, and are now being kept in their custody. This incident of apprehension is another instance of the increasing intolerance of the Sri Lankan Navy towards the hapless fishermen of the Palk Bay area of Tamil Nadu who have no other alternative but to fish in the narrow Palk Bay fishing grounds that are further restricted by the unilateral drawal of the International Maritime Boundary Line, drawn without the consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu or its fishermen.

You will agree with me that solutions to the fishing disputes between two neighbouring countries are not resolved by force or by treating the fishermen of the neighbouring country as ‘criminals’ and arresting and terrorizing them through assaults and gun firing. However, the increasing belligerence of Sri Lanka in the recent past towards the Indian fishing boats fishing in their traditional fishing areas, as exhibited by a spurt of arrests and violence, is a worrisome trend.

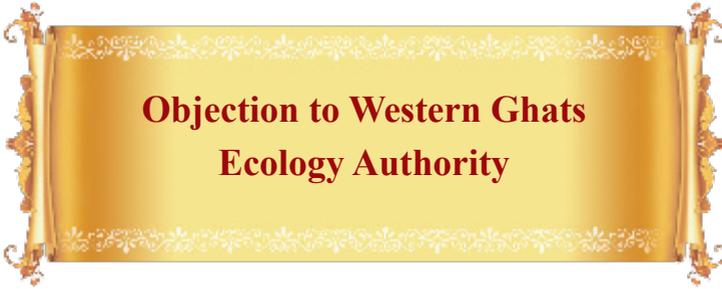
The Government of Tamil Nadu, under my leadership, has challenged the issue of unilateral drawal of the IMBL leading to the ceding of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka before the Hon’ble Supreme Court. We are agitated by incidents of repeated capture of our fishermen while pursuing their livelihood. We expect the Government of India to also respond and react pro-actively when incidents of this nature happen. Let Sri Lanka not be emboldened by your silence and construe it as a sign of weakness and indifference towards our fishermen.

I request you to urgently summon the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and lodge the Government of India’s strong protest against the continuing arrests and incidents of violence against the fishermen of Tamil Nadu, including the recent incident of firing on an

innocent fisherman. I also request you to advise the Sri Lankan Government to release the arrested fishermen of Rameshwaram without foisting any criminal cases and desist from future provocations through needless arrests and acts of violence.

I once again wish to convey my strong disapproval of the high handed attitude of Sri Lanka and seek your urgent intervention in this regard.”

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**Objection to Western Ghats
Ecology Authority**

D.O. letter dated 15.03.2013

“I wish to draw your attention to a matter of great importance concerning the powers of State Governments to manage ecologically sensitive areas within their own boundaries. The Hon’ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment and Forests, Government of India, sought the views of the Government of Tamil Nadu on the report of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP). This report inter alia, recommends the establishment of a Western Ghats Ecology Authority (WGEA) at the National Level with regulatory powers for approval of new projects, to issue directions to State Governments, among other things.

I would like to state emphatically that the creation of the said Authority is a gross assault on the powers of State Governments to administer ecologically sensitive

areas situated within their own geographical boundaries in the name of environmental scrutiny. It seeks to create yet another redundant super body at the national level to take on and perform functions of State Institutions in the Agricultural, Forestry, Environmental and other sectors and also act as an appellate body with the authority to give directions to the State Governments. Land is a subject which comes under the State List under the Constitution of India. Any attempt by the Government of India to assume powers to regulate policy with regard to land use, developmental activities under various sectors and power to approve new projects, etc., and issue directions in the name of environment is uncalled for and can only be viewed as an encroachment on the sovereign powers of the State Governments.

I also wish to point out that Tamil Nadu has been a frontrunner in the field of nature and environmental conservation. We have enacted and implemented very stringent and effective Acts and regulations for conservation in general and for the conservation of Hill Areas, including the Western Ghats, in particular. Further, the Hill Area Conservation Authority at the State level enforces the regulations on land use in notified Hill Areas which cover the entire Western Ghats also in the State. Further, the State is scrupulously implementing various

Central Acts regarding Environment and Forests with due emphasis on the conservation of the Western Ghats area. It is relevant to point out here that the Panel report contains no materials to make out any case for any shortcoming in the conservation of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.

The present status of the various sectors in the State was examined vis-à-vis the recommendations of the WGEEP and it is amply clear that the State is already enforcing the implementation of the necessary regulatory mechanisms to ensure proper conservation of the Western Ghats in an integrated manner.

It is pertinent to point out that Tamil Nadu State has three Tiger Reserves, three National Parks and eight Wildlife Sanctuaries located in the Western Ghats, which are admirable models of ecological conservation. Further, Tamil Nadu is a State which has the distinction of the lowest extent (only 4416 Ha out of 2287700 Ha) of forest area diverted for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, during the last 33 years. Our commitment to and record of ecological protection and forest conservation are impeccable.

In these circumstances, the State is of the view that yet another regulatory mechanism in the form of the WGEA as proposed by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel

will only erode the authority of the State Government and create an unnecessary layer of authority in the name of conservation. For these reasons, the State strongly reiterates that the creation of the proposed Authority is totally unnecessary, both in terms of federal principles and in terms of ecological governance needs. I wish to add that the detailed views of the State on the recommendations of the WGEEP are being sent separately by the Environment and Forests Department to the High Level Working Group headed by Dr.K.Kasturirangan.”

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**Support of the U.S. sponsored
Resolution against genocide
by Sri Lankan Government**

D.O. letter dated 18.03.2013

“As you are aware, Tamils in Tamil Nadu and the Tamil diaspora spread across the world are legitimately outraged and incensed over the impunity with which the Sri Lankan Government is ignoring international sentiments and binding resolutions relating to reconciliation and accountability for the war crimes and genocide committed in the closing stages of the civil war in Sri Lanka and the ongoing gross human rights abuses. To assuage the legitimate sense of outrage and deeply hurt sentiments it is absolutely important that India takes a strong stand in support of the US sponsored Resolution in the 22nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council and more importantly moves necessary independent amendments to further strengthen the Resolution.

You would recall that I had presented a Memorandum to you on 14.6.2011 and written to you on 25.6.2011 bringing to your notice the Resolution of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly dated 8.6.2011 which had called upon the Government of India to take up the issue of war crimes committed against Sri Lankan Tamils and also called for an economic embargo on Sri Lanka till the Tamils are fully resettled and are allowed to live with dignity and with equal constitutional rights as their Sinhala counterparts.

Subsequently, I had written to you on 29th February, 2012, and 6th March, 2012, to urge that India take a strong stance in support of the Resolution on Promoting Reconciliation and Accountability in Sri Lanka in the 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council. Based on the strength of the public sentiments in Tamil Nadu, conveyed through the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly's Resolution and through my communications, the Government of India supported Resolution 19/2 in the 19th HRC. Resolution 19/2 which called upon the Sri Lankan Government to implement the constructive recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's (LLRC) report was relatively mild since the LLRC report itself has been viewed as a flawed report not covering many of the points contained in the UN Secretary General's Panel of Experts Report. It is pertinent to point out that the Report

itself was toned down at the instance of the Government of India which itself is a betrayal of the Tamils.

Mr. Prime Minister, a full year has passed since that Resolution and the events and developments of the past year in Sri Lanka, as evidenced by the report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, are a continued and sorry saga of human rights violations against the Tamils in that country. The report of OHCHR indicates that Sri Lanka is yet to act on many of the recommendations contained in the LLRC's report and it has not given access to the special procedures mandate holders. The report also notes that much needs to be done in the area of justice, reconciliation and resumption of livelihoods and notes the continuance of serious human rights violations against the Tamils. They continue to suffer as second class citizens. They are still often expelled from their homes and subjected to harassment, discrimination and torture. There is no indication that the Sri Lankan Government's obduracy in resisting a fair investigation into the genocide and war crimes has ended. There is no evidence to show that there is either a conscious policy on demilitarization or withdrawal from Tamil civilian lands. There is no credible policy of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Tamil livelihoods. Clearly the present government in Sri Lanka is not keen on genuine reconciliation or even to allow the

Sri Lankan Tamils to be rehabilitated, let alone start life as equal citizens in that country, which is reflected in the lack of adequate action even on a relatively mild UNHRC Resolution.

At this juncture, the ongoing 22nd session of the Human Rights Council is the most appropriate forum and occasion to mount further pressure on Sri Lanka to ensure that accountability is established under an international framework for the war crimes and genocide committed in the closing stages of the civil war and the ongoing gross human rights abuses. This is all the more important in the light of the mounting fresh independent evidence of atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. It is also an opportunity to secure for Sri Lankan Tamils equal constitutional rights and a life of dignity. It is very important that Sri Lanka is held to account on this occasion and India plays a crucial role in this regard, given not only the deep and widespread sentiment prevailing amongst all sections of Society and shades of political opinion in Tamil Nadu, but also the need to establish India as a global leader standing up for democracy and human rights.

I am dismayed that the statements made by you and the External Affairs Minister in the past few days appear equivocal and prevaricating. They do not give a clear

indication of India's stance, particularly with reference to the genocide which has taken place in Sri Lanka resulting in enormous loss of innocent, civilian lives and gross violation of human rights. It was disappointing that India had maintained a deafening silence when the US sponsored draft was taken up for discussion in the on-going UNHRC session. India must take a strong, historic and courageous stance in this matter and not just support the U.S. sponsored Draft Resolution on Promoting Reconciliation and Accountability in Sri Lanka, but strengthen it further through suitable amendments that would make the Resolution unambiguous in intent and effective in implementation:

- In the preambular para 5 (PP5) seek a mention of the UN Secretary General's Panel of Experts report in addition to the LLRC report.
- In PP9 strengthen the language from expression of "concern" to "serious concern and dismay" at the reports of the continuing violations of human rights.
- In PP10 strengthen the language to "condemnation" of the failure of the Sri Lankan Government to fulfill its public commitments including on devolution of political authority.

- In operative para 1, there should be an unequivocal call for a credible, independent, international mechanism to prosecute genocide, war crimes and war criminals and the accused should stand trial before an International Court. This process should be completed within a period of six months and the outcome reported for a special discussion in the 25th session of UNHRC in 2014.

- In operative para 2 there should be an insistence that the OHCHR report be implemented in its totality.

- In operative para 3 there should be a strong call to the Government of Sri Lanka to accept the establishment of an impartial, international institution to initiate credible and independent actions to ensure justice, equity, accountability, including investigation of violations of international law and reconciliation of all Sri Lankans, including Tamils. This should include Sri Lanka providing a pragmatic political package to the Sri Lankan Tamils and restoring their equal rights of citizenship on par with the Sinhalese Community.

I request you to kindly immediately instruct Indian diplomats to strongly push for these independent amendments to strengthen the US backed Resolution in the 22nd Session of the UNHRC since the final draft is to be placed for consideration of the Council on 19th March,

2013. Further, India should also mobilize the support of other member nations, particularly those who are opposed to the resolution and are lobbying to water down or nullify the impact.

Mr. Prime Minister, I hope that at this historic moment, the Government of India will decisively step forward as a champion of human rights and democracy and take a bold stand in support of the much discriminated against and long suffering Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and thereby demonstrate its empathy and solidarity with the millions of Tamils both in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere and assuage the legitimate sense of outrage amongst them.”





**Conferring the Cancer Institute
Adyar with National Status
as ‘Centre of Excellence’**

D.O. letter dated 21.03.2013

“I would like to draw your attention to a pending request of the Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai, which has applied for upgradation during the 12th Plan period, as a “Centre of Excellence - an Autonomous National Cancer Research Institute” for treatment of cancer. I understand that the proposal is pending with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The Cancer Institute was founded in 1954 as a voluntary charitable institution under the inspiring and legendary leadership of the Late Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy. The Cancer Institute, Adyar, is a Non Governmental Institution which the Government of Tamil Nadu has been

assisting for over three decades by a maintenance grant. As a Referral Cancer Centre, it provides yeoman service to needy cancer patients from all over India.

The Government of India has so far provided meagre support to this Institute through the Tertiary Cancer Centre Scheme under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardio-vascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) by way of a grant of Rs.4.80 crores for equipment purchased in the year 2011-12. The State Government released a sum of Rs.1.20 crores as the State's share for this.

Considering the excellent service rendered by this Institution for over 3 decades, even while functioning as an NGO, I consider that its status should no more be that of a Tertiary Cancer Institute, but requires to be elevated to the status of a "Centre of Excellence – an Autonomous National Cancer Research Institute".

I, therefore, request that the proposal of the Chairperson, Cancer Institute, Adyar, for upgradation of the centre as a National Centre, pending with the Ministry

of Health and Family Welfare, be approved to enable this reputed Cancer Hospital in Chennai to expand and strengthen its capacity to treat cancer patients in larger number, as a National Institute.

I recommend that the Cancer Institute, Adyar, one of the oldest NGO run Cancer Hospitals in the country be conferred with National status as “a Centre of Excellence”, particularly when it has been rated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the “Top Ranking Centre” in the Country.

May I request a line in reply?.”

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India's participation in CHOGM in Colombo

D.O. letter dated 25.03.2013

“You would recall that I had written to you on 18th March, 2013, conveying the deep sense of outrage amongst Tamils all over the world and particularly, in Tamil Nadu, over the issue of war crimes and genocide perpetrated against Sri Lankan Tamils by the Sri Lankan army in the closing stages of the civil war. There are also continuing instances of human rights abuses against the Tamils in Sri Lanka, who continue to be ostracized as second class citizens in their own land.

There was considerable and broad based support for a strong resolution condemning Sri Lanka for the genocide and asking for an independent, international mechanism to investigate those accused of war crimes and genocide and to bring them to book. I had suggested that India should not only support the US moved resolution but should also

move amendments to further strengthen the resolution. As it transpired, India voted in favour of a diluted and weak resolution moved by the US and did not move any amendments to condemn the genocide or to urge the establishment of an independent, international inquiry into the war crimes. There was widespread disappointment at this stand of the Government of India and a continuing sense of injustice in Tamil Nadu on this issue.

In the meanwhile, it is reported that the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and the Leaders' Retreat is proposed to be held in Colombo from 15th to 17th November, 2013.

In the present context, holding such a high profile international event, which will be attended by heads of government from across the world would amount to endorsing the present regime in Sri Lanka, which stands accused of committing genocide, war crimes and ongoing human rights abuses against Sri Lankan Tamils. This regime, which continues to deny Tamils their legitimate human rights, equality and democratic freedom, far from upholding Commonwealth values, has clearly violated the central credo of the Commonwealth, which is democracy and human rights. Nations have been suspended from the Commonwealth for far less.

Mr. Prime Minister, the proposed CHOOGM in Colombo is another opportune occasion for India to mount further pressure on Sri Lanka to ensure that accountability is established under an international framework for the war crimes and genocide committed in the closing stages of the civil war and the ongoing gross human rights abuses. In the light of the fresh, mounting evidence of atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan military the Conference presents another opportunity to secure for Sri Lankan Tamils equal constitutional rights and a life of dignity. India must play a crucial role in this regard, given not only the deep and widespread sentiment prevailing amongst all sections of society and shades of political opinion in Tamil Nadu, as well as at the national level by many Opposition parties, but also the need to establish India as a global leader standing up for democracy and human rights.

It has also been widely reported that Canada has already indicated that it is likely to boycott the CHOOGM in Colombo over the issue of gross human rights violations of the Sri Lankan Government. The House of Commons Committee on Foreign Affairs in the United Kingdom has also urged the British Prime Minister not to attend the CHOOGM in Colombo. Clearly, many important countries across the world, including two G-8 countries, propose to leverage the proposed CHOOGM in Sri Lanka and make substantial progress in human rights issues in Sri Lanka.

As an emerging great power and an aspirant for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, India has a duty to ensure that the values of democracy and respect for human rights are upheld anywhere in the world and in particular in its neighbourhood. As a leader in South Asia, India is uniquely positioned to exert the maximum influence on the Sri Lankans to accept an independent international mechanism to hold those who committed genocide and war crimes to account.

Mr. Prime Minister, there is still time to consider even an alternative venue to hold the event. India should use this opportunity to ask that the venue for the CHOGM be shifted to another country. If India takes this diplomatic initiative there is likely to be broad based support amongst member countries of the Commonwealth.

In any event, any high level participation or engagement from the Indian side in the CHOGM will not only embolden the Sri Lankan regime but also incense public opinion and sentiment in Tamil Nadu on this very sensitive issue even further. I would, therefore, strongly urge you not to attend the CHOGM and the Leaders' Retreat proposed to be held in Colombo on November 15 to 17, 2013.

Mr. Prime Minister, I write to you in the hope and expectation that the Government of India will decisively

step forward as a true champion of human rights and democracy and will launch a strong diplomatic initiative in support of the much discriminated against and long suffering Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. At the very least, India must stay away from the CHOGM to be held in Colombo and, thereby, exert pressure on Sri Lanka to do justice by its hapless, much exploited Tamil Minorities. By doing so, India would also demonstrate its empathy and solidarity with the millions of Tamils both in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere and assuage the legitimate sense of outrage amongst them against Sinhala excesses against Sri Lankan Tamils.”





Objection to Sri Lankan IPL players playing in Tamil Nadu

D.O. letter dated 26.03.2013

“I am writing to you on a matter of urgency and importance connected with the Sri Lankan Tamils issue. The recent continuous agitations in Tamil Nadu during the debate in the UNHRC have revealed the great angst and anguish amongst the people of Tamil Nadu with regard to this highly emotive issue. In this surcharged atmosphere the IPL cricket tournament is scheduled to be held at various locations including Chennai from 3rd April, 2013 onwards and will go on for over a month till the 26th May, 2013. I understand that almost all the participating teams have in their ranks Sri Lankan cricketers as their team members.

You are aware that the civil strife in Sri Lanka is a

lamentable saga of an ethnic pogrom launched by the Sri Lankan Government, using Sri Lankan Army against Tamils, which resulted in the commission of genocide against a defenceless civilian Tamil population and the decimation of thousands of innocent women and children. These human rights violations have been extensively documented in the international media and internationally condemned.

These painful events of genocide of innocent Sri Lankan Tamils have had a deep impact amongst the people of Tamil Nadu, who have been severely shocked, pained and angered by these barbaric acts. Recently, against the background of increasing and credible evidence of continuing atrocities against Sri Lankan Tamils, Tamil Nadu witnessed mass agitations, hunger strikes, self immolations and the large scale spontaneous involvement of many sections of Society, including the student community, protesting against the Sri Lankan action against the Tamils.

I have also been regularly writing to you protesting against the repeated and unprovoked attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy on innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen on the

high seas, which have caused the deaths of and injuries to scores of Tamil Nadu fisherfolk. Understandably, their sentiments, too, have been hurt by these brutal and hostile acts of the Sri Lankan Navy.

All political parties in Tamil Nadu have repeatedly voiced their grave concern regarding these issues. The atmosphere is, therefore, already surcharged with a groundswell of popular public opinion against the Sri Lankan Government.

In such a hostile and tense environment, we apprehend that the participation of Sri Lankan players in the IPL tournament, with many games to be played in Chennai, will aggravate an already surcharged atmosphere and further offend the sentiments of the people.

In view of the popular antipathy and anger in Tamil Nadu against the actions of the Government of Sri Lanka, the Government of Tamil Nadu is of the view that IPL matches involving Sri Lankan players, umpires and other officials should not be played in Tamil Nadu. The BCCI may be advised by the Government of India to prevail upon the IPL organizers not to allow Sri Lankan players,

officials, umpires and support staff to take part in the tournament in Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu will permit IPL matches to be held in Tamil Nadu, only if the organizers provide an undertaking that no Sri Lankan players, umpires, officials or support staff would participate in these matches.

I would be grateful for a line in reply in this matter.”

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**Government of Karnataka to be
advised against Construction across
Pennaiyar River**

D.O. letter dated 27.03.2013

“I am writing this letter to you in continuation of my D.O. letter dated 19.5.2012 seeking your intervention in advising the Government of Karnataka to stop forthwith the execution of any Check Dams or diversion structures etc., across the Inter-State river Pennaiyar.

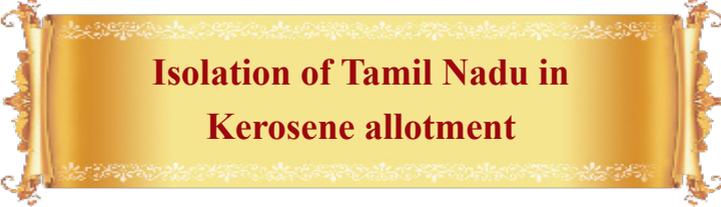
The media had widely reported that the Government of Karnataka has constructed a diversion structure at Mugalur in Karnataka limits for diversion of water through a canal to feed Lakkur tank for irrigation. This act of Karnataka will affect the flows in the river considerably and will severely affect the irrigation in Tamil Nadu depending upon the waters of the Inter-State river Pennaiyar.

Under the circumstances, I once again seek your kind intervention in the matter and request you to advise the Government of Karnataka to stop any construction activity

across the river Pennaiyar immediately and not to venture upon any schemes in the Pennaiyar river without the prior consent of Tamil Nadu.

I look forward to your immediate positive response in this matter.”

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Isolation of Tamil Nadu in Kerosene allotment

D.O. letter dated 09.04.2013

“I write to bring to your notice another instance of arbitrary, unfair treatment meted out to Tamil Nadu by the Government of India, this time in the allotment of kerosene for the Public Distribution System. You would recall that I had already written to you on 1.6.2011, 25.5.2012 and 10.6.2012, protesting against earlier reductions in the monthly allotment of kerosene to Tamil Nadu and requested you to allot 65,140 KL per month, which is the actual requirement of the State. This request was also included in the Memorandum that I had submitted to you in person on 14.6.2011.

Even while all these requests were pending examination in the Government of India, as acknowledged by your own office, it is extremely distressing to find that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has persisted in repeatedly

reducing the allotment of kerosene to Tamil Nadu.

It has gone down from 52,806 KL per month fixed from the April-June, 2011 quarter to 44,576 KL in the January-March, 2012 quarter and was further reduced to 42,460 KL in the April-June 2012 quarter. It has further gone down to 39,429 KL per month from the July-September, 2012 quarter onwards.

I am shocked to learn that now, in the latest order dated 20th March, 2013, this already very low level of allotment has been further drastically slashed to 29,060 KL per month for the April - June, 2013 quarter. This reduction is the biggest cut imposed on any of the States. Tamil Nadu has been singled out for such a drastic reduction. The allotment of kerosene to most other States has been maintained at former levels with virtually no reduction.

The process of allotment of kerosene is totally opaque and arbitrary. The basis and rationale of the allotment is not shared with the States nor is it based on any data which the States provide. It would only be fair that if the allotment is based on information provided by oil marketing companies, such information should also be

shared with the State Governments to enable them to make timely representations or corrections. It is learnt that a large number of LPG connections have been given in other major States also, and in some cases, more than in Tamil Nadu in the period from April to December 2012. However, there has been no reduction in the kerosene allotment for those States.

Given the arbitrariness and opacity that characterises the kerosene allotment decisions and the lack of any specific reasons that have been cited for the drastic reduction in the allotment for Tamil Nadu, all this leads me to wonder why Tamil Nadu is being targeted for such unfair and vindictively harsh treatment by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Is the Government of India punishing Tamil Nadu for running one of the most efficient Public Distribution Systems in the country?

The unjust and arbitrary under-allocation of kerosene by the Government of India to Tamil Nadu to the extent of more than 55% against the actual requirement is penalizing the poor people of Tamil Nadu who are being deprived of their eligible entitlement of kerosene by the capricious cuts in the allocation of kerosene to the State.

I request your urgent and decisive intervention in this matter to undo the injustice done to Tamil Nadu and to allot the entire requirement of 65,140 KL of kerosene per month. As an immediate interim measure, I request that the Government of India should at least restore the allotment to 52,806 KL per month, which was the level of allotment for the April-June, 2011 quarter.

May I request an early response in this regard?"

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Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme through the State Government

D.O. letter dated 27.04.2013

“I understand that the Government of India has decided to operationalise the Second Phase of the Direct Benefits Transfer Scheme from 1.7.2013. Three Districts of Tamil Nadu, Ariyalur, Pudukottai and Tiruchirappalli are proposed to be included in Phase I of the rollout of the Direct Benefits Transfer. I wish to convey my strong objections to certain aspects of the Direct Benefits Transfer and the manner of its operationalisation since they are clearly intended to bypass democratically elected State Governments. They fly in the face of federalism and democratic decentralization. They insidiously seek to secure for the Government of India unnecessary influence and authority over the finances of the States.

I wish to point out to you that as one of the most progressive and well governed States in the Country, the Government of Tamil Nadu has already adopted the

mechanism of Direct Cash Transfer, through bank accounts of the beneficiaries, for schemes which involve conditional cash transfers like Scholarships, Maternity Benefits, Social Security Pensions etc on its own initiative. However, we have serious reservations about the Direct Benefits Transfer model adopted by the Government of India and now sought to be superimposed upon us. To begin with, we are strongly opposed to any move to monetize and transfer in cash the subsidy element under the Public Distribution System, and fertilizer, kerosene and LPG subsidies etc, where not just the quantum of subsidy, but the access to and timely availability of commodities is a critical concern.

We are equally opposed to the direct transfer of cash to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries by the Government of India bypassing the State Government altogether. This is neither an administratively sound practice nor in keeping with the spirit of federalism and democratic decentralization enshrined in the Constitution. Having the field machinery of the State Government carrying out the entire process of identification and verification, while the releases are done directly by the Government of India, will result in divorcing authority from responsibility and accountability. This model also violates a basic tenet of sound administration, which is that authority, responsibility and accountability have to be fused together at the same

level in order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. Hence the proposed mechanism will not lead to sound outcomes.

We find that the Union Planning Commission has issued a series of instructions and guidelines on a number of conceptual and operational issues relating to Direct Benefits Transfer, with virtually no consultation with the State Governments. Once decisions are taken and the scheme is finalized unilaterally by the Central Government, the States are required only to place their field machinery at the disposal of the Government of India to implement the mechanism. Are the State Governments expected to look on as mere bystanders, far removed from the process of administering the scheme, after having placed their entire field machinery at the disposal of the Government of India? This is clearly an infringement of the authority of the State Governments and totally violative of the federal polity of the Country and the spirit of democratic decentralization.

We also have a number of reservations about the scheme design of the 25 schemes currently identified for the Phase II roll-out. We find that many of them are either pilot schemes implemented only in a few blocks or Districts in each State, or the amount of benefit sought to

be transferred is very small and insignificant. Some of the schemes currently identified for the Phase II roll-out are schemes wherein the Centre and States share the cost and the respective shares are released to a Special Purpose Vehicle, which in turn releases it to the beneficiaries. In such cases, if the Government of India insists on Direct Benefits Transfer for its share, it will lead to more confusion and accountability is bound to suffer. The Janani Suraksha Yojana scheme is a clear case in point.

There are schemes like the Indira Gandhi Matritva Suraksha Yojana, which attempts to replicate a State scheme in Tamil Nadu namely, the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Scheme, which provides a far higher benefit and much wider coverage. In such cases, direct release by the Government of India will lead to duplication and waste of resources and fall far short of the scale and range of benefits of the State scheme. In such circumstances, it would be administratively prudent to leave the implementation to the State, as is being done now, instead of trying to run a parallel and inadequate scheme directly by the Government of India in the name of Direct Benefits Transfer.

In the case of many scholarship schemes, the State Government meets the committed portion of the cost and the Centre reimburses the additional costs. In such

cases, a beneficiary-wise demarcation of Central and State shares is not possible, and since the entire identification and verification process has to be done by the State Government machinery, Direct Benefits Transfer from the Central Government level does not seem prudent.

In these circumstances, the Direct Benefits Transfer Scheme, as presently envisaged by the Government of India, would become unmanageable and create more administrative problems than it is attempting to solve. It would also lead to lack of accountability. If the intention of the Government of India in introducing Direct Benefits Transfer into the bank accounts of beneficiaries is to ensure efficient delivery, then the Government of India should route its funds through the State Government, which is already progressively switching over to the bank mode of disbursement for all its beneficiary oriented schemes.

The Government of India should confine its role to monitoring implementation. I also strongly urge and reiterate that the Government of India should also give up its intention of moving to Direct Cash Transfer of subsidy for crucial schemes like the Public Distribution System and fertilizer and kerosene subsidy.

Therefore, until our serious concerns are addressed, clarity is provided and a consensus is reached on the

manner of transfer of resources to the State Government for disbursement to beneficiary bank accounts, the implementation of the Central Direct Benefits Transfer in its present form should not be operationalised in Tamil Nadu. I strongly urge you to move over to a Direct Benefits Transfer scheme through the State Government, which would not only make the roll out faster and more efficient but also enable this mechanism to be extended seamlessly to other schemes like Social Security Pension disbursement, which are not currently included in the list of 25 schemes to be covered at present. This would give the State Governments their rightful place as equal partners in the governance of the Country and not reduce them to becoming vassals in the structure of governance.”



A decorative scroll with a golden background and ornate borders. The text is centered on the scroll in a bold, red, serif font.

Operationalizing the Cauvery Water Tribunal Order

D.O. letter dated 17.05.2013

“You may recall that I had written to you on 22.2.2013 and 11.3.2013 to forthwith constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as the commencement of the irrigation year is fast approaching. However, the Government of India has not shown the necessary alacrity in constituting the above machinery for the implementation of the Final Order, even though the said Final Order was published in the Gazette of India on 19th February, 2013.

On an application filed by my Government to direct the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal, the Supreme Court, in its order dated 10.5.2013, had recorded the submission of the Additional Solicitor General that “the follow up action pursuant to the notification dated

February 19, 2013, is under active consideration of the Central Government” and ordered the constitution of a Supervisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, to ensure the implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal till the Cauvery Management Board is constituted.

In my view this arrangement, at best, is only an interim arrangement and the Hon’ble Supreme Court in its order has also categorically stated that “the arrangement made herewith is purely pro term measure for the purpose of ensuring implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated February 5, 2007, notified vide Notification dated February 19, 2013”.

Therefore, I am of the firm opinion that the formation of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as per the Final Order of the Tribunal would be the only lasting solution to end the travails and tribulations of the farmers of Tamil Nadu in the Cauvery Delta. Many lakhs of farmers of Tamil Nadu cannot be made to wait any longer for justice which has long been delayed to them as they face season after season of acute agrarian distress forced upon them by a neighbouring State.

To alleviate the misery of the farmers of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India should immediately take steps to operationalize the Tribunal's Final Order which has been Gazetted after a long delay of 6 years. Surely, the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee is a logical corollary of the notification of the Final Order and it cannot be delayed any further?

I, therefore, exhort you to order the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee without any further delay.”

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**Take Urgent measures to get
Back Katchatheevu**

D.O. letter dated 17.05.2013

“I would like to inform you that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed a unanimous Resolution dated 3.5.2013 regarding the retrieval of Katchatheevu back to India. A copy of the Resolution is enclosed herewith.

In this connection I would like to recall that the 1974 Agreement signed between India and Sri Lanka by Smt. Indira Gandhi and Smt. Sirimavo R.D. Bandaranaike on 26-6-1974 had determined Katchatheevu as a part of Sri Lanka, and the islet was ceded by the Government of India unilaterally to Sri Lanka, without obtaining the approval of both Houses of Parliament for a Constitutional amendment in this regard. The stand of the Government of Tamil Nadu is that Katchatheevu has always been a part of India, geographically, culturally and historically and needs to be

retrieved back, keeping in view the livelihood interests and security of thousands of Indian fishermen.

As the incidents of shooting, attacks against and harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy continued unabated, I had, in my personal capacity, as General Secretary of the AIADMK, filed a W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008, before the Supreme Court of India in 2008 to consider the 1974 and 1976 Agreements, which have been the root cause for the untold misery of Tamil Nadu fishermen, as null and void in the absence of the mandatory Constitutional amendment required and to retrieve Katchatheevu back to India. The matter is under the consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

After my Government assumed power in Tamil Nadu, in May 2011, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed another Resolution unanimously on 3.6.2011, to implead the Revenue Department of the State in the Writ Petition W.P. (Civil) No.561/2008, filed before the Supreme Court of India in 2008.

In the background of continued attacks on the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and keeping in view concerns about

the safety and security of the fishermen, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a Resolution on 3.5.2013 stating that, in view of the legal invalidity of the 1974 and 1976 Agreements, the Government of India should take steps to retrieve back Katchatheevu and its surrounding areas.

I, therefore, request you once again to kindly take urgent measures to get back Kachatheevu and the surrounding areas from Sri Lanka. Further, the IMBL needs to be redrawn after the retrieval of Katchatheevu, which will enable our fishermen to carry on fishing in their traditional fishing waters without concerns of safety and security.”

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**No Further Disinvestment or Division
of Share Holding in NLC to be made**

D.O. letter dated 23.05.2013

“I learn that there is a proposal to disinvest a further 5% of Government of India’s equity holding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) in order to meet an artificially placed regulatory requirement under the recently amended Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957.

As you are aware, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) is the largest Central Public Sector Unit in Tamil Nadu. It was also the largest Central power producer located in a backward region of the State providing employment to more than 17,500 persons. The employees of NLC have a justifiable apprehension regarding any move to disinvest even a portion of Government of India’s equity in the Company. Instead of reassuring the large work force, the concerned Ministry and the company management seem to be trying to justify the disinvestment based on specious and artificial regulatory requirements. The State Government’s

co-operation is being sought to convince the labour unions to accept the proposed disinvestment. My Government has been consistently and strongly opposed to privatising any portion of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and we are of the firm view that the Public Sector character of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) should be maintained without any dilution. In this connection, I find that the Government of India is attempting to create an artificial regulatory crisis based on certain recent amendments to the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957. Quoting these rules as the basis for dilution in the Government of India's holding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) is neither appropriate nor desirable.

Any proposal to disinvest even a small portion of the share holding will lead to considerable labour unrest. Given the current acute power shortage in the State, any disruption of power supply from Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) would very adversely affect the interest of the State. Hence I strongly urge you to explore alternatives to the proposed disinvestment.

It is incorrect to state that there is no option to disinvesting a further 5% of the share holding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC). There are clearly two options. Neyveli Lignite Corporation can be delisted by buying

back the 6.44% currently in public hands through the buy back mechanism available under SEBI regulations. Alternatively, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, can be amended to make a special exemption for Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) by introducing a necessary proviso under Rule 19(2)(c).

In these circumstances, I urge you to take necessary action to ensure that there is no further disinvestment or dilution of the share holding of the Government of India in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC).

I would be grateful for an early response in this regard.”

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**A Permanent Solution to the
Harassment of Tamil Nadu Fishermen
by Sri Lankan Navy**

D.O. letter dated 06.06.2013

“I wish to draw your attention to yet another outrageous incident of capture and arrest of 49 innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu who ventured out in 10 mechanised boats on 5.6.2013 for eking out their livelihood on the high seas. It is reported that 24 fishermen belonging to Rameswaram set out in 5 boats and they have been illegally abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken away to Mannar in Sri Lanka where they are being held in custody. Further, another batch of 5 boats from Rameswaram with 25 fishermen on board have been captured in the high seas and detained by the Sri Lankan Navy at Kayts Island. Further, it was also shocking to learn that one boat, TN 10/MFB/1004 which was chased away ruthlessly by the Sri Lankan Navy actually capsized and five fishermen on board were rescued by their fellow fishermen and reached our shores safely.

I have repeatedly written to you about the travails of innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen who face harassment, abduction and assault at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy, which continues with its menacing and predatory acts in the face of pusillanimous responses and apathy by the Government of India. Things have come to such a pass that fishermen from Tamil Nadu are unable to access their traditional fishing waters for fear of being kidnapped or attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy. The entire fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is agitated, incensed and in a volatile mood.

Despite my repeated protests, the Government of India has taken no firm stance in the matter and has exerted little or no diplomatic pressure on Sri Lanka to bring about a permanent solution to the problem of harassment and arrests of innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

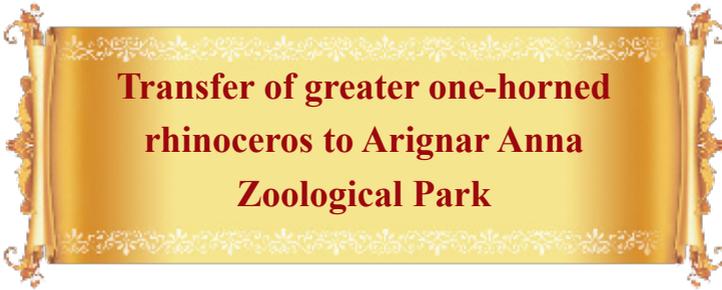
I request you to instruct the Ministry of External Affairs to immediately summon the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and lodge the Government of India's strong protest against this latest act of illegal and highhanded abduction of such a large number of innocent fishermen in the Palk Bay by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Government of India should convey in no uncertain terms its indignation at this latest act of abduction of innocent

Indian fishermen and ensure that the Sri Lankan Navy is restrained from making such unprovoked assaults on innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

May I also request you to firmly instruct our diplomats in Colombo to immediately take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka and secure the immediate release of the 49 fishermen and their boats?

I solicit your immediate action in the matter.”

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**Transfer of greater one-horned
rhinoceros to Arignar Anna
Zoological Park**

D.O. letter dated 18.06.2013

“I am writing to you both in my capacity as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and also as the Chairperson of the Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu.

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, is the largest Zoo in the Country and one of the largest in South-East Asia. More than two million visitors visit the Zoo annually. Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, is categorized as a “Large Zoo” based on species diversity, number of endangered species and area. The Zoo is known for following modern captive animal management principles in its day to day administration.

The Zoo has in its collection, 1400 individual animals consisting of 143 species. The greater one-horned rhinoceros was in our collection from 1985 to 1989.

The animal died in 1989 and after that there has been no representative of this magnificent animal in our Zoo. Considering the number of visitors to the Zoo and the popularity of the Indian rhinoceros it would be very fitting if Vandalur Zoo could once again have these animals in our collection. We have sufficient numbers of Indian gaur, which we can give in exchange to the Government of Assam.

The Indian gaur is one of our flagship species.

Hence, I request you to spare one pair of greater one-horned rhinoceros in exchange for one pair of Indian gaur.”





Amendments to the Food Security Bill to the concerns of States

D.O. letter dated 02.08.2013

“The Union Government has unilaterally and hastily promulgated the National Food Security Ordinance, 2013. Though the Ordinance claims to provide Food Security to all, unfortunately, contrary to such a claim, there are several flaws in the Ordinance which have created serious apprehensions and actually raise the spectre of food insecurity for a State like Tamil Nadu. Many of these lacunae were already pointed out in my letter to you dated 20.12.2011 and have been reiterated by my Ministers and Officers in several meetings. Very disappointingly, and as has become the Central Government’s wont, none of these serious concerns have been addressed in the hurriedly promulgated Ordinance.

Tamil Nadu has been successfully implementing a

Universal Public Distribution System for the last several decades, which has won accolades from several domestic and international observers including the Supreme Court of India. Through this system, the State has been able to address the issue of food security for all without exception. Historically, the system has been built on a combination of procurement of rice within the State and a reliance on assured allocations from the Central Pool of food grains.

To preserve this hard earned food security, it is essential to ensure that the present level of allocation of food grains from the Central Pool is retained without any diminution. Therefore, we had repeatedly requested that a proviso be inserted in the relevant clause of the Food Security Bill to protect the existing level of allocation of food grains for Tamil Nadu. I am deeply dismayed to find that the Ordinance as promulgated contains no such proviso.

Section 3(2) of the Ordinance envisages that nationwide, 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population are to be covered as households eligible for allocation of subsidized food grains. This is a totally arbitrary allocation principle with no rational basis. When the edifice of food security in a State is based on a much

applauded Universal PDS, clumsy attempts at targeting and arbitrary cut off points of this nature will severely compromise food security and cause great hardship to the people.

I just cannot comprehend how a lower level of allocation in urban areas can be justified. There is no food production in urban areas to supplement household consumption. In such a situation, the urban coverage should be 100 per cent or at least 75 per cent on par with rural areas. It should not be forgotten that the Public Distribution System was originally put in place to ensure affordable supply of food primarily in urban areas. Tamil Nadu with an urban population of 49 per cent has the highest level of urbanization amongst major States in the country and is going to be particularly hard hit by this ill-conceived and invidious discrimination against urban areas in the Ordinance.

What is even more galling is that Tamil Nadu is not likely to receive even the nationwide average allocation based on the population proportion. The Joint Secretary to GOI, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution,

in a letter dated 26th July, 2013, to all State Governments has indicated a State-wise break-up of the allocation and I was shocked to find that there is a further drastic reduction in eligible population in Tamil Nadu. Only 62.55% of the rural population and 37.79% of the urban population would be covered in Tamil Nadu. Arbitrarily chosen metrics have been applied to the data collected in the Large Scale Sample Survey of monthly Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization in 2011-2012. Such a desk exercise based on a convoluted methodology completely ignores ground realities and pre-existing historical circumstances. The overall status of food production in the State, quantity retained by households for own consumption, the net surplus available for the market, and current reliance on the PDS are all crucial and relevant factors for food security which have been totally ignored in determining the State-wise allocation. The arbitrary allocation made is a huge penalty slapped on the better performing States which have provided greater Food Security to their entire population.

It is estimated that, as a consequence of the Ordinance,

the monthly allocation of food grains for Tamil Nadu will decline by nearly 1 lakh tonnes from the present level of 2.96 lakh tonnes. Preserving the Universal Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu will then cost the State exchequer a net additional Rs.3000 crores per annum. An even graver concern is the uncertainty of availability, which would expose the State to higher vulnerability of physical shortage, especially during scarcity periods.

This will be compounded by the fact that Schedule-I of the Ordinance assures even the limited allocation of subsidized food grains only for a period of 3 years from the commencement of the Ordinance. There is no clear-cut indication on how the Union Government will maintain the level of subsidy on the supply of food grains to the States thereafter. This will only increase the uncertainty in ensuring food security over the long run and expose the State's finances to an even greater risk.

Further, Section 8 of the Ordinance requires State Governments to pay a food security allowance when food grains cannot be supplied. In the case of Tamil Nadu, such a situation will arise only when the Central Government fails to allocate and ensure supply of adequate food grains.

This provision does not answer the fundamental question of making adequate food grains available. The provisions contained in Section 23 are also inadequate to meet such a contingency.

Hence, I suggest that Section 23 should be amended to make it incumbent on the Government of India to take all necessary measures, including import of food grains when warranted, to ensure continued supply of food grains and not leave the States to fend for themselves after providing limited financial assistance.

The State Governments are also obliged under the first proviso to Section 10(1) to prescribe guidelines and complete identification of the eligible households within 180 days of the commencement of the Ordinance. As you are aware, the Central Government has taken up the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) in 2011 which should form the data base for an identification of households. This census process has not been completed and the data is yet to be shared with the State Governments in a final, usable form. It is learnt that the Government of India is yet to prescribe guidelines on the manner in which BPL families and eligible families are to be identified based on the

SECC data base. In these circumstances, the requirement of finishing the identification of eligible households in six months time is unrealistic and is bound to create many administrative difficulties, exposing the State Governments to needless criticism. Hence the first proviso to Section 10(1) may be deleted from the Ordinance.

Under these circumstances, I would scarcely be exaggerating if I stated that, for Tamil Nadu, this Ordinance is actually a Food Insecurity Ordinance. I have strong reasons to suspect that the Central Government is deliberately trying to create a Food Security crisis for Tamil Nadu, on the one hand by adopting arbitrary principles and formulae for allocation of food grains in the guise of the Food Security Ordinance, and on the other hand by acting against the interests of the State in receiving its due share of water in the River Cauvery which is crucial for paddy cultivation in the Cauvery delta.

Therefore, I strongly urge you that the design of food security for the Country needs to be reconsidered and the Ordinance in its present form must be replaced with a Bill which reflects our concerns adequately. The Government of India is duty bound to protect the food security of States

like Tamil Nadu. Respecting federal and democratic principles, any such Bill should be passed only after a detailed consultation with the States on the whole gamut of issues and after addressing specific concerns of different States and after adequate discussion in Parliament.

To this end, I strongly urge that the following amendments must be made in the Bill that is proposed to replace the Ordinance in Parliament:

- 1) There must be a foolproof and firm guarantee in the legislation through an appropriate clause in Chapter VIII of the Ordinance: “Obligations of Central Government for Food Security”, to ensure continued adequate level of allocation of food grains to States that are already implementing a Public Distribution System that delivers a higher level of coverage at the time of the commencement of the new legislation. This provision should ensure that the present total allocation of food grains to the State under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, BPL and APL categories is not reduced.

- 2) The proportion of the urban population eligible

under Section 3(2) must be increased from 50 per cent to cover the entire urban population.

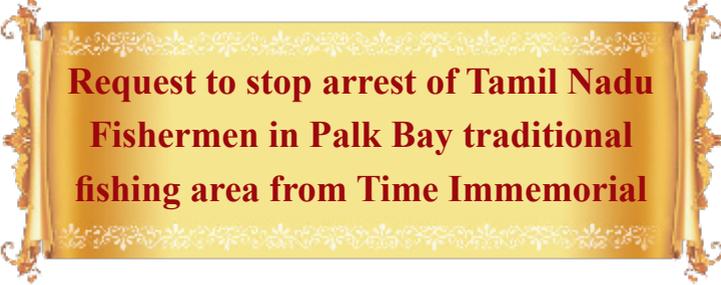
3) The supply of food grains by the Central Government at the rate currently proposed in Schedule-I should be guaranteed, and not restricted for a period of only three years.

4) The difference between the State's current allocation of food grains, which is to be guaranteed by the proposed new legal provision, and the entitlement based on eligible families under Section 3(2) as proposed to be amended, should continue to be supplied at the differential price now applicable for APL allotment.

5) Section 8, Section 10 and Section 23 should also be amended appropriately as already indicated in earlier paragraphs.

Hence I strongly urge you to ensure that the concerns of Tamil Nadu are addressed through the inclusion of the appropriate amendments in the Bill that the Government of India intends to place before Parliament to replace the Food Security Ordinance.”

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**Request to stop arrest of Tamil Nadu
Fishermen in Palk Bay traditional
fishing area from Time Immemorial**

D.O. letter dated 06.08.2013

“I would like to invite your attention to my earlier letters dated 17.6.2013, 8.7.2013, 1.8.2013 and 2.8.2013 highlighting the plight of 70 innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu who continue to languish in Sri Lankan jails. I had also sought your personal intervention at the highest diplomatic levels in order to secure their immediate release. In the absence of any action by the Government of India to secure their release by raising the issue with the Sri Lankan Government, these poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu still remain in Sri Lankan custody.

Even while they continue to remain in Sri Lankan jails, in yet another outrageous incident that took place on 3rd

August 2013, another 20 fishermen from Rameshwaram have again been abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy. This is the third time within a period of one month that fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been subjected to such highhanded acts of abduction and kidnapping at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy. 5 Mechanised fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND/TN/10/MM/268, IND/TN/10/MM/865, IND/TN/10/MM/381, IND/TN/10/MM/708, IND/TN/11/ MM/325, which ventured out for fishing on 3.8.2013 from Rameshwaram base with 20 fishermen on board, have been apprehended near Katchatheevu by the Sri Lankan Navy and taken to Thalaimannar, Sri Lanka. They have been remanded to custody on 4.8.2013.

I have been repeatedly writing to you about the travails of innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen who face harassment, abduction, assault and apprehension at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy, which continues its menacing and predatory acts in the face of the immobility and apathy of the Government of India to the plight of these innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu. The ineffective response of

the Government of India has emboldened the Sri Lankan Navy to continue such predatory attacks on Indian fishermen with impunity.

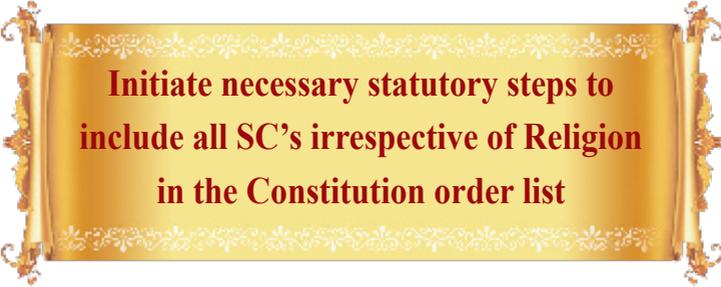
I must also emphasise that these frequent abductions, arrests and detention for long periods of time of Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Government, have created tension and agitation amongst the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu. The fishermen community in Tamil Nadu, which faces continuous harassment not only by the Sri Lankan Navy but also attacks by Sri Lankan miscreants in the guise of fishermen, now nurses a strong grievance against the Government of India that it has forsaken them in a time of crisis and is apathetic to their interests.

These continuous attacks and abductions are acts of an unfriendly nation and should be countered effectively by coercive diplomacy. A strong message should be delivered through diplomatic channels that India will not tolerate these attacks. Our diplomats in Colombo should take up

the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka and take concrete steps to secure the immediate release of all the 90 fishermen who are now in Sri Lankan jails.

May I also request you to take immediate steps to initiate a diplomatic dialogue with the Government of Sri Lanka to immediately stop the recurrence of such incidents of arrest and harassment of Tamil Nadu fishermen in the Palk bay, which is their traditional fishing area from time immemorial? I solicit your personal and immediate intervention in this matter.”

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**Initiate necessary statutory steps to
include all SC's irrespective of Religion
in the Constitution order list**

D.O. letter dated 09.08.2013

“I had written to the then Prime Minister of India on 28th November, 1995, urging that Scheduled Caste persons professing Christianity should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes through an Act of Parliament, meeting the requirements of Articles 341(1) and 342(2) of the Constitution. The issue of inclusion of the Scheduled Caste Christians within the definition of the term Scheduled Castes has been the subject of repeated representations by Scheduled Caste Christian groups and protracted correspondence initiated by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the Government of India. The substantive grounds that I had listed in my first letter on this issue still hold good. In fact, they have been reiterated and endorsed by the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic

Minorities appointed by the Government of India, headed by Justice Ranganath Misra.

Tamil Nadu is one of the most progressive States in the Country in the matter of implementing policies and schemes for the uplift and empowerment of the Scheduled Caste population, including Scheduled Caste Christians. Under my leadership, the Government of Tamil Nadu accords the topmost priority to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. We have been implementing an integrated and comprehensive programme for Scheduled Castes, including the provision of house sites, housing, amenities, drinking water supply, link roads, street lights and hut electrification, which is one of the best in the Country. Scheduled Caste students, including Scheduled Caste Christian students are also accorded benefits like Scholarships, Fee Concessions, Special Incentives for Scheduled Caste Girl Students, Supply of Free Text Books and study material, Note Books, Uniforms, Footwear, Bi-cycles, and Laptop Computers. As a result of these comprehensive policy initiatives, we have ensured the steady flow of benefits and opportunities for the development and growth of the Scheduled Castes in the State.

However, as a result of the restrictive nature of the definition of the term “Scheduled Castes” found in para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, the various welfare measures and policies designed for the Scheduled Castes have largely benefited only those amongst the Scheduled Castes who profess Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. A sizeable population of Scheduled Castes who profess Christianity has been excluded and remains outside the purview of all the Centrally assisted welfare and ameliorative measures and most importantly is excluded from the benefit of reservation in educational institutions and employment in public services for the Scheduled Castes.

Since my Government is committed to a policy of affirmative action in favor of the Scheduled Castes, irrespective of creed or religion, we have done our utmost to implement schemes that will benefit Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity on par with other Scheduled Castes. The cornerstone of Indian democracy is secularism, which rests on the three pillars of equality, social justice and equity for all its citizens, without discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, sex or religion. The position

of Scheduled Caste persons belonging to the minority religions is very similar to Scheduled Caste persons professing Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism. Yet, they are being unfairly kept out of the purview of the constitutional scheme of protection and reservation envisaged by the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

The National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities headed by Justice Ranganath Misra concluded that, on a careful examination of prevalence of the caste system among various sections of the Indian citizenry, caste is in fact a social phenomenon shared by almost all Indian communities irrespective of their religious persuasions. Many of the particular castes are found simultaneously in various religious communities, equally facing problems of social degradation and mistreatment both by their co-religionists and the others. The Commission further found that the Constitution of India prohibits any discrimination between citizens on the basis of caste, and yet it sanctions special affirmative measures for Scheduled Castes. At the same time the Constitution prohibits any discrimination on the ground of religion. The Commission concluded that any religion-based discrimination in selecting particular

castes for affirmative action will conflict with the letter and spirit of the Constitutional provisions.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, issued by the President of India derives its sanction under Article 341 of the Constitution. The term “Scheduled Castes” has been defined in Article 366 (24) read with Article 341(1) as:

“Scheduled Castes means such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purposes of this Constitution”. It is apparent that the Constitution of India does not confine the category of Scheduled Castes to any select religion. By extending the benefits of positive affirmation to a certain category of persons and then to proceed to confine the benefits under the Constitution Order, 1950, to citizens professing only specified religions like Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism and excluding from its purview citizens professing other religions, is not only ultra vires Article 341 but also militates against the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution to liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship to all its citizens.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, is not carved in stone. In the context of the changing nature of the socio economic structure of Indian Society since 1947, the Order can and must be amended so as to be in tune with the socio economic realities of modern day India. Continuing to keep the benefits of reservation in education and public services out of the reach of Scheduled Caste Christians because of the restrictive definition of Scheduled Caste found in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, is an ongoing injustice which must be ended forthwith.

The social tensions over the status of unbalanced growth between the Hindu Scheduled Castes and the Christian converts have only aggravated over time and the sense of alienation amongst the minority communities has further deepened. Therefore,

I wish to emphasize that the matter cannot brook any further delay. I, therefore, request that Scheduled Caste Christians be treated on par with Hindus, Sikhs or Buddhists, and should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes annexed to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. To enable this, as recommended by the

Ranganath Misra Commission, para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, must be deleted. Early disposal of the pending Writ Petitions in the Supreme Court filed by or on behalf of Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity challenging the validity of para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order should also be ensured by the Government of India by filing its counter affidavit supporting the request of Scheduled Caste Christians.

Prompt action should now be taken by the Government of India to initiate the necessary statutory steps to include all Scheduled Castes irrespective of religion within the ambit of the status of Scheduled Castes listed in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, and bring in necessary legislation in the current session of Parliament.”





**Immediate action on Tamil Nadu
Legislative Assembly Resolution
urging to boycott CHOGM**

D.O. letter dated 12.11.2013

“Kindly recall my letters dated 25.3.2013 and 17.10.2013 indicating that in view of the strong sentiments prevailing in Tamil Nadu against the war crimes and genocide perpetrated against Sri Lankan Tamils in the closing stages of the civil war in that country and the continuing human rights abuses and denial of basic dignity and equality to Sri Lankan Tamils, India should stay away in entirety from the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held at Colombo, Sri Lanka in November, 2013. On 24.10.2013 the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a unanimous Resolution that India should totally boycott the Commonwealth Heads of

Government Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka in the month of November this year and further that there should be no representation, even nominal, on behalf of India at that said meeting and further that the decision of India in this regard should be immediately conveyed to Sri Lanka and that India should take necessary action to have Sri Lanka temporarily suspended from the membership of the Commonwealth until the Government of Sri Lanka takes steps to accord ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka liberty and equality of status with the Sinhalese. This text of the Resolution was also communicated to you in my letter dated 25.10.2013.

Regrettably, the Government of India has chosen to participate in the CHOGM by sending a delegation headed by the Union Minister of External Affairs, showing scant consideration to the unanimous Resolution passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. Far from administering a stern message to the Sri Lankan Government, this decision, which flies in the teeth of the unanimous Resolution of the Tamil Nadu Assembly of the 24th October, 2013 is, in fact,

a snub to the people of Tamil Nadu, giving short shrift to their sentiments. There is now widespread disappointment and disillusionment at this stand of the Government of India and a continuing sense of injustice in Tamil Nadu on this deeply emotive issue.

Accordingly, in view of the groundswell of public and political opinion against this decision of the Government of India the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly met at a Special Session on 12.11.2013 to discuss this highly emotive and sensitive issue. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a Resolution to once again urge the Government of India to totally boycott the CHOGM and related meetings to be held in Colombo.

I am communicating the Text of the Resolution passed on 12.11.2013, for your urgent consideration and immediate action.”

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**Personal Intervention to Secure
Release of Tamil Nadu Fishermen
from Sri Lanka**

D.O. letter dated 22.11.2013

“I am extremely distressed to be writing to you yet again bringing to your notice yet another instance of illegal apprehension of innocent Indian fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy on 21st November, 2013, which also happens to be ‘World Fisheries Day’. The Government of India’s insensitive handling of the entire issue has led to the repeated, increasingly frequent and brutal attacks on fishermen from Tamil Nadu peacefully pursuing their livelihood in their traditional fishing waters. The meek and pusillanimous response of the Government of India to these repeated instances of apprehension have emboldened the Sri Lankan Navy to illegally arrest and detain more and more of our fishermen.

I would like to bring to your notice the latest incident on 21st November, 2013, in which the Sri Lankan Navy

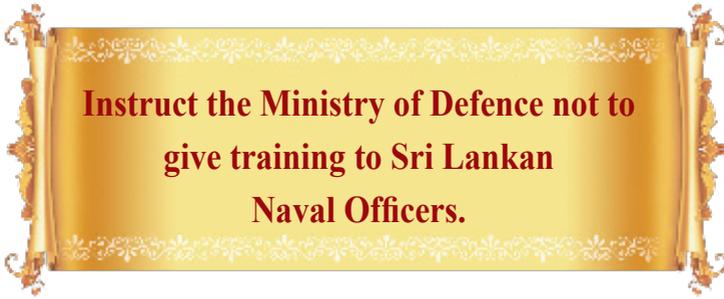
brutally abducted 20 poor innocent fishermen along with their 5 fishing boats while they were fishing in their traditional waters of Palk Bay. 20 fishermen set out for fishing from Jagadhapattinam and Kottaipattinam fishing bases of Pudukottai District on 20.11.2013 in 5 mechanised fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND-TN-08-MM-106, IND-TN-08-MM-125, IND-TN-08-MM-245, IND-TN-08-MM-297 and IND-TN-04-MM-173. While they were engaged in fishing in their traditional fishing waters, they were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 21st November, 2013. When the global fishermen community was in a festive mood, celebrating World Fisheries Day, this dastardly act of the Sri Lankan Navy has again cast a pall of gloom over our innocent fishermen and their families.

Incidents of abduction and detention of fishermen from Tamil Nadu for long periods in Sri Lankan prisons have multiplied, even as the Government of India takes little or no action to convey India's strong protest or to use coercive diplomacy to put an end to these marauding attacks. The very serious livelihood problem of hundreds of thousands of our fishermen is, in fact, being relegated to the backburner as something to be sorted out by the fishermen associations of both countries. The continued insensitive and ham-handed treatment of the Tamil Nadu

fishermen issue in the Palk Bay, is fast alienating the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu, who justifiably feel that they have been let down by their own national Government.

I wish to remind you that before the latest incident of 21st November, 2013, 60 fishermen who had earlier been apprehended and remanded to custody, continue to languish in Sri Lankan Jails and are yet to be released by the Sri Lankan Government. 42 fishing boats of our fishermen are yet to be returned from Sri Lankan custody causing considerable economic loss to the poor fishermen. May I once again exhort you to personally intervene in the matter and use the highest diplomatic channels of the Government of India to secure the immediate release of 80 fishermen who are currently in Sri Lankan custody including the 20 fishermen who were apprehended on 21st November, 2013, and the 47 Indian fishing boats detained by the Sri Lankan authorities at the earliest?

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D.O. letter dated 30.11.2013

“Over the last two years, I have written to you a number of times bringing to your notice the strong sentiments amongst Tamils and in Tamil Nadu on a range of issues relating to India’s relations with the present regime in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the ethnic civil strife in Sri Lanka, which was marked by an ethnic pogrom and genocide on the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has already passed four Resolutions condemning the continuing discrimination against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and violation of their human rights.

The other serious issue, which clearly demonstrates the harsh and unreasonable attitude of the present Sri Lankan regime, is the continuing marauding and totally unprovoked attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy upon

innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen on the high seas, followed by their extended periods of detention in Sri Lankan jails, confiscation of their boats, fishing nets, etc. thereby causing loss of their livelihood and condemning the fishermen and their families to suffer considerable mental agony.

Therefore, there is a deep and widespread sentiment prevailing amongst all sections of Society and shades of political opinion in Tamil Nadu about the need to hold the Sri Lankan regime to account for the acts of genocide and war crimes in the closing stages of the civil war and continued discrimination against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka. Further, the entire fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is agitated over the indiscriminate abduction of our fishermen on the high seas. It is against this background that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly had passed a historic Resolution on 27.3.2013 urging the Government of India to stop terming Sri Lanka as a “friendly nation”.

Please refer to my letters dated 16.7.2012, 25.8.2012, 28.8.2012 and 8.6.2013, wherein I had written to you to convey the deep sense of outrage of the people of Tamil Nadu regarding the imparting of training to Sri Lankan

defence personnel at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, located in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. While communicating Tamil Nadu's strong protest,

I had urged that the Government of India should issue a clear policy direction that the Ministry of Defence should not hereafter provide training, or engage in any form of co-operation with the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, until satisfactory and credible action was taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to completely stop the human rights violations against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and end the unprovoked and marauding attacks on fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

I had also written to you on 11.9.2013 that the Government of India should cancel the agreement to supply naval warships to Sri Lanka and ensure that no support of any kind is provided to the Sri Lankan military forces.

I am, therefore, dismayed to note from media reports that the Indian Navy has now offered to train Sri Lankan Navy officers and would put them through the four year Bachelor of Technology course now being offered to Indian Navy officers. It is learnt that this announcement followed a meeting between the Chief of Naval Staff and

Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka. This has come as a great shock to the people of Tamil Nadu. In utter disregard of the sentiments and emotions of the people of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India is persisting with the policy of defence co-operation with the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. The commitment made by the Government of India is tantamount to actively working with the Sri Lankan regime and providing them with the necessary wherewithal to act even more strongly not only against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka, but also against the poor Indian fishermen who regularly bear the brunt of the brutal attacks of the Sri Lankan Navy.

I wish to convey our strong protest against this insensitive policy of defence co-operation with Sri Lanka, which totally ignores the impact it may have upon the feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu. I, therefore, request you to urgently review this policy and instruct the Ministry of Defence not to pursue the proposed training programme for Sri Lankan Naval officers by the Indian Navy. May I request a line in reply?"

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D.O. letter dated 12.12.2013

“You would recall that I have written to you on numerous occasions bringing to your notice the repeated instances of abduction and apprehension of innocent Indian fishermen belonging to the coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy while pursuing their peaceful livelihood of fishing in their traditional fishing waters. I had sought a strong diplomatic response from India to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

I had also been consistently pointing out that the failure of the Government of India to come out strongly in defence of the rights and interests of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu was giving rise to disillusionment and

disquiet amongst the fishermen community and raising tensions to alarming levels. The failure of India to act decisively on this issue has emboldened the Sri Lankan regime to wilfully and with impunity, prey upon the poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

What I had feared appears to have come true in the latest incidents, when on 11.12.2013 the Sri Lankan Navy attempted to abduct and apprehend 47 boats with close to 325 fishermen from Nagapattinam District while they were fishing off the Akkaraipettai coast near Nagapattinam. The abduction operation put the lives of several of these fishermen at grave risk since a major confrontation took place in the high seas. Had it not been for the fishermen acting with restraint, and avoiding a direct conflict with the heavily armed Sri Lankan Navy personnel, many innocent lives could have been lost. 110 fishermen in 15 boats quietly surrendered to the Sri Lankan Navy, while 32 boats with 215 fishermen turned back and returned. The Sri Lankan Navy has acted with extreme hostility and punitive intent. It is understood that these 110 fishermen have been taken to Trincomalee for further legal action.

No sooner did the State Government get the details

of this shocking incident from the Coastal Security and Intelligence sources, we are now informed that, in yet another incident the Sri Lankan Navy has apprehended 30 fishermen in 8 boats from Tamil Nadu who ventured for fishing from the Jagathapattinam fishing base of Pudukkottai District in the early hours of 12.12.2013.

These are the largest and most outrageous acts of mass abduction of our fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. Such brazen and near warlike acts could not have been carried out without the tacit approval of the Sri Lankan Government. India's prestige and image has suffered grievous damage. The entire fishing community in Tamil Nadu has lost its faith in the ability of the Government of India to protect the lives and livelihood of innocent fishermen in the high seas. Surely, we cannot continue our facile 'do not touch policy' in the face of these audacious and high handed acts that violate the lives and livelihoods of our fishermen anymore?

I earnestly hope that the Government of India would wake up to the reality of the situation at least now and come up with a concrete course of action to resolve this issue. There has to be an immediate strong, diplomatic initiative

including intervention at the highest level. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner in New Delhi must be summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and our strong protest lodged. Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, you must personally take up this issue with the President of Sri Lanka without any further delay. Failure to take immediate action would be disastrous for the livelihood of the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu. It will also lead to flaring up of socio-economic tensions with the potential to snowball into a major law and order and security issue.

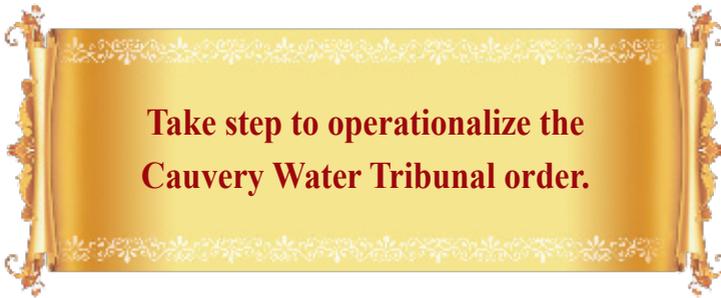
May I urge you to immediately bestow the much needed attention that this extremely volatile, emotive and sensitive issue deserves and to act decisively? The Government of India should not allow this issue to fester anymore through continued inaction or through a weak-kneed and timid approach towards the Sri Lankan regime which continues to perpetrate outrage upon outrage upon innocent Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu pursuing their livelihood.

The fishermen community in Tamil Nadu is in a highly agitated mood and we expect quick and decisive action by

the Government of India to ensure that the 23 fishing boats and 140 fishermen apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the past 24 hours are released forthwith without detention. May I also remind you that another 69 fishermen from Tamil Nadu are already languishing in Sri Lankan Jails and their 47 boats with equipment are still in Sri Lankan custody?

I request your immediate intervention and response.

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D.O. letter dated 17.5.2013

“You may recall that I had written to you on 22.2.2013 and 11.3.2013 to forthwith constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as the commencement of the irrigation year is fast approaching. However, the Government of India has not shown the necessary alacrity in constituting the above machinery for the implementation of the Final Order, even though the said Final Order was published in the Gazette of India on 19th February, 2013.

On an application filed by my Government to direct the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee for the effective implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal, the Supreme Court, in its order dated 10.5.2013, had recorded

the submission of the Additional Solicitor General that “the follow up action pursuant to the notification dated February 19, 2013, is under active consideration of the Central Government” and ordered the constitution of a Supervisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, to ensure the implementation of the Final Order of the Tribunal till the Cauvery Management Board is constituted.

In my view this arrangement, at best, is only an interim arrangement and the Hon’ble Supreme Court in its order has also categorically stated that “the arrangement made herewith is purely pro term measure for the purpose of ensuring implementation of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal dated February 5, 2007, notified vide Notification dated February 19, 2013”.

Therefore, I am of the firm opinion that the formation of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee as per the Final Order of the Tribunal would be the only lasting solution to end the travails and tribulations of the farmers of Tamil Nadu in the Cauvery Delta. Many lakhs of farmers of Tamil Nadu cannot be made to wait any longer for justice which has long been delayed to them as they face season

after season of acute agrarian distress forced upon them by a neighbouring State.

To alleviate the misery of the farmers of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India should immediately take steps to operationalize the Tribunal's Final Order which has been Gazetted after a long delay of 6 years. Surely, the constitution of the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee is a logical corollary of the notification of the Final Order and it cannot be delayed any further?

I, therefore, exhort you to order the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute the Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee without any further delay.”

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**Deal with Sri Lankan authorities in
concrete decisive manner**

D.O. letter dated 06.01.2014

“I am at a loss for words to convey my deepest anguish and frustration over the repeated apprehension and incarceration of a large number of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy. These continued oppressive acts have caused untold misery and hardship to the apprehended fishermen and their families. I wish to draw your attention to my letter dated 30.12.2013 bringing to your notice the apprehension of 40 fishermen and their 9 boats from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy on the 28th and 29th of December, 2013. In recent days, the marauding Sri Lankan Navy has not even spared the poorest fishermen who fish in traditional fishing crafts called “Vallams” and eke out a meagre livelihood in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay.

In the latest incident, 5 Mechanised fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND-TN-09-MM-178, IND-TN-11-MM-195, IND-TN-11-MM-199, IND-TN-11-MM-257 and IND-TN-09-MM-127 with 25 fishermen belonging to Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu set out to fish from Mandapam South fishing base on 2.1.2014. While they were engaged in peaceful fishing in their traditional fishing waters in the Gulf of Mannar, they were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 2.1.2014.

I wish to remind you that 250 Indian fishermen who were apprehended and remanded to custody in Sri Lankan Jails for long periods are yet to be released by the Sri Lankan Government while 79 Indian fishing boats are still in Sri Lankan custody and are being reduced to ruin and will be completely unusable for fishing operations.

The repressive Sri Lankan Navy is establishing its authoritarian presence in the Palk Bay by chasing and arresting unarmed innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu who offer no provocation. These oppressive acts of the Sri Lankan Navy on the direction of the emboldened Sri Lankan regime have caused a great deal of suffering and coupled with the hopelessly inadequate response of the Government of India have given rise to considerable resentment and angst not only amongst the fishermen

community, but also amongst the entire population of Tamil Nadu.

The Indian Government has been a mute spectator all along and not at all willing to understand the sufferings of its own fishermen and their families and intervene effectively. The bread winners of poor fishermen families are kept under detention for months together in an alien land and the only assets they possess to earn their livelihood are also allowed to rot and ruin there due to the inaction of the Indian Government.

May I once again urge your immediate personal intervention and exhort you to use the diplomatic channels of the Government of India in a concrete and decisive manner with the Sri Lankan authorities to secure the immediate release of 250 fishermen who are already languishing in Sri Lankan Jails in addition to the 25 fishermen who were apprehended on 2.1.2014 and the 84 fishing boats in Sri Lankan custody at the earliest?"

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Use of diplomatic channel to secure the release of fishermen

D.O. letter dated 30.01.2014

“As you are aware, in a spirit of accommodation, I had facilitated the holding of direct talks between the fishermen communities of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka on 27.1.2014 in Chennai. Based on the overall environment of goodwill created by the holding of the talks, 295 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu and their 45 boats were released by Sri Lanka in the last two weeks.

However, this environment of goodwill has been totally vitiated by an incident which occurred on 29.1.2014 in which 38 hapless Tamil Nadu fishermen were detained by the Sri Lankan Navy in a midnight raid while fishing in their traditional waters in the Palk Bay.

6 Mechanised fishing boats bearing registration number IND-TN-10-MM-88, IND-TN-10-MM-358, IND-TN-09-MM-213, IND-TN-10-MM-205, IND-TN-10-MM-748, IND-TN-09-MM-247, with 38 fishermen belonging to Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu set out for fishing from Rameswaram fishing base on 29.1.2014. While they were engaged in fishing in their traditional fishing waters in Palk Bay, they were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy around midnight on 29.1.2014.

It appears to me that this incident of apprehension is an attempt by elements in the Sri Lankan Navy to deliberately spoil the conducive atmosphere created by the recent talks. Such arrests and apprehension also directly impact the livelihood of the Tamil Nadu fishermen living in the Palk Bay Districts.

In order to preserve the conducive atmosphere and to enable a pragmatic and workable solution to emerge for the day to day fishing activities of the fishermen to continue, I request you to decisively impress upon the Government of Sri Lanka to advise its Navy to abstain from such acts of

illegal abduction of innocent Indian fishermen. I request you to convey an unequivocal and strong disapproval of the belligerent actions of the Sri Lankan Navy and also urge the Sri Lankan Government to direct its Navy not to resort to further illegal arrest and detention of our innocent fishermen.

May I urge your personal intervention and exhort you to use the diplomatic channels of the Government of India in a concrete and decisive manner to secure the release of the 38 fishermen arrested on 29.1.2014 including their 6 boats ?”

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D.O. letter dated 14.02.2014

“I am constrained to bring to your notice yet another incident in which 29 of our fishermen were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hours of 13.2.2014. The Sri Lankan Navy is now acting with greater impunity and effectively thwarting Indian fishermen coming from the Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu from peacefully pursuing their livelihood in their traditional fishing waters in the Palk Bay. Every fishing voyage of our fishermen is now laden with danger and the anxiety of possible attack, harassment, apprehension and custodial detention by the Sri Lankan authorities. It is extremely disheartening that hostile actions have been intensified by the Sri Lankan Navy after the recent fishermen level talks hosted in Chennai, which represented a positive step forward to

resolve the livelihood issues through mutual agreement, between the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka with the support of their Governments.

In this current episode, 7 mechanised fishing boats belonging to Ramanathapuram and Pudukkottai Districts, bearing Registration No. IND-TN-10-MM-33, IND-TN-10-MM-836, IND-TN-10-MM-841, IND-TN-11-MM-83, IND-TN-11-MM-46, IND-TN-08-MM-323 and IND-TN-08-MM-349, with 29 fishermen who ventured for fishing from Rameswaram, Mandapam (North) and Jagathapattinam fishing bases have been apprehended in the Palk Bay on 13.2.2014 and it is reported that they have been remanded to the Jaffna prison up to 24.2.2014 by the District and Magistrate's court, Kayts, Jaffna.

I have clearly indicated in my previous letters that the normal life and the right to livelihood of our fishermen of the 5 Coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu, viz. Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam have been left to the mercy of the marauding Sri Lankan Navy primarily due to the ill-advised 1974 and 1976 Agreements of the Government of India. These agreements have not only snatched away the livelihood of our fishermen but also the sovereign territory of India - Katchatheevu. The Government of India is yet again

treating the livelihood issue of lakhs of fishermen of Tamil Nadu with inexplicable insensitivity. Strong diplomatic action is not being taken by the Government of India to curb such repeated instances of attack, apprehension and unlawful detention of our fishermen.

May I once again exhort you to take up the matter with the Sri Lankan Government and arrange for the immediate release of all the 121 fishermen of Tamil Nadu apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy, who are now in Sri Lankan custody, including the 29 fishermen apprehended on 13.2.2014 and their 26 fishing boats? I once again urge you to intervene personally and ensure that the matter is taken up at the highest diplomatic level for the immediate release of the 121 fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu and their 26 fishing boats.”





**Deep anguish and pain over the
continued apprehension of fishermen**

D.O. letter dated 04.03.2014

“I am at a loss for words to convey my deep anguish and pain over the continued and repeated instances of apprehension and incarceration of a large number of fishermen from Tamil Nadu and their fishing boats by the Sri Lankan Navy and the untold hardship caused to the fishermen and their families.

In the most recent incident, 8 mechanised fishing boats bearing registration numbers IND-TN08-MM-115, IND-TN06-MM-932, IND-TN06-MM-318, IND-TN06-MM-757, IND-TN06-MM-429, IND-TN06-MM-124, IND-TN04-MM-4489 and IND-TN08-MM- 081, with 30 fishermen belonging to Pudukottai District of Tamil Nadu and 2 fishermen from Karaikkal of Puducherry set out for fishing from Jegathapattinam fishing base of Pudukottai District on 3.3.2014. While they were engaged in fishing

in their traditional fishing waters of the Palk Bay, they were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the evening of 3.3.2014.

I wish to draw your attention to my letter dated 20.9.2013 proposing fishermen level talks between fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. In order to enable a pragmatic and workable solution to emerge for the day-to-day fishing activities of our fishermen, I had facilitated the holding of direct talks between the fishermen communities of Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka on 27.1.2014 in Chennai.

In order to carry forward the constructive process of talks between the fishermen associations of both countries, the next level of fishermen talks have been slated to be held at Colombo on 13.3.2014, subject to the condition that all fishermen from Tamil Nadu and their boats in Sri Lankan custody must be released prior to the talks.

At this juncture, the further apprehension of 32 of our fishermen and their 8 boats has come as a rude shock to the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu. This harsh action of the Sri Lankan Navy against our innocent fishermen must be seen as a deliberate attempt to vitiate the atmosphere before the talks in Colombo slated for 13.3.2014. The Government of India is perceived as being a passive

and mute spectator and not willing to understand and empathize with the sufferings of its own fishermen and their families.

I wish to remind you that 116 fishermen from Tamil Nadu who were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy have now been in custody in Sri Lankan Jails for more than a month and 5 fishermen are still languishing in a Sri Lankan jail under a fabricated case for more than 2 years. 31 fishing boats belonging to these fishermen are also wasting away in detention.

May I once again urge your personal intervention in the matter? I also exhort you to decisively use all available diplomatic channels of the Government of India to secure the immediate release of 153 fishermen who are languishing in Sri Lankan Jails including the 32 fishermen, who were apprehended on 3.3.2014 and 39 fishing boats from Sri Lankan custody at the earliest.”

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