

**Memorandum presented to Shri Narendra Modi,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
by Thiru Edappadi K Palaniswami,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
on 19.1.2021**

1. Godavari – Cauvery Linkage

Request to expedite linking of Peninsular Rivers

National Water Development Agency (NWDA) prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Godavari - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) Link as Phase-I project of the Peninsular Rivers linkage and sent it to the States concerned for their comments during March, 2019.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had justified the need to rework the link so as to terminate it in the River Cauvery at Kattalai Barrage, instead of Grand Anicut and sent its comments to NWDA in September, 2019 and February, 2020. This request of Tamil Nadu is under the consideration of NWDA.

I have written letters to your goodself to provide atleast 200 TMC ft. of water to Tamil Nadu from this Phase-I project and ultimately 300 TMC ft. of water in Phase II, when River Mahanadhi is linked with Godavari.

Since, inter linking of rivers, being a game changing development agenda of our country, I request you to instruct the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, to finalise the DPR for this project and take up the work on priority basis, so that Southern States could be benefited from the inter basin transfer of flood water.

2. Cauvery-Gundar Linkage

Cauvery-Gundar linkage is a part of the Godavari-Cauvery linkage mentioned above. This diversion of

surplus flow to the drought affected part of Tamil Nadu will benefit several districts in the State. The State has planned to implement this linkage in 3 phases.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has already constructed a Barrage at Mayanur across Cauvery River at a cost of about Rs.255 crore in anticipation of this National Project.

The excess flood water of Cauvery River during surplus years can be diverted upto Gundar and therefore the Cauvery – Gundar link canal is of utmost importance to the State. The Government of Tamil Nadu has prepared a Project Report for the Cauvery (Kattalai) - Gundar link and requested the Government of India to accord in-principle approval and provide financial assistance to this mega project.

The Government of India, however, in November, 2020 informed that Tamil Nadu's proposal may have to be considered under Phase-II of National Perspective Plan, availability of surplus water for transfer upto Gundar to be considered as National Project.

Tamil Nadu was particular that immediately flood waters can be diverted from River Cauvery upto Gundar so as to benefit drought prone areas in the districts of Karur, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar and Thoothukudi and later on when Mahanadhi is linked upto Gundar under the National Perspective Plan would improve the recharge of ground water, meeting drinking water needs and stabilise the ayacuts.

Accordingly, considering the importance of this scheme, the Government of Tamil Nadu approved the Phase-I of the project of linking Cauvery river at Kattalai upto South Vellar river at a cost of Rs.6,941 crore and works for Rs.331 crore have been awarded for the first stretch of the project.

This project will have a profound impact on the flood management, besides augmenting the drinking water needs of

the most drought prone areas on the State which will have lasting benefits to the people of Tamil Nadu.

I request you to direct the Ministry of Jal Shakti to sanction this Project as a National project on priority basis and provide financial assistance to this project, in view of its greater impact on vast drought prone areas of Tamil Nadu.

3. Rejuvenation of Cauvery and its Tributaries on the lines of Namami Gange

Request financial support for "Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery" programme to restore the sacred River Cauvery and its main tributaries.

The much acclaimed "Namami Gange", an Integrated Conservation Mission; Flagship Programme taken up by Hon'ble Prime Minister to abate the river pollution and rejuvenate River Ganga, has been a driving force to initiate rejuvenation of the River Cauvery.

The river Cauvery is the life line of Tamil Nadu and considered as one of the "Sacred river of South India". It is also known as "Ganges of South".

I made an announcement that river Cauvery would be rehabilitated and pollution in the river would be abated on the lines of "Namami Gange" Project.

The objectives of the project is to conserve, rejuvenate and augment the water resources and to effectively stop sewage and industrial effluents from polluting the river Cauvery, by taking up several works like construction of ground water recharge structures; construction of Barrages and artificial recharge; sewage treatment plants; management of solid and liquid waste generated from domestic and commercial sources; upgradation and modernization of public amenities; river surface cleaning; Bio-diversity conservation and aforestation.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, conforming to the guidelines of the Government of India, has sent a Detailed Project Report for Rs.10,711 crore to avail the eligible funding of Rs.1,958 crore from Government of India and the balance would be funded by the State Government either through Private Public Participation (PPP) or by raising resources from financial institutions.

In order to launch the project immediately, based on the eligible funding assistance of Government of India, a Detailed Project Report for Rs.1,632 crore has been sent to Government of India for the sanction of its share of Rs.713.39 crore and the balance shall be funded by the State Government. This is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

I request you to instruct the Ministry of Jal Shakti, to consider this project as a Special Project like Namami Gange and to accord sanction and extend financial assistance of Government of India for Rs.713.39 crore sought by Tamil Nadu, at the earliest.

4. Chennai Metro Rail Project

Request to sanction revised project cost of Phase-I and DPR of Phase-II under 50:50 joint venture partnership basis

At the outset, I wish to express my gratitude for your active support for the Phase-II of the Chennai Metro Rail Project, that covers 118.9 km at an estimated cost of Rs.61,843 crore. Hon'ble Union Minister for Home Affairs had laid the foundation for this Phase on 21st November, 2020.

It may kindly be recalled that in my letter dated 12.10.2020, I had requested approval of 50:50 equity sharing model for the Phase-II of the Chennai Metro rail project on the same pattern as Phase-I. The project cost has been

finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the funding from JICA, ADB, AIIB and NDB have also been fully tied up with the support of Government of India.

I understand that the project proposal is under active consideration of Government of India, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The Ministry in its letter dated 28.12.2020, had called for certain clarifications on sanctioning the project under 50:50 equity sharing model. The Government of Tamil Nadu has, on 5.1.2021, sent the requisite detailed proposal covering all the issues.

I therefore request the kind intervention of Hon'ble Prime Minister for early approval of the Phase-II under the 50:50 equity model.

5. Request for Air Services

(a) Request to introduce evening flight services between Salem and Chennai under UDAN Scheme

Salem is one of the industrial hubs in the State having industries such as Steel, Magnesite, Garments, Automobiles and Leather industries. At present, only one return morning flight is being operated from Chennai to Salem, and no flights are operated in the evening and night hours.

Business Travellers are being put to hardship due to the single return flight and are using alternate modes of transport or they have to travel all the way to Coimbatore to take a flight.

I have been informed that the Airport Authority of India has completed the work at the Salem Airport for night landing of aircraft. **I therefore request you to kindly instruct the Ministry of Civil Aviation to operate an evening/night return flight from Chennai to Salem.**

(b) Flight Services from Coimbatore Airport to UAE

Many passengers from Coimbatore, Erode and Tiruppur Districts of Tamil Nadu are travelling to Dubai in the UAE. So, there is a demand for operation of flights between Coimbatore and Dubai.

I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to direct the Civil Aviation Ministry to introduce direct flight services between Coimbatore International Airport and Dubai in the UAE.

6. Financial assistance for the restoration of damages caused due to Cyclones "Nivar" and "Burevi" and the unprecedented heavy rainfall in January.

Tamil Nadu was ravaged by **two successive Cyclones viz., 'Nivar' and 'Burevi' during the Northeast Monsoon 2020. This was followed by heavy to extremely heavy downpours in southern districts and coastal areas due to an unusual extension of the North East monsoon in the month of January causing extensive damage to Rabi (Samba) crops which have almost come to maturity stage.**

The Cyclone 'Nivar' which hit the State of Tamil Nadu in the month of November, 2020, caused extensive damages to the infrastructure and to the Agricultural and Horticultural Crops. A Memorandum was sent to Government of India on 1.12.2020 detailing the damages caused due to Cyclone 'Nivar' and seeking financial assistance of a sum of **Rs.641.83 crore towards temporary restoration and Rs.3108.55 crore towards permanent restoration** of damages under NDRF as the fund available to the State was already exhausted for COVID-19 relief. The State has also made a request to depute the Central Team to make on the spot assessment of the damages caused due to the severe impact of Cyclone 'Nivar'. **Subsequently, the financial**

assistance required for temporary restoration of damages caused by 'Nivar' cyclone was arrived at Rs.650.10 crore. In my letter dated 1.12.2020, addressed to the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, I had also requested to release an immediate relief assistance of Rs.500 crore to the State of Tamil Nadu under NDRF.

In continuation to this, the Inter Ministerial Central Team visited the State of Tamil Nadu from 5.12.2020 to 8.12.2020 to assess the damages caused due to Cyclone 'Nivar' and the release of funds from Central Government is still awaited.

While the relief and restoration works in respect of Cyclone 'Nivar' were being taken up on a war-footing basis, the State of Tamil Nadu was ravaged by another Cyclone 'Burevi' and its related heavy to extremely very heavy rainfall in the month of December, 2020. A Memorandum on the damages caused due to Cyclone 'Burevi' was sent to Government of India with a request to sanction **financial assistance of Rs.485 crore for providing relief to the people affected, for temporary restoration measures and Rs.1029 crore for permanent restoration of the damages** caused due to the impact of Cyclone 'Burevi'. In my letter dated 15.12.2020 addressed to the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Government of India, I had also requested to release a sum of Rs.1000 crore immediately towards providing immediate relief to the affected people of the State. The Government of India had deputed the Inter Ministerial Central Team to the State of Tamil Nadu and the Central Team visited many districts affected due to the Cyclone 'Burevi' from 28.12.2020 to 30.12.2020.

Pending the release of assistance from Central Government, the Government of Tamil Nadu has already sanctioned a sum of Rs.80 crore towards relief and immediate

restoration of damages caused due to Cyclone 'Nivar'. Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu has also sanctioned relief of Rs.26.60 crore and Rs.565.45 crore towards the damages caused to the agricultural and horticultural crops due to Cyclone 'Nivar' and Cyclone 'Burevi' respectively to about 5 lakh farmers across the State.

During January 2021, unusually Tamil Nadu again had an unprecedented heavy rainfall in southern and coastal areas of the State due to continuation of the very aggressive North-East monsoon system. As against the normal average rainfall of 12.3 mm during January (1.1.2021 to 16.1.2021), the State has received over 136.6 mm of actual average rainfall, which is 1,011% higher than the normal average. In particular, the Cauvery Delta districts and the Southern Tamil Nadu districts had an unprecedented rainfall (averaging between 9 cm to 25 cm during a period of 24 hours) during the peak Samba harvesting period, thereby destroying the standing crops of the farmers which were almost ready for harvest. As per the initial assessment, crops in an extent of 4.5 lakh hectares have been inundated and damaged during these unprecedented rains. The input assistance under National Disaster Response Fund Guidelines would itself amount to Rs.472 crore.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that **as on 13.1.2021** a total sum of **Rs.2,615 crore** has been sanctioned under State Disaster Response Fund towards preparedness and relief measures, institutional quarantine facilities, Covid Care Centres, relief assistance for the people affected by 'Nivar' and 'Burevi' cyclones etc., to the District Collectors and Line Departments and hence **at present there is a deficit balance of Rs.1,255 crore under the State**

Disaster Response Fund. I also wish to add **the two Cyclonic systems that have hit during the North East Monsoon, 2020 and the continuation of the recent heavy downpours in the aftermath "Burevi" have aggravated the financial stress of the State of Tamil Nadu.**

I request you to kindly consider the release of Central Financial Assistance immediately which would not only provide the much needed relief to the affected people of Tamil Nadu, but would also help to reduce the financial burden of the State of Tamil Nadu as the State has already started disbursing the input assistance for the damaged crops in anticipation of central release from NDRF. An immediate release of Rs.1,200 crore for all the above damages may kindly be sanctioned.

7. Financial Assistance for Bulk Drug Park and Medical Devices Park

Government of Tamil Nadu is proposing to set up a Bulk Drug Park and a Medical Devices Park near Chennai.

The Bulk Drug Park is proposed to be located at Manallur, Gummidipoondi Taluk, Tiruvallur district in an extent of 2,000 acres. The proposed project cost for developing this project is Rs.2,153 crore. The Medical Devices Park is proposed to be located near Oragadam in Kancheepuram district in an extent of 350 acres. The proposed project cost for developing this project is Rs.430 crore.

These parks will have common and advanced infrastructure facilities like CETP, Steam Systems, Warehousing & Cold Storage, R & D Centre, Testing Facilities etc. The State Government will provide an attractive package of incentives to industries who will invest in these parks.

Tamil Nadu is one of the leading industrialised States in the country and is a top performer in sectors like automobiles, electronics and textiles. However, in sectors like pharmaceuticals and medical devices, the State is yet to reach its full potential. Government of Tamil Nadu is seeking to correct this situation by developing the aforesaid Bulk Drug Park and Medical Devices Park. It would also fulfil Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Government of Tamil Nadu has applied to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers for financial assistance for Rs.1,000 crore for Bulk Drug Park under 'Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks Scheme' and Rs.100 crore for Medical Devices Park under 'Promotion of Medical Devices Parks Scheme'.

I request your intervention for early sanction of financial assistance for these projects.

8. Request to sanction Mega Textile Parks for Tamil Nadu

Government of India has proposed to establish Mega Textile Parks across the country to achieve scale and reduced logistic costs which are imperative to compete in the global market.

Tamil Nadu is the leading State in Textiles. We are keen to participate in this Mega Textile Park scheme and I have written to Government of India expressing our intent.

The State has identified three suitable sites for setting up these Parks. The State will provide around 1,000 acres of land with requisite infrastructure such as uninterrupted power supply, water, connectivity in addition to single window facilitation for clearances.

I request you to kindly consider our request and sanction atleast two Mega Textile Parks for the State.

9. Fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling Copra at Rs.150/- per kg for 2021 Season

Tamil Nadu is one of the major coconut growing States in the country, with an area of around 4.40 Lakh hectares and annual production of 47,064 lakh nuts. Every year, based on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the Government of India is declaring Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various agricultural crops, including Copra. For 2020 Copra Season, the Government of India has declared Rs.99.60/- per Kg as Minimum Support Price for Milling Copra.

The Coconut plantations in Tamil Nadu in the past three years are affected by various disasters in the form of Gaja cyclone in 2018 and Rugose Whitefly in 2019, Nivar and Burevi Cyclones in 2020. To add fuel to the fire, the Covid-19 pandemic has completely devastated the Coconut industry to the core in 2020. The harvesting cost, transportation cost, demand for space for storage etc., has caused deep worry to the Coconut Growers. Moreover, the Coconut Processing Industry in the State has also suffered very much due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But, in major Copra Markets of Tamil Nadu, the present market price is ranging between Rs.120/- to Rs.125/- per Kg and is expected to prevail in the same trend till the end of the season. The coconut farmers are deeply distressed on the prevailing market rate of Copra in the State. Hence, taking the above challenges into consideration, it is felt that the present MSP for Milling Copra of Rs.99.60 per kg will not be adequate to compensate their cost of production.

As the Government of India had fixed the Minimum Support Prices for crops like Paddy, Ragi and Pulses at 150% of the cost of cultivation, the Coconut Farmers also need to be

given adequate price for their produce which will enable them to overcome the increasing cost of production in the background of seasonal adversities, pest attacks and rising input costs.

I request that the Hon'ble Prime Minister may kindly advise the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as well as the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to consider the revision of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling Copra from Rs.99.60 to atleast Rs.150/- per kg for the current 2021 Copra season, for safeguarding the interest of the coconut growers in the country.

10. Release of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu

I thank you for your intervention which has resulted in release of 40 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan authorities recently. All the 40 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu are expected to reach India today (19.1.2021).

There are still 12 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu who have been captured by Sri Lankan Navy recently and are in their custody. Sri Lankan strategy of keeping the boats of our fishermen is causing hardship to their livelihood.

I request your personal intervention and direction to the Ministry of External Affairs to urgently take up the issue with the highest authorities in Sri Lanka for the release the remaining 12 Indian fishermen and all the mechanised fishing boats currently in Sri Lankan custody.

11. Development of Vellapallam fishing harbour, Nagapattinam district and fish landing centres in 18 small fishing harbours of Tamil Nadu

For the development of fisheries infrastructure in the State, the Government of Tamil Nadu has sent proposals

under Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund for improving infrastructure of the fishing harbours in Tamil Nadu.

The proposals for the development of Vellapallam fishing harbour and other fish landing centres related infrastructure at 18 other small harbours have been sent to National Fisheries Development Board.

I request you to instruct the officials in the Department of Fisheries to expedite the proposals, so that the livelihoods of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu will be improved.

12. Expediting the setting up of the defence industrial corridor

A defence industrial corridor was announced by Government of India for Tamil Nadu comprising of nodes at Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Salem and Hosur. This corridor is aimed to create new defence production facilities and promote cluster with necessary testing and certification facilities units, export facilitation centres, technology transfer etc. The corridor was inaugurated in January, 2019 during the defence expo held in Chennai. Pursuant to this, the Government of Tamil Nadu has announced an Aerospace and defence industrial policy and identified IIT, Madras as knowledge partner for the project.

I request you to kindly instruct the Ministry of Defence and DRDO to expedite the setting up of the defence industrial corridor, which will enhance the overall industrial development of Tamil Nadu.

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