

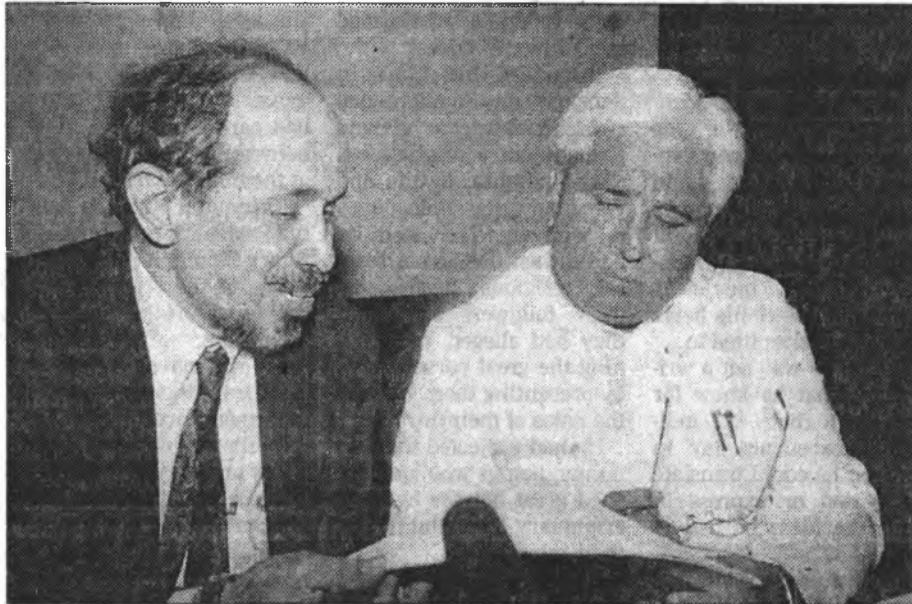
State has sought review of CRA order: Patil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 25: The Karnataka Government apprised the Cauvery Monitoring Committee on Monday about the "ground realities" in the Cauvery basin, and has sought a review of the decision of the Cauvery River Authority (CRA) on the release of water to Tamil Nadu, said State Minister for Water Resources H.K. Patil.

The State has made it clear about its need to protect the standing crop on 5.9 lakh acres land and to provide drinking water in a vast area, Patil told reporters after inaugurating a national workshop on 'Women and Water Network' in Bangalore on Monday.

The State will seek a review of the CRA order of Sept 8, according to which Karnataka must ensure daily release of 9,000 cusecs to Mettur Dam, said Patil. He did not however spell out the exact quantity of



Water Resources Minister H.K. Patil and NIAS Director Prof Roddam Narasimha during the national workshop on 'Women and Water Network' on Monday — Express photo

the review.

"Now, the situation has improved in the basin compared to that obtained during the visit of the monitoring committee on Sept 24 and Sept 25," he added, ex-

pressing confidence that the State is in a position to protect the interests of farmers in the Cauvery basin.

He also said the Monitoring Committee's reviewed report would be considered

at the CRA meeting, convened on Nov 29 in Delhi.

Earlier, in his inaugural address at the workshop on 'Women and Water Network', Patil explained the role of women in water us-

ers' societies formed in various irrigation project areas.

One of the objectives of the workshop, he said, is to evolve a strategy to present Indian women's voice at the World Water Forum next year. The workshop will assess women's access to water resources and their control over them.

The seminar has been organised by the Gender Studies Unit of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, and the Women in Water Network-South India. It is also expected to come out with an action plan to establish zonal networks in western and eastern India, and finalise a country status paper on women and water.

Besides taking stock of the current situation of the extent of women's access to and control over their water resources, the workshop aims to create greater opportunities for women with their priorities, perspectives and concerns.