State seeks review of CRA order

By Our Special Correspondent

BANGALORE, NOV. 25. The State Government today informed the Cauvery Monitoring Committee (CMC) of the Cauvery River Authority (CRA) about the current water level in different reservoirs in the State, the requirement for protecting the standing crop on 5.9 lakh acres in the basin, and the water required for drinking, the Water Resources Minister, H.K. Patil, told presspersons here.

After attending a workshop on “Women and Water Network” at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) here, the minister said the State had sought a review of the CRA order of September 8 regarding the release of water to Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu. According to the CRA order, the State had to ensure an inflow of 9,000 tmcft of water at Mettur Dam.

He said the situation had improved in the Cauvery Basin compared to the position during the visit of the members of the CMC on September 24 and 25.

Stating that the Government was in a position to protect the farmers’ interests in the Cauvery Basin, Mr. Patil said the report of the CMC would be considered by the CRA meeting on November 29 in New Delhi.

Earlier, Mr. Patil inaugurated the workshop and said that the water users’ associations (WUAs) had been formed in the Malaprabha and the Ghata-prabha catchment areas.

There were 1,813 registered WUAs in the State, of which 529 were involved in water management.

About 985 WUAs would be entrusted with water management in the coming years, he said.

Underscoring the role of women in water management, Mr. Patil said a three-day training programme would be organised for women to inform them about water management and administration issues.

The NIAS Director, Roddam Narasimha, the UNIFEM Project Officer, Anuradha Chandran, the NIAS Comptroller, M.K. Pal, and the NIAS experts, V.K. Anita and N. Shankar, were present.