

Govt wants decision on water release reviewed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: The state government has apprised the monitoring committee of the Cauvery River Authority (CRA) about the ground situation in the Cauvery basin and sought a review of its decision on release of water to Tamil Nadu.



H.K. Patil

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating a workshop in Bangalore, Water Resources Minister H.K. Patil said that Karnataka had made it clear about its need to protect the standing crop on 5.9 lakh acres of land and to provide drinking water in a vast area.

Patil said the state would seek

a review of the CRA order of September 8 according to which the state was to ensure an inflow of 9,000 cusecs of water to the Mettur Dam (TN) per day.

"Now the situation has improved in the basin compared to that during the visit of the Monitoring Committee on September 24 and 25." The Minister expressed confidence that the state was in a position to protect the interest of farmers in the Cauvery basin. The Committee report would be considered by the CRA meet on November 29 in New Delhi, he said.

Plea dismissed

V. Gopala Gowda of the Karnataka High Court on Monday dismissed a writ petition challenging the constitutional valid-

ity of the inter-state Water Disputes Act and the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. Petitioners — S. Nagaraj and S.B. Shivalinge Gowda — of Sindaghatta village in Mandya district contended that the Water Disputes Act could not have any application in respect of waters in the inter-state tributaries of the Cauvery river.

The court rejected the petition saying that it had no jurisdiction to hear the petition.

Linking women to sink water woes

While the country is busy trying to link rivers, a workshop in Bangalore is working out modalities to link women in the country in management and

distribution of water.

Inaugurated on Monday by Minister for Water Resources H.K. Patil, the two-day national workshop on 'Women and Water Network' is being jointly organised by Gender Studies Unit, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore, the Women In Water Network, South India; and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), New Delhi.

The minister said that so far, Karnataka had 1,813 registered Water Users Co-operative Societies and stressed that women played an important role in such societies.

But the involvement of women in irrigation activities should increase, he said. "The process of organising 985 Water Users Co-Operative Societies is

in progress and is likely to be completed next year."

The workshop will evolve strategies to form zonal networks in west and east India. The primary objective of forming such a network was to support one another in an attempt to facilitate the 'water rights of women' through effective networking, information sharing and developing linkages with larger networks.

The premise of the workshop is that the gender concerns, which is central to any discussion on water, has been marginalised.

"Hence, the role of women in the management and distribution of water has been relegated to the background," said Dr N. Shanta Mohan, Fellow of the NIAS Gender Studies Unit.