

RESOLUTION OF THE D.M.K. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON MULLAIPERIYAR ISSUE - 9.12.2011

According to the statement of D.M.K. President, Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi to news-persons that the D.M.K. Executive Committee will meet and take appropriate decision, if the violent attacks on the people of Tamil Nadu continued without Kerala Government and the Centre coming forward to put an end to such violence.

Provoked by the opposition of Tamil Nadu to the unjustifiable efforts of Kerala Government to reduce water level and construct a new dam, as the Mullaiperiyar dam issue is pending before the Supreme Court of India; workers of political parties and certain Anti-social Elements of Kerala have been indulging in violence for the last few days, attacking vehicles going from Tamil Nadu. Due to these actions of some politically motivated persons against Court Proceedings, tension prevails in the border districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The fear whether the age-old relations, cordiality and humanitarianism fostered traditionally between the two States, has crept in the minds of all concerned who have foremost interest in the well being of the country.

If one ponders over for a moment, he can realize how strong and true are the historical relations between Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Among the three Tamil Emperors, Chera Kings belong to Kerala. Social reformist thinkers of Kerala are honoured and respected in Tamil Nadu and those of Tamil Nadu in Kerala. Narayana Guru, who worked for a casteless society is always

remembered and hailed by Social Reform Movement of Tamil Nadu. The struggle led by great Rationalist leader Thanthai Periyar in Vaikom is part of history. Dr. T.M. Nair of Kerala is one of the pioneers of the Dravidian Movement. This noble relation and memories connected therewith should live forever; it should not be allowed to be sabotaged.

It was only on the basis that disputes should not arise between States, the then Chief Minister, Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, while addressing the National Development Council Meeting in New Delhi four years ago on 29-5-2007 warned : "It appears that the present institutional set-up for managing the Inter-State Rivers has become ineffective in practice, and unless we work-out a new institutional arrangement in time, river water-sharing may turn into an issue creating contradiction between States; it may even become a factor in future threatening National Integration"; and pleaded : "No damage will be caused if water storage in Periyar Dam was allowed to 142 ft. and the dam will withstand even earth-quakes. Hence Kerala Government should cooperate wholeheartedly and with humanitaranism for implementing the verdict of the Supreme Court." It is important at this juncture to recall the warning and plea of Kalaingar, M. Karunanidhi.

Periyar Dam has a historical importance. Periyar Dam was the first dam in Asian Continent constructed to divert water from one river basin to another river basin. The issue of increasing the water level of Mullai Periyar Dam to its full capacity of 152 feet has been remaining unresolved for a long time, between Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Even after works of strengthening the dam by Tamil Nadu Government were completed, following

certain apprehensions on safety of the dam were raised by Kerala in 1979, Kerala continued to insist that the water level of Periyar dam must be maintained at 136 feet. Even after several rounds of talks between the two States, no consensus was reached.

After the D.M.K. assumed office in 2006, Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, as Chief Minister convened an All Party Meeting on 23-10-2006, regarding participation of Tamil Nadu in the Ministerial-level talks between Tamil Nadu and Kerala arranged by the Union Water-Resources Minister, as per the Supreme Court Order dated 25-9-2006. Thiru O. Pannerselvam and Thiru K.A. Sengottaiyan, now Tamil Nadu Ministers, participated in the All Party Meeting on behalf of the A.D.M.K. In the Resolution adopted at the meeting, it was said, "Although this meeting is agreeable for Tamil Nadu Government to conduct talks with the Kerala Government in the presence of the Central Government as a gesture of goodwill, on the basis of the view expressed by the Supreme Court, which, after conceding the points placed on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government on Mullai Periyar Issue, pointed out the attitude of the Kerala Government in not coming forward to implement the order of the Supreme Court; in the event of no fruitful result emerging out of it, the Supreme Court may be approached again and pleaded for issuing a direction to implement the order of 27-2-2006 for raising the water level from 136 feet to 142 feet.

The Supreme Court itself has given a verdict that the Mullaiperiyar Dam was strong. The Advocate-General of Kerala himself has stated that the Mullaiperiyar dam is strong enough and if the dam is affected, the water of the

dam can be stored in Idukki, Seruthoni and Kulamavu dams. The Kerala High Court has conveyed its satisfaction over this view of the A.G. of Kerala. As a stage of the proceedings in the Supreme Court on Mullaiperiyar issue, it has constituted the Five-Member Committee, under the Chairmanship of former Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Justice A.S. Anand in which both Tamil Nadu and Kerala are represented. The Committee has already inspected the Mullaiperiyar Dam and it is to visit again and submit a report.

During the reorganisation of States in 1956, Tamil Nadu gave up Devikulam and Peermedu for Kerala. Similarly the lease rights for 999 years for 999 years for Tamil Nadu according to the agreement dated 29th October, 1886, were lost one by one due to Kerala's adamant attitude and over ambitious approach exceeding all limits. At this stage, D.M.K. President, Kalaingar on behalf of the D.M.K., had written an urgent letter to the Chairman of the Supreme Court – appointed Five Member Committee on 4-12-2011 itself; requesting the Centre to take immediate action to safeguarding Mullaiperiyar Dam; till a decision is reached, deployment of Central Reserve Police Force at the dam site for protection, instead of Kerala Police; and for implementation of 2006 Supreme Court Order by Kerala Government permitting the water-level from 136 feet to 142 feet.

Both the States are inter-dependent for their socio-economic life and advancement. This has been the geographical arrangement created by Nature itself. Therefore all concerned should realize the fact that amicable solutions are not far-off, if problems are approached, taking into consideration the bridges of relations between the Two States and the compulsion of inter-

dependence. This Executive Committee of D.M.K. insists that the people of both these two neighbouring States, especially those in Politics, should bear in mind that History will not forgive if the long historical relationship is harmed for narrow political gains.

In order to emphasise the aims and perspectives of D.M.K.; to establish the determination of Tamil Nadu on this issue; to echo the fact that Tamils are not subordinates to anyone and at the same time, they will not make anyone subservient; and to draw the immediate attention of the Central Government on this issue; it is resolved to observe one day Fast from Morning 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., on 12-12-2011 in all Corporations and Municipal Towns; And to conduct mammoth "Human-Chain" parade between 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m, on 15-12-2011 in Theni, Madurai, Dindugul, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram Districts which receive irrigational facility from Mullai Periyar Dam.
