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Title: Need to take steps for immediate release of Cauvery water by Karnataka Government.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): The vexed issue of sharing of Cauvery river water affected the Cauvery Delta farmers in Tamil Nadu this year also. As per the directions of the Supreme Court, some water was released during the commencement of paddy crop cultivation in the Cauvery delta region in June this year. The defiance of the State of Karnataka has resulted in the non-compliance of the directions made by the Apex Court. This has resulted in non-availability of water even in Mettur Dam. Water availability in the Mettur Dam now is 16 tmc only against its minimum level of 47.66 feet. Due to un-availability of water the irrigation has been affected badly. The reservoir area on the other side of Mettur Dam which is suitable for cultivation of dry crops like Til has also been affected. The situation has further worsened in the Cauvery delta region resulting in the suicidal deaths of farmers, Particularly in Nagai and Nagappatinam districts.

Desperation and disappointment due to non-availability of irrigation water has created serious stress and stain in the minds of farmers. Standing crops have started drying up due to non-availability of irrigated water especially in the Cauvery Delta Region. This alarming situation must be attended to by the Centre urgently on a war-footing to save the Cauvery Delta Farmers by instructing the Karnataka Government to release the 52.8 tmc water immediately. Even the request for the immediate release of 6 tmc of water made by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been turned down by the Karnataka Chief Minister during the talks held on 29.11.12 at the instance of the Supreme Court.