

Justification for the construction of the proposed Mullaperiyar Police Station in the forest notified land

Mullaperiyar Dam one of the oldest dams in India, is a gravity dam constructed across the Periyar river during 1895 for diverting water to Tamilnadu. Since then the water from Mullaperiyar dam is used for irrigation and drinking water in five districts of Tamilnadu namely Theni, Madurai, Sivagangai, Dindigul, and Ramnad. As per the lease agreement executed between Kerala and Tamilnadu Governments, even though the dam is constructed with the geographical area of Kerala, the maintenance and operation of the dam is entrusted with Tamilnadu and the security of the dam is looked after by Kerala Police.

Considering the strategic importance and safety of the dam and the emotional approach of the people of both Kerala and Tamilnadu towards the dispute regarding the said dam, the Government of Kerala vide GO No.98/2016/Home Dated: 11.01.2016, Opened a new police station named Mullaperiyar Police Station with jurisdiction over the watershed area of the dam and the dam premises. A total strength of 124 Police personnel including 3 inspectors and a Deputy Superintendent of Police as station house officer were posted. The police station started functioning in a portion of the building of the forest department, which is approximately 250 Sq. feet in area and almost 25 years old. The police personnel are staying in the dilapidated shed in the dam premises which is insufficient and unsafe.


Due to the strategic importance of the Mullaperiyar dam, it is highly necessary to ensure the active presence of police personnel round the clock. As the dam and its premises come under Periyar Tiger Reserve, Construction of a police station there seems to be not practical. Construction of a police station very far away from the dam will not serve the purpose too. The nearest police station Vandiperiyar is 13 Kilometers away from the Mullapperiyar Dam and because of the tough terrain it takes almost 1 hour to reach the nearest police station. The proposed site is the most suitable and available location and the purpose of the police station will not be served in a distant location.

District Collector Idukki has allotted 50 cents of land in survey 182/PT in Manjumala Village for the construction of the police station and just before the commencement of the construction it had come to our attention that the said land comes within the area notified by the Forest department as Reserve forest. The police department has conducted inquiries to find out whether there is any private land available nearby and no land with proper documents could be found. Also, in the said area the process of settlement under FC Act has not yet been started. Hence the attempt to find any legally valid land for the construction of Police station has become futile.

Moreover, the Western Ghats, which always have been a safe hideout for left-wing extremists, can easily access the dam premises from Tamilnadu. The intelligence inputs from various sources points to the presence of a lot of active cadres, ex – cadres and sleeping cells of Left Wing Extremists group in the neighbouring districts of Tamilnadu. There is every chance for these extremists group with vested interest to target the Mullaperiyar dam. The presence of a police station in the close proximity to the dam can wipe out the possibility of LWE activities in the area. It is also brought to your attention that as the area of jurisdiction of the police station is only the watershed area and the dam premises and hence the hassle-free movements of the wildlife will not be affected in any way.

Considering the strategic importance of the dam and the non-availability of any other land in the close vicinity of the dam and the deterrent effect it can create on any intrusion in the area, it is requested to allot a minimum of 50 cents (in survey No 182/pt) situated in Manjumala Village of Peermade Taluk (within the notified area) for the construction of Mullaperiyar Police Station.




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