

## SC curtails T.N.'s share of Cauvery water

It only refers to the 2007 tribunal award, which had vaguely dealt with the issue by saying that the allocated shares of water would be “proportionately reduced” among Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The court gave the Centre six weeks’ time to frame a Cauvery water-sharing scheme under Section 6A of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956. The scheme has to be in consonance with the CWDT’s award and the changes introduced by the Supreme Court through this judgment.

### States warned

With this, the apex court dismissed the Centre’s claims that it has complete discretion to decide whether or not to frame a scheme.

The court held that subject to the formulation of a scheme, the water allocation arrangement should stand unchanged for the next 15 years. The court warned the States to not deviate from the judgment or use the allotted water for other than the designated purposes. It supported the tribunal’s decision to exactly apportion lands for irrigation in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and determine the water allocation to these lands.

The tribunal had allocated 250.62 tmc to Karnataka for its irrigated area of 18.85 lakh acres and 390.85 tmc to Tamil Nadu for its irrigated area of 24.71 lakh acres.

The court backed the tribunal, while observing that “river Cauvery is deficit in its water content compared to the demands of the riparian States involved, restrictions and savings in the matter of use thereof are not only necessary but also natural corollaries.”

END

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