

Southern States Seminar on The River Water Police of the Rulers

South India level seminar was held on “Water Policies of the Rulers, Disputes-Privatization of Rivers and Dams” at Gandhi Bhavan, Bangalore from 11 am to 5 pm under the joint management of AIKMKS and Karnataka State Farmers Association on 19-12-2021. 100 delegates from Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and other states participated in the seminar. The keynote was introduced by AIKMKS co-convener Comrade S.Jhansi at the seminar, which was chaired by Karnataka AIKMKS leaders Chaganur Mallikarjuna Reddy. Later in the first session, Karnataka Water Resources and Engineering Experts, Capt. Rajarao, Retired Engineer, Dwarkanath, Retired Engineer Uddehall, AP Water Resources Specialists and Human Right Activists SM Basha and Chandrasekhar on Water Disputes in South India, Drinking and Cultivation Water Requirements for Different States, Rainfall, Capacity of dams, spoke on corporate privatization policies centered on the name of Dam Safety Act. Dwarkanath presented a discussion paper on the deteriorating capacity of dams and silt removal methods in the country.

In the second session after the lunch break, AIKMKS representatives from various states Com. Sushilan, Com. Gunalan, Com. Baburao Kumbergao, Com. Prasad, Karnataka Rajya Raita Sangha and Hasiru Sena leaders R.Madhavareddy, Nagaratnamma and ‘Aarambha’ Kannada magazine editor S.Raghunath, Karnataka State Janashakthi leader Gudi Mane, AIFTU (New) leaders Comrade C.Peddanna spoke on the irrigation problems faced by the farmers, the policies of the Central and State Governments and addressed issues in the keynote. Afterwards before the seminar, the delegates unanimously approved some of the resolutions proposed by Comrade S.Jhansi. The seminar was organized by Abdul Shukoor, a retired teacher from Ballari. He published pamphlets in Telugu and English about the seminar. The seminar provided awareness on water disputes and water resources. Speakers and some delegates have asked for this kind of initiative to be continued in various states. The following resolutions are made unanimously.

Resolutions **1. The Governments should not Create Hate Politics with Water :**

The rulers of the Centre and the States are inciting people over the sharing of river waters for their selfish politics and instilling hatred. It is a fact that the river waters which helped transform wandering humans to settled civilizations by uniting them through agriculture, are also being converted into a weapon similar to caste and religion to divide people. The Kaveri, Godavari and Krishna rivers which provide livelihood for the people

of the southern states, are now flowing hatred along with water. This meeting resolved to appeal to the people to resolve the disputes through dialogue with democratic methods.

2. Water Resources should not be Privatized under the Dictates of World Bank:

With the orders of the World Bank, the Central Government has recently enacted a law, The Dam Safety Act to privatise water resources and rivers. So far, all the water resources under the auspices of states and local bodies will go under the control of private monopolistic capitalist institutions. People and farmers are going to have to buy all the drinking water from and also the water for irrigation of the fields. The meeting unanimously resolved to demand – this vicious attempt by the central government to withdraw the Dam Safety Act immediately.

3. Only the Unity of People would Resolve the Problems:

With the disunity of people over the distribution of water and the politics of hatred between the states, the Central Government is taking control of the water resources owned by the states. The House appeals to all responsible political parties, farmers' associations and – people's associations to raise their voices against it. It warns the state governments to wake up before the center takes complete control of state governments over water resources.

ALL INDIA KHETH MAJDOOR KISAN SABHA (AIKMKS)

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha Haagu Hasiru Sene