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Mahadayi: Goa goes to SC; No illegalities, says K'taka

16710 NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

HOURS after the Goa Government filed a contempt petition in the Supreme Court alleging that Karnataka had diverted Mahadayi river water under the Mahadayi project, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi said the Karnataka Government will take necessary steps to respond to Goa's allegations in court. The state has never resorted to illegal activities when it comes to the Mahadayi issue, he asserted.

Speaking to TNIE, Jarkiholi said, "I will get details about the case and initiate necessary steps immediately." He, however, said he was not aware of the petition or the allegations made by the neighbouring state. The State Government initiated several measures to expedite the implementation of Kalasa-Banduri project (part of Mahadayi project) once all the required permissions are obtained from the Centre, he stressed.

On Tuesday, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant tweeted about filing of the contempt petition against Karnataka and said, "We (Goa government) will continue to fight for our rights." The Goa government has claimed that it has produced photographic evidence to prove that Karnataka has already diverted the Mahadayi water though the matter is sub-judice.

The Karnataka Government's advocate in the apex court, Mohan Katarki, told TNIE that Goa's petition will not have any impact, but added that he was yet to get details.

A top official in the Karnataka Water Resources Department said, "I am sure that the petition will not be admitted in the Supreme Court in the first place, as the Centre has already issued gazette notification for implementation of the Mahadayi project. Also, the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal (MWDT) has awarded Karnataka its share of water."

CONTINUED ON: P7