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## State to challenge T.N.'s proposed water project

- We'll approach Supreme Court: Bommai

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Termining the Tamil Nadu's decision to utilise surplus water in Cauvery basin as "illegal" Home, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said that Karnataka will approach the Supreme Court for a legal recourse.

"The link scheme that Tamil Nadu has started will hurt Karnataka's interest. Officially and legally, the surplus water has not been distributed among the riparian States," he told reporters here after attending a high-level meeting of technical and legal experts to decide the future course of action.

The Minister also said that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had already written to the Union government to advise Tamil Nadu not to go ahead with the project.

The decision follows Tamil Nadu government's move to lay foundation to the Cauvery-Vellaru-Vaigai-Gundar link scheme last Sunday. The link scheme proposes to utilise the sur-

plus water in the Cauvery basin and transfer it to its Southern region.

Mr. Bommai said: "It is not right on the part of Tamil Nadu to utilise surplus water before it is allocated. Under the provisions of The Inter State Water Disputes Act, it is illegal and cannot happen without the proper allocation."

He also accused Tamil Nadu of being an impediment to every project proposed by the State in the Cauvery basin.

"It opposed additional allocation of Cauvery water to Bengaluru. It was only after Karnataka opposed Hogenakkal drinking water project that serves Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri district that it agreed for 9 tmcft allocation to Bengaluru. Even the Hogenakkal project was started without permission."

The Home Minister said that Karnataka's stand was that even the surplus water had to be shared between the riparian States.

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## State to challenge T.N.'s proposed project in SC

He also said that the legal team had been apprised to inform the Madurai High Court Bench where a Public Interest Litigation plea by an individual pertaining to the Cauvery issue has been filed, that as per the Supreme Court order individuals could not file PIL petitions on matters of inter-State river water disputes.

Mr. Bommai refused to comment on the speculation that the project had been started ahead of elections in Tamil Nadu.

### Krishna award

Mr. Bommai also said that the State's legal team had been asked to expedite the matter in court on the ga-

zette notification for the Krishna tribunal award. Both Karnataka and Maharashtra were keen on the notification, he added.

### Kalasa-Banduri

Mr. Bommai on Friday accused Goa of trying to block the implementation of Kalasa-Banduri drinking water scheme.

He said that Goa has been filing cases unnecessarily, thus misusing the courts. "As per the Supreme Court direction, Karnataka is open for inspection on whether Mahadayi water has been diverted or not. Nodal officers of Karnataka, Goa, and Maharashtra will jointly inspect on ground and submit a report," he told reporters.