

ThePrint

It would be great if filmmakers made a movie on Cauvery issue



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The Cauvery issue is one of mismanagement of the river basin, and people are not addressing that.

Cauvery is losing its ability to retain water. Because of deforestation, only 17 per cent of the Cauvery basin is under forest area today. The area is being converted into agricultural lands for rubber and sugarcane plantations. When the catchment loses its vegetation cover, it cannot retain water even when you have good rains.

The second problem is the inappropriate growth of crops in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Both states sow crops, which require large amounts of water. Earlier, people used to grow millets, a low-water intensity crop, in the Cauvery catchment area. To grow pulses, you need 200 litre of water per kg, for paddy, you need nearly 5,000 litre, and for sugarcane, it is 10,000 litre.

Coming to the mismanagement part, Tamil Nadu has several lakes but these have never been de-silted. This is a major reason for degrading of catchment areas around lakes and water scarcity. That is why the government of India has recommended that the issue be addressed through water-shed treatment.

People who do not understand the complete picture are complicating the issue. We need to have a board on the lines of the US and Canada. These boards have no interference from courts or politicians, and what technocrats say is the final word.

The Cauvery issue must be resolved sensibly by the respective governments and one must not give any importance to fringe elements.

Filmmakers don't have any genuine concerns regarding Cauvery. Rather, it would be great if they made a movie educating people on the Cauvery issue. Without giving a solution, they have no right to criticise. They are not young people, they are seniors and they should not indulge in emotional talks. We should stop allowing such business gimmicks.