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| **Mullai Periyar dam facts and problems - A truth finding**

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**The water issue is a great issue in India. Tamilnadu and Kerala are on a warlike situation, for water from Mullai Periyar. The government of Kerala did not respect the Supreme court judgement. They are adamant to obey the Supreme court Judgement. The author has carried out some study about this damn dam issue, and tried to find out the facts related to this Mullai Periyar issue.** |
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**Introduction to MullaiPeriyar – Facts problems and the truth**In India, the two southern states of the Dravidian culture have waged a war to sort out the water problem connected to Mullai Periyar dam. The dispute on this dam is a big issue which worries the Tamilnadu and Kerala governments. While one government says that the dam is weak and likely to cause damage to its public, the government says that the dam is very safe and secure and can not cause any damage to human lives. What is the truth. Let us find out through this good article written in simple English for easy understanding.Mullai periyar dam site **What is MullaiPeriyar and Where is Mullaiperiyar**Mullai Periyar is a Dam belonging to Tamilnadu which provides water for irrigation and power for Tamilnadu. [Mullai Periyar](https://web.archive.org/web/20120202120229/http%3A/www.indiastudychannel.com/resources/148055-Mullai-Periyar-dam-The-Ghosts-behind-dam.aspx) is located in Kerala hills, 16 Km away from Kumizhi a border between Tamilnadu and Kerala. This land originally belongs to Maharaja of Travancore and it was taken on lease for a period of 999 years to construct a dam and store water to meet the water requirement of Tamilnadu. Accordingly, a dam was constructed by the British Colonel Penny Cuick in the year 1886. **Description about Mullai Periyar Dam**It is a gravity dam. The Dam measures a length of 1200 feet and a base of 157 feet with a height of 160 feet with a water storage facility upto 156 feet. The construction material used is Surki mix which is a mixture of lime stone and pastes, a very solid strong material used for construction. This is said to be many times stronger than today's cement concrete. This dam has a capacity to store water upto 10.50 TMC. It has 13 shutters above the water level of 136 feet. The area of the reservoir is 8591 acres.**Who is the owner and responsible for Mullai periyar Dam and its water**The dam belongs to Tamilnadu. It was during the pre independence days, while our country was ruled by the British, then rulers of Madras presidency, got the land at Mullaiperiyar for storage of water originating from Sivagiri hills of Tamilnadu to be benefitted by the people of Tamilnadu. It is on lease for 999 years and is owned by government of Tamilnadu. **What is the present problem with Mullai Periyar as per Kerala**Kerala government says that the dam is very old ,constructed by the British in the year 1886, and likely to get affected by the earthquake, and in case of any breach in the dam, it would cost the lives of 30 lakh people residing in between the area from Mullai periyar to Idukki. Hence they want to construct a new dam and keep it in their possession , by maintaining a low water level below 120 feet and supply water to Tamilnadu as required. **What is the present problem with Mullai Periyar as per Tamilnadu**Tamilnadu claims that the dam is very very strong and can live for many hundred years as it has been strengthened with modern technology. And the area is not prone to heavy earth quakes and not likely to be affected by earth quakes. Hence a new dam is not necessary. Tamilnadu wants to raise the water level to 142 feet as ordered by Supreme court. Tamilnadu blames Kerala that the game played to construct a new dam is a game of politicians to snatch water and land from Tamilnadu. **What is the fact about Mullai Periyar issue**In the year 1976, Kerala government constructed a dam at Idukki which is 50 Kilometer away from Mullai Periyar dam. This was purely for generating power for Kerala. This dam has a capacity of 70 TMC. After constructing such a big dam, this Dam did not receive water as expected. At this juncture, Kerala realized about the Mullai periyar dam having a storage of water up to 152 feet which is purely enjoyed by Tamilnadu. To get the Idukki dam filled they played a dirty game. They quoted an earth quake and said that the dam is likely to collapse and requested Tamilnadu to reduce the water level to 136. Tamilnadu with innocence not knowing the real plan of the Kerala government , believed it and obliged it , and reduced the water level to 136 feet. Thus all the excess water stored by Tamilnadu was released to reach Idukki Dam, However, at later stage Idukki reservoir started filling to meet their requirement from their own catchment areas. Thus Tamilnadu had lost its water level from 152 to `136 feet. This reduction in water level caused the water to remain in an area of just 4677 acres and the balance 3914 acres storage land have dried and was encroached by the people of Kerala and they have constructed Bungalows, resorts, holidays home houses and made use of it various purposes. This has continued up to the year 2000. As Tamilnadu felt the huge water shortage due to the reduced water level, the case was taken up to with Supreme court to increase the water level, proving that the dam is very safe to store water upto its full capacity.. Supreme court ordered an expert committee to ascertain the condition and strength of the dam. According to the report submitted by the expert committee, Supreme court ordered to increase the water level from 136 feet to 142 feet. It also said that after strengthening a Baby dam, the water level can be raised to 152 feet. This decision from the Supreme court became a headache to Kerala people who illegally encroached the dried storage land of 3914 acres for the last 30 years. As they can not come out straight with such problem, they gone behind the politicians of Kerala's both ruling and opposition parties, to save their investment in the area encroached by them, as raising water level to 142 feet and then to 152 feet will be harmful and make them to lose their properties which will get submerged under the waters. This is what made the Kerala Politicians to become the saviours of the land encroachers, in which most Kerala politicians have their share. To overcome the problem they played another dirty game quoting that the dam is old and unsafe and prone to earth quakes,and panicked that it can take away the life of 30 lakh people residing in between Mullai Periyar and Idukki dam. Kerala refused to accept the orders of Supreme court to raise the water level to 142 feet. In the interim, they prepared a special water bill for Kerala dams , and passed a resolution in their assembly that the water level of Mullai periyar can not be raised above 136 feet. Subsequently they filed a case to reconcile the orders of Supreme court which was rejected by the Supreme court. Tamilnadu also filed a case against Kerala for the non compliance of the Supreme court order. The case is pending in the Supreme court.During the course of time many talks were initiated by the two governments. They all proved futile as both the governments are sticking to that stand. **Why Kerala insists to bring down the water level to 120 feet and does not want to increase the level to 142 feet.**Kerala's main interest is to save the land encroached by the Kerala people. Keeping that secret in mind they act to say that the dam is 116 years old, constructed during the British rule, and likely to collapse due to earthquake. and will cost the life 30 lakh of people, which is not truth. Having said this, they want to construct a new dam and take over the control of water with government of Kerala and maintain the water level below 120 feet.Through this action Kerala will be able to save all the land encroached by the people of Kerala . Water is not the interest now, but the hidden land is the main interest in this MullaPeriyar dam issue. **What is right**Tamilnadu is solely responsible for the storage of water in Mullai Periyar for Tamilnadu. Hence Tamilnadu is fully responsible for the safety of the dam. In the event of any eventuality, Tamilnadu will starve for water. Therefore , Tamilnadu government is duty bound to maintain and strengthen the dam. Kerala authorities have no reason to interfere in the affairs of dam. Kerala government should keep away from this issue. Tamilnadu government has made all efforts to strengthen the dam and has been done with utmost dedication, with Cable anchoring , grouting and guniting etc. It is proved that the dam is much stronger and can withstand any earthquake and will remain ever strong for many hundred years. **How the dam has been strengthened.**Since Mullaperiyar dam is a gravity dam , the dam needs to with stand the pressure of the water and any earth tremor. Therefore the dam has been strengthed by adding weight to the dam. The entire length of 1200 feet has been covered by a concrete( RCC) cap for a height of 3 feet and a breadth of 21 feet weighting 12000(Twelve thousand tons) . Anchor cabling has been done up to 30 feet below the bottom level which is very effective and strong holding to the ground. This will ensure the dam secure and safe from any earth quake or earth tremor. As a support behind the dam a concrete construction upto a breath of 33 feet and upto a height of 145 feet has been constructed which provides a very strong support to the existing dam. The water leakage applicable to this dam is well within its prescribed limits. **Will the earth quake cause damage to the dam**Not at all. Mulla Periyar dam is located in seismographic zone 3. There is no threat to the dam by earth quakes or tremor. The entire Tamilnadu and Kerala also falls under seismographic zone 3. Since it is in the mountain region 3800 feet above MSL, there is no possibility of earth tremor. **Should a new dam be constructed by government Kerala**Not at all necessary. While the much responsible Tamilnadu government who will be at a great loss if the dam breaks, says that the dam is very very strong and no breach is possible due to any earth quake, which is very true and has been proved after inspection, why should Kerala try and construct a new dam and try to take over the water authority of Mullai Periyar. It is a unwanted connivance move of Kerla government to think and plan a new dam. It is purely to save the land encroached by the keralites on Mullai Periyar sites. The proposal for a new dam is to hold the water and protect the properties getting submerged. A cunning idea by Kerala Ministers. **Conclusion**It is concluded that there is no serious damage or threat to the Mullai periyar dam by earth quake as it is in the low zone of seismographic zone. The dam is very very strong . Modern technology "Finite Element Technique " has been adapted to strengthen the dam. **It is a fake propaganda generated by the Kerala politician, to panic the people of Kerala, to save the land encroached by the Kerala politicians in the banks of Mullaperiyar.**Kerala should give up their plan for constructing a New dam and educate their people with the dam's strength and advice them not to panic, but live peacefully .At the same time, they should make efforts to vacate the 3914 acres of land encroached and illegally occupied by Kerala Politicians and VIPs and allow Tamilnadu to increase the water level to 142 feet. They should also permit Tamilnadu government to construct the Baby dam to facilitate to increase the water level up to 152 for the betterment of Tamilnadu and its people. To facilitate the readers to understand this Mullai Periyar issue in a simple way the author has posted questions and answers.1. Who is the owner of Mullai Periyar dam?. Government of Tamilnadu 2. Where is Mullai Periyar located, on whose territory? In Kerala, just 16 KM from the border.3. From where does Mullaiperiyar get water? From Sivagiri hills of Tamilnadu.4. What is the area of Mullaiperiyar dam reservoir storage area? 8591 acres5. What is the size of the dam? Length 1200 feet, Height 160 feet, bottom 157 feet Top 33 feet6. In which year was the dam constructed and by whom ? 1895 by Col Penny Cuick.7. What is the storage capacity of the dam? 10.70 TMC8. What is the maximum storage height level of the dam? 156 feet9. How many shutters are there? 13 shutters from the height of 136 feet. 10. What is the water releasing capacity of the dam? 1,22000 cubic feet per second through regulators.11. After reducing the water level from 152 feet to 136 feet how much area have become dry and barren? 3914 acres.12. How do you say that the dam is strong? The dam is 1200 feet length, 157 feet breadth at bottom and 33 feet breath on top. Originally the material used was Surki mix which is much more stronger than the present day concrete cement mix. Further the dam has been strengthened by anchor cabling and grouting . A support dam has been constructed behind the dam upto a height of 145 feet . The dam was inspected and certified by the committee formed by Supreme court. 13. Can any earth quake or tremor cause damage to the dam and why? Not at all. The dam is located is seismographic zone level 3. Level 3 is very common and persists throughout the world. 14. Why Kerala government want to construct a new dam? Is it necessary? No , it is a political drama to save the encroached land on the banks of Mullaiperiar dam site. 15. How and why was the land encroached? When the water level was reduced from 152 feet to 136 feet, the sorage land became a dry land. Opportunistic Keralites encroached and illegally occupied it. 16. Have they made any construction in the dry water storage land.? Yes , Bungalows, resorts, Residential houses and much more have been constructed and people are living in that area. 17. What will happen if the water storage level is increased to 142 feet and above? All the illegal possession of land and properties will be submerged under water. 18. Will the Personnel in possession like to lose their possession? No. Hence the drama of New dam to own the water and dam and keep the water level very low. 19. In the event of breach of MullaiPeriyar dam, will it affect the people ?. There is no chance of breach. If at all there is any, it will not affect the people as Kumuzhi, Vandiperiyar and many other residential hill places are located above mean sea level than Mullai periyar dam. There is no chance of water to traverse as upstream. The water will reach Idukki dam safely .20. Is Kerala governments worry reasonable? No. it is a false propaganda and drama to save the encroached land by Kerala Politicians. 21. Can Kerala government construct a dam to ensure safety of their people? Not necessary. but if they wish, they can do so, outside the Mullaiperiyar dam as a barrier to protect as they dream, and keep the dam for themselves. Water from Mullai periyar will not be allowed to fill the dam. Any water excess to 152 feet may be allowed to get stored in . Otherwise the dam will remain as a safety wall to block the water from Mullai Periyar flowing to Idukki dam. Yet, the Mullai Periyar will continue to remain with Tamilnadu for 999 years as per lease agreement. No change. **Final Conclusion****This is totally a foul game played by Kerala Ministers who are the saviours of the encroachers of Mullai periyar lands**. These ministers have adapted a mean method of drawing the attention of the people with a panicking situation. For this they found the dams old construction and earth quake as a cause. Finally to overcome the problem they selected to construct a New dam to have the water under their control to protect the encroached land.Mullai periyar dam siteThe people from Kerala should understand this fact and refrain from making it as a great issue between the Tamils and Malayalees. This is the hidden secret behind the Mullaperiyar issue.  |