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अखिल हिन्द फारवर्ड ब्लाक

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The Bengal government should also be included in the Teesta water treaty negotiations.

The All India Forward Bloc urges upon the Union government to include the Government of West Bengal in the discussion about the Teesta water and Farakka Treaty between India and Bangladesh. Unilateral negotiations between India and Bangladesh without involving the Government of Bengal are against the interests of Bengal and are also a violation of the subordinations as per the previous understanding. A Tri-Partite discussion is needed in this regard.

The stand taken by the West Bengal Government in this matter is appreciable and reasonable.

Many outstanding issues are pending between India and Bangladesh. At the same time, both countries have been able to find solutions on some issues. Agreement on the exchange of enclaves is one among them. The All India Forward Bloc played a crucial role in safeguarding the interests of the State in general and the people of North Bengal in particular during the discussion of the exchange of enclaves.

It is imperative to remember the discussion of the Nehru-Noon Agreement, 1958 without involving the West Bengal government headed by Congress leader Dr. B.C. Roy. Dr. Roy opposed such a unilateral move and adopted a resolution against the union government in the West Bengal Assembly.

The Teesta Irrigation Project was started in 1976. But half a decade after its inception, only 25% of the project has been completed. As the project was not completed and the Teesta water treaty was hanging like the sword of Damocles, the entire agricultural activity in North Bengal was severely affected.

In Sikkim, where the Teesta River originates and in other northeastern states, landslides occur very often, causing the river water level to rise, resulting in severe floods being experienced in the region every monsoon.

Several popular movements are working for the overall development of North Bengal. The West Bengal government should consult all the stakeholders before engaging in any sort of discussion.

(G. DEVARAJAN)
General Secretary