



13-Sept-2019

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Cauvery Calling: Lok Sabha MP Raveendranath Kumar commits 1 crore saplings at Trichy event

13 September 2019, Trichy: Just before the Cauvery Calling rally departed from Erode to continue its journey, the SMK group announced its contribution to the movement: 10,000 trees for the Cauvery basin. There was more good news waiting for the rally when it reached Trichy. At the sprawling campus of the Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited (TAFORN), Lok Sabha MP from Theni constituency Thiru. O.P. Raveendranath Kumar committed 1 crore trees to the movement at a public event addressed by Sadhguru, Founder, Isha Foundation.

The Cauvery Calling movement has gained tremendous momentum over the past few days with several influential voices committing their support. At the TAFORN event, guests included an MP and two state cabinet ministers apart from a popular actor-politician. A second event at Kalainar Arivazhayam in the city was attended by a Lok Sabha MP and two MLAs. One of the MLAs, Thiru. Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi commented that when Sadhguru pointed out that all party representatives are sitting on the same stage for this cause, it put to rest his doubts about Sadhguru's affiliations.

Thiru. O.P. Raveendranath Kumar said that the movement was not a one-day issue but our commitment to the wellbeing of future generations. Smt. S.Valarmathi, the Minister for Backward Classes & Minority Welfare said that when future generations look back, they will appreciate what we handed over to them. Expressing his gratitude to Sadhguru, Minister for Tourism Thiru. Vellamandi N.Natarajan stated that they would

prevail upon the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to make the necessary policy changes to facilitate implementation.

Shri. Senthil, an agro farmer who was introduced into the agroforestry model 12 years ago by Isha Agroforestry travelled with the rally from Erode to Trichy and shared his experience. Popular Tamil actor turned politician Thiru. Sharath Kumar also participated at the TAFORN event.

Calling the movement “a sacred journey”, Lok Sabha Trichy MP Thiru. S.Thirunavukkarasar assured complete support for the movement and wished the initiative success. He was speaking at the second Cauvery Calling event at Kalainar Arivazhayam in Trichy.

As the rally made its way through the city, people from all walks of life including students, farmers and housewives gathered on the streets to welcome the motorcycle cavalcade. Sadhguru stopped to interact with them at every location.

At both events, Sadhguru emphasized on the need to communicate clearly and accurately what the Cauvery Calling movement was about. “Each of you should explain 5 points about this clearly to at least 100 people. This is true revolution,” said Sadhguru. Reiterating that this was not a river linking project, Sadhguru stressed the two most important aspects of Cauvery Calling: restoring soil health to enhance its capacity to hold water and improving farmers’ economic condition through an ecologically viable plan.

Sadhguru said that we had always known that only if our soil and water and trees are well can we be well. “If organic content of the soil increases by 1% it can sequester 60,000 litres of water. Soil should always be wet,” said Sadhguru. With the Cauvery not reaching the ocean in summer, the riverbed is fast turning into dry sand. Agroforestry which promotes tree-based agriculture will help water retention. By planting 242 crore trees in the Cauvery basin on their own farmlands, farmers will not only help to strengthen soil integrity and tremendously increase water retention in the basin, they will also reap enormous economic benefits. It will also ensure that Cauvery flows to her full length and capacity all year round.

“At least 25% of river water should reach the ocean,” said Sadhguru failing which there will be rapid marine ingress. “In some parts of Tamil Nadu marine ingress has happened up to 60km.”

The Tamil Nadu government has agreed to provide subsidies for the first 4 years for farmers to adopt agroforestry on their farmlands. Several high-value trees have been released from protective laws to enable farmers to plant them on their farms for economic benefits.

The rally will travel to Thanjavur this evening where Sadhguru will address his third public event for the day. It will culminate in Coimbatore on 17 September.

Cauvery Calling is a first of its kind campaign, setting the standard for how India's rivers – the country's lifelines – can be revitalized. It will initiate the revitalization of the Cauvery river by supporting farmers to plant 242 crore trees in the river basin. This will increase water retention in the basin, while enhancing farmers' income by 300 to 800% in 5-7 years and transforming the lives of 84 million people. Visit: CauveryCalling.org or call 80009 80009. #CauveryCalling.

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