

‘Yettinaholey project will be ecologically disastrous, economically unvi

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IISc scientist disputes detailed project report

Mangaluru, October 23:

A scientist from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has said that the Yettinaholey river d ecologically disastrous and economically unviable.

In an open letter to the Chief Minister, the coordinator of Energy and Wetlands Resear Ecological Sciences of IISc, TV Ramachandra has said the purpose of supplying water t Karnataka would not materialise due to insufficient water yield in the catchment.

‘Unrealistic assumptions’

On the detailed project report (DPR) prepared by the Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd, unrealistic assumptions and manipulation of water yield.

The DPR proposes to divert 24 tmcft of water from Yettinaholey in Sakleshpur taluk of as Kolar and Chikballapur in eastern part of Karnataka. However, a research conducte the total availability of water at 9.55 tmcft.

He said the DPR proposal is contrary to the principles of water sustainability and resili (Yettinaholey is one of the tributaries of west-flowing Nethravathi River – the lifeline c

Lose-lose situation

Ramachandra, who is a Fellow of Indian Association of Hydrologists, said the Yettinah not help either the residents of arid regions such as Chikballapur, Kolar and Tumkur, c Residents of Yettinaholey catchment would be deprived of their share of water, while p only get to see dry canals.

He said that implementation of Yettinaholey project would lead to water scarcity in Hæ not benefit Chikballapur and Kolar. Livelihood of Yettinaholey catchment would be aff agricultural and fisheries yield, he said.

Urging the Chief Minister to drop the Yettinaholey project, Ramachandra said: “This w spending unnecessarily on the project which is bound to fail due to lack of water.”

Alternatives suggested

In fact, he said that the parched districts such as Kolar and Chikballapur districts have can meet the demand in the region, provided integrated management of natural resou

He suggested that decentralised water harvesting through a series of lakes and tanks, & of lakes and ponds be thought of for the integrated management of water.

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