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## **Rs 375 cr flood protection project approved** [Express News Service](#)

CHENNAI/SALEM: Chief Minister M Karunanidhi on Tuesday inform-ed that the Centre had approved the project to carry out flood protection works along the Cauvery and Coleroon at a cost of Rs 375 crore.

After laying the foundation for a tower at Mettur reservoir to mark its platinum jubilee celebrations through video-conferencing from the Secretariat, the Chief Minister said the State government's fund component for the project was Rs 93.97 crore.

Recalling that whenever the DMK government was in office, the Cauvery and its tributaries were desilted for the benefit of farmers, the Chief Minister said and added that after the present regime assumed office in 2006, Rs 35.80 crore had been spent on desilting waterways.

Besides, officials in the Public Works Department and Rural

Development Department have been instructed to complete desilting works before the opening of the Mettur dam next year, Karunanidhi said.

He said the government was awaiting approval for a master plan to be executed at a cost of Rs 5,100 crore to repair the dams and barrages along the Cauvery and its tributaries apart from strengthening the banks of the waterways.

The 75-feet platinum jubilee tower at Mettur would be constructed at a cost of Rs 1 crore. It would help tourists get a panoramic view of the reservoir, he said.

The Platinum Jubilee Tower will feature a viewing gallery atop the tower with a lift facility to climb up. The tower will come up at the Mulling Point on the left bank of the Mettur Dam. The point, overlooking panoramic view of the water spread of the dam, was identified by A Mohana Krishnan Advisor, Water Resources, Government of Tamil Nadu. The construction of the dam began under the leadership of British Engineer, Sir Clement Mullings, on July 20, 1925, and it was completed in July 1934 at a cost of Rs 6.12 crore.

According to Salem Collector J Chandrakumar, the spot will be developed as a tourist attraction for which a Rs 6-crore proposal has been sent to government.