

Times of India 20-April-2021

SC forms committee to inspect Yamuna water entering Delhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As Delhi and Haryana blame each other for pollution in the Yamuna, leading to a drinking water problem in Delhi, the Supreme Court on Monday appointed a committee headed by secretary of the Jal Shakti ministry to inspect and file a report on the quality and quantity of water coming from Haryana to Delhi at the Wazirabad plant.

A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian decided to set up the committee after allegations from the two states. The committee, also comprising one member each from Delhi Pollution Control Board, Delhi Jal Board, Haryana Pollution Control Board and Haryana Agricultural Board, is to file a report within three days and the bench will examine it on Friday.

The bench passed the order on a petition by DJB alleging that Haryana was deliberately discharging pollutants in the Yamuna, which resulted in rise of ammonia level in the water. The board said the neighbouring state was taking advantage of its geographical location as an upper riparian state in asserting "right to pollute the river".

Haryana government, however, alleged that DJB was diverting water before it reached Wazirabad and blamed the board for lower water level at its Wazirabad plant. The bench, after hearing both sides brief-

ly, decided that an independent committee be asked to find out the truth by inspecting the site.

DJB's petition said it was forced to approach the SC as the right to clean drinking water was a fundamental right and Delhi was facing severe water crisis in the summer season when the demand of water peaks.

Anindya Chattopadhyay



IN TROUBLED WATERS

"The continued actions/inaction of the respondents have led to largescale reductions of up to 30% in water supply in many areas supplied by the Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla water treatment plants, and has a direct and potentially devastating impact on the right of residents of the NCT of Delhi to clean and adequate drinking water. Even on April 4, the ammonia level in Yamuna at the point it enters the Wazirabad reservoir was 4.4 ppm, which is much higher than the ammonia level that the plants of the board can process for purification," it said.

Millennium Post 20-April-2021

Making a difference

India can build upon its cultural ethos to rethink its priorities in the post-Covid world — leading the fight for climate change



RATTAN LAL KATARIA

As part of the Ujjwala Scheme, eight crore Indian households have been provided with access to clean fuel. This has contributed tremendously to the reduction of carbon emissions

The future has declared war on the present' was the theme of Nolan's masterpiece 'Tenet'. Nobody could have guessed that the war has been waged to avenge generational wrongs in the form of drying wells, unclean air and climate change. Even though the plot of the movie is confounding for even a physicist, the reason for war immediately strikes a chord as climate change is real, challenging and damaging to our ecosystems. Addressing the challenge of degrading the environment is no longer a matter of discretion, it is rather our obligation towards future generations.

The frequent instances of forest fires, flash floods, cold waves, extreme weather conditions are grim indicators of undergoing climate change due to increased human interference. On top of that, the present pandemic has come as a shock to the entire humanity, jolting it out of its deep slumber. We are living through historic times as the ravaging pandemic is making the entire humanity rethink its priorities. There is, however, a silver lining amidst this gloom as the pandemic provides an opportunity to jumpstart economies with re-aligned recovery plans focusing on climate change and environmental conservation. Clear blue skies, chirping birds and frolicking dolphins during the pandemic period as a result of reduced human activity have made us realize that it is indeed possible to restore earth with concerted efforts. It is high time that we pledge to ourselves and to each other on International Earth



The present government has realized the value of water in our lives and our ecosystem

Day, April 22, to "Restore our Earth."

Indian cultural ethos has always advocated a harmonious relationship with nature which is founded in necessity rather than greed. Our ancient scriptures mention how our life systems are a result of a blend of five natural elements (panchtatvas) viz. 'Prithvi' (Earth), 'Vayu' (Air), 'Jal' (Water), 'Agni' (Fire), 'Akash' (Sky). The divine nature of mother earth is beautifully brought out in 'Bhoomi Sukta' of Atharva Veda:

Salutations to Mother Earth: In Her is woven together ocean and river waters; in Her is contained food which She manifests when ploughed: In Her indeed is alive all lives; may She bestow us with that life.

At a time when developed nations are failing to live up to expectations, India has shown the way and taken path-breaking initiatives to show its resolve towards restoring mother Earth. Developed nations have historical responsibility as they have contributed the bulk of emissions

over hundreds of years. Even though we have not caused this problem, as a responsible nation we are taking part in the solution.

Under PM Modi's leadership, we have launched many flagship schemes and are on our way to achieve Paris Agreement commitments well before the deadline of 2030. One of the most ambitious and successful initiatives during independent India's history has been Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). SBM brought about major behavioural and structural changes by eliminating open defecation across the country. It has not only helped in infrastructural developments, but has also emerged as a platform for community engagement which, by working with local people, civil societies, and the state has brought about a tremendous transformation across the country. Swachh Bharat Mission has managed to reap dual benefits. It has helped in combating the problem of open defecation and sanitation, and with it,

it has also helped in bringing about significant changes in the patterns of solid and liquid waste management in both rural and urban areas. Having achieved ODF (open defecation free) status, we are now well on our way to achieve ODF+ status, which aims at solid and liquid waste management.

The present government has realized the value of water in our lives and our ecosystem. Efforts to clean River Ganga have received a never-seen-before boost in the form of the Namami Gange Programme. As a result, the entire Ganga ecosystem is now springing back to life again which is evident from the increased sighting of Gangetic dolphins. Groundwater management (Atal Bhujal Yojana) and water conservation efforts (catch the rain) are being taken up in mission mode to manage the entire lifecycle of water.

As part of the Ujjwala Scheme, eight crore Indian households, especially the rural and those below the poverty line, have been provided

access to clean fuel. This has contributed tremendously to the reduction of carbon emissions through switching to sustainable, eco-friendly alternatives. Similarly, the UJALA scheme has led to the distribution of 31 crore LEDs thereby directly leading to a reduction in CO₂ emissions. India is rapidly diversifying its sources of energy and has self-imposed an ambitious renewable energy target of 450GW by 2030.

Restoration of degraded lands, water bodies and wastelands have shown steady progress in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality, committed under the G20 summit. The government's efforts have helped in river surface cleaning, conserving biodiversity, afforestation, and groundwater recharge in addition to promoting sustainable management of groundwater. Through its human-centric approach and interventions, the Government will be able to meet and go beyond the targets set at the Paris Agreement of 2015.

Mahatma Gandhi once famously said, "The earth, the air, the land, and the water are not an inheritance from our forefathers but a loan from our children. So, we have to hand it over to them at least as it was handed over to us." The responsibility to protect mother Earth lies with each one of us. Let us promise to leave a healthy and greener planet through our sustainable practices for our progeny.

The writer is the Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment and Jal Shakti. Views expressed are personal

Indian Express 20-April-2021

SC deposes panel to inspect Yamuna quality in Haryana

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday deputed a committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, to inspect the quality and quantity of water released from Haryana at Balla (where the river enters Delhi), level of the Wazirabad pond and if the Delhi government is diverting its share of water to the water treatment plants at Okhla, Wazirabad and Chandrawal before it reaches the Wazirabad pond. **ENS**

The Tribune 20-April-2021

Delhi-Hry water war: SC sets up panel, seeks report in 3 days

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

As Delhi and Haryana traded charges over water supplied to the national capital, the Supreme Court on Monday set up a six-member panel to inspect the Wazirabad water treatment plant to examine the quality and quantity of water.

Asking the panel to submit its report to it in three days, a

Bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao posted for further hearing on Friday the Delhi Jal Board's plea seeking directions to the Haryana government to stop the discharge of effluents, including ammonia, into the Yamuna and to release sufficient water to Delhi.

Those included in the committee are Jal Shakti Ministry Secretary, Joint Secretary of Jal Shakti Ministry to be nom-



Italian marines' case:
SC defers hearing
to next week

inated by Secretary, a member of Delhi Pollution Control Board, a member of Delhi Jal Board, a member of Haryana Pollution Control Board and a representative of Haryana Agricultural Board. The top court had on March 25 asked the governments of Punjab, Haryana and Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) to maintain status quo on supply of Yamuna water to Delhi.

Ahead of scorching summer,

the DJB had on March 8 moved the Supreme Court against the Haryana government to avert a potential water crisis in the national capital. DBJ said water level has fallen in the national capital. Canal repair works should not be done in the months of March and April when the water demand is at its peak and Haryana had not responded to several letters written to it.

The Haryana Government

alleged that the Delhi Government was trying to conceal its utter failure in management of water by accusing it of being responsible for increased Ammonia levels in the drinking water supplied to the national capital. It said water was being diverted before it reached Wazirabad. The Bench said it would be fit and proper that a committee was appointed to conduct a local inspection.

Asian Age 20-April-2021

SC panel to ascertain quality, quantity of water released by Haryana to Delhi

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, APRIL 19

The Supreme Court on Monday formed a committee to ascertain the quality and quantity of water being released by Haryana at Wazirabad water treatment plant in the national capital.

The six-member committee, headed by secretary Water Resources Ministry, will examine the quality and quantity of water coming to Delhi from Haryana. The committee has been asked to submit its report in three days.

The supply of water from Haryana at Wazirabad water treatment plant is essential for meeting the water

requirement in the national capital particularly during summer months.

The six-member committee has representatives of the Jal Shakti Ministry, Delhi Pollution Control Board, Delhi Jal Board, Haryana State Pollution Control Board and the Haryana Agricultural Board as its members.

A bench comprising Justice L. Naageswara Rao, Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice V. Ramasubramanian sought a report from the committee in the wake of Haryana and Delhi contested each others claim on the quality and the quantity of water being given by Haryana to Delhi.

The top court formed the six-member committee in the course of the hearing of a plea by Delhi Jal Board contending that Haryana was releasing less amount of water than expected and as a consequence there was an increase in ammonia level in Yamuna river water.

However, this was disputed by Haryana which contended that Delhi was diverting water before it actually reached Wazirabad water treatment plant. The court directed the further hearing of the matter after the submission of the report by committee.

Delhi Jal Board had approached the top court

in January 2021 seeking directions to the Haryana government not to discharge untreated wastewater in the river Yamuna passing through the State, resulting in a rise of ammonia levels in the river water.

The top court had issued notice to Haryana on January 19 seeking its response to the plea by Delhi Jal Board. However the top court enlarged the scope of the hearing asking the National Green Tribunal (NGT)-appointed committee for river monitoring to submit its recommendations to improve the quality of the river water and the extent to which they have been implemented.

The Pioneer 20-April-2021

Women's participation missing in water resource management

To encourage female participation, the Govt has made it obligatory for each water committee to have 50 per cent women members

Globally, women are increasingly being recognised for their important role in the management of water resources. Every International Women's Day, there is much noise about the inclusion of women in water programmes and the heart-breaking statistics regarding drudgery, school absenteeism and so on. Many platitudes are offered but before the end of March, everything fizzles out, until the next year. The Global Gender Gap Index 2020 ranked India at 112 out of 153 countries, with an overall unemployment rate of 9.1 per cent. Urban unemployment was at 8.8 per cent and unemployment among women was 18 per cent.

Any water supply hurdles lead to a substantial economic and social impact that disproportionately affects females. For instance, the time and



POONAM SEWAK

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effort spent in water collection hits women's income-generation ability, impacts attendance of girls in schools and interferes with the time required to tend to the sick at home. Therefore, women quickly see the advantages of investing in water treatment infrastructure and often play a crucial role in convincing the community to undertake its construction, operation, maintenance and management.

For decades, studies have examined the role of women in the water sector. They have found substantial improvements in the governance, transparency and sustainability of water supplies when men and women are involved in equal measure than when women are involved only marginally or not at all. Water projects that involve women in design planning and operations are more sustainable than those that do not. Yet, women make up less

than 17 per cent of the water, sanitation and hygiene labour force and only a fraction of policymakers, regulators, management and technical experts.

The participation of women in the water sector is often assumed to be a rural issue. Women are significantly missing in utilities which can draw benefits such as lower levels of non-revenue water losses, improved cash flow and more resources for investment in infrastructure and increasing service quality. This will lead to the engagement of fewer Government subsidies which can be utilised for other essential services. The key to driving user-centred design improvements and reforms across the urban water sector in developing countries is to create conditions that can attract, retain, and promote women in roles in which they can shape the design, construction and reha-



bilitation of new and existing water supply systems.

India has set an ambitious goal, as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural) to provide functional household tap connections, piped water services to its entire population at an outlay of \$90 billion by 2025. To bridge the gender gap, the Government has tied up with the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Kendra to train women in masonry and impart them skills to become electrical and motor mechanics. To encourage

women's participation, the Government has made it obligatory for each *paani samiti* (water committee) constituted for water supply management to have 50 per cent women members. Through the situation is changing, the Government should put greater emphasis on building Self-Help Groups into a competitive alternative to private operators. Providing safe drinking water to 1.35 billion people in urban and rural India is a huge challenge. The emergence of COVID-19 has further accentuated the need for clean water. Prioritising women's engagement to regulate water programmes will ensure effective usage of water resources.

In India, where women have been trained and licenced as hand pump mechanics, customers rate female mechanics as more accessible and responsive than their male counter-

parts. As a result, in areas served by women mechanics, there is more preventative maintenance and fewer breakdowns. Many of these women understand that a broken hand pump results in girls/women having to travel greater distances to collect water, losing productive time and increasing risks to their safety.

Initially, society found it futile to train women, but with repeated success, the female workforce not only became active participants but also modified the entire management of community water systems. The work-life balance for women has been significantly disturbed in these challenging times.

However, it has taught women to multitask and manage the household while diligently working from home. With a male-dominated Indian economic system, there is an

urgent need to rectify the gender imbalance by driving awareness, through knowledge-sharing and developing a sense of decision-making and entrepreneurship among women. With successful revenue streams driven by women-led businesses, the Government has also started focusing on promoting women entrepreneurship covering rural, semi and urban geographies.

To bring down the patriarchal barriers and make significant progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, it is essential to create a successful Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) model for upskilling and teaching women groups especially regarding post-work gaps, mentoring and feedback process. Through the bottom-up approach of the PPP model, economic opportunities need to be created to promote the well-being of women.

The Hindu 20-April-2021

A huge, costly mistake

The Ken-Betwa project will take a tremendous toll on the ecosystem, and its benefits are not certain

SUNNY SEBASTIAN

A river project which remained a pipe dream for more than three decades after it was first mooted may now become a reality. Last month, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and the Centre signed a tripartite agreement to transfer “surplus” water from the Ken basin in M.P. to the “deficit” Betwa basin in U.P. The Ken-Betwa project is part of the national river linking project which proposes to connect 14 Himalayan and 16 peninsular rivers with 30 canals and 3,000 reservoirs in order to irrigate 87 million hectares of land. It has the status of a national project, as the Centre will contribute 90% of the cost. It is India's first river linking project and will take eight years to complete.

First mooted in the 1980s, the Ken-Betwa project was taken up seriously only during former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's regime. Since then, former Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti has been the torch-bearer of the project. The project, the government says, will enhance the irrigation potential of the water-starved Bundelkhand region in U.P. and M.P., facilitate groundwater recharge and reduce the occurrence of floods. According to the Memorandum of Agreement signed, the to-be-built Daudhan dam is expected to irrigate nearly 6,00,000 hectares in four districts in M.P. and 2,51,000 hectares in four districts in U.P. and provide drinking water supply to 41 lakh people in M.P. and 21 lakh in U.P.

Environmental concerns

However, the excitement of planners and politicians about this project, which costs ₹37,611 crore (2018 figure), is reportedly missing on the ground. The people of the region who are going to be affected by the project seem resigned to their fate. In public hearings held in the past, they were divided on political lines and also worried about the loss of the ecosystem and displacement.

The project was on the drawing board for years mainly due to environmental concerns. Of the 12,500 hectares of land to get submerged by the project, more than 9,000 ha are categorised as forest land. The sub-

mergence area includes a critically important section of the Panna Tiger Reserve. The Reserve is considered as a shining example of conservation after it successfully improved the tiger and vulture populations. Echoing the concerns of environmentalists, Congress president Sonia Gandhi wrote to Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar asking him not to implement the project. She said “around 40% of the area of the tiger reserve will be irretrievably damaged” if the project is implemented. Also, the project may destroy about 7.2 lakh trees. South Asia Network on Dams, River and People convener Himanshu Thakkar fears that this will affect rainfall in the already parched region.

Cost and benefit

The claims of Ken having surplus water may be unrealistic as the river is not perennial – in the past sometimes, it has slowed to a trickle. Another difficulty will be that the Ken flows 60-70 feet lower than the Betwa and at least 30% of the 103 MW power generated will be used for pumping the water up. The Union Ministry and the National Water Development Agency, which is entrusted with the project, have some issues to sort out. These include getting clearance from the Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court, which had raised concerns about the project. The cost-benefits calculations of the project also don't take into consideration the environmental and social impacts. Thus, the benefits do not seem certain and are far outweighed by the costs on the environment.

It is surprising that alternatives such as water-conservation and water-harvesting methods without building a dam haven't been seriously considered in the region. Large-scale solutions such as this are not always viable and the best. Given the serious doubts about the benefits of the project and the monumental toll that it would have on the ecosystem, including on carefully preserved wildlife, the Ken-Betwa project seems like a huge, costly mistake.

Sunny Sebastian is a former Vice-Chancellor and member, Rajasthan State Board for Wildlife

Dainik Jagran 20-April-2021

सुप्रीम कोर्ट की कमेटी जांचेगी पानी की गुणवत्ता-मात्रा

दिल्ली-हरियाणा जल विवाद

जगहरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : पानी को लेकर दिल्ली और हरियाणा के बीच चल रहे विवाद और विरोधाभासी दावों को देखते हुए सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को वजीराबाद प्लांट में पानी की गुणवत्ता और मात्रा जांचने परखने के लिए छह सदस्यीय कमेटी का गठन किया है। कोर्ट ने कमेटी को मामले का अध्ययन करके तीन दिन में रिपोर्ट देने को कहा है।

ये आदेश एल नागेश्वर राव की

अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने दिल्ली जल बोर्ड की हरियाणा से प्रदूषित और कम पानी आने और पानी में अमोनिया की मात्रा ज्यादा होने की शिकायत पर सुनवाई के दौरान दिए। दिल्ली का यह भी कहना है कि जल स्तर काफी कम है यानी दिल्ली को हरियाणा से पर्याप्त पानी नहीं मिला रहा है। जबकि हरियाणा का कहना है कि वह जितना पानी पहले देता था उतना ही अभी भी दे रहा है।

पीठ ने कहा कि मामले की मेरिट पर विचार करने से पहले उचित होगा कि एक कमेटी गठित की जाए जो मौके पर जाकर जांच करके कोर्ट

को तीन दिन में रिपोर्ट दे। कोर्ट ने कहा कि कमेटी वजीराबाद प्लांट में पानी की गुणवत्ता और जल स्तर देखेगी। कमेटी यह भी देखेगी कि पानी वजीराबाद और दो अन्य जगह पहुंचने से पहले क्या जल शोधन संयंत्र की ओर मोड़ दिया जाता है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा गठित कमेटी में जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के संयुक्त सचिव, जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के सचिव, दिल्ली प्रदूषण कंट्रोल बोर्ड के सदस्य, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के सदस्य, हरियाणा प्रदूषण कंट्रोल बोर्ड के सदस्य और हरियाणा कृषि बोर्ड के सदस्य होंगे। जल शक्ति मंत्रालय

के सचिव कमेटी की अध्यक्षता करेंगे। इस मामले में कोर्ट अगले सप्ताह फिर सुनवाई करेगा।

दिल्ली की ओर से पेश वरिष्ठ वकील विकास सिंह ने कहा कि रमजान और नवरात्र में पानी की जरूरत है। उन्होंने कहा कि एक कमीशन नियुक्त हो जो वजीराबाद और हैदरपुर जाकर पानी की स्थिति जांचे। इस पर पीठ ने पूछा कि आप किस प्वाइंट की बात कर रहे हैं। सिंह ने कहा कि बल्ला प्वाइंट की जहां से यमुना हरियाणा से निकलकर दिल्ली की सीमा में प्रवेश करती है। उसी जगह अमोनिया चेक होनी चाहिए।

Dainik Jagran 20-April-2021

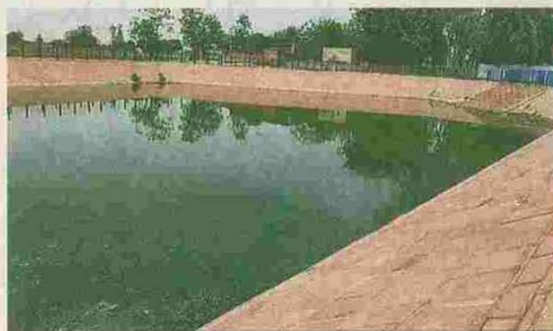


दीपक मौदगिल • पटियाला

यू तो किसान को बेहतर फसल के लिए बारिश का इंतजार रहता है, लेकिन कई बार जरूरत से ज्यादा वर्षा भी परेशानी का सबब बन जाती है। पटियाला (पंजाब) के उच्चागांव, लचकाणी और सिद्धवाल के किसानों ने वर्षों तक ऐसी परेशानियों को झेला है। गांव लचकाणी से निकलने वाले एक रजवाहे (लिंक नहर) का पानी बारिश के बाद उफान मारने लगता और खेतों में घुस जाता। जलभराव से हर साल करीब 100 एकड़ की फसल खराब हो जाती। साल 2018 में इस समस्या को गांव वालों ने वर्षा जल संचयन तकनीक से सुलझाया।

बारिश के पानी को तालाब में सहेजा, लहलहा उठी फसल

कभी जलभराव के कारण बर्बाद हो जाती थी 100 एकड़ की पैदावार, अब उसी पानी से होती है सिंचाई, भूगर्भ जलस्तर में भी सुधार



पूर्व सरपंच हमीर सिंह।

<< पटियाला के उच्चागांव में बनाया गया तालाब • जागरण

जल के लिए जागरण

जल संरक्षण दैनिक जागरण के सात सरोकारों में शुमार है। इसके तहत हर साल वर्षा जल संचयन के साथ-साथ उसके संरक्षण और सदुपयोग के लिए अभियान चलाकर लोगों को प्रेरित किया जाता है। जल संरक्षण के लिए समर्पित संस्थाओं और व्यक्तियों के कार्यों को मंच प्रदान करते हुए लोगों को इस पुनीत कार्य में योगदान देने के लिए प्रेरित किया जाता है।

तत्कालीन सरपंच ने गांव के युवकों की एक कमेटी बनाई और इसका जिम्मा नवप्रीत सिंह को सौंपा। खेतों में जमा अतिरिक्त पानी को तालाब में लाने के लिए उनके किनारे-किनारे जमीन में बड़े पाइप डाले गए। इनके जरिये बारिश के पानी को तीन छोटे-छोटे तालाबों में जमा किया जाता है। तीनों तालाब कच्चे हैं, लेकिन इन्हें कंक्रीट की स्लैब से ढका गया है। इसके बाद पानी को साफ करके मुख्य तालाब में पहुंचाया जाता है। लोहे की मोटी जाली से तालाब की फैसिंग की गई गई है। इससे जहां तालाब की सुरक्षा होती है, वहीं सुंदरता भी बढ़ती है।

इसके तीन फायदे हुए- फसल की बर्बादी रुकी, बारिश का पानी सिंचाई के काम आने लगा और भूगर्भ जलस्तर में भी सुधार हुआ।

गांव के तत्कालीन सरपंच हमीर सिंह ने नवप्रीत सिंह की मदद से पटियाला से छह किलोमीटर दूर उच्चागांव में वर्षा जल संचयन

परियोजना शुरू की। इस पर 90 लाख रुपये खर्च हुए। निजी कंपनी यूबी लिमिटेड ने सहयोग किया। हमीर सिंह के अनुसार, जुलाई 2018 में पंचायत ने प्रस्ताव पास किया था। तालाब निर्माण में एक साल का समय लगा। डेढ़ एकड़ में बने 28 फीट गहरे तालाब में 25 हजार

किलोलीटर पानी संग्रहीत किया जा सकता है। बरसात के बाद इस पानी से फसलों की सिंचाई होती है। इससे द्यूबवेल पर निर्भरता कम हुई और भूगर्भ जलस्तर में सुधार आया है।

किसानों का कहना है कि अब उन्हें पहले के मुकाबले तीन से चार घंटे कम द्यूबवेल चलाना पड़ता

है। तालाब का पानी सीधे खेतों में पहुंच जाता है। पहले बाढ़ के कारण उनकी फसल बर्बाद हो जाती थी। पानी 40 फीट तक नीचे चला गया था। अब जलस्तर 36 से 37 फीट पर आ गया है।

मुख्य तालाब में ऐसे पहुंचता है पानी: तालाब की देखरेख के लिए



स्केन करें और पढ़ें 'सहेज लो, हर बूंद' अभियान की अन्य सामग्री।

Rashtriya Sahara 20-April-2021

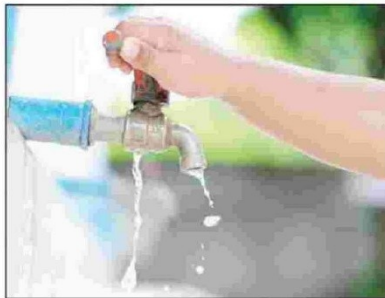


जल संरक्षण डॉ. सुशील कु. सिंह

पानी क्या शिक्षा देती है और इस पर किया गया आत्म अनुशासन और सुशासन किस पैमाने पर हो शायद ही इससे कोई अनभिज्ञ हो। बावजूद इसके पानी रोज बर्बाद हो रहा है। भारत में स्वतंत्रता से लेकर अब तक प्रति व्यक्ति पानी के मामले में तीन गुने से अधिक की घटोतरी देखी जा सकती है। रिपोर्ट भी यह कहती है कि साल 2025 तक भारत भी विश्व में जल संकट वाले देशों में से एक होगा।

गौरतलब है कि देश के 40 फीसद से अधिक क्षेत्रों में सूखे का संकट है और 2030 तक बढ़ती आबादी के चलते देश में पानी की मांग और आपूर्ति में बड़ा असंतुलन आयेगा। इतना ही नहीं वैश्विक तापमान भी दुनिया समेत भारत की जल संकट की स्थिति को कठिन बनाने में मदद कर रहा है। परम्परागत जल स्रोतों की लगातार हो रही उपेक्षा जल संकट का बड़ा कारण है। जल संरक्षण के लिए वर्षा जल संचय के लिए परम्परागत जल स्रोत कुएं और तालाब खत्म होने से रोकना साथ ही उन्हें जीवित भी करना होगा। प्राचीन काल में जल के लिए कुंआ सबसे बड़ा मुख्य साधन था, तालाब को प्राथमिकता दी जाती थी मगर अब ऐसे स्थान अधिग्रहण के शिकार हो गए। अतिक्रमण के चलते शहर के कई जल स्रोत अपना साक्ष्य खो चुके हैं। सौन्दर्यीकरण के नाम पर भी ऐसे प्रतीकों और जल संरक्षण के उपायों को टोकर मार दिया गया। सभी को लगता है कि पानी देना सरकार का काम है जबकि सच्चाई यह है कि नदी, तालाब और कुएं पेयजल के परम्परागत और आधुनिक स्रोत रहे हैं। ऐसे स्रोतों का

जीर्णोद्धार न होना संकट को न्योता देने के बराबर है। गौरतलब है कि अति भूजल दोहन के चलते 72 फीसद जमीन पानी विहीन हो गई है। जल संरक्षण व प्रबंधन की यह खामी सरकार और समाज दोनों पर प्रश्न खड़ा करता है। साल 2018 में नीति आयोग द्वारा किये गये अध्ययन से यह पता चला था कि 122 देशों की जल संकट की सूची में भारत 120वें स्थान पर था, जबकि दुनिया के 400 शहरों में शीर्ष 20 में चेन्नई, कोलकाता, मुम्बई और दिल्ली शामिल थे।



समग्र जल प्रबंधन सूचकांक भी यह बताता है कि देश के 21 शहर जीरो ग्रांड वाटर लेवल के कगार पर हैं, जिसमें बंगलुरु, चेन्नई, दिल्ली और हैदराबाद जैसे अनेक शहर शामिल हैं। जाहिर है 10 करोड़ से अधिक आबादी इस जल संकट का सामना करेगी। नोएडा जैसे शहरों में भूजल 4 फीट प्रति वर्षा की दर से कम हो रहा है। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन की माने तो एक व्यक्ति अपनी जरूरत को पूरा करने में 25 लीटर पानी खपत करता है, जबकि हकीकत यह है कि दिल्ली और मुम्बई जैसे महानगर में नगर निगम द्वारा निर्धारण 150 लीटर प्रति व्यक्ति से भी ज्यादा का पता चलता है। एक क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत जल उपयोग की मांगों को पूरा करने

के लिए उपलब्ध जल संसाधनों की कमी को जल संकट कहते हैं। दुनिया के सभी महाद्वीपों में रहने वाले लगभग 3 बिलियन लोग कम-से-कम एक महीने जल संकट से प्रभावित रहते हैं। हालांकि भारत के साथ चीन, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, अमेरिका और ऑस्ट्रेलिया समेत कई अन्य देशों को भी उच्च जल तनाव का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। गौरतलब है कि मॉनसून की अस्थिरता, एलनीनो का प्रभाव जैसे कारक भी जल संकट को बढ़ावा देते हैं। लगातार जल का दुरुपयोग मसलन गाड़ी की धुलाई, नल की टोटी खुली छोड़ देना। सड़कों की धूल मारने और घर की साफ-सफाई में भी अनावश्यक खर्च भी इसकी बचत को कमजोर कर रहा है। धीरे-धीरे भूजल की निकासी की मात्रा में भी बढ़त हुई नतीजन जमीन खोखली होती जा रही है, भवन धंसते जा रहे हैं। इण्डोनेशिया के कुछ द्वीप भूजल में भारी कमी के चलते धंस रहे हैं। खाद्य सुरक्षा, आर्थिक अस्थिरता, जैव विविधता की हानि आदि जल संकट के कारण सम्भव है।

सतत विकास लक्ष्य की परिपाटी को कैसे प्राप्त किया जाये यह लाख टके का सवाल है। रेनवाटर हार्वेस्टिंग द्वारा जल का संचयन और वर्षा जल को संग्रहित करने के लिए तालाब और चेक डैम आदि की व्यवस्था साथ ही झीलों व नदियों को साफ रखने की कूबत भी दिखानी होगी। आत्म अनुशासन स्वयं में विकसित एक ऐसी शिक्षा और जागरूकता है जो प्राकृतिक संसाधनों को सम्मान देने में मदद करता है। अब समय आ गया है कि जल को उसका वह सम्मान वापस दिया जाये। अन्यथा अस्तित्व पर खतरे के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए। जल संरक्षण के लिए पर्यावरण जरूरी है जब पर्यावरण बचेगा तो जल बचेगा। ऐसे में यहां पर व्याप्त असंतुलन को पाटा जाना चाहिए। ग्लेशियर का सिकुड़ना और पृथ्वी के तापमान का बढ़ने जैसे तमाम उपरोक्त संदर्भ भले ही पुरानी कहानी प्रतीत होते हों मगर यह रोजाना की दर से जल संकट की दास्तां लिख रहे हैं।

Punjab Kesari 20-April-2021

स्वीमिंग पूलों के लिए भूजल दोहन पर एनजीटी ने चेताया

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) ने जल शक्ति मंत्रालय को इस पर गौर करने का निर्देश दिया है कि पानी

के कमी वाले क्षेत्रों में

स्वीमिंग पुलों के लिए

किस हद तक भूजल

निकालने दिया जा

सकता है। एनजीटी

अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति ए के

गोयल की अध्यक्षता वाली

पीठ ने कहा कि चूंकि पेयजल

पहली प्राथमिकता है इसलिए पर्यावरण

के नुकसान पर भूजल के अंधाधुंध दोहन

की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती ताकि

जरूरतमंदों को पेयजल उपलब्ध हो।

एनजीटी ने कहा कि पानी के कमी

वाले क्षेत्रों में भूजल के दोहन से नदियों

के प्रवाह पर एवं भूजल स्रोतों के संभरण

की संभावना पर भी असर पड़ता है।

उसने कहा कि इसलिए स्थायी विकास



**पर्यावरण
के नुकसान पर
भूजल के अंधाधुंध दोहन
की अनुमति नहीं दी
जा सकती**

के वास्ते भूजल की मांग एवं

आपूर्ति के बीच संतुलन

बनाने की जरूरत है। पीठ

ने कहा, “ जलशक्ति

मंत्रालय उसके पास उपलब्ध

आंकड़ों के आधार पर इस बात

पर विचार करे कि पानी के कमी वाले

क्षेत्रों में स्वीमिंग पुल के लिए किस हद

तक भूजल निकालने की अनुमति दी जा

सकती है। आवेदक इस संबंध में जल

शक्ति मंत्रालय में आगे कोई और

प्रतिवेदन देने के लिए स्वतंत्र है।”

अधिकरण नेहा सिंह की याचिका पर

सुनवाई कर रहा है जिसमें उन्होंने

वाणिज्यिक उद्देश्यों के लिए भूजल के

अंधाधुंध दोहन की शिकायत की है।

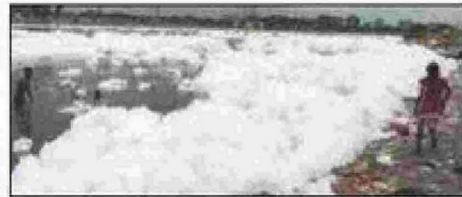
Amar Ujala 20-April-2021

हरियाणा से मिलने वाले पानी की जांच को समिति गठित

सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा बनाई गई समिति तीन दिन में देगी रिपोर्ट

नई दिल्ली। हरियाणा से दिल्ली को मिलने वाले पानी पर मात्रा व गुणवत्ता की जांच के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने छह सदस्यीय समिति का गठन किया है। समिति इस बात का अध्ययन करेगी कि वजीराबाद जल संयंत्र को कितना पानी मिलता है और इसकी गुणवत्ता कैसी है।

जस्टिस एल नागेश्वर राव की पीठ ने पानी की आपूर्ति को लेकर दिल्ली व हरियाणा के बीच आरोप-प्रत्यारोप के मद्देनजर यह फैसला किया। पीठ ने समिति को तीन दिन में रिपोर्ट सौंपने को कहा है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के उस आवेदन पर



सुनवाई कर रहा है जिसमें हरियाणा और पंजाब पर कम और दूषित पानी की आपूर्ति करने का आरोप लगाया गया है। समिति में जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के सचिव द्वारा नामित संयुक्त सचिव व जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के सचिव के अलावा प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड, हरियाणा प्रदूषण बोर्ड व हरियाणा कृषि बोर्ड के एक-एक सदस्य होंगे। ब्यूरो