

The Hindu 19-January-2022

Mekedatu: Govt. urged to step up efforts for NoC from CWC

‘T.N. opposes the project but it benefits Karnataka the most’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Close on the heels of the proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir project hogging the limelight recently with the Congress taking out a ‘padayatra’ in its support, the Institution of Engineers-India’s Karnataka State Center on Tuesday urged the State Government to step up its efforts to get an NoC from the Central Water Commission (CWC) and other clearances to its proposal on constructing the proposed reservoir.

The IEI argued that the project ensures water supply to Bengaluru from the Cauvery round the year, besides meeting the drinking water needs of Ramanagara, Kolar and Chickballapur districts.

The project also has an “indirect” benefit as farmers in Mysuru region will be assured of water all through the year as the “pressure”



The IEI has said that the allocated water to the State can be utilised practically if the proposed reservoir is constructed.

on the four major dams in the Cauvery basin, which have a combined storage of 114.57 tmcft, will be eased, with the construction of the balancing reservoir, it claimed.

“The proposed Mekedatu project’s focus is only on meeting the drinking water needs of the people. The project is, however, opposed by Tamil Nadu. But, on the contrary, the project benefits the neighbouring State

the most. Moreover, there’s no provision for irrigation in the project and the water, after power generation, is released into the river that eventually flows into T.N.,” said IEI-State Chairman M. Lakshmana.

He maintained that the nod of Cauvery Water Management Authority to the proposed project was not required since Karnataka was only intending to make use of its share of water.

The Hindu 19-January-2022

WRD asks Andhra Pradesh to put off Krishna water release till April

They say the major city reservoirs are already at 92.79% of their total capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Water Resources Department (WRD) has written to Andhra Pradesh authorities to postpone the release of Krishna water to April as all the major city reservoirs are nearly full. Chennai is normally due for a second spell of water release in January.

After a bountiful monsoon, the five reservoirs, including the Theruvoy Kandigai Kannankottai reservoir, have a combined storage of 10,909 million cubic feet (mcft) of water, which is 92.79% of their total capacity.

The fifth reservoir at Theruvoy Kandigai Kannankottai, created mainly to store Krishna water, is full. The Poondi reservoir, which is a prime storage point for Krishna water, continues to get 220 cusecs (cubic feet per se-



Consistent inflow: The Poondi reservoir continues to get 220 cusecs from catchment areas. ■ FILE PHOTO

cond) as inflow from catchment areas.

"We do not have space to store additional water now. On an average, nearly 1,200-1,500 mcft is being drawn from the reservoirs every month to supply the city. So, we have written to the Andhra Pradesh officials to release water from the Kandale-

ru reservoir in April for summer needs," an official said.

The city received nearly 4,479 mcft of Krishna water between July and September last year.

The WRD recently resumed work on a retaining wall and lining along the slope of the Kandaleru-Poondi canal at vulnerable portions. However, the

₹24-crore project is progressing slowly as the canal still has water flow.

"We plan to complete the work by March. Portions of the canal lining have slipped and hindered the flow. This work will ensure better flow of water and reduce siltation in the canal," the official added.

Meanwhile, the WRD is also verifying accounts of project and maintenance cost received from Andhra Pradesh pertaining to the Krishna Water Supply Scheme.

The committee, including the WRD and the Finance Department, plans to finalise accounts verification and payment of ₹50 crore to the Andhra Pradesh Government soon. The payment of cost would be done as per the Krishna Water Supply Project Agreement, officials added.

Telangana Today 19-January-2022

Manjeera Lift Irrigation Corp registered as company

STATE BUREAU

Sangareddy

The State government has registered Manjeera Lift Irrigation Corporation Limited, which will execute the Sangameshwara Lift Irrigation Project (SLIP) and Basaveshwara Lift Irrigation Project (BLIP), as a company under the Companies Act 2013.

The Irrigation and CAD Department issued GO MS Number 44 in this regard. As part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, the two lift projects in Sangareddy will lift water from

The Corporation will execute Sangameshwara LI Project and Basaveshwara LI Project; Special CS or Principal Secretary of Irrigation will be its chairman

Singur to cover the drinking and irrigation needs of almost the entire Sangareddy district.

Key officials

Special Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary of Irrigation Department will be the chairman of the Corporation while Engineer-in-Chief (General), Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation) Gajwel,

Additional Secretary (Finance Department, Chief Engineer (Irrigation) Sangareddy and Joint Secretary I&CAD Department will act as directors of the company.

The functional areas of the Manjeera Lift Irrigation Corporation Limited will be limited to SLIP and BLIP initially. After completing the works, the assets and projects will be handed over to

the Corporation. The Corporation will have a paid-up capital of Rs one crore.

Welcome move

The elected representatives and farmers of the Sangareddy district have welcomed the decision of the Telangana government. The SLIP and BLIP together will be taken up with a budget of Rs 4,023 crores.

As part of these lift irrigation projects, irrigation water will be provided to 4 lakh acres covering 400 villages in 20 mandals of Sangareddy, Andole, Narayankhed, Zaheerabad

Assembly Constituencies of Sangareddy district.

Drinking needs

Speaking to *Telangana Today*, District Cooperative and Marketing Society Chairman Malkapuram Shiva Kumar thanked Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao and Finance Minister T Harish Rao for the move. He said that the people of Sangareddy will remain indebted to the Chief Minister for coming up with such a wonderful project which will put an end to the drinking and irrigation needs of the district.

Deccan Chronicle 19-January-2022

Thoothukudi groundwater quality has deteriorated: Study

M.ARULOLI | DC
THOOTHUKUDI, JAN 18

The city of Thoothukudi, said to be one of the most polluted in the state as per data from the 2018 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) because of road dust, vehicular emission and industrial pollution, now finds its groundwater is also becoming unsuitable for domestic, agriculture and industrial purposes, according to a groundwater quality study done by Prof. S.Selvam of Geology department, VOC college Thoothukudi.

The study, according to Dr Selvam, discusses the groundwater quantity, quality and compatibility ratio

of all physio-chemical components based on several scientific studies on the groundwater condition in Thoothukudi block and data provided by PWD and Central Groundwater board (CGWB) from 1985 to 2020.

The study reveals that the presence of total dissolved solids (TDS) is dangerously higher than the BIS 2012 standard of 2,000mg per litre when measuring the landward salinity of groundwater upto 12 kms from the coastline. This makes it unsuitable for drinking and highly harmful to human health, reveals the study. The PH value indicating the alkalinity of groundwater in Thoothukudi region gradu-

■ The presence of total dissolved solids (TDS) is dangerously higher than the BIS 2012 standard of 2,000mg per litre when measuring the landward salinity of groundwater upto 12 kms from the coastline.

■ The PH value indicating the alkalinity of groundwater in Thoothukudi region gradually increased to 8.9 in 2018 and 10.2 in 2019 from 7.8 in 2007

■ The level of calcium and magnesium in groundwater in Thoothukudi block upto Pudukottai in the district had increased above the BIS standard of 350 mg/litre and 320 mg/litre respectively in 2019

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The level of calcium and magnesium in groundwater in Thoothukudi block upto

Pudukottai in the district had increased above the BIS standard of 350 mg/litre and 320 mg/litre respectively in 2019. The level of naturally found alkaline earth metals was, however, much less a decade ago.

The carbonate and bicarbonate (HCO_3) levels depend on the rainfall level and they too had witnessed an abnormal increase to 700 mg/litre by 2014 from their previous levels. The sodium and potassium concentration trends were also found to be high above the BIS standard.

The major cause for the deteriorating quality of groundwater, according to Dr Selvam, is sea water intrusion due to overex-

ploitation. The seawater intrusion triggers geogenic contamination, according to another study done in 2007 by N.C Mondal of National geographical Research Institution in Thoothukudi region.

Apart from seawater intrusion and overexploitation, the groundwater quality in Thoothukudi has been found to be deteriorating due to unsystematic discharge of domestic effluents. The study found that the quality of groundwater even when most of the industries in Thoothukudi were non-functional during the lockdown period since 2020 has not, however, shown any significant improvement.

Hindustan Times 19-January-2022

The groundwater emergency in Delhi

Around 100 sq km of area in the National Capital Region has a high risk of land subsidence, with the largest of these, of around 12.5 sq km, in Delhi's Kapashera area, this newspaper reported on Tuesday, quoting a scientific study published in *Nature*. Land subsidence occurs when a large amount of groundwater is extracted from aquifers.

The alarming rate of groundwater depletion has been a problem in the Capital for years due to population growth and high urbanisation. In 2021, a Central Groundwater Board report stated Delhi's groundwater levels were declining at the rate of 0.5 to 2 metres each year and that 825 sq km of Delhi's total area of 1,483 sq km is suitable for artificial recharge of the groundwater table. In addition, Niti Aayog's Comprehensive Water Management Index 2019 identified Delhi as a low-performing state when it comes to water management. A Comptroller and Auditor General of India audit of groundwater management and regulation (presented in Parliament in December 2021), using 2013-18 data, said that eight states have violated the national level targets of groundwater extraction. Delhi is one.

While Delhi needs to incentivise rooftop rainwater harvesting, restore the city's water networks, recycle water, and fix distribution lines to reduce wastage, it also needs to stop illegal groundwater mining and haphazard construction that blocks rainwater from discharging into the ground and recharging water bodies and streams. Experts also suggest water harvesting in the parks and open spaces of Delhi. According to a Centre for Science and Environment study, Delhi has the potential to harvest 12,800 million litres of rainwater every year. The government and citizens must treat groundwater as a valuable resource and its rapid depletion as an emergency, which can threaten economic growth and reduce the quality of life for citizens, apart from weakening the ground beneath their feet.