

Telangana Today- 02- August-2022

‘Loans for KLIS as per RBI rules’

Centre informs LS that term loans approved based on technical feasibility, commercial viability, bankability

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Making wild allegations against the Telangana government come easy for the BJP and Congress, but facts and figures have time and again proved them wrong.

On Monday, the Centre in Parliament gave a clean chit to the State administration on the technical feasibility and financial viability of the mega Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS). Both the saffron party and the Grand Old Party have been crying hoarse about these aspects of the prestigious project besides other alleged irregularities.

Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad informed Lok Sabha that Public Sector Banks (PSBs) had approved the loans for KLIS as per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). All the term loans, including those availed for the project, were approved based on technical feasibility,



Congress MP Uttam Kumar Reddy has been consistently accusing the Telangana government of irregularities and inflated expenditure over the Kaleshwaram project.

ity, financial/commercial viability and bankability of the project, he said.

In response to a question raised by Congress MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy, the union Minister said the PSBs

had informed that all term loans were appraised as per the RBI guidelines and Board-approved policies. For infrastructure projects, the appraisal includes techno-economic valuation

reports obtained from reputed external experts, he said.

Uttam had sought information on the guarantees given by the Telangana government towards borrow-

ings of all corporations and PSUs, especially those obtained by the Kaleshwaram Irrigation Project Corporation Limited. The Nalgonda MP, who has been consistently accusing the State government of irregularities and inflated expenditure over the project, sought to know other details such as the loan amount, lending terms, interest rate, moratorium and repayment period for KLIS. He also raised doubts over loan appraisals and financial viability of the project.

Karad said as per RBI norms, it was prohibited from disclosing borrower-wise credit information. But he pointed out that the Telangana government gave guarantees towards total loans amounting to Rs 1,67,308 crore drawn by corporations and PSUs of the State government from PSBs between 2014 and 2022. The loans, he asserted, were taken for various development works.

IMD predicts normal monsoon rainfall in August, September

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NEW DELHI: Rainfall during the second half of the southwest monsoon is likely to be normal, the India Meteorological Department predicted on Monday. In the first half, till July 31, it was 8% above average, although rainfall was highly uneven in different parts of the country, weather office data show.

Parts of eastern and north-eastern India, which recorded scanty rainfall in June and July, may not get adequate showers in the next two months as well, the weather office said, raising concerns over the kharif or monsoon crop. "There is some scope for the high rain deficiency to be recovered in Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal and eastern Uttar Pradesh," said M Mohapatra, director general, IMD. "But some deficiency may remain for

Bihar, some northeastern states and other parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plains."

July saw a rainfall excess of 8% but the showers were unevenly distributed. According to IMD, there was 16% rain deficiency over eastern and north-eastern India; 17% excess over central India; 28% excess over south peninsula and 5% excess over northwest India. There was 16.9% excess rain over the country with 10.8% excess over northwest India; 42.7% excess over central India; 60.4% excess over peninsular India and 44.7% deficit over east and northeast India.

In the coming two months, normal to above normal rain is likely over south India, except parts of the west coast, west-central and northwest India. Below normal rainfall is likely over parts of the west coast, east-central, east and northeast India, IMD said.

→P8

Millennium Post- 02- August-2022

Lacking feasibility?

The potential adverse effects of interlinking of rivers and diversions from Western Ghats are not to be overlooked; write *GV Hegde & KC Subhash Chandra*

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti (water resources), under the 'National Perspective Plan', had called for proposals to transfer water from water-surplus basins to water-deficit basins.

Accordingly, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) had identified 30 links in the country that included 16 peninsular rivers. There were two sensitive proposals among the six Karnataka proposals. These were the Bedti-Dharma-Varada and Aghanashini-Varada River links.

These proposals are about the diversion of water from west-flowing rivers located in the highly ecologically sensitive Western Ghats zone of Yelapur, Sirsi and Siddapur taluks of Uttara Kannada district to Varada, a tributary of the Tungabhadra in the eastern plains.

The structurally controlled Bedti and Aghanashini River drainage systems, known to contain rare species of flora and fauna, drain into the Arabian Sea.

They flow through narrow gorges, valleys with rapids, cascades and deep waterfalls in the evergreen dense, forest-clad mountainous picturesque zone of the Western Ghats.

The climatological, geographical, geomorphological, geological and geohydrological set up of the terrain is unique. The Aghanashini basin has not been tampered with till now.

The Western Ghats zone influences the monsoon pattern by intercepting the rain-laden southwest monsoon winds. The dense forests contribute to the precipitation by releasing much of the moisture back into air as transpiration.

The forest hydrology of the area has a unique role in the hydrological cycle. Interference in the forest management practices alters evapo-transpiration, soil infiltration capacity, runoff, base-flow, etc.

The pre-feasibility report of the 'Bedti-Varada link



The structurally controlled Bedti and Aghanashini River drainage systems are known to contain rare species of flora and fauna

proposal', was submitted by NWDA in August 2021.

It envisaged the diversion of 242 million cubic metre (mcm) from the Bedti Basin to the water-scarce Tungabhadra sub-basin to irrigate 60,200 hectares (ha) in the Tungabhadra Project command Area of Raichur district.

The headworks proposed are to construct two weirs across Pattanada Halla and Shalmala Halla and interlinking systems between these two reservoirs.

About 1,005 ha of area in Uttara Kannada district would be submerged if this proposal is implemented. Some 787 ha of the 1,005 ha is forest land, 130 ha is cultivable land and 88 ha is under non-agricultural use. There is also a village with a population of 967.

The draft detailed project report (DPR) of the Bedti-Dharma-Varada link and the drawings submitted by NWDA to the Government of Karnataka in February 2022, cover parts of the Bedti-Conservation Reserve and Shalmala Riparian Conservation Reserve.

These are in the Western Ghats, which is eco-sensitive and a biodiversity hotspot.

It is ironic that the draft DPR talks about conducting topographical surveys, geological

and geotechnical investigations, bore hole drilling on the weir / barrage sites, seismo-tectonic studies, etc, after getting approval.

Wrecking the environment

If the project is implemented:

- The livelihood of the people in the downstream areas will be adversely impacted and the flora and fauna at the estuary will be affected.
- Forest loss shall impair the hydrological cycle, monsoon pattern and climatological conditions in the donor as well in the recipient basins.
- There will be threats to endangered species.
- When the free annual flow of water in the river system is prevented, there will be on-land transgression of marine water in the coastal zone. This will cause impairment of the interface between fresh and marine water, resulting in an acute shortage of drinking water.
- Changes in land use will aggravate natural hazards like landslides, lead to loss of forest wealth, disturb wildlife and human life.
- The additional storage of 524 mcm of water, to be diverted from the proposed project into the heavily

silted Tungabhadra reservoir, does not sound technically possible.

- It will aggravate further the problem of water logging and soil salinity in the area already under irrigation from the Tungabhadra Project.
- The surface and groundwater resources of the donor basin will be severely affected (both) for irrigation and even drinking needs during lean season.

The Government of Karnataka, through a gazette notification dated May 22, 2012 had notified the Bedti Conservation Reserve and Shalmala Riparian Ecosystem Conservation Reserve under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The Shalmala Riparian Ecosystem Conservation Reserve consists of riparian forest of 100 metres width on either side of the Shalmala River.

The Supreme Court recently directed that a one km wide area be maintained as an 'eco-sensitive zone' (ESZ) from the boundary of protected forests. The top court also directed that no new permanent structure shall be permitted for whatsoever purpose within the ESZ.

There has been strong

opposition by the local people against the implementation of the proposed Bedti-Dharma-Varada and Pattanada Halla-Shalmala Halla link projects. Also, the local Gram and Taluk Panchayats have passed a resolution against the project implementation.

The adverse effects that will be caused by the interlinking of rivers and diversions from the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats terrain, are not to be overlooked.

Providing an additional volume of 524 MCM of water by diverting it from the west-flowing rivers into the left bank canal command area of the Tungabhadra Project does not make any sense.

This is because the brackish groundwater there has attained the critical depth of less than 1.5 m from the surface and acute soil salinity has developed, due to extensive irrigation facilities already provided.

Measures to deplete the water table need to be taken in such areas and waterlogging should never be allowed. Otherwise, there will be additional conversion of fertile and potential agricultural land into perpetually non-productive, water-logged, saline insipid barren land.

Advocates of interlinking of rivers should have a clear perception of such damages that may be caused to a very agricultural economy. Hence, the diversion of the west-flowing river water to the east is uncalled for.

There is a total lack of information provided in the DPR about geological, geophysical and geo-tectonic features related to the conditions of the terrain, the magnitude of catastrophic damages to the environment, ecology, forest wealth, climate, aquatic lives, etc.

The DPR under such a condition has to be virtually negated and rejected. After all, man cannot go against nature.

DTE

Views expressed are personal

When the free annual flow of water in the river system is prevented, there will be on-land transgression of marine water in the coastal zone — eventually causing an acute shortage of drinking water

Millennium Post- 02- August-2022

As heavy rains lash Kerala, red alert in many districts sounded, 6 dead

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Heavy rains lashing Kerala have claimed six lives till date and red alerts have been issued in several districts of the State for the coming days, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Monday. Giving details of the steps taken by the State administration to prevent any loss of life, Vijayan told reporters here that learning from the past experiences, especially the floods in 2018, precautionary measures have been taken. Five houses have been completely destroyed and 55 partially damaged in the rains.

He further said six people

died and one person is reported missing.

IMD issued red alerts for Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Idukki districts for the day and August 2, he said and added that red alert has been issued in 11 districts for August 3 and in 9 of them for August 4.

The Chief Minister said a State Emergency Operations Centre of the Disaster Management Authority has been set up and control rooms would be opened in all districts and taluks. Besides, four teams of the National Disaster Response

Force (NDRF) have been deployed in Idukki, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Thrissur districts and another four teams would shortly arrive in the State and be deployed in Ernakulam, Kottayam, Kollam and Malappuram districts, he said.

He said if the heavy rains continue during the coming days, the State would be in a crisis and to prevent it, water was being released from around 17 dams. Meanwhile, data on the daily water-levels of the dams operated by KSEB (Kerala State Electricity Board) indicate that water-levels in five Idukki dams -- Ponmudi, Kundala, Kallar-

kutty, Erattayar and Lower Periyar -- have reached the red alert storage levels. He said the Dam Management Committee under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary has assessed water level in the dams and there was no cause for concern at present.

In view of these and in anticipation of potential disasters such as landslides, mountain floods, flashfloods, waterlogging in cities and low-lying areas, preparations are required in areas where extremely heavy rainfall is expected and also in places adjoining them, he told reporters.

AGENCIES

Hindustan- 02- August-2022

कई नदियों का जलस्तर खतरे के निशान से ऊपर पहुंचा, सभी अधिकारियों को अलर्ट रहने के निर्देश

नेपाल में बारिश से बिहार की नदियां उफनाई



पटना, हिन्दुस्तान ब्यूरो। नेपाल के जलग्रहण क्षेत्रों में पिछले दो दिनों में हुई भारी बारिश का असर कई नदियों के जलस्तर पर देखा जा रहा है। सोमवार को कोसी, बागमती और कमला बलान का जलस्तर कई स्थानों पर खतरे के निशान से ऊपर पहुंच गया, जबकि बिहार इस वर्ष अब तक मानसून की अनियमितता और अल्पवृष्टि से उत्पन्न स्थिति से जूझ रहा था।

नदियों के बढ़े जलस्तर के मद्देनजर जल संसाधन मंत्री संजय कुमार झा ने मुख्यालय से लेकर फील्ड तक के सभी अधिकारियों एवं अभियंताओं को अलर्ट पर रहने के निर्देश दिये हैं। सभी तटबंधों की सुरक्षा के लिए विभाग की टीमों द्वारा रात्रि गश्ती की जा रही है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि बिहार में एक जून से 31 जुलाई तक कुल 306.9 एमएम बारिश हुई है, जबकि मानसून सामान्य रहने पर 503.8 एमएम बारिश होनी चाहिए थी। इस तरह राज्य में इस वर्ष मानसून सीजन में सामान्य से 39 प्रतिशत कम बारिश हुई है।



जम्मू-कश्मीर के पुंछ जिला स्थित सुरनकोट में सोमवार को भारी बारिश से क्षतिग्रस्त हुए वाहन और घर। •पेट

राजस्थान: 66 साल बाद रिकॉर्ड बारिश

राजस्थान में जुलाई के महीने में 66 साल बाद रिकॉर्ड बारिश हुई है। जयपुर मौसम केंद्र के अनुसार, इस साल जुलाई में राज्य में औसतन 270 मिमी बारिश हुई जोकि अबतक के औसत 161.4 मिमी से 67% से ज्यादा है। 1956 में जुलाई में राज्य में 308.7 मिलीमीटर बारिश दर्ज थी।

उत्तराखंड: यमुनोत्री धाम की यात्रा बंद

भंडेरीगाड़ में ध्वस्त यमुनोत्री पैदल मार्ग नहीं खुलने से धाम की यात्रा तीसरे दिन भी बंद रही। एसडीएम बड़कोट ने बताया कि, यात्रा मंगलवार को भी स्थगित रहेगी। चमोली के सोनला गांव में मलबा घुस जाने से 28 परिवार खतरे की जद में आ गए।

उत्तर प्रदेश: बिजनौर में बाढ़ जैसे हालात

पहाड़ों पर बारिश से मैदानी क्षेत्रों में आफ़त बरसनी शुरू हो गई है। वेस्ट में सबसे ज्यादा असर बिजनौर में है, यहाँ बाढ़ जैसे हालात हैं। बुलंदशहर में भी जलस्तर बढ़ा है। बागपत में यमुना के उफान से सब्जी की फसल बर्बाद हो गई है।

जम्मू-कश्मीर

पुंछ के सुरनकोट में सैलाब, स्कूल बंद किए

भारी बारिश के चलते जम्मू कश्मीर में पुंछ जिले के सुरनकोट शहर में सोमवार को बाढ़ आ गई। इस वजह से स्कूल-कॉलेजों को बंद कर दिया गया। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि पहाड़ी इलाकों में रात भर हुई भारी बारिश के बाद बाढ़ का पानी घरों और दुकानों में घुस गया है। लोगों की मदद करने के लिए सेना और पुलिस को लगाया गया है।

हिमाचल प्रदेश

लाहौल-स्पीति में 150 से अधिक लोग फंसे

हिमाचल प्रदेश के कुल्लू जिले में अचानक बाढ़ आ जाने के चलते एक नदी में फंसे तीन लोगों को सुरक्षित बाहर निकाल लिया गया और आसपास की 30 इमारतों को खाली कराया गया है। लाहौल-स्पीति जिले में अचानक आई बाढ़ के कारण 150 से अधिक लोग फंसे गए हैं।

Hindustan- 02- August-2022

नुकसान

राज्यों में बाढ़ से देश की
अर्थव्यवस्था पर बोझ बढ़ा

भारत के राज्यों से लेकर मैदानी इलाके बाढ़ से जूझ रहे हैं। राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण के अनुसार वर्ष 1996 से 2005 के बीच बाढ़ से हर साल औसतन 4745 करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ है।

केंद्र ने दी सहायता राशि

राज्य	आवंटन
बिहार	1038.96
मध्य प्रदेश	600.50
महाराष्ट्र	1056.39
तमिलनाडु	566.36
आंध्र प्रदेश	351.43

(स्रोत: लोकसभा, वर्ष 2021-22 में आवंटन करोड़ रुपये में)

इनको दी अतिरिक्त मदद

 गुजरात	 महाराष्ट्र	 ओडिशा
1000	701	500
 प. बंगाल	 तमिलनाडु	 उत्तराखंड
300	213.51	200

 कर्नाटक (राशि करोड़ रुपये में)
629.03

17747.20

करोड़ केंद्र ने राज्यों को
वर्ष 2021-22 में दिया

187.18

करोड़ रुपये आवंटित
किए गए उत्तराखंड को

324.40

करोड़ रुपये केंद्र ने
असम को दिया

2.6 गुना अधिक क्षति

केंद्रीय जलशक्ति मंत्रालय के अनुसार 2018 में भारत को बाढ़ से 95,736 करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ था। ये आंकड़ा वर्ष 2017 में हुई क्षति की तुलना में 2.6 गुना अधिक था।

4.7 लाख करोड़ बढ़े

केंद्रीय जल आयोग के अनुसार 1952 से 2018 के बीच बारिश और बाढ़ से देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को करीब 4.7 लाख करोड़ रुपये की क्षति हुई है।