The Hindu- 20- September-2022

Govt. to revise Periyar Action Plan with fund allocation for projects

Assurance given before NGT, which had pulled up authorities for inordinate delay in implementing the plan to rejuvenate river; supervisors asked to conduct field-level visits

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The government has said that the Periyar Action Plan will be modified with definite timeline and fund allocation for identified projects.

The assurance was given before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which had pulled up the authorities for the inordinate delay in implementing the action plan to rejuvenate the river.

Industrial units have been asked to set up a common effluent treatment plant in Edayar on the banks of the Periyar. FILE PHOTO

On the plan to set up a common effluent treatment plant (CETP) in the Edayar industrial area, the government said industrial units had been asked to form a special purpose vehicle or a consortium to set up CETPs and to ensure their operation and maintenance. The Kerala State Pollution Control Board (PCB) has been told to extend technical assistance to such projects.

The report submitted by the government said the Local Self-Government department (LSGD) was regularly reviewing and monitoring issues related to the formulation of a revised action plan. Performance audit supervisors have been asked to conduct field-level visits.

The Superintending Engineer, LSGD, will hold meetings with local bodies and obtain the action plan for practical solutions. The Irrigation department said the action plan was being worked out with the support of the District Collectors concerned.

Fund for STPs

The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, has informed local bodies that the funds required for setting up sewage treatment plants (STPs) could be availed from the 2021-22 Plan Fund.

The funds for solid waste management projects can be availed from the World Bank assistance for solid waste management. The Kerala Water Authority will extend assistance in setting up STPs.

The NGT had pulled up the government for the "utter lack of concern for the continuing serious pollution [of the Periyar river] and consequences on public health and environment. It continues to cause deaths and diseases and also affect food safety on account of polluted water being used for irrigation." Reports of the authorities during the past several years did not point to improvement in water quality of the river at any of the locations in question, it said.

Millennium Post- 20- September-2022

Monsoon withdrawal to begin in next 2 days: IMD

NEW DELHI: After a late spurt in rainfall, the southwest monsoon is all set to enter the withdrawal phase over the next two days, the weather office said on Monday.

"Conditions are becoming favourable for withdrawal of southwest monsoon from parts of north-west India and Kutch during the next two days," the India Meteorological Department said.

According to the weather office, India had received 7 per cent excess rains, but eight states, including the rice bowl states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, received deficient rainfall which could lead to lower farm output this kharif season.

Jharkhand, Delhi, Punjab, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur are the other states that have recorded deficit rainfall.

The south-west monsoon season begins on June 1 and continues till September 30.

India received 872.7 mm of rainfall between June 1 and September 19, which was 7 per cent higher than the normal rainfall of 817.2 mm for the period under review.

"Due to the anti-cyclonic flow over northwest India at lower tropospheric levels, dry weather is very likely over west Rajasthan, Punjab and adjoining areas of Haryana during the next five days," the weather office said.

AGENCIES

Mint- 20- September-2022

Market forces could play a role in India's water security

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Water and sanitation have been important areas of focus in recent years for the central and state governments in India. Notable work has been done in providing water tap connections and improved sanitation facilities. One area of rising importance is water security. Around 600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress, as per a Niti Aayog report. With increasing population pressure and industrialization as well as urbanization, our water consumption is bound to rise. By 2025, water demand for irrigation is expected to grow by 14%, for domestic needs by 40% and for industrial use it is projected to double in comparison with 2015.

One area where India needs to act is achieving higher efficiency in water usage. A Global Water Intelligence (GWI) study showed that water loss in India is almost at 50%, which means that one litre of water saved at the consumption point eliminates the need to supply several litres from the main storage, as distribution losses are high. Water preservation is, therefore, important for conserving water.

Increasing water usage efficiency has been tried by other water-stressed countries as well. Countries like Singapore and Australia have created a market for water-efficient goods. Australia adopted the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Scheme (WELS) in 2005 with the aim of reducing water consumption by promoting the use of products and technologies that save water. Products are given a 'water efficiency rating', which enables customers to use water efficiency as a criteria in their purchases. This rating system has been used for appliances and water-using products such as showers, certain tap equipment, flow controllers, urinals, dishwashers and washing machines.

Over the years, sales of higher star rating machines in Australia have increased. This scheme is estimated to have saved 70,000 million litres of water in 2013 and projected to save 204,000 million litres per annum—equivalent to more than three-quarters of Melbourne's total annual residential water use—by 2030. In turn, reduced water usage has also decreased electricity or gas use by Australians. Combined, these are predicted to lead to Australian households saving a whopping $26.3 billion by 2030.

Singapore introduced its Mandatory Water Efficiency Management Practices (MWEMP) in 2015 for commercial markets. Large water users are required to submit details of their water consumption, business activity indicators and water efficiency plans to the Public Utilities Board (PUB). With this data, water efficiency benchmarks for different sectors are developed. The PUB then develops good case studies for designing, maintaining and operating water-efficient buildings and plants. Internationally, increasing water usage efficiency is gaining traction, with the International Standard for Organisation creating the Water Efficiency Labelling Programmes in 2022 and Water Efficiency Management Systems in 2019.

We should guide demand for water-efficient products in ways that serve a larger public purpose

One Indian example to learn from is our market for energy-efficient goods where product 'star ratings' have been successfully deployed. Research shows that Indian customers are aware of these energy-efficiency ratings and largely prefer air-conditioners with higher star ratings. These work thanks to awareness around eco-friendliness, and a clear quantifiable monetary benefit. A 5-star AC can help save up to ₹900 in electricity charges a month as compared to a 1-star AC.

Thus, there is good scope and a dire need for the national and state governments to design initiatives to raise water-usage efficiency by using market methods to influence demand and supply. A water rating system can be adopted to measure the flow rate, litres per flush or litres per wash. These ratings need to be simple for businesses to implement and clear enough for customers to understand. Technologies that reduce water flow and wastage without inconveniencing the consumer, like aerated nozzles on taps, can be encouraged through mandatory rating labels.

However, water ratings systems are not enough. To create a market for water efficient goods, we require demand at the individual level to be measured and linked to a sufficient economic cost. This means that existing initiatives around installing water meters would need to be fast-tracked, along with mandates to pay for one's own water consumption. Prices can be higher in water stressed areas to increase the incentive for saving water. When consumers realize that water-efficient goods save them money, such goods would naturally see demand rise. This will nudge manufacturers to produce more water-efficient goods. However, metering and charging for water are deeply contested issues of water policy. Creating the political will to take action on sustainable water usage is an uphill task that might require both community and political engagement.

Creating a market for water efficient goods would be difficult but highly beneficial in achieving water security. While we have seen some intent with the formation of a National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency being proposed in 2020, there is a long road ahead. Apart from navigating the political nature of water usage, a multi-year coordinated effort across customers, governments and businesses is required to create a successful market. While major reforms in the Indian economy were implemented in the face of a financial crisis, can we afford to wait for a water crisis to begin water reforms?

Rajasthan Patrika- 20- September-2022

घाघरा नदी खतरे के निशान से 48 सेंटीमीटर ऊपर पहुंची

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

गोंडा. घाघरा खतरे के निशान से 48 सेंटीमीटर ऊपर बह रही हैं।

घाघरा नदी के जलस्तर में काफी तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। लगातार तीन दिनों से हो रही मूसलाधार बारिश से जलस्तर का बढ़ना जारी है। बढ़त से एक बार फिर एल्गिन-चरसडी बांध को खतरा पैदा हो गया है। लगातार हो रही बरसात से बांध पर जबरदस्त रैन कट्स होने के कारण बांध बेहद कमजोर स्थिति में आ गया है। बआसपास गांव के ग्रामीणों का सुकून व नींद छीन लिया है। करीब छह किलोमीटर लंबे बांध के किनारे कटान की स्थिति बनी हुई है। घाघरा के साथ-साथ सरयू नदी का जलस्तर तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। घाघरा खतरे के निशान से 48 सेंटीमीटर ऊपर 106.566 पर पहुंच गई है।