

## Joint panel formed to check froth formation in Yamuna during Chhath

**New Delhi:** Ministry of Jal Shakti, along with Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and other stakeholders, has formed a joint committee to control froth formation downstream Okhla Barrage during Chhath Puja. "The committee will oversee and coordinate the efforts being made to control/minimise the froth formation," the ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Over 1,100 ghats will be set up across Delhi to celebrate Chhath on October 30 and 31. The Delhi government has announced to spend Rs 25 crore on making preparations for the festival, which is popular among the over two million Poorvanchal population living in the city.

It is, however, not yet clear if the ghats will be set up on the banks of the Yamuna. "DPCC has not yet clarified if the celebrations will be allowed along the river," said an official from Delhi Teerth Yatra Vikas Samiti.

According to the ministry, different stakeholders will work on co-ordination among states and departments, spraying anti-surfactant to avoid foam formation, discharge of industrial effluents, and operation of the barrage. "It has been decided that eco-friendly anti-surfactant shall be sprayed from October 25 onwards till Chhath Puja from boat-mounted sprayer. The barrage gates will be controlled to avoid free fall at Okhla Barrage," the statement added.

Froth is formed in the Yamuna largely due to untreated waste from households and detergent industries. "There are ways to control it. However, authorities start thinking of a solution only around the festivals. To curb frothing menace, they need to control the flow of sewage from detergent-based/producing industries and households throughout the year," said Depinder Kapur, director-water programme, Centre for Science and Environment. TNN

# Bengal demands joint regulation of Tenughat dam with Jharkhand

**SOUMITRA NANDI**

**KOLKATA:** The Bengal Irrigation department demanded joint regulation of the Tenughat dam along with its neighbouring state Jharkhand at the Eastern Zonal Council meeting held in New Delhi recently.

The issue related to coordination between the state and Jharkhand in connection with the use of water from Massanjore dam was also discussed at the meeting.

“We do not get any information about the release of water from the Tenughat dam. However, when a large volume of water is released from the dam it hits Panchet dam in our state which gets overflowed and is compelled to release water resulting in flood-like situations in areas like Khanakul in Hooghly,

Udaynarayanpur in Howrah to name a few. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has time and again been vocal against indiscriminate water release from the Tenughat dam but the problem persists. So we have urged the Centre for jointly regulating the Tenughat dam to avert such flood-like situation in Bengal,” a senior official of state Irrigation department said.

Principal Secretary of Irrigation department Prabhat Kumar Mishra and joint secretary Biplab Mukherjee were present at the meeting on behalf of Bengal.

Interestingly, this year there has been scanty rainfall and the issue of water release has not arisen but every year during the monsoon, some areas particularly, in Howrah and Hooghly district of Bengal face flood-like situations.

The state government had earlier also raised the issue of joint regulation of the Tenughat dam but the Jharkhand government had opposed the same.

In the meeting, the state Irrigation department furnished detailed information to the Central Water Commission (CWC) related to the use of water from the Massanjore dam to rule out allegations of Jharkhand that the state has not allowed them proper utilisation of water from the dam.

The Jharkhand government plans to set up a dam at Belpahari (Jharkhand) whose catchment area will cover Bengal too.

“We have asked for a proper hydraulic study related to the issue so that our state does not face any problem in connection with this dam,” the official added.