

The Hindu- 24- April-2023

Waterbodies' census puts State's count at 55,734

Tiki Rajwi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has 55,734 waterbodies out of which 9,184 are 'not in use' and 111 are plagued by encroachment, indicate the first census report on waterbodies in the country released by the Union Jal Shakti Ministry.

Waterbodies in Kerala include 51,007 ponds, 848 tanks, four lakes, 63 reservoirs, 3,349 water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check-dams and 463 other waterbodies, according to the report.

The definition

Kerala ranked 12th overall in the number of waterbodies, and third in their number in urban locations. For the purpose of the census, 'waterbodies' were defined as "all natural or man-made units bounded on all sides with some or no masonry work used for storing water for irrigation or other purposes."

The Union Ministry launched the first census in convergence with the Sixth Minor Irrigation Census. Of

National census says 9,184 waterbodies are 'not in use' and 111 have been encroached upon

the waterbodies in the State, 49,725 are in rural areas and 6,009 in urban locations.

In the number of urban ones, Kerala stood third after West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. In all, 46,550 waterbodies are in use in Kerala, while 9,184 have fallen into disuse owing to a variety of reasons.

As many as 8,286 ponds, 81 tanks, two reservoirs, 721 water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check-dams and 112 other waterbodies are in the 'not in use' category. Reasons include drying up, construction, siltation, salinity and being rendered unusable due to the influx of industrial effluents. In the latter category, there were 43 waterbodies. As many as 1,326 were also designated as 'destroyed beyond repair.'

Of the waterbodies in use, a little over 20,000

were being used for irrigation and 10,192 for domestic/drinking water purposes. As many as 2,663 were put to use for fish farming and 260 others, for industrial purposes.

Encroachments were reported in 111 waterbodies, mostly in rural areas. In the case of seven of these, the extent of encroachment was found to be more than 75%.

West Bengal on top

Of the 24.24 lakh waterbodies counted nationwide, West Bengal had 7.5 lakh, topping the list. The census was carried out with the objective of creating a national database for waterbodies. West Bengal has the highest number of ponds and reservoirs, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu topped the list for tanks and lakes respectively and Maharashtra, that of water conservation schemes.

The Kerala government had announced plans to dig 2,000 ponds as part of water conservation measures. The first 1,000 were inaugurated on March 22, World Water Day.

The Indian Express- 24- April-2023

EVERY DROP COUNTS

Water body census is a welcome initiative. Increasing reliance on local sources will make it more informative

IN A FIRST-EVER count of its kind, a census has recorded an overwhelming disparity between rural and urban areas in terms of water bodies. The report highlights that cities and towns have less than 3 per cent of these reservoirs. Conducted by the Jal Shakti ministry, the survey included natural and human-made water repositories like ponds, tanks, and lakes. With nearly 7,50,00 water bodies, West Bengal tops the list. The country's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, is a distant second with about 2,50,000 repositories. At a time when stressed aquifers pose difficult ecological, economic and policy challenges — including for the government's flagship scheme of providing drinking water to every household — the significance of this database cannot be overstated. With details on the size, encroachment status and storage capacity of the water bodies, the report could help policymakers arrive at informed decisions on matters as diverse as urban planning and rural employment generation schemes.

The Centre has been conducting a census of minor irrigation structures every five years since 1986. Much of the data indirectly compiled from the population Census by government agencies has also focused on minor irrigation works. The irrigation-centred approach was, to an extent, a fallout of the inclination of successive governments to view tanks, ponds and canals as economic utilities, rather than critical resources for human and ecological well-being. In the past two decades, there have been some attempts at course correction. The UPA government, for instance, launched the Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies scheme in 2005 and MGNREGA works have focussed on reviving traditional water bodies. But the lack of a comprehensive database has meant that these projects have not done sufficient justice to their objectives. The significance of the current study is underscored by the fact that it counted nearly five times the number of repositories enumerated by the last minor irrigation survey in 2013-14. The past studies did not have much data on urban centres. The enumeration of tanks, lakes and other water sources in cities and towns was left, largely, to civil society outfits and academic institutions. Such endeavours did provide valuable insights into the depletion of lakes in cities such as Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Srinagar and Bengaluru. The government's entry into the field is sure to make the data richer.

That said, such enumeration initiatives will not do adequate justice to their objectives if they remain top-down affairs. Making panchayats, municipalities and other local bodies the nodal points for future water body surveys as well as roping in civil society groups in the endeavour could help policymakers arrive at a better picture of the water crisis, and frame solutions.

Mint - 24- April-2023

'Reservoir levels not alarming; Jal Jeevan on track'

Puja Das & Utpal Bhaskar
NEW DELHI

Water levels in India's major reservoirs have slipped below the levels of last year; however, according to Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, there is no cause for alarm since these levels are still higher than the average of last 10 years, ensuring uninterrupted irrigation through the parched months ahead. Some states have asked for extending Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) beyond the targeted 2024, said Shekhawat, responsible for ensuring the flagship mission's task to provide tap water connections to all rural households—seen as significant to ensure a 2024 Lok Sabha election victory for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. In an interview, Shekhawat also spoke of preparatory work to divert excess water under the Indus treaty to irrigate India's own land, which may require an investment of ₹6,000-7,000 crore. *Edited excerpts:*

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted monsoon at 96% of



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,
Union Jal Shakti minister MINT

the long-period average (LPA), while Skymet has forecast 94%. What is your reading of this, since there is a 5% year-on-year drop in storage at 146 major reservoirs amid predictions of El Nino compromising the Southwest monsoon?

IMD's monsoon forecast is fair. 96% is considered the normal monsoon. As far as water reservoir levels are concerned, it is better than the average of the last 10 years. Even if you look at the last three years' average, it is good. The reserve of foodgrains India has and

INTERVIEW

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the growing capacity it has to date, and if you look at the last five years' data, we are a food-surplus nation. We do not have a challenge. I don't think there is anything concerning at this moment.

During summer, two major concern areas are power and water availability. Are we in a comfortable position in terms of water availability?

We have been working on Jal Jeevan Mission since 2019 when about 16% of households were getting water, which has now increased to 60%. This indicates 60% of households will surely receive water in summer. By May-end, it will cross 60%. Progress of the mission has improved, and the situation will improve further in the coming days.

With the rising costs of steel and plastic pipes, has Jal Jeevan Mission's budget been raised?

The impact of the price rise cannot be factored in because it depends on state to state, project to project and tender to tender. The price rise was for a short span. Post-covid, costs of cement, metals and plastic pipes increased, which raised concern at that point in time and the speed of providing connections became slow.

We have come out of the phase and gained momentum. Since January, we have been providing 84,000 tap water connections daily. This means we are giving a new connection per second.

How much capex from Jal Jeevan Mission's total allocation has been spent so far?

Initially, ₹3.6 trillion was allocated, of which the Union government was supposed to spend ₹2.08 trillion. This year, ₹2.08 trillion will be exhausted. We will then have to go to the Cabinet for further fund allocation. We have the funds for this year.

Will the JJM target of 2024 be met?

My target is 2024, by when

we must complete it, but four-five states, including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam, have requested an extension of the scheme beyond 2024. We are telling them to speed up the pace. Telangana, Goa, Gujarat, and all UTs, barring Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, have met the target, and Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are about to.

With reference to the Indus water treaty, how is the government looking to maximize India's water share?

Of the six rivers covered by the Indus water treaty, Pakistan has access to the water of Jhelum, Chenab and Sindhu. India's only right over these three rivers is that it can build hydropower capacity.

We can irrigate 250,000-hectare land from that basin. Inter-basin transfer is not allowed.

Therefore, we are unable to use it. I don't understand how they divided the water

We've been working on Jal Jeevan Mission since 2019 when about 16% of households were getting water, which has now increased to 60%

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
Union Jal Shakti minister

share when the treaty was signed. Pakistan got 68% water, while India's water share was 32%. The World Bank came up with the formula to allocate water share based

on created irrigated potential area. The Indus Treaty is considered the world's holiest water agreement. Despite three wars, we always honoured the treaty. The tributary of Ravi River, known as Ujh, is mainstream and has a water flow of 2-3 bcm (billion cubic metres), but its confluence stops downstream of Madhavpur. Madhavpur is our last geographical structure. Despite it being our water, Pakistan is getting it. To get that water, we have made a diversion structure plan. It is at the DPR stage, and the required budget could be ₹6,000-7,000 crore.

What is the update on India's second-largest dam construction at Yingkiong in Arunachal Pradesh?

We are working on it, and the consensus is almost built, and now we are at the pre-feasibility report (PFR) stage.

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Deccan Chronicle- 24- April-2023

WATER BODIES FOR IRRIGATION: TS IN TOP RANK

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, APRIL 23

The first census on water bodies across the country, released by the Union jal shakti ministry, listed Telangana among the Top five states with regard to use of water bodies in irrigation.

The state was listed along with Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat in the report that Union jal shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released on Sunday.

The census enumerated 24,24,540 water bodies nationwide, out of which 97.1 per cent (23,55,055) were in the rural areas and 2.9 per cent (69,485) in the urban areas.

The census provided a comprehensive inventory of water resources, including natural and man-made water bodies, and collected data on the encroachment of water bodies. The census highlighted disparities between rural and urban areas and varying levels of encroachment and revealed crucial insights into water resources.

Deccan Herald- 24- April-2023

Karnataka has 26,994 water bodies, finds census

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India has 24.24 lakh water bodies, like ponds, tanks and lakes, with West Bengal accounting for the most (7.47 lakh) and Sikkim the least (134), according to the census of water bodies released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

A total of 26,994 water bodies have been enumerated in Karnataka, out of which 97.1% (26,205) are in rural areas and the remaining 2.9% (789) are in urban areas, said the report. The first-ever census conducted by the ministry said that out of 24,24,540 water bodies that have been enumerated in the country, 97.1% (23,55,055) are in rural areas and 2.9% (69,485) are in urban areas.

The top five states in terms of the number of water bodies are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam, which constitute around 63% of the total water bodies.

The top five states in terms of the number of water bodies in urban areas are West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura, whereas, for rural areas, the top five are WB, UP, AP, Odisha and Assam.

Totally, 59.5% of water bod-

ies are ponds, followed by tanks (15.7%), reservoirs (12.1%), water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams (9.3%), lakes (0.9%) and others (2.5%). While 55.2% of water bodies are owned by private entities, the rest 44.8% are in the domain of public ownership.

The census showed out of all publicly owned water bodies, the maximum number are owned by Panchayats, followed by state irrigation/state water resources department.

Out of all privately owned water bodies, the maximum are in the hands of individual owners/farmers, followed by a group of individuals and other private bodies.

Out of the total water bodies enumerated, 78% are man-made, 22% are natural water bodies and 1.6% (38,496) water bodies, out of the total enumerated are reported to be encroached upon. Of this, 95.4% are in rural areas and the remaining 4.6% are in urban areas, the report said.

The census covered all important aspects of the water bodies including their type, condition, status of encroachments, use, storage capacity, status of filling up of storage, etc.

The Morning Standard- 24- April-2023

Most of 24 lakh water bodies are in rural areas, says survey

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

Out of over 25 lakh active water bodies in the country, rural India accounts for about 97 per cent and only 3 per cent are active in urban areas, according to India's first-ever census of water resources.

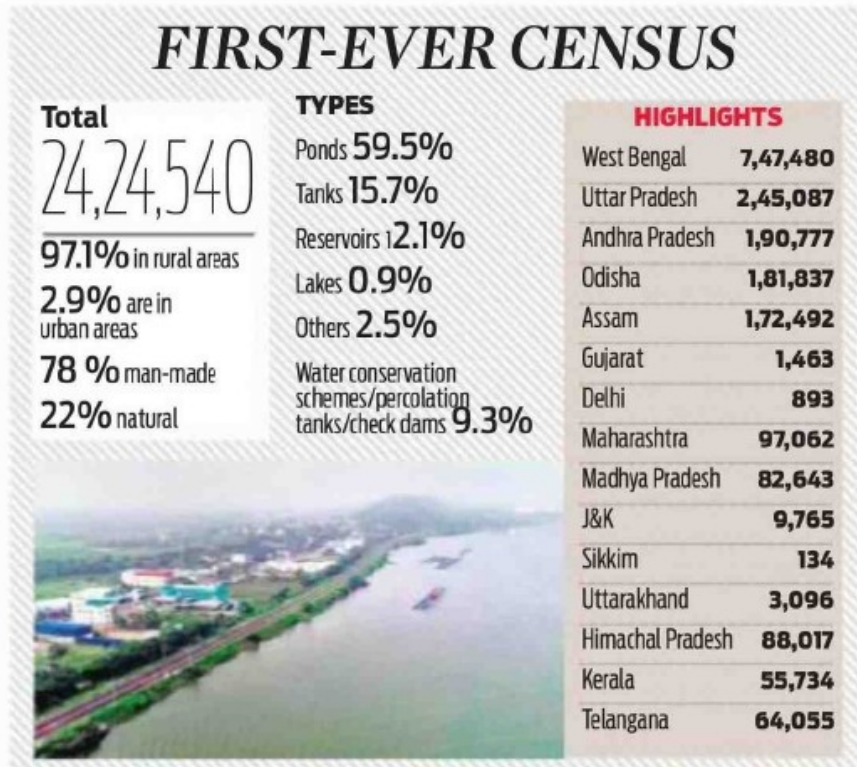
According to 'Irrigation Census, the first-ever comprehensive census of water bodies, by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to evaluate the water security situation, India has 24,24,540 water bodies, out of which 97.1 per cent (23,55,055) are in rural areas and 2.9 per cent (69,485) are in urban areas.

The survey revealed that 78 per cent water bodies are man-made whereas 22 per cent are natural water bodies and 1.6 per cent (38,496) water bodies have been encroached upon.

The census, which was launched in convergence with the 6th Minor Irrigation Census, provides a comprehensive inventory of India's water resources, including natural and man-made water bodies like ponds, tanks, lakes, and more.

It was also aimed at collecting data on the encroachment of water bodies. The census also highlighted disparities between rural and urban areas and varying levels of encroachment and revealed insights into the country's water resources.

According to ministry sources, the survey was undertaken with the aim to identify, evalu-



ate, conserve and preserve the water bodies as water is "an important aspect for development which is linked with every Sustainable Development Goal".

With availability of water being limited and the gap between the supply and demand widening over time, concerted efforts are needed to conserve and preserve these water bodies, a senior ministry official said.

Water being a critical element, the Ministry of Jal Shakti which is the nodal ministry for laying down policy guidelines and programmes for the development, conservation and

management of water as a national resource.

The census has released information on all important aspects of the water bodies, including their type, condition, status of encroachments, use and storage capacity and status of filling up was collected.

The survey took into account all uses of water bodies like irrigation, industry, pisciculture, domestic and drinking, recreation, religious, ground water recharge etc. Census has been successfully completed and the pan-India and state-wise reports have been published.

Amar Ujala- 24- April-2023

उपलब्धि

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय ने जल स्रोतों की कराई गणना, जारी की रिपोर्ट

पहली बार गणना... देश में 24,24,540 जल स्रोत, गांवों में हैं 97 फीसदी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। भारत में इतिहास में पहली बार, केंद्र सरकार ने देशभर में जल स्रोतों की गणना की है। इससे देश के जल संसाधनों की एक व्यापक सूची सामने आई है, जिसमें प्राकृतिक और मानव निर्मित जल स्रोत जैसे तालाब, टैंक, झील आदि के साथ-साथ जल स्रोतों पर अतिक्रमण से जुड़ा डाटा एकत्र करना शामिल है। गणना से ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों के बीच असमानताओं और अतिक्रमण के विभिन्न स्तरों की जानकारी मिली।

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय ने 24 लाख से अधिक जल स्रोतों की गणना रिपोर्ट जारी की। इसमें जलाशयों के प्रकार,



युपी समेत पांच राज्य शीर्ष पर

देश में 24,24,540 जल स्रोतों की गणना की गई है, जिनमें से 97.1 फीसदी (23,55,055) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में हैं और केवल 2.9 प्रतिशत (69,485) शहरी क्षेत्रों में हैं।

जल स्रोतों की संख्या के मामले में शीर्ष पांच राज्य पश्चिम बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश, आंध्र प्रदेश, ओडिशा और असम हैं। यहां देश के कुल जल स्रोतों का लगभग 63 फीसदी हैं। शहरी क्षेत्रों में जल स्रोतों की संख्या के मामले में शीर्ष पांच राज्य पश्चिम बंगाल, तमिलनाडु, केरल, उत्तर प्रदेश और त्रिपुरा हैं, जबकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शीर्ष पांच राज्य पश्चिम बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश, आंध्र प्रदेश, ओडिशा और असम हैं।

उनकी स्थिति, अतिक्रमण की स्थिति, उपयोग, भंडारण क्षमता, भरने की स्थिति आदि सहित सभी महत्वपूर्ण पहलुओं पर जानकारी एकत्र की गई। इसमें ग्रामीण के साथ-साथ शहरी क्षेत्रों में स्थित उन सभी जल निकायों को शामिल

किया जो उपयोग में हैं या उपयोग में नहीं हैं। गणना में जल स्रोतों के सभी प्रकार के उपयोगों जैसे सिंचाई, उद्योग, मत्स्यपालन, घरेलू/पेयजल, मनोरंजन, धार्मिक, भूजल पुनर्भरण आदि को भी ध्यान में रखा गया है।

सबसे अधिक जल स्रोत तालाब : 59.5 प्रतिशत जल स्रोत तालाब हैं। इसके बाद टैंक (15.7%), जलाशय (12.1%), जल संरक्षण योजनाएं/रिसाव टैंक/रोक बांध (9.3%), झीलें (0.9%) और अन्य (2.5%) हैं। 55.2 फीसदी जल स्रोतों का स्वामित्व निजी संस्थाओं के पास है जबकि 44.8 प्रतिशत जल स्रोतों का स्वामित्व सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के पास है।

निजी स्वामित्व में ये राज्य आगे

शीर्ष पांच राज्य जो निजी स्वामित्व वाले जल स्रोतों में अग्रणी हैं, वे पश्चिम बंगाल, असम, आंध्र प्रदेश, ओडिशा और झारखंड हैं। सभी उपयोग हो रहे जल स्रोतों में से प्रमुख जल स्रोतों को सिंचाई के बाद मत्स्य पालन में उपयोग किए जाने की जानकारी मिली है। शीर्ष पांच राज्य जहां मत्स्य पालन में जल स्रोतों का प्रमुख उपयोग होता है, वे पश्चिम बंगाल, असम, ओडिशा, उत्तर प्रदेश और आंध्र प्रदेश हैं।

इन राज्यों में सिंचाई में जल स्रोतों का ज्यादा इस्तेमाल

- झारखंड, आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, पश्चिम बंगाल और गुजरात में सिंचाई में जल स्रोतों का प्रमुख रूप से इस्तेमाल होता है।
- 78 फीसदी जल स्रोत मानव निर्मित हैं जबकि 22 प्रतिशत प्राकृतिक जल स्रोत हैं।
- सभी जल स्रोतों में से 1.6 फीसदी (38,496) जल स्रोतों का अतिक्रमण होने की सूचना है, जिनमें से 95.4 फीसदी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में और शेष 4.6 प्रतिशत शहरी क्षेत्रों में हैं।

Amar Ujala- 24- April-2023

सिंधु जल संधि के नियम तोड़ रहा पाकिस्तान : शेखावत

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत ने सिंधु जल संधि को दुनिया की सबसे पवित्र समझौता करार दिया। साथ ही उन्होंने संधि के नियमों का उल्लंघन करने के लिए पाकिस्तान की आलोचना की।

शेखावत ने शनिवार को कहा कि देश बंटवारे के बाद पानी के बंटवारे को लेकर भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच सिंधु जल संधि पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए थे। तीन जंग के बाद भी भारत ने इस संधि की पवित्रता को बरकरार रखा है, जो भारत के चरित्र को दिखाता है। उन्होंने कहा कि पाकिस्तान ने हाल ही में भारत के अधिकारों को चुनौती दी और मामले में तीसरे पक्ष के दखल की मांग की। विश्व बैंक ने भी इस संधि को स्वीकृति दी है लेकिन पाकिस्तान अंतरराष्ट्रीय अदालत का दरवाजा खटखटाया है। उसका यह दोहरा रवैया संधि के विरुद्ध है। एजेंसी



Punjab Kesri- 24- April-2023

ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी पर चीन की पनबिजली परियोजना को लेकर भारत सतर्क : शेखावत

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने कहा है कि भारत में प्रवेश से पहले चीनी इलाके में ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी पर 60 हजार मेगावाट क्षमता की पड़ोसी देश की पनबिजली परियोजना को लेकर केंद्र सरकार पूरी तरह सतर्क है और इस पर पैनी नजर बनाये हुए है। उन्होंने कहा कि परियोजनाओं के कारण भारतीय हित प्रभावित न हों, इसे लेकर सरकार पूरी तरह से जागरूक है।

शेखावत ने कहा कि चीन पहले लगातार इस बात से इंकार करता रहा है कि इस तरह की उसकी कोई बांध परियोजना है। लेकिन गत दो-तीन वर्षों में, पहले वहां की सरकारी कंपनी 'पावर चाइना' ने और बाद में वहां की सरकार ने अपनी पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस बात का उल्लेख किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि पहले 'पावर चाइना' ने और बाद में वहां की सरकार ने अपनी पंचवर्षीय

● **60 हजार मेगावाट क्षमता की परियोजना से भारतीय हितों को हो सकता है नुकसान : अचानक से जल प्रवाह बढ़ने से भारत और बांग्लादेश में आ सकती है तबाही**

योजना में उल्लेख किया कि ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी जहां पर भारत में प्रवेश करती है, उससे पहले ऊपरी इलाके में कई तरह के ढांचे खड़े कर 60 हजार मेगावाट पनबिजली पैदा की जायेगी। शेखावत ने कहा कि भारत सरकार निरंतर इस विषय पर पैनी नजर रखे हुए है और भारत के हितों पर इसका कोई प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़े, इसके लिए हर संभव कदम उठाने के लिए जागरूक भी हैं और आगे काम भी

करेंगे। गौरतलब है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों में कई रिपोर्ट में यह कहा गया है कि चीन, अरुणाचल प्रदेश की सीमा के करीब तिब्बत में ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी पर बड़ी पनबिजली परियोजना का निर्माण कर रहा है। चीन की सरकारी मीडिया की रिपोर्ट के हवाले से वर्ष 2021 में कहा गया था कि चीन की शीर्ष विधायिका नेशनल पीपुल्स कांग्रेस (एनपीसी) की वर्ष 2021 में हुई बैठक में 14वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना को मंजूरी दी गई थी।

चौदहवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी की धारा पर बांध बनाना शामिल था। ब्रह्मपुत्र को तिब्बत में यारलुंग सांगपो कहा जाता है, जिस पर बांध बनाने का प्रस्ताव किया गया था। इस पर भारत और बांग्लादेश ने चिंता जताई थी। चीन ने इस तरह की चिंताओं को दूर करते हुए कहा था कि वह उनके हितों को ध्यान में रखेगा।