

The Hindu - 24- January-2024

CWRC an unbiased platform: Minister

K. Lakshmi

CHENNAI

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) is an unbiased platform working towards best management of water resources, said Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Tuesday.

He was speaking at a press conference after the All India Secretaries Conference on Water Vision @2047-Way Ahead, which was organised by the National Water Mission of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and coordinated by the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department here.

Regular assessment

On the Cauvery water share for Tamil Nadu, the Minister said the CWRC had met several times to assess water availability, and based on the storage, it decided the allocation for the States.

On the groundwater sit-

uation across the country, he said the Jal Shakti Ministry had improved the efficacy of aquifer mapping, which led to evidence-based management interventions, and helped drastically reduce the number of overexploited and critical groundwater areas. He said groundwater assessment units showed a nearly 10% improvement owing to better recharge.

The Ministry had prepared a draft recycle and reuse policy and shared with the States, he said.

At the conference, Mr. Shekhawat said all States should prioritise demand-side management by regulating water use, instead of supply management. Each State must develop a road map to sustain drinking water sources, he said.

A book *Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the rain - A journey* was released at the function. Debashree Mukherjee, secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti also spoke.

The Morning Standard - 24- January-2024

Godavari-Cauvery river project may be delayed after change in power in T'gana

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @Chennai

The much-awaited signing of MoU between stakeholder states for the ambitious Godavari-Cauvery rivers interlinking project is likely to be delayed with change of government in Telangana, said senior officials in Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Speaking to TNIE on the sidelines of All India Secretaries' Conference on Water Vision@2047 - Way Ahead organised by the ministry's National Water Mission in Mahabalipuram, sources said, before the Telangana assembly elections, a high-level meeting chaired by Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers (TF-ILR) chairman Sriram Vedire was attended by senior bureaucrats from

all the stakeholder states. An in-principle nod for the draft MoU was obtained.

However, now with Congress dethroning Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Telangana, one more consensus meeting needed to be conducted. Already, there is an air of disagreement in Telangana over using Inchampalli to divert surplus water from Godavari river into Cauvery.

Sriram Vedire, who was at the conference, acknowledged that there were some disagreements, but the ministry was actively pursuing the matter with the state governments to reach full consensus. "Until consensus is reached among all stakeholder states, MoU can't be signed," he told TNIE.



Dainik Bhaskar - 24- January-2024

नदी जोड़ो परियोजना के तहत देश का पहला प्रोजेक्ट, बिड जमा करने की डेडलाइन थी 18 जनवरी केन-बेतवा लिंक के दौधन डेम निर्माण के लिए किसी भी कंपनी ने नहीं डाली बिड, कारण जानने बैठक 1 को

बिड जमा करने की तारीख बढ़ाकर 5 मार्च कर दी गई है

हरेकृष्ण दुबोलिए | भोपाल

नदी जोड़ो परियोजना के तहत देश के पहले प्रोजेक्ट केन-बेतवा लिंक के लिए बनाए जाने वाले दौधन डेम निर्माण के लिए किसी भी कंपनी ने बिड जमा नहीं की है। बिड जमा करने की अंतिम तारीख 18 जनवरी थी, जो बीत चुकी है। यह स्थिति तब है जब बिड जमा करने की अंतिम तारीख 10 अक्टूबर 2023 से निर्माण कंपनियों को 3 माह का अतिरिक्त समय दिया जा चुका है। आखिर निर्माण कंपनियां इस प्रोजेक्ट में शामिल होने से क्यों बच रही हैं, उन्हें टेंडर की कौन सी शर्त या प्रावधान को लेकर चिंता है, यह पता लगाने के

भूमि अधिग्रहण और पुनर्वास से जुड़ा काम जल्द हो

इस प्रोजेक्ट के लिए केंद्र सरकार की ओर से गठित स्टीयरिंग कमेटी ने मप्र सरकार को प्रोजेक्ट के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण और पुनर्वास से जुड़ा काम जल्द पूरा करने को कहा है। दो दिन पूर्व खजुराहो में केंद्रीय जल सचिव देवाश्री बैनर्जी की अध्यक्षता में हुई इस बैठक में टेंडर प्रक्रिया में हो रही देरी पर चिंता जताई गई।

लिए नेशनल वॉटर डेवलपमेंट एजेंसी (एनडब्ल्यूडीए) और केन बेतवा लिंक अथॉरिटी (केबीएलपीए) ने देश की सभी दिग्गज निर्माण कंपनियों के साथ प्री-बिड मीटिंग करने का फैसला किया है। यह बैठक 1 फरवरी को भोपाल में होगी।

इसके साथ ही दौधन डेम के टेंडर की बिड जमा करने की तारीख एक बार फिर बढ़ाकर 5 मार्च कर दी गई है। केबीएलपीए सूत्रों के मुताबिक 11

अगस्त को दौधन डेम के टेंडर जारी किए गए थे। इससे पहले तीन बार देश की 20 बड़ी निर्माण कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधियों को बुलाकर सुझाव लिए गए थे। टेंडर के प्रावधानों पर भी विस्तार से चर्चा हुई थी। अब एक बार फिर से सभी प्रमुख निर्माण कंपनियों को बुलाकर मप्र और उत्तरप्रदेश के अधिकारियों की मौजूदगी में चर्चा की जाएगी। ताकि निर्माण कंपनियों की दुविधा का पता लगाया जा सके।

44 हजार 650 करोड़ का है पूरा केन-बेतवा लिंक प्रोजेक्ट

केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना की कुल लागत 44 हजार 650 करोड़ रुपये है। इस परियोजना का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा केन नदी पर पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व के बीच में बनने वाला लगभग 2800 एमसीएम जल भंडारण क्षमता का एक बांध है, जो पन्ना जिले के दौधन गांव के नजदीक बनेगा। इसी बांध से 221 किलोमीटर के एक नहर निकलेगी, जो झांसी के पास जाकर बेतवा नदी से जुड़ेगी। इस 221 किमी में नहर जहां-जहां से गुजरेगी, वह पन्ना, छतरपुर, टीकमगढ़ और यूपी के ललितपुर जिले का सूखाग्रस्त इलाका है।

I/160605/2024

Telangana Today - 24- January-2024

Water woes may return to haunt Hyderabad

State left with only 7 TMC in NSP for drinking water supply for next 6 months

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The dipping water levels in Nagarjuna Sagar Dam have set the alarm bells ringing for the Hyderabad water supply. With Andhra Pradesh drawing five TMC of water for its needs just two days ago as approved by the KRMB, the project is left with only 18 TMC above the minimum draw down level (MDDL) of 510 feet.

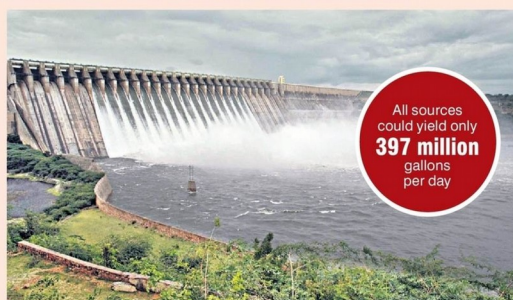
Of this, the Telangana State would have a share of only 7 TMC to meet its drinking water needs in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad besides the districts of Nalgonda and Khammam. The overall requirement is 1.6 TMC per month to meet the drinking water needs of Hyderabad and its suburban municipalities, along with other towns in the command area.

The drinking water supply requirement has to be supported by all means for at least another six more months (February to July). Krishna River basin projects

Grim picture

WATER LEVELS DIPPING FAST IN NAGARJUNA SAGAR PROJECT

- Left with only **18 TMC** above minimum draw down level of **510 feet**
- 1.6 TMC:** Overall requirement per month to meet drinking water needs
- Present storage will last only till first half of May
- Godavari sources unlikely to bail out city
- Yellampalli needs supplementation from Kaleshwaram project



are known for their later arrival of inflows. The State's share available in the present storage of the project will last only till the first half of May.

Even if the State government had planned to seek some 10 TMC from Karnataka and 30 TMC from Koyna dam in Western Maharashtra, the proposals have not materialised so far. Both Telangana and Andhra

Pradesh had initially agreed to restrict their use of water drawn from the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam exclusively to meet the drinking water needs, but Andhra Pradesh did not stick to the commitment so far. Much of the last spell of water releases given for Andhra Pradesh was diverted to meet the irrigation needs, say officials. It will be an uphill task to take water from the Nagarjuna Sagar

project once the water level touches the MDDL level of 510 ft. An approach canal has to be dug to draw water from the project by gravity to meet the irrigation needs, they added.

Sunkishala holds hope

The works on the Sunkishala intake well project are nearing completion and once it becomes operational, the project could become a

reliable alternative to the emergency pumping motors that are used every time the water level drops below the minimum draw down level of 510 feet.

The water supply to Hyderabad city was being supported by pumping some 270 million gallons of water per day from Akkampalli Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Krishna Water Supply project. It has been scaled down to 226 million gallons per day in view of precarious storage conditions in project. The official said that more than 70 per cent of the works were completed on the intake well, pumping stations, transmission mains and pipelines. "Once the scheme is completed, we can be assured of drawing water from the minimum draw down levels (MDDL) even during a lean season," they added. The Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has been taking some 75 MGD from Singur, 30 MGD from Manjeera and 56 MGD from Sripada Yelampalli. (SEE PAGE 2)

Water woes may return to haunt Hyderabad

Even by tapping all the available sources, it could manage to mobilise some 397 MGD as against the normal of 516 MGD per day. The sources from the Godavari basin may not support for long in the absence of regu-

lar supplementation to Sripada Yellampalli from the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS). All three barrages of the scheme were drained for investigation, an exercise that precedes their rehabilitation.

I/160605/2024

The Pioneer - 24- January-2024

Safeguarding the Himalayan ecosystem

Establishing 'snow reserves' can significantly contribute to the preservation of the Himalayan ecosystem



BIJU
DHARMAPALAN

Snowfall brings cheers to people residing in the Himalayan states, as it brings money to its economy through tourism-related activity. But this year, many regions of the Himalayas that used to harbour snow from December to January have been bereft of any snow so far. Popular tourist destinations like Shimla, Manali, and Gulbarg have no active snowfall. This drastically declined the number of tourists visiting these places, affecting the local economy. The temperatures at Shimla and Manali were warmer than in the national capital region during January. Even though there are no official statements from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) regarding the decline in snowfall, even a layman's observation will reveal that something is wrong with our climatic patterns, scientists may come up with many theoretical explanations related to global climatic changes, but accurate scientific studies based on local climatic problems are lacking.

Snowfall occurs when moisture in the atmosphere freezes into ice crystals and falls to the



ground. It's important to note that the conditions in the atmosphere, such as temperature and humidity, play a crucial role in determining whether precipitation falls as rain or snow. Warmer temperatures generally favour rain, while colder temperatures lead to snow formation. Snow spans an area of almost 46 square kilometres each year and plays a vital part in the Earth's climate system. The presence of this entity has a role in controlling both the Earth's surface and atmosphere, exerting an impact on local weather patterns. Snow has significantly higher reflectivity than trees, reflecting more than 80% of incoming sunlight, while trees only reflect roughly 30%.

Considering these factors, it is not unexpected that changes in snowfall and

snowpack can have substantial effects at both local and global levels. Global warming is the main element expected to cause changes in precipitation and snowpack. Contrary to common intuition, global warming does not necessarily result in a decrease in snow accumulation. The amount of snowfall in a certain area depends on the orographic conditions, particularly those present in the adjacent mountains.

Tourism and development activities in Himalayan hill stations like Manali and Gulmarg have significantly altered the landscape. The influx of vehicles, coupled with tunnel construction and hydroelectric projects, raises local temperatures and causes pollution. Irresponsible tourist behaviour, including littering in the snow, is compounded by similar actions from the local community. Even government agencies remain passive observers. Such trends jeopardize the livelihoods of locals dependent on tourism and agriculture. The impact on plants, like apple trees, crucial for the region's economy, is severe. Snow plays a vital role in their

growth, acting as an insulator and contributing to soil moisture. The changing environment poses a long-term threat to the delicate ecological balance.

IMD scientists should address the local orographic factors affecting snowfall in our mountains. They must train local students well versed in that region's ecology and climatic conditions and recruit them into their scientific fold. Students have to undergo on-site training with scientists even during their coursework.

The government should also bring stringent regulatory measures to protect our snowfalling regions by declaring them as 'Snow Reserves' so that tourism and developmental activities can be regulated in these regions. If we don't take corrective measures now, it will affect the lives of the entire Himalayan belt and elsewhere. Mother Nature has already given us the warning symbol, it is for us to act.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; views are personal)