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Drinking water situation stable in Hyd, says civic body

S BACHAN JEET SINGH @Hyderabad

UNLIKE Bengaluru, which is suffering from a drinking water crisis, Greater Hyderabad and its peripheral areas in Hyderabad are in a much stable position in terms of availability of drinking water. Hyderabad is better placed than Bengaluru in providing drinking water to its water consumers, especially during summers, as water levels in reservoirs that supply drinking water to Hyderabad are sufficient to meet the water demand.

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board is presently supplying



2,610 Million Litres of water per Day (MLD) to a population of about 13 million, whereas Bengaluru Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board is supplying 1,460 MLD of water to about 12.90 million popula-

tion. This variation in the quantity of supply demonstrates that Hyderabad is giving 1,100 MLD or more water than Bengaluru, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Principal Secretary M Dana Kishore said during a review meeting with officials of different departments to review drinking water supply and water tankers on Monday.

Water is supplied to as many as 14 lakh house service connections covering an area of 1,450 square kilometres in Greater Hyderabad and city outskirts by the HMWSSB, whereas BMWSSB is supplying water to 10.15 lakh house serv-

ice connections covering an area of 575 sq.km in Bengaluru. Hyderabad has 440 service reservoirs as against 93 in Bengaluru, the principal secretary stated.

As per data compiled by WELL Labs, Bengaluru's demand for fresh water stands at approximately 2,632 MLD. It is reported that in addition to the 1,460 MLD of Cauvery water supplied by the BWSSB, the city presently utilises an estimated 1,372 MLD of groundwater, which got reduced due to depletion of ground water table. Due to rainfall deficit this year, 6,900 of the 13,900 borewells have dried up.

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Storage in S. Indian reservoirs plunges to 20% of capacity

Subramani Ra Mancombu

Chennai

The water level in the 42 major South Indian reservoirs dropped to 20 per cent of the capacity with the storage in 37 of them dipping to below 50 per cent the capacity this week.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) in its weekly bulletin on live storage status of the 150 major Indian reservoirs said the storage in the southern region declined to 10.571 billion cubic metres (BCM) of the 53.334 BCM capacity. During the period a year ago, the level was 34 per cent and the average storage over the past 10 years is 28 per cent. Five of the reservoirs in the region have gone dry, while another six could also see the levels declining to zero if there is no rainfall over the next few days.

LEVEL 35% OF CAPACITY

A third of the reservoirs in the country whose levels have dropped below 50 per cent is in the southern region. Among the States, the situation is precarious in Andhra Pradesh, where the storage declined to 9 per cent of the capacity with the levels being 75 per cent lower than normal. The level

Dicey South

States	No. of reservoirs	Capacity*	Live storage*	% of storage (in %age)	Last year's storage	% departure from 10 years average
AP & Telangana#	2	11.121	0.987	9	16	-37
AP	4	4.670	0.408	9	56	-75
Telangana	7	4.653	1.167	25	40	-14
Karnataka	16	24.625	5.345	22	31	-22
Kerala	6	3.829	1.621	42	39	4
TN	7	4.436	1.043	24	64	-38
Total	42	53.334	10.571	20	34	-28

Source: Central Water Commission; *in billion cubic metres #reservoirs common for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

in Tamil Nadu is 38 per cent below normal and in Karnataka it is 22 per lower than normal.

According to the CWC's weekly bulletin, the storage in the major 150 reservoirs was 35 per cent of the 178.784 BCM at 61.801 BCM. The storage was 83 per cent of the capacity last year and the average level in the past 10 years is 98 per cent. The storage is lower across the regions, barring the eastern one. It is for the 26th week in a row that the level had dipped.

WORRISOME BIHAR

Of the 10 reservoirs in the northern region with a capacity of 19.663 BCM, the level this week was 6.338 BCM or 32 per cent. This is marginally lower than the 33 per cent av-

erage storage in the past 10 years. In Punjab and Rajasthan, the storage was 7 per cent and 10 per cent of the capacity, respectively.

In the eastern region, the storage in the 23 reservoirs was 45 per cent of the 20.430 BCM capacity at 9.242 BCM. The level in Bihar was 78 per cent below normal — the highest in the country, while in Bengal and Nagaland it was 24 per cent and 8 per cent lower than normal, respectively.

The storage in the 49 reservoirs in the western region was 40 per cent of the 37.130 BCM capacity at 14.835 BCM. In Maharashtra, the level was 11 per cent lower than normal.

Of the 26 reservoirs in the central region, the level was 43 per cent of the 48.227 BCM capacity at 20.815 BCM.