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Deccan Chronicle- 27 April-2024

CWC: Southern India faces water crisis as reservoir levels plunge to just 17 % capacity

New Delhi, April 26: The southern region, encompassing states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, has significantly reduced water storage compared to historical averages at just 17 per cent of reservoir capacity, according to the recent bulletin of the Central Water Commission. In the bulletin released by the CWC late Thursday concerning reservoir storage levels across various regions of India, it was reported that 42 reservoirs under CWC monitoring in the southern region have a total live stor-

age capacity of 53.334 BCM (billion cubic meters).

As per the latest report, the total live storage available in these reservoirs stands at 8.865 BCM, representing only 17 per cent of their total capacity. This figure is considerably lower compared to the storage levels during the same period last year (29 per cent) and the ten-year average for the corresponding period (23 per cent).

The reduced storage levels in the southern region are indicative of worsening water scarcity and potential challenges for irrigation, drinking water supply and

hydroelectric power generation in these states.

In contrast, the eastern region, comprising states like Assam, Odisha and West Bengal, has shown a positive improvement in water storage levels compared to last year and the ten-year average.

The bulletin highlighted that in this region, 23 monitored reservoirs with a total live storage capacity of 20.430 BCM currently hold 7.889 BCM of water, representing 39 per cent of their total capacity.

This marks an improvement over the storage levels from the same period last

year (34 per cent) and the ten-year average (34 per cent). The situation is less optimistic in other regions.

The western region, consisting of Gujarat and Maharashtra, reports storage levels of 11.771 BCM, which is 31.7 per cent of the total capacity of 49 monitored reservoirs. This is notably lower compared to the storage levels of the previous year (38 per cent) and the ten-year average (32.1 per cent).

Similarly, the northern and central regions also show declines in water storage levels compared to historical averages.

—PTI

The Tribune- 27 April-2024

Water crisis worsens

Reservoir levels plummet to alarming extent

THE latest data from the Central Water Commission paints a stark picture of India's water crisis, with reservoirs across the country registering an alarming decline in their levels. As of April 25, the water available in major reservoirs has plummeted to a mere 30 per cent of their storage capacity. This represents a significant drop compared to the previous year. Insufficient rainfall, compounded by the El Nino phenomenon, has resulted in drought-like conditions. The prolonged dry spell has depleted water reserves, leaving many regions parched and vulnerable.

The eastern and southern regions are bearing the brunt of this crisis as the rapid fall in water levels is exacerbated by a relentless heatwave. The consequences are dire, particularly for Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, where water shortage has assumed critical proportions. Bengaluru is grappling with severe water scarcity, which is impacting everyday life and agricultural activities. The ramifications extend beyond the immediate concerns. Agriculture, a cornerstone of India's economy, is facing major disruptions, with an adverse effect on various crops. With nearly half of India's arable land dependent on monsoon rain, the upcoming rainy season can play a key role in alleviating the situation.

The forecast of above-normal rainfall offers only cautious optimism. Water conservation efforts must be intensified at all levels, from households to agricultural practices and industrial operations. Investments in water infrastructure and management systems are urgently needed to improve storage and distribution efficiency. Sustainable agricultural practices and crop diversification can help reduce water consumption and enhance resilience to droughts. Awareness campaigns to promote water conservation practices and prudent use of this precious resource must be stepped up. Swift and decisive action must be taken to avert a looming catastrophe and ensure a secure future for all.

Dainik Bhaskar- 27 April-2024

नर्मदा बांध 50.93 % भरा, अब भी गुजरात को पानी देने में सक्षम

भास्कर न्यूज | राजपीपला

राज्य की जीवनदायिनी नर्मदा बांध अभी भी 50.93 प्रतिशत भरा हुआ है और अभी भी पूरे गुजरात को सिंचाई और पीने के पानी की आपूर्ति करने में सक्षम है। वहीं इस साल मानसून अच्छा रहने का अनुमान है तो संभावना है कि बांध एक बार फिर 138.68 मीटर के लेवल से भर जाएगा। भीषण गर्मी में राज्य के जलाशयों और बांधों में जलस्तर घट

रहा है, लेकिन नर्मदा बांध अब भी 50 फीसदी से ज्यादा भरा हुआ है। गुजरात और राजस्थान को अभी भी नर्मदा बांध से पानी की आपूर्ति की जा रही है। बांध में उपरी क्षेत्रों से अभी भी पानी आने के कारण बिजली काउत्पादन किया जा रहा है। फिलहाल मध्य प्रदेश को 57 फीसदी, महाराष्ट्र को 27 फीसदी और गुजरात को 16 फीसदी बिजली मिल रही है। बांध में वर्तमान में 1118.03 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर पानी का भंडारण है।