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Reservoir levels dip, ryots worried

Major irrigation projects across TS see no significant inflows

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Reservoir levels across the State are dropping further. The storage levels have witnessed no improvement even a month after the new water year was off to a dry start. Major irrigation projects, barring Jurala, have received no significant inflows so far. Issues related to water management and distribution in the previous season contributed to the depletion in storage levels.

Even the joint projects of the two Telugu States, such as Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar, have received zero inflows so far this year. Farmers in the ayacut of the Krishna river projects, who had a crop holiday during both crop seasons last year, are going in for paddy in a big way, adding further to the demand for irrigation. Though the crop season started on a positive note with widespread pre-monsoon showers this year, the dry spells experienced in the middle of June have cast shadows on the hopes of farmers.

Nagarjuna Sagar, which has an ayacut area of over 6.3 lakh acres in the State is a major source of drinking water supply to several districts, including the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Its present storage has come down to 121 TMC, almost 28 TMC less than its storage on the same day last year. The water levels dipped to 504 feet, nearly six feet below the minimum draw down level of 510 ft.

The present storage capacity of Srisailem project has come down to 37.36 TMC as against the gross storage capacity of 215 tmc. Jurala was the only project which received some inflows in June. Its present



Issues related to water management and distribution in the previous season contributed to the depletion in storage levels in key projects including Srisailem.

Tap local water sources, Dy CM to officials

HYDERABAD: Citing operation and maintenance challenges to supply drinking water under Mission Bhagiratha, the State government has asked officials to make arrangements for the same from local water resources. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka directed the officials in this regard, stating that supply of drinking water from distant places would require frequent repairs and maintenance due to damages to pipelines laid for several kilometres.

The Deputy CM held a meeting on Mission Bhagiratha and drinking water supply at the BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Wednesday. The Ministers sought a fresh survey on the number of households getting drinking water supply under Mission Bhagiratha scheme. The officials were instructed to submit the survey reports and get confirmation from local MLAs on its authenticity.

On the occasion, the officials informed that of total 23,824 habitations in

the State, around 50 per cent of households in 1,156 habitations were yet to receive drinking water connections. They sought funds for completion of these pending works. However, Bhatti Vikramarka expressed anger over incompletion of the works and demanded explanation from the officials why false reports were presented in the State Assembly earlier (under the BRS rule) stating that the State achieved 100 per cent drinking water connectivity.

storage is above seven TMC as against the gross capacity of 9.66 TMC. The reservoirs in Godavari basin, including those integrated with the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme, have almost been emptied because of the growing demand for water.

Kaddem project has almost gone dry has been left with less than 3 TMC for meeting emergencies. The present storage in Nizam Sagar project dropped to 3.7 TMC as against the gross storage of 17.80 TMC. Unless the project received fresh inflows in

the next two weeks, the crops raised in the ayacut may not get irrigation support for long. The Sriram Sagar project has just started receiving inflows in the order of 4000 cusecs. The Babli gates were lifted on Monday.