The Times of India - 12 July 2024

Breach in Munak Canal, water supply affected

Hectic Efforts On To Repair Leak, Colony Flooded

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Tarun Rawat

Residents had to leave their waterlogged houses in Bawana Thursday even as electricity was cut off and they ran out of drinking water

New Delhi: A significant breach in Munak Canal, which transports untreated water from Haryana to several water treatment plants in the capital, caused extensive flooding in the Bawana area on Thursday. The breach at midnight, spanning nearly 40 feet, was caused by erosion of the inner lining of the embankment, officials suspect as of now.

"Work on repairing the broken embankment at the Bawana entry point of the canal in Delhi is going on at a fast pace," said water minister Atishi, who visited the site.

Quite a few blocks of a JJ colony in the area, which has both pucca constructions and shanties, have been affected badly with water entering the roads and houses.

The repairs are being carried out by Haryana irrigation department and Delhi Jal Board (DJB) with officials hopeful that the breach in CLC — carrier line channel, one of the two lines which carry water to Delhi — will be fully repaired by Friday evening. The incident is expected to impact production at major water treatment plants, including Haiderpur, Bawana, Nangloi and Dwarka.

▶Delhi, Hry to probe, P 2

Atishi: Delhi will collaborate with Haryana to probe cause of breach

▶Continued from P1

DJB receives water from the canal, which is owned by the Haryana irrigation department. Delhi govt pays around Rs 60 lakh to Rs 65 lakh per month for the water with the exception of July, August and September, when the water is free.

Earth excavators were on Thursday busy dumping soil near the breach to stop the flow of water after which an embankment of sandbags will be created followed by a concrete layer to seal the breach. Teams of PWD and DDA have also joined the hectic efforts.

A DDA official added that "the field staff of DDA had rushed to the site for taking immediate remedial measures and water is being drained by temporarily puncturing the existing stormwater drain. A JCB, dewatering pump, drinking water tanker and mobile toilet have been deployed," said the official.

"The breach has affected the Haiderpur plant. Instead of two water channels, only one is supplying to the plant for now," said a DJB official. "So, it will have an impact on water supply. Currently, the embankment is being strengthened with soil and this work will be completed by night. After that, concretization will be carried out. Water will not be released in this line till the morning at least."

Minister Atishi held out hope, saying that "water production will be restored at Haiderpur, Bawana and Nangloi" by evening. "However, the Dwarka water treatment plant gets all the water from CLC and hence it will be affected till the flow is resumed," she said. The other of the two lines, Delhi sub-branch, has not been affected.

A DJB officer said there is currently no standard operating procedure in place to deal with situations like this. Atishi said that once the crisis is over, an inquiry will be conducted by Delhi govt, in collaboration with Haryana, to determine the cause of the breach. "A similar incident had happened last year. A wall had got breached at a place near Sonipat," she recalled.

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Rainfall deficit dips to 2.3%, heavy showers soon: IMD

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Overall monsoon rainfall in June that had ended with 11% deficit, turned to surplus during July 5-10, but once again fell into negative zone by reporting 2.3% less than normal cumulative (June 1-July 11) rainfall as on Thursday.

This deficit will, however, soon be recovered as IMD predicted "widespread rainfall with heavy to very heavy falls" along West Coast and heavy spell over central, east and northeast India till July 17.

"Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra and Coastal Karnataka during July 12-15," it said in its forecast on Thursday. The current overall deficit of 2.3% is mainly due to 7.5% of less than normal rainfall in central India and 4.5% of deficit rainfall in east and northeast India. Surplus rainfall of 8.6% in peninsular India and 1.4% in northwest India has, however, not only reduced countrywide deficit to 2.3% but has also improved water storage situation in reservoirs in these regions.

As a result, live water storage available in 150 key reservoirs increased to 22% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs on July 4 from 20% on June 27. "Water storage situation will gradually improve as remaining monsoon period is expected to receive fairly good rainfall," said official of Central Water Commission.

Good rains in last fortnight in several parts of the country also helped speed up ongoing sowing operations of Kharif crops including pulses, oilseeds, cotton and paddy. It brought overall acreage as on July 5 to the level which was 14% more than the corresponding period last year. Data shows that acreage of Kharif crops as on June 28 this year was 59 lakh hectare (over 32%) more than the corresponding period of last year despite the month reporting bigger rainfall deficit this year compared to 2023.

Ensure flow of water for T.N., Cauvery panel tells Karnataka govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Thursday asked Karnataka to ensure the flow of 11,500 cusecs of water at Biligundlu every day till July 31 to supply water for Tamil Nadu. Karnataka had cited deficit water flow, and urged the panel to defer any decision till July 25.

According to a note from the office of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minster and Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the State informed CWRC that between June 1 and July 9, the total inflow into four reservoirs in Karnataka was 41.651 tmcft, a 28.71% deficit from the average inflow in previous years.

The total storage in four reservoirs in Karnataka currently stands at 58.66 tmcft, while the total storage in three reservoirs in Tamil Nadu is 24.705 tmcft.

It was also pointed out that 4.905 tmcft of water from Mettur and 0.618 tmcft from the Bhavani (a total of 5.542 tmcft) was being released into the river.

Based on the data, the note said, the Karnataka government argued that it was better to wait till July 25 before any decision on water release is taken.

The note said Tamil Nadu argued that Karnataka had not maintained the flow of water into the river for environmental purposes between February and May. The current year is being treated as a normal year and inflow into the river also remains normal. Hence, the water flow at Biligundlu should be what the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal awarded and confirmed by the Supreme Court, it argued.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shivakumar told presspersons in Bengaluru that water was inadequate.

Rising level of Ghaggar alarms Sirsa residents

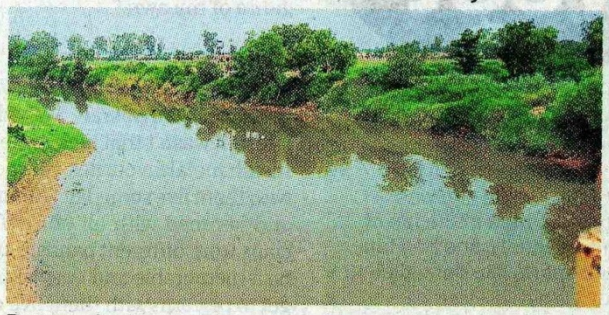
ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, JULY 11

Incomplete preparations, weak embankments cause of worry

Due to the recent spells of rain across North India, the Ghaggar river has started to swell. As of Thursday, water in the river had stirred up concern among villagers in Sirsa owing to the incomplete preparations and weak embankments made by the administration.

Recent rains have weakened several embankments, which the locals have had to get repaired themselves, especially in the Rori area. Additionally, the cleaning of the troublesome Rangoi drain, which caused many problems last year, has just begun on which the district administration is spending Rs 1 crore.



Recent rains have weakened several embankments, which the locals got repaired.

Last year, on July 21, floods affected around 49 villages in the district. Despite this, the Irrigation Department has failed to strengthen embankments along the Ghaggar.

In contrast, Punjab has strengthened embankments along its rivers and placed over 15,000 soil-filled bags in Bhundar village to prepare for potential flooding. Sirsa's administration remains lax in comparison. Last week, Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala visited flood-affected villages. Officials of the Irrigation Department informed him that they had no budget for flood management, as it was the duty of the Panchayati Raj Department to ensure that proper measures were undertaken. The minister instructed village sarpanches to use their budgets for flood prevention.

In Rori too, sandbags were placed, but rain has washed away the soil in these, leaving these half-filled. However, a few villagers were also happy in the hope of the river water benefiting nearby fields.

On Thursday, Deputy Commissioner RK Singh advised sarpanches to prepare for floods based on past experiences and coordinate with village secretaries and patwaris. A meeting was held with local officials to discuss flood-prevention measures.

Deccan Chronicle - 12 July 2024

Flood carrier canal work in phase-1 nearing completion

N. RAVIKUMAR | DC
CHENNAI, JULY 11

The flood carrier canal works in the first phase of the Cauvery-Gundar link project for a length of 262 km, at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,941 crore to connect the rivers Agniyar, South Vellar, Manumuthar, Vaigai and Gundar with the Cauvery, is nearing completion with only 10 per cent of the works remaining.

On implementation of the scheme, 52,332 hectares of land lying between the Cauvery and Gundar would be irrigated. While Tamil Nadu is looking for interlinking of major rivers in India to bring more water to the state, the inter-state rivers are being linked so that the available water could be shared within the state.

The monsoon rains are not uniform in the state, resulting in floods in some parts and drought in other places. Besides, the interlinking of rivers within the state is considered the first step before the linking of peninsular rivers in the country. Besides helping irrigation and solving the drinking water needs of the people in the drought-affected areas, the project would also divert the floods and minimise damage. The ground water level in various parts of the state would improve through the projects.

The Cauvery-Gundar scheme is a major river-linking scheme in the central region of Tamil Nadu. The distance of the canal in the first phase from Kattalai barrage in the Cauvery to South Vellar is 118.45 km and the detailed project report for the next phases is under preparation, according to water resources department (WRD) officials. In the first phase of the project, the government gave in-principle approval for ₹.6,941 crore.

The government gave a revised administrative sanction to form a flood carrier canal for a length of 4.1 km in Karur district for Rs. 177 crore and 5.35 km length in Tiruchy and Pudukkottai districts for Rs. 169 crore. WRD officials said almost 90 per cent of the flood carrier canal works have been completed and the remaining works will be completed soon.

The completed works include the aqueduct in slice V, escape regulator and under tunnel in slice IV besides the road bridges at slice I and IV. The wearing coat works at the cross regulator for slice I and IV are completed while shutter work is in progress.

Land acquisition was a major component of the mega schemes such as the Cauvery-Gundar link. A total of 389 hectares of patta land in Karur district, 114 hectares in Tiruchy and 258 hectares in Pudukkottai district have been acquired for the project. A total of 37 hectares in Karur and 43 hectares in Tiruchy and 183 hectares in Pudukkottai is being acquired.

The land acquisition problems are solved then and there due to the integrated approach of land administration and water resources departments. This approach had expedited the land acquisition work in the scheme which is a major boon to the central districts of Tamil Nadu.

Deccan Chronicle - 12 July 2024

State to seek final KLIS report from NDSA today

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

A crucial meeting on the Kaleshwaram project and the progress and completion of monsoon protection works of the project's barrages at Sundilla, Annaram, and Medigadda is scheduled for Friday where the state government is expected to press for final reports from the investigation agencies, as well as the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) on the way forward for permanent protection measures at the barrages.

Officials said irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy will chair the meeting where representatives from the NDSA, the Central Power and Water Research Station (CPWRS), Pune, Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), Delhi, with irrigation department officials too attending the meeting.

The state government had previously urged the NDSA to submit its final report, and this issue has assumed urgency with the Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose led commission of inquiry seeking the final report from the authority.

It may be recalled that the inquiry commission has already met with representatives of the agencies that built the barrages, and current and retired irrigation department engineers, and sought affidavits from them, and reports from the three agencies.

The state government had made it clear multiple time that it will follow the advice from the NDSA, and ensured that NDSA's interim recommendations for monsoon flood protection at the barrages were implemented by Navayuga, Afcons, and L&T which built the Sundilla, Annaram, and Medigadda barrages respectively.

While the National Dam Safety Authority's final report is being waited for with anticipation by officials, and the government, final reports from CPWRS which studied the state of affairs at Sundilla and Annaram barrage, and CSMRS which was given the task to study the Medigadda barrage — the worst affected among the three barrages — are expected to throw more light at the actual state of the structures at the barrages.

Deccan Chronicle - 12 July 2024

Water level in Mettur dam reaches 41 feet

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JULY 11

Present storage of 12. 95 tmc ft not sufficient for opening dam for irrigation

The water level in the Mettur dam has increased to 41 feet following the release of water from the Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini dams in Karnataka after heavy rains. However, the present storage of 12.95 tmc ft will not be sufficient for release of water for irrigation in the delta districts.

Since the southwest monsoon has intensified in Karnataka, the dams across the Cauvery - Krishnaraja Sagar, Kabini, Harangi and Hemavathy - are getting water flow. The Kabini and Krishnaraja Sagar reservoirs are filling at a fast rate and water is being released from the dams. The Union water resources officials are monitoring the flow of water across the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border.

Mettur dam was receiving 4,197 cubic feet of water on Thursday morning and 1,000 cubic feet of water is being released for drinking water needs. The water level has increased to 41 feet and the total quantity of water on Thursday afternoon was 12.95 tmc ft.

However, the present water storage is not sufficient for release to the delta districts for farming activities. Usually, water from the dam is released on June 12 and one month has already lapsed. The water release in July-end or August will depend on how much more water is received by Mettur dam.

GAINING PACE.

Above-normal monsoon in July helps raise water levels in 150 key reservoirs for 2nd straight week **p8**

Storage level in key reservoirs up for 2nd week in a row

GAINING PACE. Above-normal south-west monsoon in July helps as water level in the 150 major storages rises to 26 per cent of capacity

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

The storage in the 150 major reservoirs in India continued to rise for the second week in a row with the South-West monsoon being above-normal so far this month.

After a 11 per cent deficiency in June, the monsoon more than made up with the deficiency being cut to 2 per cent as of July 11.

Though the intensity of the monsoon reduced over the last couple of days, it is expected to gather momentum over the next couple of days, particularly in Central and North-West India.

In line with the coverage of the monsoon, the storage improved in states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Maharashtra this week. However, it dropped in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand — all key kharif crops growing States.

112 BELOW 40%

The Central Water Commission (CWC) said in its weekly bulletin on live storage status of 150 reservoirs in the country that the level increased to 26 per cent (22 per cent last week) of the 178.784 billion cubic metres (BCM) capacity at 46.311 BCM.

Of these 150, the level in 131 continues to be below 50 per cent of capacity against 136 last week with the storage in 112 (126 last week) below 40 per cent. This week, the storage situation improved in all the five regions.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), data received from 724 districts show that 36 per cent (38 per cent) of them are still rain-deficient.

However, the rainfall deficiency in the East and North-Eastern region has shrunk to five per cent and the Central region to seven per cent.

It is one per cent excess in the North-West region and nine per cent excess in the Southern region. Despite this, the reservoir level in Andhra Pradesh is 77 per cent (76 per cent) lower than normal while in Telangana it is 17 per cent (five per cent) below usual.

CHANGE IN KARNATAKA

In Tamil Nadu, the situation has improved to 30 per cent (40 per cent) lower than normal. The level in Karnataka improved rapidly to 12 per cent above usual from 15 per cent below normal last week while in Kerala the storage was 13 per cent (26 per cent) above normal.

Overall, of the 42 reservoirs in the region, the level was 26 per cent (19 per cent) of the 53.334 BCM capacity at 13.767 BCM with Andhra Pradesh reservoirs filled up to only six per cent of the capacity.

All 10 reservoirs of the northern region had storage that was less than 50 per cent of the capacity of 19.663 BCM. The storage this week was 5.979 BCM or 30. In Punjab, the storage was 42 per cent (35 per cent) below normal while it was 21 per cent (20 per cent) lower than usual in Rajasthan.

In the 23 reservoirs of the eastern region, the storage was 20 per cent (19 per cent) of the 20.430 BCM capacity at 4.132 BCM. In West Bengal, the reservoir level was 41 per cent (38 per cent) below normal while in Odisha it was 25 per cent (22 per cent) lower than usual.

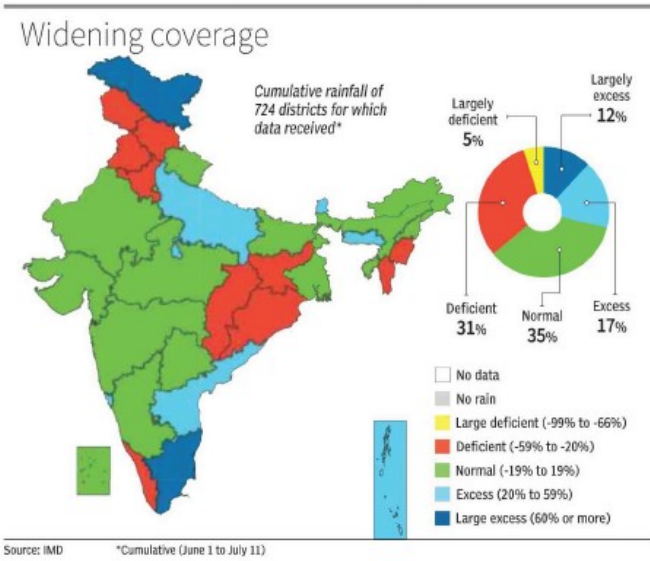
KHARIF SOWING UP

In the western region, the level in the 49 reservoirs increased to 25 per cent of the 37.130 BCM capacity at 9.398 BCM.

While the storage in Gujarat has become 1 per cent below normal from 12 per cent above normal, it was 11 per cent (14 per cent) lower than usual in Maharashtra.

The storage in the 26 reservoirs of the central region was 27 per cent (25 per cent) of the 48.227 BCM capacity at 13.035 BCM.

If the storage level continues to improve and the South-West monsoon continues to be above normal, it will help in kharif sowing. As of July 5, the overa acreage was 14 per cen higher.



अचानक आती बाढ़ में डूबते शहरों को उबारने के उपाय

यहां स्कैन करें

आलोक शील | पूर्व सचिव, जल संसाधन, केरल

हर साल मानसून में राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (एनसीआर) की बाढ़ के वीडियो में सोशल मीडिया डूबता-उतराता रहता है, पर पिछले कुछ दिनों में विशेष रूप से भयावह तस्वीरें सामने आई हैं। बेशक, सार्वजनिक कार्यों में भ्रष्टाचार और जलवायु परिवर्तन ने नुकसान बढ़ा दिया है, पर इस समस्या के बुनियादी कारण हैं। करीब आठ साल पहले मैंने कहा था, अचानक आने वाली बाढ़ लंबे समय से गंगा के मैदानी इलाकों की एक विशेषता रही है। अभिलेखागार से प्राप्त 1860 के दशक के दक्षिण बिहार के आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि बरसात के मौसम में अचानक बाढ़ आ जाना आम बात थी, क्योंकि गंगा और उसकी सहायक नदियां अपने किनारों से आगे बढ़ने लगती थीं। हालांकि, यह बाढ़ कुछ ही दिनों में उतर भी जाती थी, जिससे बहुत कम नुकसान होता था और पूरे इलाके में गाद की एक परत रह बचती थी, जो मिट्टी को फिर से पोषक तत्वों से भरपूर बना देती थी। इससे किसानों को खूब फायदा होता था।

बाढ़ से प्रभावित होने वाले इलाकों में जलभराव की शुरुआत ब्रिटिश शासन के दौरान किए गए शुरुआती विकास कार्यों से हुई। उस वक्त नहरें, सदाबहार सड़कें, रेलवे ट्रैक आदि बनाए गए, जिनमें तटबंधों का निर्माण किया गया और जिन्होंने आमतौर पर जल निकासी के प्राकृतिक रास्तों को बंद कर दिया। फिर बड़े पैमाने पर शहरीकरण के बाद यह समस्या कहीं अधिक जटिल हो गई। एनसीआर में बाढ़ के लिए महज तीन घंटे की भारी बारिश ही काफी है। इससे बुनियादी ढांचे, निजी संपत्ति और जनजीवन को काफी नुकसान पहुंचता है। मुंबई, चेन्नई, तिरुवनंतपुरम और अन्य भारतीय शहर भी इसी तरह पीड़ित हैं। आठ साल पहले मेरा मानना था कि जल निकासी की बेहतर व्यवस्था से इसका समाधान हो सकता है, पर बाद में मुझे यही एहसास हुआ है कि बाढ़ को रोका नहीं जा सकता, केवल कुछ कम किया जा सकता है।

अगर एनसीआर किसी तट पर स्थित होता, तो अतिरिक्त पानी समुद्र में चला जाता। मगर दिल्ली सबसे समतल स्थानों में से एक है।

अगर एनसीआर किसी तट पर स्थित होता, तो अतिरिक्त पानी समुद्र में बहकर चला जाता। मगर दिल्ली पृथ्वी के सबसे समतल स्थानों में से एक है। यहां सामान्य बारिश का पानी संचय हो जाता है, जो भूजल को रिचार्ज कर देता है। मगर लगातार व अत्यधिक बारिश से भूजल पूरी तरह रिचार्ज हो जाता है और पानी सतह के ऊपर से बहने लगता है। यह पानी कहां जाएगा, खासतौर से जब नदियों का जलस्तर अधिक हो गया हो? तटीय शहरों में यह पानी सीधे समुद्र में चला जाता है, लेकिन मैदानी इलाकों से पानी निकलने में वक्त लगता है, क्योंकि नदियां एक तय समय पर ही समुद्र से मिलती हैं। समय का यही अंतर बाढ़ का कारण बनता है और जब भारी बारिश बंद हो जाती है, तब पानी घटने लगता है और नदी में समाने लगता है।

सवाल है कि यदि जल निकासी की व्यवस्था अच्छी हो और उसका बेहतर रख-रखाव हो, तो इस मसले का दीर्घकालिक समाधान क्या है? पहला, पहाड़ियों में उन जगहों पर जलाशय अधिक बनाए जाएं, जहां से नदियां मैदानी इलाकों में उतरती हैं। हालांकि, इनसे जुड़ी पर्यावरणीय, तकनीकी और बाढ़ संबंधी चिंताएं हैं, जिनको जलाशय निर्माण के वक्त ध्यान देना होगा। बेशक जलाशयों की संख्या समय के साथ बढ़ रही है, लेकिन ये मैदानी इलाकों की बाढ़ को रोकने में पर्याप्त नहीं हो सकते। दूसरा, तालाबों, कुओं, झीलों और तमाम जल-संरचनाओं को साफ, गहरा और पुनर्जीवित करना होगा, ताकि मानसून में अतिरिक्त पानी का बहाव हो सके।

तीसरा, शहरी क्षेत्रों में कंक्रीट का इस्तेमाल कम करना होगा, जिससे भूजल का भंडारण बढ़ सके। हमें अधिक पार्क, मैदान, खुले फुटपाथ आदि की आवश्यकता है। चौथा, पानी के बहाव के प्राकृतिक रास्ते बहाल करने होंगे, ताकि पानी किसी निचले इलाके में न ठहरे, बल्कि यमुना में चला जाए। अंडरपास की जगह एलिवेटेड सड़कें बनाई जानी चाहिए। पांचवां, जल निकासी की व्यवस्था को दुरुस्त करना होगा और उसकी साफ-सफाई करवानी होगी। यह समझना होगा कि मानसूनी बारिश से पैदा होने वाली परेशानियों से बचने के उपाय किए जा सकते हैं, पर बरसात के मौसम में नदियों के जलस्तर को बढ़ने से कोई रोक नहीं सकता। शहरी योजनाकारों को यह ध्यान रखते हुए समस्या का समाधान तलाशना चाहिए।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)