

Deccan Chronicle–17thJuly-2024

KRMB CLEARS WATER RELEASE FROM N'SAGAR

Vijayawada, July 16: The Krishna River Management Board ordered for release of 4.5 tmc ft of water to AP and 5.4 tmc ft of water to Telangana from the total available water for allocation from Nagarjunasagar of 9.91 tmc ft from July 17. According to its conditions, the available water in Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar may be utilised for meeting the drinking water requirements. The water released from Srisailem shall be preferably through power houses so as to derive power generation benefits.

I/178801/2024

Deccan Chronicle— 17th July-2024

Mettur dam gets more water taking level to 45 feet

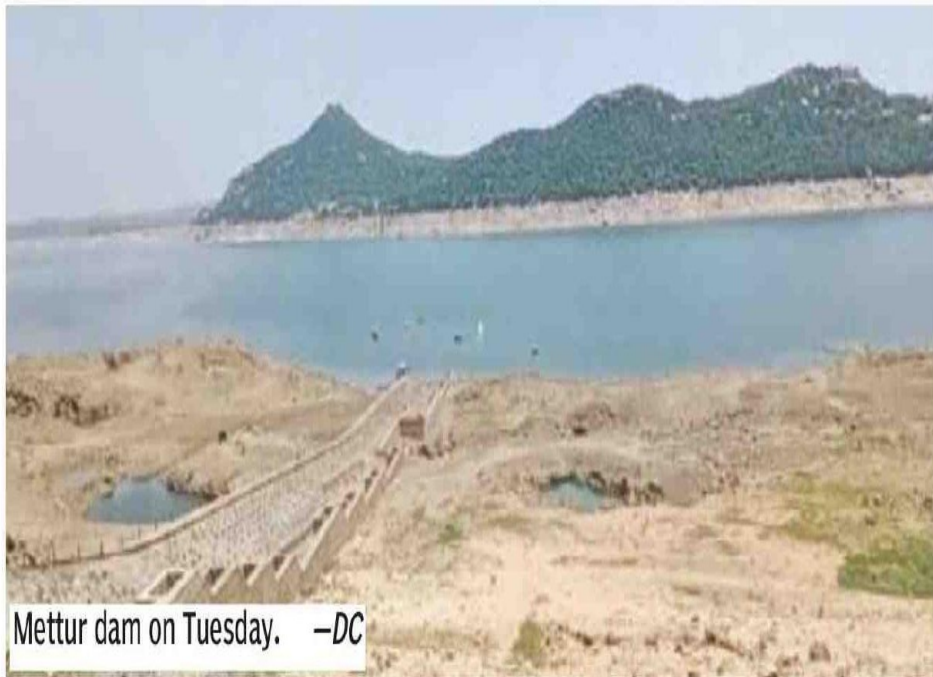
ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC

CHENNAI, JULY. 16

The water received in the Mettur dam has increased to 16,577 cusecs taking the water level to 45 feet.

The water level in the dams in Karnataka is increasing due to heavy rains in the catchment areas and the water is being released. The Mettur dam is receiving more water.

As per the situation at 4 pm on Tuesday, the water flowing into the dam has increased to 16,577 cusecs.



Mettur dam on Tuesday. —DC

The water level is 44.62 feet as at 4 pm on Tuesday.

Usually, water is released from the Mettur dam for cultivation on June 12

but this year, water is not released due to the low storage level. Since the flow of water into the dam is continuing, the

farmers are hoping that the dam will get more water and paddy cultivation is possible this year.

I/178801/2024

Deccan Chronicle –17th July-2024

NDSA yet to receive TG report on KLIS; Centre not fault-free

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 16

The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) is yet to receive any report from the state irrigation department on implementation of the interim monsoon flood protection measures that it had suggested for the safety of the Kaleshwaram project barrages. Unless this report is submitted by the state government, there is little that the NDSA can do to finalise its own report suggesting possible solutions, or measures, to protect the Kaleshwaram barrages, according to a deposition before the Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose-led commission of inquiry into the alleged irregularities with respect to planning, execution and construction of the barrages.

However, there is more than that meets the eye on this issue, it is learnt. While the decision-making process in the state may have taken time, independent research labs owned by the Union jal shakti ministry could have helped get the task done a bit more quickly had at least one of them not insisted on upfront payment, according to sources.

It was pointed out before the commission on Tuesday that the NDSA sent one letter on May 13 and another on June 25, seeking implementation reports from the state government, but that no response was received. Unless these reports are in place, the NDSA would be hamstrung to prepare its final report, pointed out jal shakti ministry adviser Sriram Vedire, who made a presentation before the commission on various aspects of the Kaleshwaram project, and its barrages.

A committee formed by the NDSA had given an interim report on April 30, in which it called for geo-technical and geo-physical investigations at the barrages that were to be completed before the onset of monsoon. The measures taken by the state were delayed by a month-and-a-half, that made it difficult to complete the tests and investigations in time, according to the presentation.

One of the reasons for asking for these tests was because they were not conducted as extensively as they should have been before construction of the barrages began.

According to sources, decisions were still being taken on the labs that are to conduct the tests. While the NGRI said it would not be able to take up the job, the government finalised the

Pune-based Central Water & Power Research Station (CWPRS), and Delhi based Central Soil & Materials Research Station (CSMRS) for the tests after a high-powered review by the state government on May 18.

Sources said that CWPRS, owned by the jal shakti ministry, had made it clear that unless the required fee was paid it would not be able to start the work. The CSMRS began work and then sought payment.

The CWPRS was tasked to do the tests at Sundilla and Annaram, and the CSMRS was given the job at Medigadda. The labs were informed on May 20 about the government decision on handing the work for them. "So the question of providing a response to the May 13 letter from NDSA is moot under these circumstance," sources said.

With respect to the second reminder, the sources said the irrigation department was caught up in getting the basic protection measures completed, including lifting of the gates, cutting one of the gates at Medigadda, ensuring that the upstream and downstream apron work as recommended by the NDSA were completed.

On July 12, the circumstances were explained to NDSA representatives at a meeting at Jalasoudha, the irrigation department headquarters. It was also taken to the NDSA's notice that bringing up 'undisturbed' core samples from the river bed was proving to be impossible as the sand columns in the cores were collapsing, and water seepage was being encountered as the drilling was being performed, the sources said.

I/178801/2024

The Pioneer-17th July-2024

Cauvery row: K'taka Deputy CM appeals to TN to cooperate on Mekedatu project

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday made a passionate appeal to the Tamil Nadu government to cooperate with the implementation of the Mekedatu project across river Cauvery which, he said, would be more beneficial to the neighbouring State.

He also expressed hope about "problems in releasing water to Tamil Nadu to get sorted out, if god permits" and the rains continue in the Cauvery catchment areas of Karnataka. "One thing I would like to appeal to Tamil Nadu, for your interest and our interest. More than our interest it is your interest, this Mekedatu reservoir, you just permit us, whatever storage we will do, we will give you that water, we can't take back that water," Shivakumar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said: "It is my humble appeal on behalf of the people of Karnataka, where all selections -- Tamilians, Kannadigs, Andhraits and people from North India -- are there. It is for Bengaluru for drinking water and it is for you (Tamil Nadu). Please permit us for Mekedatu, don't object, we will cooperate in whatever way we can."

Mekedatu is a multi-purpose (drinking water and power) project proposed by Karnataka, which involves building a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district.

Tamil Nadu has been opposing the project, raising apprehensions that the state would be affected if the project takes shape.

The project, once completed, is aimed at ensuring drinking water to Bengaluru and neighbouring areas (4.75 tmcft); it also can generate 400 MW power, and the estimated cost of the project is Rs 9,000 crore (2019 rates), according to Karnataka officials.

A separate Project Division and two Sub-Divisions have already been set up to implement the ambitious 'Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and drinking water project of Cauvery river valley', Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had said, presenting the state



budget in February.

"A survey to identify land that will be submerged under this project and the counting process of trees have already been initiated," he had also said, adding, "action will be taken on priority to commence the work early after obtaining remaining necessary clearances from the competent authorities."

Responding to a question regarding Tamil Nadu holding an all party meeting about getting Cauvery water for the state from Karnataka, Shivakumar said: "Tamil

Nadu has every right to meet as we met, we don't object to their meeting, I don't want to comment on that."

He said: "At the same time from yesterday I'm getting good inflow, more than 50,000 cusecs inflow in Cauvery region, whatever is there we are allowing the water to go out of Harangi (dam), I think more than 20,000 cusecs was going out from Harangi and other places. If gods permit us, all our problems will be sorted out."

Asked if his government will honour the directive of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) to release one tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu if rains continue at this rate, Shivakumar said: "of course, of course, we have to (release), we will. Whatever the inflow is coming, we are not holding it, we are leaving it to Mettur (in Tamil Nadu)."