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Telengana Today - 8 March-2024

KTR calls drought in State man-made

Says govt intentionally not taking up Medigadda repair works

STATE BUREAU
KARIMNAGAR

Coming down heavily on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his statement on drought conditions in Telangana, BRS working president KT Rama Rao dubbed it man-made, created by the Congress government due to its inefficiency in water management.

He said despite having the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, the State government was intentionally not taking up repair works at Medigadda and was creating an artificial drought to declare the Kaleshwaram project as a wasteful expenditure.

Addressing the party cadre at a preparatory meeting ahead of the BRS 'Kadana Bheri' event at Karimnagar, Rama Rao said unlike former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, the current Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy, lacked proper understanding of geographical and climatic conditions as well as the plight of farmers in the State. "The Kaleshwaram project is KCR's 'brahmastra' against the water problem in Telangana. If repair works were carried out at Medigadda barrage timely, the government could have easily overcome the shortage and sup-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao and others interacting with farmers of Irunkula village in Karimnagar district on Thursday.

plied water to withering crops in Karimnagar, Manakondur, Choppadandi and Huzurabad constituencies," he said.

The Chief Minister blamed the deficit rainfall to cover his inefficiency in addressing the water problem in the State, despite the State witnessing 14 per cent excess rainfall at the end of South-West monsoon for the year 2023-24. He feared that the government might stop the daily supply of drinking water to the people of Karimnagar soon, citing the shortage of water in the Lower Manair Dam.

Calling Chief Minister Revanth Reddy 'frustrated' and 'inefficient' over his remarks in Mahabubnagar on Wednesday, the BRS working president advised the former against unnecessarily increasing his blood pressure. He said that the BRS is least interested in overthrowing the Congress government. In fact, Revanth Reddy's government could face threats from his own colleagues and party members, he added.

He stated that the Congress government should stay in power for the next five years and address peo-

ple's issues. "Only if the Congress stays in power, people will be able to differentiate between horses and donkeys," he added. Earlier, Rama Rao said BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao would sound the poll bugle for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from Karimnagar with the 'Kadana Bheri' public meeting at SRR College grounds on March 12. Just like it launched its fight for Telangana Statehood from Karimnagar, the BRS would initiate its fight against the Revanth Reddy government once again from Karimnagar, he said.

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NDSA team at Medigadda

The six-member National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) committee inspected the Medigadda barrage on Thursday. Before commencing the inspection, the committee, led by J Chandrashekar Iyer, former chairman of Central Water Commission, held a meeting with officials at the L&T Guest House. This was followed by an inspection of the seventh block where the pillar had sunk.

प्रायनियर - 8 March -2024

बेंगलुरु में पानी का संकट: स्कूल बंद, टैंकरों ने दोगुने किए दाम

भाषा। बेंगलुरु

कर्नाटक की राजधानी बेंगलुरु के विजयनगर स्थित एक कॉचिंग सेंटर ने अपने विद्यार्थियों को आपात स्थिति के कारण एक सप्ताह के लिए ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं लेने के लिए कहा है। ठीक इसी तरह शहर के बन्नरघट्ट मार्ग स्थित एक स्कूल को भी बंद कर दिया गया तथा विद्यार्थियों को ऑनलाइन कक्षाएं लेने का निर्देश दिया गया। यह आपात स्थिति और कुछ नहीं बल्कि शहर में जारी भीषण जल संकट है। वर्ष 2023 में बारिश की कमी के कारण पूरा कर्नाटक, विशेष रूप से बेंगलुरु हाल के वर्षों में जल संकट की सबसे खराब स्थिति



का सामना कर रहा है। भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) ने कम बारिश के लिए अल नीनो प्रभाव को जिम्मेदार ठहराया है। स्थिति की गंभीरता का अंदाजा इसी बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि बेंगलुरु के कुमारकुपा रोड स्थित कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धरमैया के कार्यालय-सह-आवास के अंदर पानी के टैंकर

सामान्य दिनों में पानी की आपूर्ति करने वाला एक टैंकर 700 से 800 रुपये लेता था, लेकिन अधिक मांग होने के कारण अब टैंकर की दर 1,500 से 1,800 रुपये के बीच हो गई है। बेंगलुरु के उत्तरहल्ली के रहने वाले शरशचंद्र ने कहा, हमारे परिवार में छह सदस्य हैं। उचित तरीके से इस्तेमाल करने पर पानी का एक टैंकर पांच दिनों तक चलता है। इसका मतलब है कि हमें एक महीने में छह टैंकर पानी की जरूरत होती है, जिसके लिए हमें प्रति माह लगभग 9000 रुपये खर्च करने होंगे। हम कब तक इस तरह से पैसा खर्च करें? बेंगलुरु विकास प्रभारी का जिम्मा संभाल रहे उपमुख्यमंत्री शिवकुमार ने बेंगलुरु

में पानी की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए निजी टैंकर और निजी बोरेल को अपने कब्जे में लेने की घोषणा की। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि पानी की आपूर्ति के लिए दूध के टैंकों का भी उपयोग किया जाएगा। सरकार प्रति टैंकर पानी की दर तय करने पर भी विचार कर रही है। सिद्धरमैया के अनुसार, कर्नाटक की 136 तालुका में से 123 को सूखाग्रस्त घोषित किया गया है और 109 गंभीर रूप से जल संकट का सामना कर रही हैं। कर्नाटक सरकार ने जल संकट के समाधान के लिए तालुका स्तर पर नियंत्रण कक्ष और हेल्पलाइन स्थापित करने का भी निर्णय लिया है।

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Water storage in South raises concern as level drops to 26% of capacity

Subramani Ra Mancombu

Chennai

Almost two-thirds of the major 150 Indian reservoirs were filled below 50 per cent of the capacity this week as the storage level dropped for the 22nd consecutive week.

According to the Central Water Commission, the storage this week in reservoirs was 73.297 billion cubic metres (BCM) or 41 per cent of the live storage of 178,784 BCM. During the same period a year ago, the reservoirs were filled 83 per cent of the capacity and the average for the past 10 years is 96 per cent.

Nearly 50 per cent of the major reservoirs — 72 of them — had a level below 40 per cent of the capacity with the situation

in the South being a little worrisome. Water in about 10 dams was in the single digit, while a few more could join the list in a week or two, raising questions over the availability of water even for drinking.

DRINKING WATER CRISIS

Karnataka, which has been one of the worst-affected States in the country due to El Nino that led to deficient rainfall in the State, has 26 per cent below normal storage with its capital Bengaluru complaining that a few areas have run out of groundwater.

The situation in Andhra Pradesh is of concern as the water level is 62 per cent below normal — the highest in the country — while reservoirs jointly owned by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are filled 53

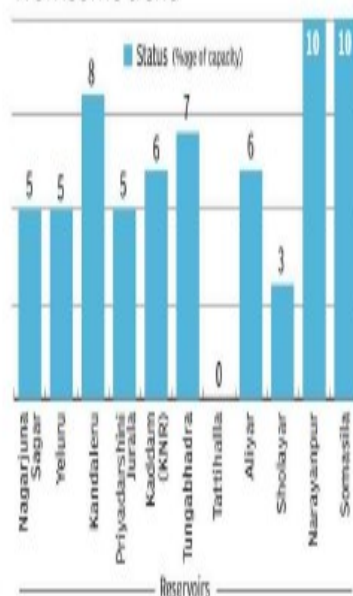
per cent below normal.

With no rains forecast in the South for now, things could turn grim until the south-west monsoon sets in around June 1 and the reservoirs may not begin to witness inflows at least until July-end. This could put pressure on *zaid* or summer crops besides kharif sowing, experts said.

According to CWC weekly bulletin on live storage status of the major reservoirs, the water level in the southern region was 26 per cent of the 53,334 capacity at 13,844 BCM.

Of the 42 reservoirs in the region, the level in 33 is below 50 per cent with the storage being 24 per cent and six per cent below normal, respectively, in Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Kerala has a level one per cent above normal.

Worrisome trend



Source: Central Water Commission

NORTH, EAST STORAGE

In the northern region, the storage in 9 of the 10 reservoirs is below 50 per cent of the capacity. Of the total capacity 19,663 BCM, the reservoirs are

filled to 35 per cent at 6,944 BCM. Northern reservoirs can, however, look to the melting snow to increase the water level in the coming months.

In the eastern region, 10 of

the 23 reservoirs had a storage below 50 per cent of the capacity. The storages were filled to 53 per cent of the 20,430 BCM capacity at 10,732 BCM. The levels in Bengal, Bihar and Nagaland were below normal.

Of the 49 reservoirs in the western region, 24 were filled below 50 per cent of the capacity. The storage in the region was 51 per cent of the 37,130 BCM capacity at 18,825 BCM. Maharashtra's storage was 10 per cent below normal.

Of the 26 reservoirs in the central region, 17 had a level below 50 per cent of their capacity. Uttar Pradesh (-27 per cent below normal), Uttarakhand (-27 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (-24 per cent) had lower storage. Of the 48,227 BCM capacity, the level was 48 per cent at 22,952 BCM.