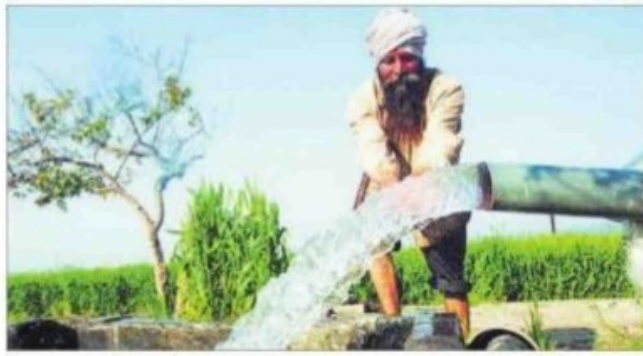


The Tribune- 10- February-2023



## 20 districts have water-stressed blocks, says MoS

### IN PARLIAMENT



**SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 9**

Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tudu today said as many as 20 out of 23 districts in Punjab have water-stressed blocks. He was replying to a question posed by SAD MP Sukhbir Singh Badal during the Lok Sabha session. The MoS said 256 districts in various states had water-stressed blocks.

Sukhbir told that more than 80 per cent of groundwater blocks in Punjab had dried up "in a bid to provide foodgrain to the rest of the country" and asked about the proposals that the Centre was working on to address the issue of saving water for future needs.

Tudu said as per the assessment of groundwater resources by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the state government in 2022, out of 153 blocks in the

state, as many as 117 were over exploited, four critical and 15 semi-critical. He added that only 17 blocks had been categorised as safe.

The assessment report showed that the annual ground water extraction for all uses in the state was 28.02 billion cubic metres (BCM) and of this 26.69 BCM was utilised only for irrigation purpose.

The minister said the Centre was working on a master plan to recharge groundwater on the basis of a report prepared by the CGWB. He added that Punjab has 11 lakh rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge structures to harness 1,200 million cubic metres of rainwater.

Besides setting up the Directorate of Ground Water Management, the Punjab Government has also engaged Israel-based firm, Mekorot, to finalise water conservation.

Meanwhile, SAD MP Harimrat Kaur Badal, during the Budget discussion in Parliament, today also raised the water crisis looming large in Punjab.

Millennium Post- 10- February-2023

# Himachal CM demands enhancing state share in hydel projects from 12% to 15%

*CM informs that around 12,000 MW of hydropower potential is yet to be harnessed in the state*

**ASHWANI SHARMA**

**NEW DELHI:** Himachal Pradesh's Congress government has put forward a strong demand before the centre asking for enhancing the state's share in the hydro-power projects from the existing 12 per cent to 15 per cent.

The state also has stepped-up lobbying for getting the arrears of its 7.19 per cent in the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) in the light of a Supreme Court decision in 2011 directing BBMB to start giving the state's legitimate share of power as per the States' Reorganisation Act 1966.

CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who held a meeting with the Union Minister of Power and Renewable Energy, RK Singh in Delhi late Wednesday urged him to look into the state's demand. He said the state's share in the power proj-

ects which were commissioned 25 years back and have completed their loan repayments should be raised from 12 to 15 per cent.

He informed the Union minister that around 12,000 MW of hydropower potential was yet to be harnessed. Hydropower development is the key engine to the economic growth of the state of Himachal Pradesh, as it makes a direct and significant contribution to the economy in terms of revenue generation, employment opportunities and enhancing the quality of life, he said.

Besides, the state also has ample scope for setting up solar projects, the CM stated.

He said the state government has now relaxed the rules and procedures for the investors and Deputy Commissioners have been empowered to accord permission. The government is committed to



**Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu with Union Minister RK Singh in New Delhi** MPOST

accord all necessary permissions in a time-bound manner, especially in the energy sector and to ease the process for applying.

The CM said that the government was mulling to make agreements with the power project in stages. The first part will be for the period of loan repayment and the second part will be after the loan repayment is over on part of the

power project.

The CM also raised the issue of the Luhri power project being executed by SJVN and advocated for fresh agreement for enhancing the state share as the project is fully viable.

Informing the minister about the Supreme Court order passed its verdict in favour of the state government pertaining to payment of arrears and its share by Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) in the year 2011, he asked the minister to direct BBMB to pay the arrears to the state government immediately.

He also apprised that the lease period of the Shanan project (owned by Punjab Power Corporation in Himachal Pradesh) was now over and the assets of the project should go back to the state as per the agreement. He sought the Centre's help in the matter.

Sukhu said that the Union

Minister has assured with regard to setting up of Green Energy Plant in the Spiti area of the state on the analogy of Leh. The e-charging stations for electric vehicles will also be set up throughout the State so that the target of becoming a Green Energy State by 2025 could be achieved. For setting up e-charging stations, the state government will provide land and power.

Detailed project reports for the transmission line will also be prepared to evacuate the green energy. The CM said that the state is looking forward to the generation of green hydrogen, adding that Himachal Pradesh is the only state which is a power surplus state. The state will execute the power project on a revenue-sharing basis. The CM honoured the Union minister on this occasion and was also invited to visit Himachal Pradesh.



The Morning Standard- 10- February-2023

# Puri bats for better planning, policy to ensure water security in cities

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA  
@ Ahmedabad

UNION Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that cities must rethink conventional planning paradigms to provide desired socioeconomic outcomes in a video message at the opening session of the two-day Urban-20 City Sherpas' meet in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

The minister added that comprehensive infrastructure development would necessitate a robust discussion on investments and financing.

He emphasized the need for better planning, policy and governance to ensure water security amid the growing urban population. The Urban-20 City Sherpas' meeting aims to promote city solidarity to find common solutions that are in line with the G20's overall goals. As part of India's G20 Presidency, this G20 event is the third to take place in Gujarat.

Amitabh Kant, the G20 Sherpa from India, said "A thriving



## 'Need for better planning, policy and governance'

Hardeep Singh Puri emphasized the need for better planning, policy and governance to ensure water security amid the growing urban population. The Urban-20 City Sherpas' meeting aims to promote city solidarity to find common solutions that are in line with the G20's overall goals. This G20 event is the third to take place in Gujarat.

nation depends on successful cities. Urbanization is a tool for economic development, employment creation, and the eradication of poverty."

"The world is currently facing numerous difficulties, including geopolitical crisis, war, recession, debt crisis, difficulty with financing climate action, shortages of food, fuel and fertilizers, and post-covid crisis. The Indian government has worked hard to transform obstacles into possibilities. In the upcoming 10 years, cities will still be essential to development. Urbanization that is well-

planned, creative, and sustainable is crucial to the growth of any country. Cities must be built using a scientific approach," Kant added.

While opening the first Sherpas meeting of the U20-Urban Summit, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said, "Our cities are socio-cultural and economic hubs, as well as backbones of economic development. PM Narendra Modi has rejuvenated the cities of Gujarat during his tenure as the Chief Minister. We are also witnessing how the Ease of Living has improved in the cities.

Amar Ujala- 10- February-2023

तैयारी

उपमुख्यमंत्री ने यमुना विहार एसटीपी की क्षमता 45 से 70 एमजीडी तक करने की योजना को दी मंजूरी

# यमुना की सफाई के लिए एसटीपी की क्षमता बढ़ेगी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली सरकार ने वर्ष 2025 तक यमुना की सफाई पूरी करने के लिए यमुना विहार एसटीपी की क्षमता बढ़ाने और विशेष पाइपलाइन डालने की परियोजना को मंजूरी दी। इसके तहत एसटीपी की क्षमता 45 से बढ़ाकर 70 एमजीडी की जाएगी। इस परियोजना के पूरा होने पर पूर्वी दिल्ली के करीब छह लाख लोगों को फायदा होगा।

साथ ही, पूर्वी दिल्ली के नाले में गंदे पानी के बहाव को कम करने में मदद मिलेगी। परियोजना को उपमुख्यमंत्री मनीष सिसोदिया ने बृहस्पतिवार को मंजूरी दी।



दिल्ली सचिवालय में बैठक करते उपमुख्यमंत्री सिसोदिया। अमर उजाला

सिसोदिया ने बताया कि विभिन्न वॉटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट की क्षमता बढ़ाने व यमुना की सफाई को लेकर चरणबद्ध तरीके से काम किया जा रहा है। इसके अलावा शोधित पानी के दोबारा उपयोग पर जोर दिया जा

## समर एक्शन प्लान का मसौदा तैयार कर रहा जलबोर्ड

नई दिल्ली। जलबोर्ड गर्मियों में पर्याप्त जलापूर्ति करने के लिए समर एक्शन प्लान तैयार कर रहा है। बोर्ड के अधिकारियों ने बृहस्पतिवार को प्लान का मसौदा उपाध्यक्ष सौरभ भारद्वाज के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया। जल बोर्ड के उपाध्यक्ष सौरभ भारद्वाज के निर्देश पर विधायकों से ऐसे क्षेत्रों की सूची एकत्रित की जा रही है, जहां गर्मी में पानी की किल्लत का सामना करना पड़ता है। इस दिशा में भारद्वाज विधायकों के साथ बैठक कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने बृहस्पतिवार को विधायक वंदना कुमारी, शिव चरण गोयल, गिरीश सोनी आदि के साथ बैठक की। इस दौरान उन्होंने समर एक्शन प्लान तैयार करने के लिए विधायकों व संबंधित अधिकारियों के साथ विस्तृत चर्चा की। व्यूरो

रहा है। एसटीपी से आने वाले शोधित पानी न केवल यमुना को साफ करने में मदद करेगा, बल्कि अन्य चीजों के लिए भी उपयोगी होगा। इससे बागवानी और दिल्ली की झीलों का कायाकल्प करने में

मदद मिलेगी। एसटीपी से यमुना तक एक विशेष पाइपलाइन डाली जाएगी। वर्तमान में वहां एक पाइपलाइन पहले से ही बिछी हुई है, लेकिन सीमित क्षमता होने से जल बोर्ड ने अन्य पाइपलाइन डालने की

योजना बनाई है। इसके बिछने से ज्यादा से ज्यादा शोधित पानी यमुना तक पहुंच सकेगा।

वर्तमान में यमुना विहार एसटीपी की क्षमता 45 एमजीडी है। इसकी क्षमता बढ़ने के बाद पूर्वी दिल्ली के ड्रेन-एक में गंदा पानी नहीं गिरेगा। ड्रेन-एक में प्रवाह कम होने से शाहदरा ड्रेन में गिर रहे गंदे पानी में कमी आएगी। शाहदरा ड्रेन यमुना में प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले प्रमुख चार नालों में से एक है। इसके अलावा आधुनिक तकनीक से एसटीपी अपग्रेड होने के बाद गंदे पानी के बायोलॉजिकल ऑक्सीडेशन डिमांड (बीओडी) स्तर को शोधित कर 10 तक लाया जा सकेगा।