

The Times of India- 10- October-2023

Crisis panel reviews flash flood in Sikkim

New Delhi: The National Crisis Management Committee, under cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba, met on Monday to review the situation in Sikkim even as Centre pledged additional relief funds and deployed six teams of NDRF to assist the administration in relief and rescue operations.

An inter-ministerial central team is already in Sikkim assessing the damage. Centre had announced release of Rs 45 crore last week from the state disaster relief fund and promised for assistance based on the assessment of the central team.

“Bailey bridges should be launched on priority to restore road connectivity where bridges have been washed away,” Gauba told the gathering of officials that included representatives from NDRF, IMD, BRO and state government. TNN

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Don't have water to give TN, K'taka to tell Cauvery panel

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Bengaluru: At a Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) meeting on Wednesday, Karnataka will argue that although inflows into the four reservoirs in the river basin have increased, it is merely due to "vagaries of rain" and Karnataka cannot release any more water to Tamil Nadu.

While advisory body CWRC is expected to recommend the release of 3,000 cusecs to TN daily till the end of October, the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) is scheduled to meet on Sunday (October 15) to examine the recommendation and pass a final order.

The outcome is being closely watched as the dispute has assumed a political turn with the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly passing a resolution on Monday, seeking the Centre's intervention in the issue. It wants the Centre to direct Karnataka to release its share of water.

But Rakesh Singh, additional chief secretary, water resources department, said: "Our argument has not changed. We cannot release water since distress persists and it is expected to continue."

Last month, CWRC recommended that Karnataka release 3,000 cusecs daily from September 28 till October 15, a suggestion upheld by CWMA. Singh had filed a review petition requesting CWMA to reconsider its decision. Officials said Karnataka's representatives will stick to this stand in this week's meetings.



TOUGH CALL: Officials say inflows into reservoirs have improved but this year spells of rain have been accompanied by weeks of drought

The November quota to TN in a normal year is 13.8tmcft and the panels are expected to ask Karnataka to release 2,000 cusecs daily for the month. The state will refuse.

A senior water resources department official said: "Inflows into dams in the river basin have increased but the monsoon has been so erratic this year. Long dry spells have followed brief periods of rain. So, CWRC and CWMA should not base their order on present conditions, but rather take the trend into consideration."

Cumulative inflows into Karnataka's four reservoirs — KRS, Kabini, Harangi and Hemavathi — stood at 6,000 cusecs on Monday (October 9) while outflow was 5,600 cusecs. Of this, 3,500 cusecs went to TN. As per CWMA's order for October, Karnataka was supposed to release

33,000 cusecs between September 28 and October 8, but recordings at the Biligundlu gauge located on the interstate border showed TN received 34,560 cusecs.

Karnataka representatives say this is natural flow after it released water to farmers to protect crops. "But we cannot commit to releasing a certain amount of water. Our requirement for irrigation and drinking is 95tmcft, but available live storage is only 56tmcft," said the official.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Karnataka farmers headed by Cauvery Jala Samrakshna Samithi met Union water resources minister Gajendra Shekhawat and the CWMA chairman on Monday in New Delhi and appraised them about the distress prevailing in Karnataka.

"We requested Shekhawat

not to give in to pressure from TN that has passed a resolution seeking the Centre's intervention and requested CWMA not to ask Karnataka to release water," said Kurubur Shanthakumar, the Samithi leader.

Hindustan Times- 10- October-2023

Military airlifts flood victims in Sikkim; toll 89

Pramod Giri

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SILIGURI: Army helicopters began the arduous process of evacuating stranded tourists in Sikkim on Monday, five days after flash floods caused by a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) devastated the hill state and parts of West Bengal and inclement weather hampered rescue operations. The death toll from the disaster rose to 89.

Overall, the army has compiled a list of around 2,000 people that continue to be marooned in north Sikkim, with 493 tourists and nine locals evacuated by the force's Mi-17 and Chinook helicopters, the Sikkim land revenue and disaster management said in a statement on Monday evening. Tourists were airlifted from

Lachung, Chaten and Lachen in north Sikkim. The operations came on a day when Sikkim chief minister Prem Singh Tamang held a meeting with chief of army staff Manoj Pande and other senior officials in state capital Gangtok, senior state officials said.

Three more bodies were on Monday found in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, where several corpses have been carried downstream by the Teesta river. "Till Sunday, 43 bodies were recovered from Jalpaiguri. Three more have been found in the last 24 hours," said Khandbahale Umesh Ganpat, Jalpaiguri district superintendent of police.

In Sikkim too, senior officials said, four more bodies were found on Monday. "There were

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FLOOD VICTIMS

32 bodies found inside the territory of Sikkim till Sunday. Four more have been recovered since then," said Bikash Basnet, press secretary to chief minister Tamang.

Over the past five days, central agencies, army personnel and state authorities have been involved in frantic search and rescue operations, after flash floods caused by the GLOF in the Lhonak Lake caused the Teesta to swell, damaging human habitation, the Bardang army camp, several hydel projects and arterial roads such as National Highway 10, crucial for communication in a mountain state.

Lieutenant colonel Mahendra Rawat, chief public relations officer said in a statement on Monday that the army has prepared a list of stranded people at Chaten, Lachen, Lachung and Thangu in north Sikkim. This list, which includes 63 foreign nationals, is being used to facilitate food, medical aid, accommodation and telephones till the evacuation process is complete, Rawat said.

Soldiers of the Trishakti Corps have also been able to move past difficult terrain and have reached the isolated village of Rabom to the north-west of Chungthang to rescue a batch of between 150 and 200 civilians while the army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel have also built a log bridge over Lachen Chu connecting Chungthang to Pegong, the statement said.

Meanwhile a six member inter-ministerial team sent by the Union government visited the affected areas of Golitar, Singtam and Dikchu in Gangtok on Monday. The team will assess the ground situation and recommend short and long term restoration work, Sikkim officials said.

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), headed by cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba also met on Monday, with the members briefed by Sikkim chief secretary VB Pathak. Gauba said that the evacuation of people should be the immediate priority for agencies, both state and central, that are working on the ground, and the union government would offer all support possible. Pathak said that the weather conditions had improved on Monday, with evacuation processes now in full swing, and that

the weather forecast would stay favourable for the next three days.

Pathak however said that several affected areas had been completely cut off because of the destruction of infrastructure, and with the permanent construction of new motorable roads and bridges a long term process, bailey bridges were being constructed for the time being. He added that the state government had corresponded with Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chairman S Somanath, and had requested for surveillance over the South Lhonak and Shako Chu lakes to prevent any further calamities.

GROUND REPORT

ernance, and in turn, trickle down to upliftment on the ground.

Yet, 30 years after the 73rd amendment, while there have been benefits, there is also evidence on the ground that there is a long road to emancipation. Data from the 2011 Census pegs Malarna Doongar as the tehsil in India that has the largest literacy gap between men and women. The average literacy is 60.79%. But 78.79% of the males are literate, with only 41.03% for women, a difference of 37.75 percentage points. In fact, an analysis of the top 5 tehsils with such a difference in India shows that all five are in Rajasthan, with three in Sawai Madhopur district alone. To be sure, there are districts with considerably lower literacy percentages for women, but those typically — some are tribal districts in Chhattisgarh — have correspondingly low percentages for male literacy as well.

In terms of districts with such a large difference in literacy rates between men and women, it is also clear that Rajasthan has a problem. Eight of the top 10 districts (with Sawai Madhopur the highest) are in the state. The only two exceptions in the top 10 are Ramban in Jammu, and Nuh in Haryana.

In Gambhira, one of the villages in Malarna Doongar, asked if women make better sarpanches, a pall of silence falls across the Meena household. Twenty-three-year-old Jaskaur Meena, who finished a Master of Arts (MA) in history from a college in Sawai Madhopur in 2021, hides behind her

The Hindu- 10- October-2023

T.N. Assembly adopts resolution seeking release of Cauvery water from Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday adopted a resolution urging the Union government to direct Karnataka to release water to Tamil Nadu as mandated in the final judgment of the Supreme Court. All political parties, except the BJP, welcomed the resolution moved by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

Moving the resolution, Mr. Stalin contended that Karnataka was creating an "artificial crisis" by not releasing the share of water due to Tamil Nadu, despite the steps being taken by his government. Tamil Nadu would continue to insist on its share of water at the next meeting of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee on Wednesday.

"The Cauvery water is vital for the people of Tamil Nadu... We would not give it up under any circumstances. The Union government should act appropriately and get the Cauvery water for the people of Tamil Nadu," Mr. Stalin said.

Resolution welcomed

Leader of the Opposition and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami welcomed the resolution, but said the government should exert political pressure to get the water. He also asked the government about the steps being taken to supply drinking water to 20 districts until the Cauvery water was received from Karnataka or the State received rain.

Vanathi Srinivasan of the BJP wanted the text of the

resolution modified and demanded that the State government support nationalisation of rivers and a national legislation on dam safety. She said the BJP supported the cause of the Tamil Nadu farmers, but questioned the stand adopted by the State government on different situations. She said the situation was better when the BJP ruled Karnataka. With no response from the government to her demand for modifying the text of the resolution, she staged a walkout with her party members.

Addressing the media later, she said her party was not satisfied with the resolution as it did not move towards a permanent solution to safeguard Tamil Nadu's rights. Ms. Srinivasan blamed the DMK for its alleged inability to leverage its alliance with the Congress, the ruling party in Karnataka, to ensure that the State's share of water was released.

She pointed out that the DMK opposed the Dam Safety Bill passed by the Union government in Parliament, which, according to her, would have ensured a permanent solution for the Cauvery issue.

K. Selvaperunthagai of the Congress; G.K. Mani of the PMK; M. Sinthanai Selvan of the VCK; K. Mariimuthu of the CPI; V.P. Nagaimaali of the CPI(M); M. Jagan Moorthy; T. Velmurugan; E.R. Eswaran; M.H. Jawahirullah; and T. Sadhan Thirumalaikumar spoke in support of the resolution. The Speaker later declared the resolution adopted "unanimously".

Deccan Herald- 10- October-2023

HIMALAYAN DISASTERS

Warnings unheeded

Persisting lapses in preparedness become evident as glacier-related calamities claim lives and repeatedly devastate the region

RASHME SEHGAL

India has witnessed three major glacier-related disasters, each bearing an uncanny resemblance to its predecessor. The question arises: what has been our learning curve from these disasters, which have resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and extensive damage to property running into lakhs of crores?

Consider the Kedarnath tragedy in June 2013. Like in all parts of the upper Himalayas, glaciers are melting, and the melt water at the snout of the Chorabari glacier formed a lake, the Chorabari Lake, located at a height of 3,960 feet, almost two kilometres upstream of Kedarnath. Unprecedented rainfall from June 13 in the upper Himalayas led to the lake breaching on June 17. A massive flood of water, complete with debris and boulders, powered down the slopes of Kedarnath and into the Mandakini River. Not only did the flash floods wipe out the town of Kedarnath, but several other towns located downstream, including Rambara, Gaurikund, Sonprayag, and Agastyamuni, were also destroyed. Thousands perished, and the exact death toll remains uncertain, with a government estimate reporting over 5,000 missing.

Climate change has altered Himalayan weather patterns. Typically, January and February see heavy snowfall in the upper Himalayas. In February 2021, an unusual warm spell triggered a combination of snow and rainfall in these higher altitudes. Scientists are divided on whether a part of a glacier broke off or whether a massive avalanche brought down boulders and debris that caused a flood in the Rishiganga, a tributary of the Alaknanda River. The turbulent waters destroyed the 11-megawatt Rishi Ganga dam and impacted the Tapovan Vishnugad power project. When water entered the intake tunnel, 35 labourers were washed away immediately; and the precise number of missing workers is not available; co-workers claim the number of those dead to be around 200. The situation was exacerbated by the absence of an early warning system.

The Supreme Court had ordered all hydropower projects in India to compulsorily install early warning systems in every hydroelectric project, but these orders are often flouted or simply ignored.

A similar incident occurred in Sikkim, which also witnessed a glacial lake outburst flow, this time from the Lhonak lake, which was formed due to the melting of a glacier. While the glacier has been shrinking, the size of the lake has been steadily increasing, and by 2019, the lake covered 1.35 square kilometres.

This year, the northern part of Sikkim is witnessing heavy rainfall. Because of its remoteness, the India Me-

to save their own lives. Manual operations were required, exposing flaws in the electrified and automatic functioning of the dam gates. This reflects poorly on the functioning of the Central Water Commission, which oversees the functioning of all dams in the country.

The result is one more tragedy where there are still no definite numbers of people dead, but already the Sikkim chief minister has declared this to be a state disaster, with several towns, including Dikchu and Rango, reeling under the flood waters. Several people have lost their lives, including a large number of army personnel.

And as happened in the Chamoli incident, many workers are trapped in a network of tunnels in the Chungthang region. A team of 60 rescuers from the National Disaster Rapid Force has been sent to try and rescue them; whether they survive for long in these extreme altitudes is anyone's guess.

Despite warnings from scientists over the past three decades, the upper Himalayan region continues to face the threat of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). Scientists from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, who had visited north Sikkim to study the phenomenon of GLOF, had warned that Sikkim had as many as 25 glacial lakes that were a potential risk for the state.

Experts, including scientist Dr Ravi Chopra, have repeatedly emphasised that the upper Himalayan regions are unsuitable for hydroelectric projects. In a report on this subject prepared for the Ministry of Environment and Forests over a decade ago, Chopra emphasised that regions at an elevation above 2,000 metres are unsuitable for such projects due to their vulnerability to avalanches and unstable moraines left behind by retreating glaciers. The construction of power projects further destabilises these ecologically vulnerable areas as they generate tonnes of debris that are dumped in the rivers.

Extreme weather events are on the rise, and this has resulted in an increase in landslides. While the immediate focus of the Ministry of Power will be to assess the damage caused to the hydroelectric projects in Sikkim and operationalise them at the earliest, it needs, in the long run, to come up with a strategy whereby new projects should be kickstarted in only those areas that can safely withstand the increasing vagaries of extreme climate-induced calamities.

(The writer is a Delhi-based senior journalist)



teorological Department has not been able to gather rainfall data for this area. Nevertheless, the fact is that heavy rainfall saw the waters of the lake breach its sides late on October 3, bringing with it vast amounts of debris and boulders into the Teesta River.

Once again, in a case of criminal negligence, there was no early warning system to warn residents living downstream of the impending disaster. The force of the Teesta river can be gauged from the fact that it took a mere ten minutes for the flood waters to destroy India's second largest run-of-the-river project, the 1,200-MW Teesta Urja located between the towns of Chungthang and Mangan in north Sikkim. Built at a cost of Rs 14,000 crore, today, to build a dam of this size would cost over Rs 24,000 crore.

The executive chairman of Sikkim Urja Ltd, earlier called Teesta Urja Ltd, told the press that when they received a warning from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, they rushed a team to open the gates of the dam, but the force of the water was so enormous that the team failed in their mission, having managed

नदियों को जोड़ने के खतरे

प्रमोद भार्गव

बढ़ते वैश्विक तापमान, जलवायु परिवर्तन, अलनीनो और बदलते वर्षा चक्र की वजह से जरूरी हो गया है कि नदियों की बाढ़ के पानी को इकट्ठा किया और फिर उसे सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में नहरों के जरिए भेजा जाए। ऐसा संभव हो जाता है तो पेयजल की समस्या का निदान तो होगा ही, सिंचाई के लिए भी किसानों को पर्याप्त जल मिलने लगेगा। हालांकि पर्यावरणविद इस परियोजना का यह कह कर विरोध कर रहे हैं कि नदियों को जोड़ने से इनकी अविरलता खत्म होगी।

बाढ़ और सूखे की समस्या का स्थायी समाधान ढूंढने के लिए देश में चल रही महत्वाकांक्षी केन-बेतवा नदी जोड़ परियोजना से जल संकट और गहरा सकता है। इससे मानसून का चक्र भी प्रभावित हो सकता है। यह दावा 'नेचर' जर्नल में प्रकाशित एक शोध में किया गया है। यह शोध भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई, उष्णदेशीय मौसम विज्ञान संस्थान (आइआइटीएम) पुणे ने किया है। इसमें हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय और किंग अब्दुल्ला यूनिवर्सिटी आफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी के वैज्ञानिक भी शामिल थे। शोध में क्षेत्रीय जलवायु स्थितियों और आंकड़ों के विश्लेषण सहित मानसून से जुड़ी कई तकनीकों का उपयोग किया गया, ताकि इन बड़ी परियोजनाओं के पूरी होने पर भविष्य में जल और मौसम संबंधी नतीजों के जटिल तंत्र को सामने ला सकें।

शोध में क्षेत्रीय जलवायु परिस्थितिकी तंत्र और आंकड़ों का विश्लेषण करने पर पता चला कि अलनीनो

दक्षिणी दोलन जैसी परिस्थितियों को प्रभावित करता है। इसलिए नदी जोड़ योजना पूरी होने के बाद इस क्षेत्र में आने वाला जल-स्थल वायुमंडल अंतर्संबंध को बिगाड़ सकता है। इससे वायु और नमी का स्तर प्रभावित होगा। नतीजतन, देश में यह नदी जोड़ क्षेत्र विशेष में बारिश का परंपरागत रुझान बदल सकता है। सबसे चिंताजनक पहलू यह है कि पानी दूसरी नदी में जाने से सिंचित क्षेत्र बढ़ेगा, जो पानी की कमी का सामना कर रहे इलाकों में सितंबर की बारिश में बारह फीसद तक की कमी ला सकता है। गोया, ऐसा होता है, तो नदी जोड़ का संकट न केवल इस परियोजना से लाभान्वित होने वाले इलाकों को लगेगा, बल्कि मौसम के तंत्र पर भी इसका विपरीत असर दिखाई देगा। भारत में एनडब्ल्यूडीए के अनुसार तीस नदियों को जोड़ा जाना है। इनमें प्रायद्वीपीय घटक के तहत सोलह और हिमालयी घटक के अंतर्गत चौदह नदियों को जोड़ने की पहचान कर ली गई है। इनमें से आठ योजनाओं की 'डीपीआर' भी बना ली गई है।

दुनिया के महासागरों, हिमखंडों, नदियों और बड़े जलाशयों में अकृत जल भंडार है। मगर मानव के लिए उपयोगी जीवनदायी जल और बढ़ती आबादी के लिए जल की उपलब्धता का बिगड़ता अनुपात चिंता का बड़ा कारण बना हुआ है। बढ़ते तापमान के कारण हिमखंडों के पिघलने और अवर्षा के चलते जल स्रोतों के सूखने का सिलसिला जारी है। वर्तमान में जल की खपत कृषि, उद्योग, विद्युत और पेयजल के रूप में सर्वाधिक हो रही है। हालांकि पेयजल की खपत मात्र आठ फीसद है, जिसका मुख्य स्रोत नदियां और भू-जल हैं। उद्योगीकरण, शहरीकरण और बढ़ती आबादी के दबाव के चलते एक ओर नदियां सिकुड़ रही हैं, वहीं औद्योगिक और घरेलू कचरा बहाने का क्रम जारी रहने से गंगा और यमुना जैसी पवित्र नदियां इतनी प्रदूषित हो गई हैं कि यमुना नदी को तो एक पर्यावरण संस्था ने मरी हुई नदी तक घोषित कर दिया है। इसलिए नदी जोड़ परियोजना से भी अगर नदियों और मौसम को हानि होती है, तो बड़ा संकट देश की जनता को भुगतना होगा।

करीब 120 अरब डालर खर्च की प्रस्तावित नदी जोड़ परियोजना को दो हिस्सों में बांटकर पूरा किया जाएगा। एक, प्रायद्वीप स्थित नदियों को जोड़ना और दूसरे, हिमालय से निकली नदियों को जोड़ना। प्रायद्वीप भाग में सोलह नदियां हैं, जिन्हें दक्षिण जल क्षेत्र बनाकर जोड़ा जाना है। इसमें महानदी, गोदावरी, पेन्नार, कृष्णा, पार, तापी, नर्मदा, दमनगंगा, पिंजाल और कावेरी को

जोड़ा जाएगा। पश्चिम के तटीय हिस्से में बहने वाली नदियों को पूर्व की ओर मोड़ा जाएगा। इस तट से जुड़ी तापी नदी के दक्षिण भाग को मुंबई के उत्तरी भाग की नदियों से जोड़ा जाना प्रस्तावित है। केरल और कर्नाटक की पश्चिम की ओर बहने वाली नदियों की जलधारा पूर्व दिशा में मोड़ी जाएगी। यमुना और दक्षिण की सहायक नदियों को भी आपस में जोड़ा जाना है। हिमालय क्षेत्र की नदियों के अतिरिक्त जल को संग्रह करने की दृष्टि से भारत और नेपाल में गंगा, यमुना, ब्रह्मपुत्र तथा इनकी सहायक नदियों पर विशाल जलाशय बनाने का प्रस्ताव है, ताकि वर्षाजल इकट्ठा हो और उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और असम को भयंकर बाढ़ से निजात मिल सके। इन जलाशयों से बिजली भी उत्पादित की जाएगी। इसी क्षेत्र में कोसी, घाघरा, मेघ, गंडक, साबरमती, शारदा, फरक्का, सुंदरवन, स्वर्णरेखा और दामोदर नदियों को गंगा, यमुना और महानदी से



जोड़ा जाएगा। करीब साढ़े तेरह हजार किमी लंबी ये नदियां भारत के संपूर्ण मैदानी क्षेत्रों में अठखेलियां करती हुई मनुष्य और जीव-जगत के लिए प्रकृति का अनूठा और बहुमूल्य वरदान बनी हुई हैं। इन नदियों में प्रति व्यक्ति 690 घनमीटर जल है। कृषि योग्य कुल 1411 लाख हेक्टेयर में से 546 लाख हेक्टेयर भूमि इन्हीं नदियों की वदीलत प्रति वर्ष सिंचित की जाती है।

दावा किया जा रहा है कि बाढ़ और सूखे से परेशान देश में नदियों के संगम की केन-बेतवा जोड़ परियोजना मूर्त रूप ले लेती है, तो भविष्य में साठ अन्य नदियों के मिलने का रास्ता खुल जाएगा। दरअसल, बढ़ते वैश्विक तापमान, जलवायु परिवर्तन, अलनीनो और बदलते वर्षा चक्र के चलते जरूरी हो

गया है कि नदियों के बाढ़ के पानी को इकट्ठा किया और फिर उसे सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में नहरों के जरिए भेजा जाए। ऐसा संभव हो जाता है तो पेयजल की समस्या का निदान तो होगा ही, सिंचाई के लिए भी किसानों को पर्याप्त जल मिलने लगेगा। हालांकि पर्यावरणविद इस परियोजना का यह कह कर विरोध कर रहे हैं कि नदियों को जोड़ने से इनकी अविरलता खत्म होगी। नदियों के विलुप्त होने का संकट बढ़ जाएगा।

अगर केन-बेतवा नदी जोड़ परियोजना में आ रहे संकटों की बात करें तो इनसे पार पाना आसान नहीं है। वन्य जीव समिति बड़ी बाधा के रूप में पेश आ रही है। यह आशंका भी जताई जा रही है कि परियोजना पर क्रियान्वयन होता है, तो नहरों और बांधों के लिए जिस उपजाऊ भूमि का अधिग्रहण किया जाएगा, वह नष्ट हो जाएगी। इस भूमि पर फिलहाल जौ, बाजरा, दलहन, तिलहन, गेहूँ, मूंगफली, चना जैसी फसलें पैदा होती हैं। इन फसलों में ज्यादा पानी की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती। इन नदियों के जुड़ने से इस पूरे इलाके में धान और गन्ने की फसलें पैदा करने की उम्मीद बढ़ जाएगी। मगर हमारे यहां भूमि अधिग्रहण और वन भूमि की स्वीकृति में जो अड़चन आती हैं, उनके चलते परियोजना बीस-पच्चीस साल में भी पूरी हो जाए तो यह बड़ी उपलब्धि होगी।

दोनों प्रदेशों की सरकारें दावा कर रही हैं कि अगर ये नदियां परस्पर जुड़ जाती हैं, तो मध्यप्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश के सूखाग्रस्त बुंदेलखंड क्षेत्र में रहने वाली सत्तर लाख आबादी खुशहाल हो जाएगी। यही नहीं, नदियों को जोड़ने का यह महाप्रयोग सफल हो जाता है तो अन्य साठ नदियों को जोड़ने का सिलसिला भी शुरू हो सकता है। नदी जोड़ कार्यक्रम सरकार की महत्वाकांक्षी योजना है।

इस परियोजना के तहत उत्तर प्रदेश में आने वाली पर्यावरण संबंधी बाधाओं को दूर कर लिया गया है। मध्यप्रदेश में जरूर अब भी पन्ना राष्ट्रीय उद्यान बाधा बना हुआ है और जरूरी नहीं कि जल्दी यहां से मंजूरी मिल जाए। वन्य जीव समिति इस परियोजना को इसलिए मंजूरी नहीं दे रही है, क्योंकि पन्ना राष्ट्रीय उद्यान बाघों के प्रजनन, आहार और आवास का अहम वनखंड है। इसमें करीब चार दर्जन बाघ बताए जाते हैं। अन्य प्रजातियों के प्राणी भी बड़ी संख्या में हैं। हालांकि मध्यप्रदेश और केंद्र में एक ही दल की सरकारें हैं, लिहाजा उम्मीद की जा सकती है कि ये बाधाएं जल्दी दूर हो जाएं। हीरा खनन क्षेत्र भी नई बाधा के रूप में आ सकता है।

Jansatta- 10- October-2023

तमिलनाडु विधानसभा में कर्नाटक से कावेरी का पानी मांगने का प्रस्ताव मंजूर

चेन्नई, 9 अक्टूबर (भाषा)।

तमिलनाडु विधानसभा ने सोमवार को एक प्रस्ताव पारित किया, जिसमें केंद्र से आग्रह किया गया कि वह कर्नाटक को उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्देशों के अनुसार राज्य के लिए कावेरी नदी से पानी छोड़ने का निर्देश दे। भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) विधायकों के सदन से बहिर्गमन करने के बाद विधानसभा अध्यक्ष एम. अप्पावु ने सर्वसम्मति से प्रस्ताव के पारित होने की घोषणा की।

मुख्यमंत्री एम. के. स्टालिन ने प्रस्ताव पेश किया और कहा कि कर्नाटक ने 'कृत्रिम संकट' पैदा किया है और उसने शीर्ष अदालत के निर्देश के अनुसार नदी से पानी नहीं छोड़ा है। विपक्ष के नेता एडाप्पडी के. पलानीस्वामी और स्टालिन के नेतृत्व वाले सत्तापक्ष के बीच जबरदस्त बहस के बाद प्रस्ताव पारित किया गया। अखिल भारतीय अन्ना द्रमुक मुनेत्र कषगम (एआईएडीएमके) ने हालांकि प्रस्ताव का समर्थन किया।

पलानीस्वामी ने अंतरराज्यीय विवाद पर अन्नाद्रमुक के शासन के दौरान की गई विभिन्न पहलों को याद किया और कहा कि मामले को लेकर केंद्र पर पर्याप्त दबाव बनाना चाहिए। उन्होंने कुछ पहले की उन घटनाओं का जिक्र किया कि कैसे उनकी पार्टी ने इस मुद्दे को लेकर कई दिनों तक संसद की कार्यवाही बाधित की थी।