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Maha releases 1.5k cusec water to K'taka river

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Belagavi: Maharashtra government on Saturday released 1,500 cusecs of water into the Krishna river, following the request of the Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah. Last week, the Karnataka CM had written a letter to his Maharashtra counterpart Eknath Shinde, urging him to release 5tmc ft water, citing the drinking water problem in many districts in Krishna basin.

Due to the delayed monsoon, drinking water issue has turned into a major problem in Belagavi district. The water level in the reservoirs is coming down, which is a cause of worry for people. Water level in the rivers, lakes and wells is also constantly depleting and reaching dead storage level. It is predicted that there is a possibility of shortage of drinking water for millions of people and livestock. Taking this into consideration, Siddaramaiah had written to Shinde on May 31, to release water from the Koyna and Ujjani reservoirs into the Krishna and Bhima rivers.

According to a press release, the water was released from Rajapur barrage into the Krishna river. The Maharashtra government's action is in view of the problem of drinking water for people and animals. This water is not meant for agriculture as of now.

Deccan Herald- 12- June-2023

Waterbody census: A good start but gaps galore

Tanks, lakes, and wetlands in cities need to be classified as 'in use' and developed as biodiversity hotspots

PRIYANKA JAMWAL

The first census report on India's surface water bodies is a significant step forward. It provides valuable data that helps us understand the potential of these water bodies in addressing water scarcity and sustainability issues across the country. The report also enables the government and local bodies to evaluate their current state and identify potential threats to their integrity.

The integrity of a surface water body refers to its overall health, quality, and ecological functioning. It is characterised by clean water, minimal pollution, and a thriving community of native plants and animals. However, it is important to note that the definition of "clean water" depends on the specific use of the water body. For example, water suitable for irrigation may not be suitable for bathing.

Out of the total enumerated water bodies, ponds make up 59.5%, tanks 15.7%, reservoirs 12.1%, and the remaining 12.7% consists of water conservation schemes, check dams, percolation tanks, lakes, and other water bodies. The majority of these water bodies are used for pisciculture, followed by irrigation and groundwater recharge. Maintaining water quality is crucial to sustaining the designated use value of these water bodies. Additionally, it is important to recognise that ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation are positive outcomes of water infrastructure in the landscape.

The "existing use" of a water body refers to the current uses based on the water quality status. It describes how the water body should be used at a given point in time, such as for drinking water supply, bathing, fisheries, irrigation or navigation. On the other hand, "designated use" refers to the specific uses assigned or designated to a water body based on its intended purpose. It represents the desired use of the water body as defined by regulatory agencies in consultation with stakeholders. For example, the current water quality status of a lake can support irrigation use but stakeholders may intend to use it for bathing. In this case, "irrigation" is the existing use, and "bathing" is the intended use. Stakeholders determine the intended use based on historical use or current needs.

The census reports information on the existing use of water bodies, listing six categories. However, it does not include data on water quality status, posing serious prob-

lems with the prioritisation of restoration efforts. For instance, contaminated water bodies receiving industrial effluents may be categorised as "in use" as farmers use the water for irrigation. This "in use" status will deprive the water body of the funds required for restoration. This means that farmers and stakeholders will continue using contaminated water for irrigation and fisheries, posing risks to human and environmental health. Numerous tanks, urban river stretches, and peri-urban lakes, filled with domestic and industrial wastewater are "in use" for irrigation and fisheries posing significant risks to human and environmental health.

On the other hand, most man-made lakes and wetlands in urban areas have lost their use as irrigation tanks and fall under the "not in use" category. However, these tanks, wetlands, and lakes act as biodiversity hotspots, providing ecosystem services and biodiversity benefits to local stakeholders. They have tremendous potential in city planning and can be developed as part of the blue-green infrastructure, bringing nature back to the cities. Failing to recognise biodiversity and ecosystem services as one of the "in use" functions raises questions regarding the restoration of such water bodies.

To make the census report more useful and impactful, it is recommended to include information on both the "existing use" and "designated use" of water bodies. The report should provide data on the percentage of lakes that meet the water quality criteria for the existing use and the percentage of lakes that meet designated best use criteria. Such information would help prioritise the restoration of water bodies that are currently "in use" but pose significant risks to human and environmental health. Additionally, integrating the data collected on the status of water sources under the Jal Jeevan Mission into the census report would further enhance its value.

In urban areas, most lakes are utilised as environmental amenities, supporting ecosystem services and providing biodiversity benefits. Adding this category to the list of uses is vital for the restoration of healthy ecosystems in urban areas. The Central Pollution Control Board's report on "indicative guidelines for restoration of surface water bodies" provides guidance on defining designated use and restoration goals for water bodies. However, it is important to note that the responsibility of setting the designated use should not rest solely on government authorities but should also consider the interests of citizens and other stakeholders.

(The writer is senior fellow, Centre for Environment and Development, ATREE)

Mint- 12- June-2023

Five states may miss tap water deadline

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NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal may not meet the Centre's tap water connection 'Har Ghar Jal' target by the 2024 calendar year deadline.

The coverage in these states is still below 50%. The lag is attributed to a late start, the pandemic, higher metal cost and weak fund arrangement capacity.

"All states are doing their best, but there are five to six states that are less than 50% and are expected to miss the target," a senior government official said. "Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are below 50%. Except Uttar Pradesh, all these states will go beyond December 2024."

"However, it is none of their fault," the official added. "It is such a big project. While our

national average was 16%, many of these states started with the initial level of 1-2%."

'Har Ghar Jal' coverage in Kerala till date remains 49.21%, followed by Chhattisgarh at 47.08%, Rajasthan at 39.41%, Jharkhand at 36.38% and West Bengal, the lowest on the dashboard, at 33.63%, as per the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission dashboard data.

"It is not possible to take on such a large project without adequate staff.

Recruitment in the government takes a long time. It is a complex thing," the official said. "Additionally, things got disrupted because of covid. We lost one- and-

a-half years to the covid pandemic."

"Then 6-8 months got wasted because of the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine causing skyrocketing prices of metals and pipes. All the contracts that were ongoing came to a halt because these became unviable for contractors," the official said.

The coverage in Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, UP, Jharkhand and West Bengal is still below 50%

Amar Ujala- 12- June-2023

बेकार नहीं है अपशिष्ट जल

लोग अक्सर सोचते हैं कि अपशिष्ट जल यानी खराब पानी किसी काम का नहीं होता, पर यह गंभीर बीमारियों की सूचना का बहुमूल्य स्रोत हो सकता है। अपशिष्ट जल अब रोगाणु रोधी प्रतिरोध (एएमआर) का पता लगाने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण जलस्रोत के रूप में सामने आ रहा है। एएमआर पूरी दुनिया में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य के लिए गंभीर खतरे के रूप में उभर रहा है। एएमआर सूक्ष्म जीवों, जैसे- बैक्टीरिया, वायरस और कुछ परजीवियों की वह क्षमता होती है, जो उन्हें जैव प्रतिरोधी, वायरस रोधी और मलेरिया रोधी जैसे सूक्ष्म जीवी रोधी को काम करने से रोकती है।

अगर एएमआर को रोका नहीं गया, तो वर्ष 2050 तक हर साल एक करोड़ लोगों की मौत इससे हो सकती है। उप-सहारा अफ्रीका में प्रति एक लाख में से 23.5 मौतें सांस कमजोर पड़ने, छाती संबंधी बीमारियों, रक्त प्रवाह कम होने और पेट में होने वाले संक्रमणों की वजह से होती हैं, जिनका कारण रोगाणु रोधी प्रतिरोधी जीव हैं। ये सूक्ष्म जीव हमारे चारों ओर हैं।

अपशिष्ट जल शोधन संयंत्रों में गंदा पानी कई स्रोतों से पहुंचता है। जैसे- अस्पतालों, घरों, उद्योगों और खेतों से। यह अपशिष्ट जल लोगों में एएमआर की मौजूदगी का पता लगाने के लिए पौधों को उपयोगी जरिया बनाता है। इस प्रकार अपशिष्ट जल की निगरानी करके वैज्ञानिक पानी में उन बैक्टीरिया का पता लगा सकते हैं, जो लोगों के लिए काफी नुकसानदायक साबित होते हैं। एएमआर का पता लगाने के लिए यह तरीका दुनिया भर में कामयाब हो रहा है। लेकिन अभी तक कई अफ्रीकी देशों ने इसे अपनाया नहीं है। इसके अलावा, ज्यादातर अध्ययनों में हमने पाया कि सिर्फ एक बार ही नमूने इकट्ठा किए गए और सिर्फ एक ही विधि अपनाई गई, जो ठोस नतीजों पर पहुंचने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है।

जहां अपशिष्ट जल शोधन संयंत्र नहीं हैं, वहां एएमआर की निगरानी संभव नहीं है। जाहिर है, ऐसे में लोगों पर बीमारियों का खतरा ज्यादा होगा। इसके लिए सरकारों को सबसे पहले सीवर लाइनें बिछाने पर निवेश करना होगा। स्वच्छता और स्वास्थ्य के लिए यह जरूरी और बड़ा कदम है। लोगों को लगता है कि अपशिष्ट जल बेकार है। लेकिन ऐसा है नहीं। यह एक ऐसा मूल्यवान संसाधन है, जो हमें संभावित रोगों के प्रकोप के बारे में चेता सकता है, खासतौर से ऐसी बीमारियों के बारे में, जो एएमआर सूक्ष्म जीवों से फैलती हैं। (साथ में अपसातु नदामा त्राओरे एवं नताशा पोत्तिर।)



अकेले लूथर किंग अबिया

अपशिष्ट जल की निगरानी करके वैज्ञानिक पानी में उन बैक्टीरिया का पता लगा सकते हैं, जो लोगों के लिए काफी नुकसानदायक साबित होते हैं।



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-द कन्वर्सेशन