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Sikkim lake warning system failed to sound a flood alert

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GANGTOK: An Advanced Warning System (AWS), installed at Lhonak Lake in north Sikkim less than a month before the glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) failed to send any alert before the lake burst triggering a flash flood in the River Teesta, a senior state government official said, but the state's evacuation drill ensured that casualties were kept to a minimum.

"Two AWS were installed at Lhonak Lake and Shako Cho Lake between September 9 and September 19 this year. Unfortunately, the system didn't send any early warning. Most probably it wasn't working when the incident took place," said VB Pathak, chief secretary of Sikkim. On the night of October 3, a GLOF at Lhonak triggered a flash flood that killed at least 92 people. Lhonak is one of the largest and fastest growing proglacial lakes in Sikkim and is among the 11 large glacial lakes monitored by the Central Water Commission. Officials said that an early warning about a possible GLOF could have given the authorities more time to evacuate people living in houses along the river.



On October 3, a GLOF at Lhonak triggered a flash flood.

Two teams, comprising 14 people each, were sent to the lakes in September to install the AWS. Swiss scientists were also present in the team which was a joint operation conceived by the National Disaster Management

Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with Sikkim state disaster management authority and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

"It was a pilot-project, which was supposed to generate data on the lakes based on which an Early Warning System (EWS) was to be developed. The data was to be monitored by the Swiss agency. Even though the one installed in Shako Cho was sending data, the one in Lhonak didn't generate any data," said a senior official in the state government.

"I have written to the chairman of Isro and director of North Eastern Space Application Centre in Shillong to keep a watch on Lhonak, Shako Chu and other glacial lakes in Sikkim. I have requested them to analyse satellite images and data and let us know if any immediate steps need to be taken. We are receiving regular updates from them," said Mathur.

The Times of India- 12- October-2023

Continue to release 3,000 cusecs water to TN, CWRC tells K'taka

TNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bengaluru: The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Wednesday directed Karnataka to ensure release of 3,000 cusecs of water from October 16 to 31.

According to a statement by CWRC, the committee, at its 88th meeting here, made decisions regarding water allocation and shortages pertaining to the ongoing Cauvery river water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

"After deliberation, Karnataka has been mandated to ensure the release of water from its reservoirs in such a

SUNDAY MEETING

► CWRC asks the Karnataka govt to ensure release of 3,000 cusecs to Tamil Nadu from October 16 to Oct 31 even as the state govt expresses its inability to release water

► TN urges K'taka to release 16,000 cusecs for the next 15 days; CWMA will examine the directive on Sunday before passing a final order

► Current cumulative inflow is between 8,000 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs; govt says the CWMA is yet to respond to its request of sending a team to study the distress in state

manner that the flow at Bili-gundlu is maintained at 3,000 cusecs. This directive is effective from 8am on October 16 and is to be upheld until October 31," the statement read.

In September, the regulatory body had asked Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs to TN daily from September 28 to October 15, rejecting the lower riparian state's demand of 12,500 cusecs, and it was upheld by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). The CWMA will examine the recommendation on Sunday (October 15) and pass the final order.

► 50% shortfall: Govt, P 3

State report indicated 50% shortfall in inflows to dams

► Continued from page 1

While the CWRC made its recommendation keeping the October quota to be released to the neighbouring state, the development has intensified politics over water as it comes in the wake of Karnataka filing review petition seeking before CWMA seeking reconsideration of its earlier order and TN assembly on Monday passing the resolution seeking the Centre's intervention solve the Cauvery dispute.

Karnataka, in its presentation, expressed inability to release water, except for contributions from the uncontrolled catchment. As per the statement, Karnataka presented a concerning report, indicating a

substantial 50% shortfall in cumulative inflows to its reservoirs up to October 10. This shortfall was attributed to extreme hydro-meteorological conditions, it added.

While Tamil Nadu, recognising the severity of the situation, made a formal request to Karnataka. They urged Karnataka to re-

CAUVERY DISPUTE

lease 16,000 cusecs of water for the next 15 days, the statement added.

In September, the committee ordered Karnataka to ensure release of 3,000 cusecs of Cauvery water at Biligundlu starting from September 28 till October 15.

Karnataka filed a review petition against the order both in the

Supreme Court and in Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). Karnataka government had cited a severe drought in parts of its state to refuse the supply of water to Tamil Nadu. Karnataka deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, on October 5, said cumulative inflows into the reservoirs in Karnataka's Cauvery basin are decreasing.

From the past couple of days, the cumulative inflow is between 8,000 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs. "We have protected the interest of our farmers. We had requested CWMA to send a team to study the distress, but they did not respond. I don't want to talk about it in public," said DK Shivakumar, who holds the water resources portfolio.

The Morning Standard- 12- October-2023

Cauvery: K'taka told give TN 3k cusecs for 15 days

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee on Wednesday directed Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days more, from October 16-31, despite objection from Karnataka government, which said the state is facing drought-like condition due to deficit monsoon. **P5**

K'taka told to release water to TN

Cauvery Water Regulation Committee orders 3,000 cusecs of water to TN till October 31

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Wednesday directed Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days more, from October 16 to 31, despite objection from Karnataka government which said the state is facing drought-like condition due to deficit monsoon in the Cauvery basin.

T D Sharma, member-secretary of CWRC, chaired the 88th meeting of the committee in which officials from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry took part. In its last meeting held on 26 September, the CWRC had directed Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water to TN for 15 days till October 15, 2023.

"In monsoon deficit year, based on availed data, we have to distribute water on pro rata basis," said Vineet Gupta, member, CWRC.

Tamil Nadu also raised the issue of getting shortfall quantity of water immediately and share of water from Karnata-



There was 50.89 pc shortfall in cumulative inflows into Karnataka's four reservoirs between June 1 and October 10. We have already declared 161 taluks as severely drought affected and 34 taluks as moderately drought affected — Karnataka government

ka as per distress formula. According to the calculation of CWRC, there is a shortfall of 16.248 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of cumulative flows to be realised at Biligundulu between June 1 and

October 10.

The committee said Karnataka will release the water shortfall due to TN once the storage position in reservoirs improves.

Karnataka government

made a submission that there was 50.89 per cent shortfall in cumulative inflows into Karnataka's four reservoirs between June 1 and October 10, 2023. "We have already declared 161 taluks as severely drought affected and 34 taluks as moderately drought affected", Karnataka said.

Keeping in view the meteorological conditions in the Cauvery basin, storage positions, inflows and outflows of eight designated reservoirs, sown areas of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and availability of drinking water for Karnataka, the committee directed the Karnataka to ensure release from its reservoirs, so that 3,000 cusecs of water can be realised at Biligundulu by Tamil Nadu till October 31, 2023.

The Central Water Commission has set up a water measuring station at Biligundulu on the interstate border.

The CWRC also directed Tamil Nadu to release 168 cusecs of water for Karaikal region of Puducherry.

The Economic Times- 12- October-2023

CWRC asks K'taka to Ensure Release of 3,000 Cusecs



BENGALURU:

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee

has asked Karnataka to ensure release of 3,000 cusecs of water starting October 16 till October 31. "After deliberation, the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee reached a decision. Karnataka has been mandated to ensure the release of water from its reservoirs in such a manner that the flow at Biligundlu is maintained at 3,000 cusecs. This directive is effective from 8 am on October 16, 2023, and is to be upheld until October 31, 2023," the statement read. – OPB