

The Hindu- 16- September-2023

# Jal Jeevan Mission remains a pipe dream

In Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh, which has seen a dramatic spike in official tap water connections under the Central scheme, residents say they only have pipes, not taps, and there is often no actual supply of water flowing through them; officials say the shortcomings will be rectified by Nov.

**Jacob Koshy**  
MAHOBHA

On Independence Day, 2019, the water-starved Mahoba district in south-eastern Uttar Pradesh reported only 1,612 households with tap connections. Four years later, 1,29,209 households – or about 98% of all rural homes in the district – have water connections, according to the public dashboard of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the Centre's ₹3.6 lakh crore scheme that aims to provide piped water to every village home by 2024.

No other district in India has reported such a dramatic increase in tap connections. However, a visit to some of the villages here suggests that a household certified as "connected" in JJM parlance does not always mean one with an actual water supply.

## Claim versus reality

Even in villages officially certified as having 100% coverage of functional household tap connections (FHTC), many households

do not actually have taps. Some do have taps, but are not getting any water through them; even in the best case scenario, such households get no more than two hours of water.

According to the scheme's definitions, an FHTC household is one where at least 55 litres of potable water per person a day is made available to every household.

A senior official in the district administration told *The Hindu* that in 100 out of the 398 villages in the district, eligible household tap connections had been fully connected with running water supply. However, the JJM's official dashboard reports that all 385 villages have a "100% household tap connection".

All of these households are included in Uttar Pradesh's official claim of 1.6 crore households which have functional tap connections, up from 5.1 lakh households in 2019, conveying the impression that they all have access to tap water. The State has reported a dramatic surge of such tap connections in



**Wide gap:** A resident filling water from a well at Luhari village in Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

the past two years; they make up about 6% of the 13 crore rural households in the country connected to tap water.

Charkhari (one of four blocks in the district) has 48 villages with 24,037 households, each of which has been marked as having a tap connection. Residents of Asthaun, a village with 420 households, gripe that only half the households have taps and no water actually flows through them. Noting that half the village is in a low-lying area, resident Sunil Tiwari says that without a submersible pump, which

"only the rich could afford", water simply did not make it to most houses. The village is still reliant on groundwater from hand-pumps for domestic drinking purposes.

## Supply challenges

In Luhari village, whose 295 houses have all been marked as having 'tap connections', village *pradhann* (head) Bhan Singh told *The Hindu* that most of the houses have pipes, while the metal taps are present in a "few houses". Here, too, the challenge is water supply. His own house relies on groundwater drawn

from a borewell.

In the Kunata village of the adjoining Panwari block as well, all 185 households have been marked as having a household tap connection. However, conversations with villagers – and visits to some of their residences – suggest that many houses do not even have the pipes, let alone the taps, that have been promised as part of the Har Ghar Jal scheme. Many of the access roads into the village have been cleaved to install the central pipeline that is expected to bring in water from the nearest water reservoir, but the pipeline itself is still missing.

Women here continue to walk to the several hand-pumps or to the village well to draw water. Water-scarce Mahoba has historically relied on lakes and ponds for irrigation, but the region's rocky sub-surface means that perennial sources of groundwater are few. The Har Ghar Jal mission's overarching aim is to wean villagers off their dependence on groundwater and handpumps, and

instead provide piped water sourced from dams and rivers. Given that such water is often contaminated, the Mahoba administration has commissioned five large water treatment plants that will draw in water from some of the large reservoirs in the district, treat them, and then supply them as piped water to households. "These treatment plants are in various stages of commissioning and the water is frequently tested for purity," said Zubair Baig, Additional District Magistrate, Mahoba. "If the water quality doesn't meet standards, supply is stopped for cleaning."

He said that a major challenge of the mission was commissioning pipes that ran for hundreds of kilometres over undulating terrain, given that a crack or leak can cause disruptions in supply. He added that the State had set itself a deadline of ironing out all the creases and having "full water supply" by 2024; in Mahoba itself, the deadline is November this year.

Mint- 16- September-2023

# Paddy lifts kharif acreage above 2022 level; pulses, oilseeds fall

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**K**harif sowing exceeded the levels of last year led by a surge in paddy while pulses and oilseeds fell, at a time the erratic south-west monsoon has cast a shadow over this year's sowing and harvest.

According to data released by the agriculture ministry on Friday, total kharif planting until 15 September was up 3.6% from the previous year to touch 109.5 million hectares (mh).

Paddy cultivation jumped 10.8% from last year to 40.9 mh, while pulses fell 6.6% to 12.1 mh, including a 2.6% dip in tur (pigeon pea or arhar) and a 0.7% decrease in urad (black



Erratic rain has cast a shadow over this year's sowing. HT

gram) to 4.3 mh and 3.2 mh, respectively.

Area under oilseed cultivation fell as well, down by 2.1% to 19.2 mh.

While the sowing of groundnut declined by 1.5% to 4.3 mh, sunflower crop plantations fell by 1.3% to 700,000

hectares.

However, farmers have accelerated the sowing of soybean, a major kharif crop, covering 12.6 mh, up 1.3% from last year.

Sowing of coarse cereals was up 1.6%. Maize sowing rose 2.5% to 8.4 mh, while bajra increased slightly to 7.1 mh. However, sowing of jowar and ragi fell 1.5% to 1.4 mh and 0.5% to 885,000 hectares, respectively.

Similarly, cotton crop plantation fell 4.1% to 12.3 mh. In the case of sugarcane, sowing went up 4.3% to nearly 6 mh.

Though rainfall country-wide improved in the past week from August, the driest monsoon month in 122 years,

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## Paddy lifts kharif acreage this year

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it still lags 9% at 723.2 mm till 15 September since 1 June.

The June-September monsoon season drives a big chunk of India's \$3 trillion economy, bringing nearly 75% of the country's annual rains, crucial for agriculture and for replenishing reservoirs and aquifers and meeting power demand. Over half of India's arable land is rain-fed, and agriculture is among the biggest employment generators.

Good rain over the past week has improved levels in major reservoirs, now at 23% below the previous year's levels and 12% lower than the 10-year average.

As of Thursday, the gap has reduced by 3% from the past week.

In the week ended

Wednesday, India recorded a precipitation of 49.5 mm, 16% above the long-period average. Higher water levels are critical for the agriculture sector, with farmers relying significantly on reservoirs for irrigation.

Data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) showed that water level in 150 reservoirs is currently at 117.699 billion cubic metres (bcm), or 66% of their overall capacity. Although there has been a slight uptick since last week, it pales in comparison with the same period last year and the 10-year average, when storage was at 153.086 bcm and 133.177 bcm, respectively.

"The storage in the 150 reservoirs is presently at 77% of the same period's storage last year and 88% of the ten-year average," the CWC reported.



Deccan Herald- 16- September-2023

# Tur belt farmers brace for heavy losses as erratic rains threaten crops

## Drinking water crisis in districts; cattle affected

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State of  
**Drought**

The spatio-temporal variation of rainfall has wreaked havoc for the farmers of the tur belt. Farmers of Kalyana Karnataka are grappling with crop wilting due to a below par monsoon in June and August. Most regions are still experiencing drought despite brief spells of rain.

Farmers have sowed tur crops on 5.83 lakh hectares out of the total 8.56 lakh hectares of farmland in Kalaburagi district. Kalaburagi experienced a few days of incessant showers in July. But the district had seen an overall 82% deficit in rainfall in August. This has resulted in a reduced moisture content in the black cotton soil of the region, even manifesting in wide fissures.

Even though the rain last week has revived several crops

like maize, sugarcane and sunflower, farmers claim that yield and the quality of crops may not meet the mark as erratic rainfall has had an impact on the roots of the plants.

"I have grown tur crop on five acres and it was on the verge of drying up. Now heavy showers have damaged the standing crop. I may hardly get a yield of 2 quintals per acre against the expected five quintals. I am struggling to get back the Rs 25,000, I had invested in sowing the crop," laments Mangalamurthy, a farmer from Gadikeshwar village in Chincholi taluk.

Similarly, in Bidar, Yadgir and Raichur districts, jowar, cereals and pulse crops are wilting due to a below-normal



A farmer clearing the withered maize crop in Alavandi village of Koppal taluk. DH PHOTO

rainfall since June.

The irrigation consultative committee has already commenced the release of water on a rota basis until November 11 from the Narayanpur reservoir. The reservoir had received good inflow from Maharashtra dams.

Farmers on the tail-end have expressed resentment over the water not reaching them. The dam has a total command area of 6 lakh hectares.

Ballari, Koppal and Vijayanagar districts are facing drinking water problems, affecting even cattle. Almost 75% of the crops in these districts have dried up due to the

monsoon failure.

"I have grown chilly, tur and maize on five acres. I have appealed to the tahsildar to supply fodder as our haystack stock has diminished due to the failure of crops. But, the officials claimed that they will take measures in this regard only if the state government announces our taluk as drought-hit," said Shivu Nandihal, the farmer of Jageer Nandihal village in Lingasur taluk of Raichur district. The taluk was declared drought-hit on Thursday.

The government has declared 38 of the 48 taluks as drought-hit in the seven districts of Kalyana

Karnataka region.

Tungabhadra reservoir assistant executive engineer Basappa Jankar said that the dam has about 71.4 tmcft of water at present, against the full capacity of 105.788 tmcft.

He explained that a total of 30 tmcft of water has been released to irrigation canals from August 3. There would be a shortfall of at least 25 tmcft in regular water supply for the following two months to save the paddy crop grown in four districts. He claimed that water can be supplied only to 5.5 lakh hectares though the dam has a command area of 9.26 lakh hectares. "This is due to violation of crop patterns by farmers," he said.

"The government has declared all 11 taluks in Kalaburagi district as drought-hit following 82% deficit rainfall in August. Moreover, the farmers will get merely 25-30% yield in tur and red gram crops. We will submit a preliminary report about crop damage to the government. The final report will be given after assessment of the loss suffered by the farmers and it will take some time," Kalaburagi agriculture department joint director Samad Patel said.

Rashtriya Sahara- 16- September-2023



कावेरी जल विवाद

डॉ. रमेश ठाकुर

# जल्द तलाशना होगा समाधान

सीमाएं आपस में मिलती हैं। सूखे के कारण तमिलनाडु पानी की कमी से जूझ रहा है। तभी उन्होंने इस बाबत कावेरी जल विनियमन समिति से सिफारिश की कि कर्नाटक उन्हें प्रतिदिन की जरूरत के हिसाब से 24 क्यूसेक पानी दे। उनकी अर्जी सुनने के बाद कावेरी जल विनियमन समिति ने कर्नाटक सरकार को आदेशित किया कि पानी मुहैया कराए, लेकिन कर्नाटक की हुकूमत ने पानी देने से साफ इनकार कर दिया। इनकार करने का तर्क भी सरकार ने दिया, कहा उनके पास खुद पर्याप्त पानी नहीं है। उनका प्रदेश भी कम बारिश के चलते सूखे की मार झेल रहा है। इसके बाद दोनों



राज्यों में रार और बढ़ गई। कर्नाटक ने इस मसले को लेकर दिल्ली में अपने शीर्ष नेताओं को अवगत कराकर, हस्तक्षेप की मांग की है। कर्नाटक सरकार की एक टीम दिल्ली पहुंची हुई है, जो अपने नेताओं और कानूनी विशेषज्ञों से रायशुमारी कर रही है। अंग्रेजी हुकूमत के समय यानी 19वीं शताब्दी में मद्रास प्रेसीडेंसी और मैसूर राज के बीच सन 1924 में समझौता हुआ था। तब, इस समझौते में केरल और पुडुचेरी भी शामिल थे। आजादी के करीब दो-तीन दशकों तक तो सबकुछ ठीक-ठाक रहा, लेकिन जैसे से पर्यावरण में बदलाव हुआ। बारिश कम होने लगी और पानी की मांग बढ़ती गई। उसके साथ ही ये विवाद भी गहराता

गया। मामला सर्वोच्च अदालत भी पहुंचा, लेकिन मसले का हल नहीं निकला। इससे पहले भी तमिलनाडु सरकार दो मर्तबा कर्नाटक के जलाशयों से प्रतिदिन 24,000 क्यूसेक पानी छोड़ने की मांग को लेकर शीर्ष अदालत का दरवाजा खटखटा चुकी है। हर बार कर्नाटक सरकार ने तमिलनाडु की याचिका का जमकर विरोध किया। बकायदा हलफनामा पेश कर कहा कि उनके यहां भी पानी की बहुत कमी है।

इस विवाद के निस्तारण के लिए केंद्र सरकार को आगे आना होगा। उन्हें कोई ऐसी जल नीति बनानी होगी जिससे विवाद का हल निकल सके। वरना ये झगड़ा कभी बड़ा रूप धारण कर सकता है। हालांकि केंद्र ने तमिलनाडु, केरल, कर्नाटक और पुडुचेरी के बीच उनकी जल-बंटवारे क्षमताओं के संबंध में विवादों पर मध्यस्थता करने के लिए बीते 2 जून, 1990 को कावेरी जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण का गठन किया था, लेकिन वह विवाद निपटाने में असफल रही। केंद्र को इसके आगे सोचना होगा। ये ऐसा विवाद बन गया है जो चुनावों में राजनीतिक दल अपने मेनिफेस्टो में भी अंकित करने लगे हैं। कहते हैं कि इस बार कावेरी जल का पानी लेकर रहेंगे, वही दूसरी ओर ये कहा जाता है कि कावेरी नदी का जल किसी सूत में नहीं देंगे। ऐसे वादे चुनावों में होना अब आम हो गया है। कायदे से देखें तो कावेरी जल दोनों राज्यों के लोगों के लिए सिंचाई और पीने के पानी की जरूरतों को पूरा करने सहित आजीविका का प्रमुख स्रोत है।

इसलिए कोई भी इस विवाद से अपना हाथ पीछे नहीं खींचना चाहता। वहीं डीएमके नेताओं का कहना है कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर किसी भी नदी, निचले राज्य या क्षेत्रों को पानी देने से इनकार नहीं कर सकते। पर उनका ये तर्क कोई सुनने को राजी नहीं है। कर्नाटक प्रदेश पिछले कुछ महीनों में सूखे का सामना कर रहा है। इसलिए मुश्किल लगता है कि उनकी सरकार 'कावेरी जल विनियमन समिति' की सिफारिश माने। न मानने का एक कारण ये भी है कि चुनाव में कांग्रेस ने प्रदेश की जनता भरपूर पानी देने का वादा किया था। इस लिहाज से वह तमिलों को शायद ही पानी दें।

भविष्य में पानी को लेकर समूचे हिंदुस्तान में किस तरह के हालात उत्पन्न होने वाले हैं, उसकी एक ताजा तस्वीर अभी पानी के झगड़े को लेकर तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक के मध्य उभरी हुई है। वो ऐसी तस्वीर है, जो निश्चित रूप से विकसित भारत के लिए अच्छी नहीं है। पानी का ये झगड़ा हमें चेताता है कि अब भी समय है पानी की गंभीरता को समझें और सतर्क हो जाएं। दो राज्यों के मध्य कावेरी जल विवाद दशकों से नासूर बना हुआ है। उस नासूर का जिन एक दफे फिर बोलत से बाहर निकल आया है।

दरअसल, 'कावेरी जल विनियमन समिति' ने कर्नाटक सरकार को जब से तमिलनाडु को रोजाना पांच हजार क्यूसेक पानी देने को कहा है। तभी से दोनों राज्यों में तगड़ा विवाद छिड़ गया है। दोनों तरफ जमकर राजनीतिक तू-तू, मैं-मैं हो रही है। कर्नाटक अपने रुख पर अडिग है। साफ कह दिया है कि हम पानी नहीं छोड़ेंगे। सभी जानते हैं कि कावेरी एक अंतरराज्यीय नदी है जो कर्नाटक-तमिलनाडु के समीप से बहती है। नदी का एक भाग केरल राज्य से टच करता है। पड़ोसी राज्य पूरी तरह से उसी के जल पर निर्भर हैं। चाहे खेतों की सिंचाई हो, या व्यक्तिगत इस्तेमाल में प्रयोग करना हो। सभी की पूर्ति इसी नदी के पानी से होती है। ये नदी महासागर में मिलने से पहले कराइकाल से होकर गुजरती है जो पांडिचेरी का हिस्सा है, इसलिए इस नदी के जल बंटवारे को लेकर हमेशा बवाल रहता है। बीते कुछ दशकों से नदी का पानी भी कम हुआ है। कम होने का सिलसिला लगातार जारी भी है। बहरहाल, पानी का विवाद तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक के बीच है, क्योंकि दोनों राज्यों की