The Tribune - 19- January-2024

Damaged last year, Larji dam unit resumes power generation

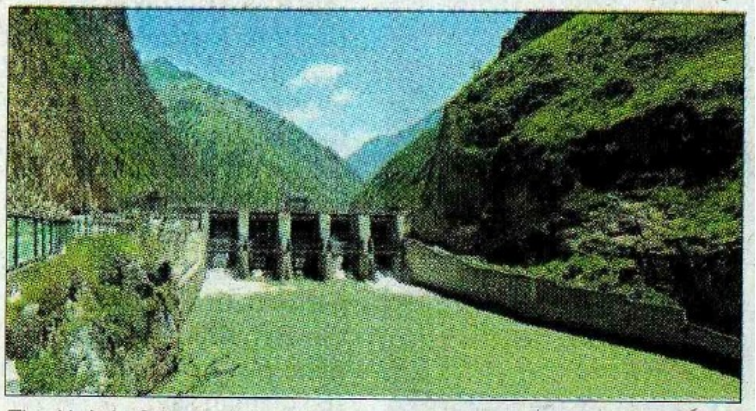
HPSEB to make 2 other units operational by May

SHIMLA, JANUARY 18

One unit of the 126 MW Larji hydropower project in Mandi district has again started electricity generation. The project was extensively damaged during the monsoon on July 9 last year.

The Unit-I of the project was restored on January 15 and it would produce around six to eight lakh units of energy per day, thus generating an estimated revenue of Rs 50 lakh to Rs 72 lakh for the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB). Three units of the Larji hydroelectric project were damaged due to flashfloods in July last year. However, on January 15, the first unit started operating again.

The HPSEB has set May 2024 as target to make the unit II and III operational, which will involve the replacement of damaged components.



The Unit-I of the Larji hydropower project in Mandi district started functioning on January 15. FILE PHOTO

Once all its units are completely restored, the Larji project is poised to generate about 620 million units per year and an annual revenue of about Rs 310 crore. This will be done through power purchase agreements based on an average energy purchase rate of Rs 5 per unit.

The Larji hydroelectric project, with a total capacity of 126 MW, had been operational since 2006-07 before it was submerged on July 9, 2023. Prior to this, the project had generated 104.30 giga units, surpassing its yearly generation target. — TNS

The Morning Standard - 19- January-2024

K'taka to release 2.5 TMC water in Feb

It is for whole of Feb to maintain flow; Biligundlu recording only 800 cusecs now

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Thursday directed the Karnataka government to ensure release of 2.5 tmcft, on an average daily flow of 1,000 cusecs, of water to maintain environmental flow in the Cauvery river in February.

The committee issued the direction after observing around 800 cusecs of daily water flow at the interstate gauging station in Biligundlu, which was below the required flow.

The committee had already directed the Karnataka government, as per the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT), to release 2.76 tmcft of water for the rest of January, on an average daily flow of 1,030 cusecs to be recorded in Biligundlu.

The CWRC meeting presided over by its chairman Vineet Gupta took this decision based on the storage position, inflows and outflows at the eight designated reservoirs and hydrometeorological condition in the Cauvery basin. The next meeting will be held on February 12.

"We observed an average daily flow of around 800 cusecs or sometimes up to 1,500 cusecs at Biligundlu," Gupta told TNIE.

"After our observation, the committee directed Karnataka to ensure environmental flow in Biligundlu by ensuring release of 1,000 cusecs of water per day for the whole of February. For this, Karnataka need not release water from its major dams such as KRS and Kabini," he said.On the demand of Tamil Nadu that Karnataka release the backlog of water, the committee made it clear that there is no need for it as the northeast monsoon has reduced the water stress on TN. Karnataka is facing a drought-like situation in its Cauvery basin. The basin is dependent on the southwest monsoon (June-October), which was weak. Whereas the Mettur reservoir in TN had the benefit of the northeast monsoon (October-December).

However, Karnataka argued that water available in its four reservoirs is required to meet drinking and industrial needs up to July 2024 and irrigate the summer crops. Also, there will be evaporation losses.

"After January 31, there is no need for more water for irrigation as harvesting of crops would start in February in TN. But Karnataka has to maintain the environmental flow of the river," Gupta said.

Drought-like situation

On the demand of Tamil Nadu that Karnataka release the backlog of water, the committee made it clear that there is no need for it as the northeast monsoon has reduced the water stress on TN. Karnataka is facing a drought-like situation in its Cauvery basin. The basin is dependent on the southwest monsoon (June-October), which was weak, whereas the Mettur reservoir in TN had the benefit of the northeast monsoon.

The Hindu Business line - 19- January-2024

Storage in a third of reservoirs below 40% of capacity

ALARMING DIP. Water level drops for the 15th consecutive week as situation in northern, southern regions causes concern

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

The storage level in the major 150 Indian reservoirs dropped for the 15th week in a row with over a third of them having water below 40 per cent of their capacity this week.

The situation in the northern and southern regions has become a cause for concern, while Bengal and Tripura joined the list of States where the storage is below normal.

The level in Kerala is normal, with the storage improving this week and overall, the level in 12 States is below normal.

According to the weekly bulletin on live storage status of 150 reservoirs issued by the Central Water Commission, the storage in the 150 reservoirs as of January 18 was 99.181 billion cubic metres (BCM) or 55 per cent of the 178.784 BCM capacity.

TURNING WORRISOME

Compared to the current situation, the storage was 82 per cent during the same period a year ago.

The average level of the past 10 years was 95 per cent, the CWC's weekly bulletin said.

The situation is worrisome as the country saw at least 45 per cent of the 713 districts from where data were received receiving deficient rainfall during the post-monsoon period.

From the start of 2024 till now, 77 per cent of the 711 districts, which provided data, received deficient, largely deficient or no rainfall.

Key rabi crops such as rice and pulses in South India, particularly Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, are likely to face problems.

In the North, though irrigation canals will help tide over the situation, lack of snow due to El Nino impact may pose problems post-March, particularly for horticulture crops, agriculture experts said.

CAUVERY DELTA

In the southern region, the storage in 22 of the 42 reservoirs is below 50 per cent of the capacity and two filled to capacity. The Thattihalla reservoir in Karnataka is empty, while Sholayar (Tamil Nadu), Tungabhadra, Nagarjuna Sagar, Kandaleru, Yeluru and Srisailam (all erstwhile Andhra) have a storage that is less than 50 per cent of the normal.

The level in Krishnaraja Sagara (Karnataka) was 33 per cent of the capacity and the Stanley reservoir (Mettur) in Tamil Nadu was filled to 69 per cent of its capacity — a situation seen as not too comfortable for rice-growing regions in the Cauvery delta.

Overall, the storage was 19.870 BCM, 37 per cent of total live storage capacity of the 42 reservoirs. Last week, the storage was 39 per cent of the capacity.

Of the 10 reservoirs in the northern region, the storage was 10.078 BCM or 51.3 per cent (54% last week) of the capacity. Four of these storages are filled to below 50 per cent of the capacity with the level in Punjab dropping to 37 per cent below normal.

MAHARASHTRA LEVEL

In the western region, the level in the 49 reservoirs was 24.862 BCM or 67 per cent (69 per cent) of capacity with 10 of them filled below 50 per cent of the full level.

The situation in Maharashtra improved a tad to 8 per cent below normal against 9 per cent a week ago.

The central region also saw its reservoirs' level drop to 64 per cent (66 per cent) of capacity to 30.895 BCM. Of the 26 reservoirs, 13 were filled below 50 per cent of the full level, while no reservoir had storage above 90 per cent.

SUMMER SOWING

The eastern region is the only one where the storage is better than last year and the average of the last 10 years.

The 23 reservoirs in the region were filled 66 per cent (68 per cent) of the capacity at 13.476 BCM.

Assam's storage was more than double the normal level, while Nagaland (16 per cent below normal) and Bihar (51 per cent below normal) were the drags.

With El Nino likely to turn neutral only during April-June and global agencies predicting that the climate will continue to be warm until March, the storage will likely drop further.

This, experts said, could put summer-sown crops at risk.

States with lower than normal storage

	%age departure from normal		
Punjab	-37	Maharashtra	-8
Odisha	-1	Uttar Pradesh	-26
West Bengal	-2	Chattisgarh	-19
Tripura	-1	Andhra Pradesh	-54
Nagaland	-16	Karnataka	-35
Bihar	-51	Tamil Nadu	-16

Source: Central Water Commission

Rajasthan Patrika - 19- January-2024

जीरा डिस्चार्ज... निकायों व उद्योगों को स्वयं करना होगा सिंचाई में उपयोग

इंदौर-उज्जैन में उपचारित पानी भी नदी-नालों में नहीं छोड़ सकेंगे

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क
patrika.com

- कान्ह व शिप्रा नदी में प्रदूषण का मामला
- कुंभ के पहले नदियों में बनाया जाना है शुद्ध
- सीएम ने बैठक में दिए थे निर्देशों पर अमल

भोपाल. इंदौर व उज्जैन नगरीय निकाय और इन जिलों में आने वाले उद्योग उपचारित पानी को भी नदी-नालों में नहीं छोड़ सकेंगे। नगरीय निकाय शहर से निकलने वाले गंदे पानी और उद्योग संचालक उपयोग किए गए पानी को नदी-नालों में छोड़ देते हैं। पानी छोड़ने वाले निकाय अधिकारी व उद्योग संचालक दावा करते हैं कि वे सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) व इफ्लुएंट ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (ईटीपी) से उपचारित करने के बाद ही पानी को छोड़ रहे हैं। तब भी कान्ह और शिप्रा में प्रदूषण का स्तर कम नहीं हो रहा है। कान्ह का पानी तो कई घाटों पर छूने भर से बीमार कर रहा तो शिप्रा की स्थिति भी ठीक नहीं है, क्योंकि कान्ह का पानी इसी में आकर मिलता है। माना जा रहा है कि निकाय और कई उद्योग उपचारित पानी के नाम पर गंदा व रसायन युक्त प्रदूषित पानी छोड़ रहे हैं। जिसके कारण प्रदूषण कम नहीं हो रहा है।

असल में उज्जैन कुंभी-2028 के पहले इन दोनों नदियों को सरकार स्वच्छ बनाना चाहती है। हर बार की तरह इसके लिए फिर से अधिकारियों का एक धड़ा नदियों को स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए हजारों करोड़ रुपए खर्च करने वाली योजनाओं को विकल्प के रूप में प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं जबकि मुख्यमंत्री स्वयं इसके पक्ष में नहीं है। वह स्वयं बार-बार नदियों में प्रदूषण कम करने को लेकर समीक्षाएं कर रहे हैं। वहीं पूर्व में दोनों ही नदियों को स्वच्छ बनाने के नाम पर इन्हीं अधिकारियों की बनाई योजनाओं पर हजारों करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए जा चुके हैं। अब मुख्यमंत्री का दो टूक कहना है कि योजना नहीं, प्रदूषण मुक्त नदियां चाहिए।

यह हो चुका

कान्ह नदी के प्रदूषित पानी को रोकने के लिए जगह-जगह बांध बनाए, ये फूट गए और पानी आगे बढ़ते हुए शिप्रा में मिलता रहा।

शिप्रा में प्रदूषण के एक मामले को एनजीटी भी सुन रही है। इस प्रदूषण की बड़ी वजह कान्ह नदी भी है।

शिप्रा के पानी को शुद्ध करने नर्मदा-शिप्रा लिंक परियोजना लाई जा चुकी है। जिसमें पाइप लाइन की मदद से नर्मदा का पानी शिप्रा में लाया गया।

अभी यह है स्थिति

कान्ह नदी में कबीट खेड़ी के पास घुलित ऑक्सीजन का स्तर ज्यादातर शून्य रहता है जबकि बायोकेमिकल ऑक्सीजन डिमांड का स्तर भी मानक में नहीं रहता। जबकि टोटल कॉलिफार्म का स्तर भी उच्च स्तर तक पहुंच जाता है। वहीं शिप्रा नदी में त्रिवेदी के पास ऑक्सीन का स्तर कम हो रहा है। यही हाल बायोकेमिकल ऑक्सीजन डिमांड की है। पानी में गंदगी मिलने के कारण इसका स्तर बढ़ता है।

इंदौर व उज्जैन को लेकर मुख्यमंत्री के निर्देश हैं कि नदी-नालों में जीरो डिस्चार्ज हो। उपचारित पानी निकाय व उद्योग स्वयं सिंचाई व अन्य कामों के लिए उपयोग करें। सभी को इससे अवगत करा दिया है। नर्मदा नदी का पानी सभी घाटों पर ए- श्रेणी में आ चुका है। बाकी की नदियों में प्रदूषण का स्तर भी कम हुआ है।

- चंद्रमोहन ठाकुर, सदस्य सचिव, मप्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

The Tribune - 19- January-2024

Driest Jan since 1901 triggers fear of water scarcity in state

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JANUARY 18

Even as Himachal continues to reel under the adverse impact of the prolonged dry spell, this January has created a record of being the driest so far with lowest precipitation since 1901.

The Shimla Meteorological Centre today said that this January (till 18th) had broken the previous record of the driest month since 1901 as the lowest precipitation had been witnessed so far in more than a century. The total cumulative precipitation received in the state in the month of January 2024 (up till 18th) is 0.1 against normal precipitation of 43.1, with the departure being recorded at minus -99.7 per cent.

The unusually long dry spell through December 2023 and January this year has caused concern among growers over the adverse impact on fruits, especially apple and other crops. The near absence of snow and negligible rains could lead to acute water shortage during the summer months. Some parts of Kangra and Chamba districts are already facing acute water shortage, with power generation also plummeting with reduced discharge in rivers.

Even though there are still 12 days of the month but as per the forecast for Himachal Pradesh, weather will remain mostly dry in the state till January 25, 2024. Besides, the dense to very dense fog conditions along with cold wave and frost will continue at isolated places in low hill district and plains. The weather will remain mostly dry in the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej catchment areas till January 25, 2024, minimising chances of precipitation.

TOP 10 YEARS WITH LOWEST PRECIPITATION

Year	Departure (Per cent)
2024 (TILL JANUARY 18)	-99.7
1966	-99.6
2007	-98.5
1902	-92.4
1986	-91.4
2018	-90.5
1916	-87.8
1936	-86.5
1963	-83.5
1998	-83.4
1914	-81.4

The month of January this year has surpassed the earlier lowest precipitation of minus - 99.6 per cent, recorded in 1966. The other years having driest January's are 2007 (-98.5), 1902 (-92.4), 1986 (-91.4), 2018 (-90.5), 1916 (-87.8), 1936 (-86.5), 1963 (-83.5), 1998 (-83.4) and 1914 (-81.4).

Though the weather remained dry over the last week, some areas received light to moderate precipitation yesterday. The weather conditions witnessed dense fog, cold wave and ground frost at many places in Una, Kangra, Bilaspur and Mandi.