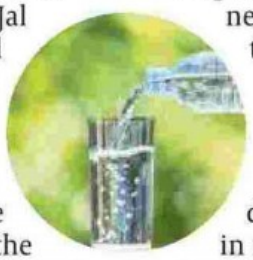
Business Line 25-February-2021

Thumbs-up for Grundfos' water treatment solution from Jal Jeevan, Swachh Bharat Missions

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, February 24

Grundfos India has said that its AQPure, a solar energy-based water treatment plant based on ultra-filtration, has been short-listed as one of the recommended innovative solutions by Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission.



AQPure's selection marks its place as an innovative technology under the list of recommended technologies of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation's innovation portal, according to a statement.

"This selection validates AQPure's ability to supply safe drinking water to remote areas and address the drinking water issues of the country. With the abundance of solar energy in India, products like AQPure can help solarise India's water needs, eventually cutting down energy consumption and improving cost efficiency. AQPure is bound to make a difference for people in rural India, offering a boost to the government's water agenda," said R Rangarajan, Area Sales Director-Water Utility, INDO region, Grundfos.

Grundfos' AQPure is an automated water treatment solution that works on solar power, designed to provide drinking water, even in remote locations. It is a prefabricated and modular water treatment plant that seeks to provide reliable and affordable water supply.

For inaccessible areas

AQPure can also supply water to inaccessible and isolated areas where secured and cost-efficient drinking water systems are a rarity, making AQPure an ideal solution for Jal Jeevan Mission's ambition to provide tap connections to over 191 million rural households in India by 2024.

Millennium Post 25-February-2021

Dams, hydel projects don't harm environment, says Power Minister

NEW DELHI: Power Minister R K Singh on Wednesday brushed aside apprehensions that water storage or dam projects, which also generate hydro electricity, harm environment, and urged experts to commission an authoritative and scientific study to find out the truth.

Speaking at a symposium on sustainable development of dams and river basins, Singh said, "I have not seen science of environment being harmed. I see science of progress in this (water storage). Punjab and Haryana developed and they are where they are today because of Bhakra Nangal dam."

He further said, "If you ask any person in Bihar, then his dearest wish is to construct large dams on the river Kosi in Nepal. Wherever we constructed large dams, we have improved the lives of people...generations. This is the message we need to convey."

He brought attention toward pushback to water storage or dam projects in the country by NGOs (non-government organisations) or civil societies which claim that these would harm environment.

The minister said, "In our country, there is a decade or two of push back (to water storage projects) by NGOs without any authoritative study that says that dams are harmful to environment."

Currently, India is developing around 14,000 megawatts of hydropower generation capacity.

He said, "In water resources, in the past decade also, we have faced headwinds in harnessing our water resources. There was concerted movement against harnessing the water, dams, against any project which sought to harness our water resources."

He said the movement still persists. "That push back against dams still persists. That is something which we have to address."

The minister urged all to first accept that humans have been harnessing water right from the time our civilisation began.

"The earliest dam started on the Nile (in Egypt)...harnessing water was there before Christ (BC). It is not that it is happening now," he said.

The minister stated that the proposition is that if some how you stop the natural flow of water, then it harms the environment. He added that the water storage projects do not stop the natural flow of the water and just the excess flow of water is harnessed through storage so that it can be used as and when needed.

"Does that harm the environment? Is there any study? I think you need to commission a study and examine whether it actually harms the environment... I think we need to come out with an authoritative study on this," the minister said.

The minister also said that in some areas, it is essential to set up water storage projects like Brahmaputra river. If India does not do it, its rival China would do it, he added.

He said, "They (China) are planning construction of large dams. So, we have to start construction of large dams. If they construct large dams before us then they can squeeze our (water) supplies in Assam and North East."

He also said every developed country has exploited 80-90 per cent of their hydro power generation potential.

India needs balancing power for renewable energy, and the balancing power has to come from pumped hydro storage projects, he added. Currently, thermal power provides base load or balancing power because renewable energy like solar and wind energy does not generate power round the clock. Thus, there is a need for constant supply of power to the grid. PTI

Hindustan Times 25-February-2021

The Brahmaputra is in danger. Delhi and Dhaka must challenge Beijing

In recent weeks, reports of China's plans to build the world's largest dam project in the greatest gorge on the face of the earth has shaken many of us. For this is the heart of the river which we know as the Brahmaputra. It has flowed unimpeded for millennia, carving and clawing its way through rock, sand and ice, as the Yarlung-Tsangpo, through the Tibetan plateau and meadow, before rushing through the hidden gorge and entering India at the village of Gelling in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Chinese had earlier planned to build a series of 11 dams on the river, of which several are complete. Most of these were cascade dams without pondage or reservoirs but used the fall of the river to maximise the gravitational surge of power through the turbines.

Sanjoy Hazarika

China's hydro engineers and political and economic establishment have now set their eyes on the heart of the river in the Namcha Barwa gorge, where it gathers its phenomenal pace and power on its way to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bangladesh and eventually the Bay of Bengal.

While infrastructure building is not a new development on either side of Himalayas, there has been a huge push on the Chinese side with a surge of roads, railroads, bridges, tunnels and power plants. What is the impact of noise and dynamite blasting, excavators and heavy drills on such sensitive ecosystems? Trains thunder through once silent gorges and valleys where only the chants of monks or rumble of occasional trucks, or the gurgle of the flood in summer and the cries of birds would pierce the air. But there are limits to the knowledge of engineers. We also do not know of any assessments by either Chinese or independent experts on the damage to permafrost, the vast volume of water trapped in ice form below the earth's surface.

Thawing permafrost alters natural ecosystem; makes soil vulnerable to landslides and erosion; introduces new sediment to waterways, which may alter the flow of rivers and streams; degrades water quality; impacts human life, livelihoods, and aquatic wildlife; and introduces new threats of ancient microbes.

India says that issues of trans-border rivers with China are discussed through "an institutionalised expert-level mechanism which was established in 2000" as well as through "diplomatic channels". Does exchange of data contain the impact of these huge interventions? India and Bangladesh, which is also enriched by the Brahmaputra, must take up the issue robustly.

China's decision represents a strike at the heart of a sacred and ancient land and tampering with forces we do not fully comprehend. The recent disaster in Uttarakhand is testimony to our limited knowledge. To Assam, the Brahmaputra is folklore and legend, home to a myriad of communities, cultures and faiths, the endangered Gangetic dolphins and the great balladeer Bhupen Hazarika. It is sacred to the Buddhists and it has its origins near Mount Kailash. The gods do not wish to be disturbed; they want respect.

These massive interventions are an invitation to disaster downstream. Of course, we need power and energy. But dams clean the waters of nutrients; the water to enter the turbines must be wiped clean of all sand, rocks and sediment to produce hydroelectricity. Yet, it is this sediment which gives the Brahmaputra and its tributaries their nourishing powers as they reach farms and river-dependent human and non-human populations downstream. It is not the volume of the water that flows into India that matters as much as its quality.

The Dhaka-based scholar Imtiaz Ahmed says that states and people should guarantee rights on the river for these impinge on the right to life. Such rights exist for seas and oceans under the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea.

I stood once at the foot of a small gorge in Tibet and looked up. That view was enough to establish the scale of infinity between the landscape and the river — and our own puny existence. A little humility goes a long way in understanding our world.

Sanjoy Hazarika is international director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, and has worked extensively on rivers and water issues
The views expressed are personal

Pioneer 25-February-2021

Located atop the Malangtoli Hills in Joda Block, Pidhapokhri village, with a population of around 200 households, has been facing acute scarcity of water since decades. Due to local hydro-geological factors, it was a challenge for district administration to provide drinking water to the Joda block. Water used to be supplied in tankers, twice a day, which barely met the minimum needs of people, leading to multiple development deprivations. It is in this context that a 'Household Piped Water Supply Project' for the village was sanctioned through District Mineral Foundation at a cost of ₹2.63 cr in 2018 under the leadership of collector and DM, Keonjhar Ashish Thakare. Under the project, water sourced from a natural spring is lifted to a height of more than 300 feet using a 10 HP solar pump to an overhead tank and then supplied to households through individual tap connections, after filtration. Even though construction of the drinking water infrastructure was a major challenge, Rural Water supply and sanitation (RWSS) program which comes under Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, Govt of Odisha successfully completed the project.

Haribhoomi 25-February-2021

अयोध्या में अब राम की पैड़ी लेगी झरने का रूप

अयोध्या। अयोध्या में रामलला के मंदिर निर्माण के साथ ही अयोध्या के विकास का पहिया तेजी से घूमने लगा है। यहां आने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए राम की पैड़ी आकर्षण का केंद्र है। राम की पैड़ी पर सरयू की जलधारा लाने के लिए कार्यदायी संस्था ने एक बड़ा प्रयोग किया है, जिसमें डैम से प्लेटफार्म पर सरयू की जलधारा लाने के लिए गैलेक्सी फॉल का निर्माण किया है। राम की पैड़ी पर आने वाले झरने का स्वरूप आकर्षण का केंद्र बना हुआ है। अयोध्या के विकास में तमाम विकास की योजनाएं अब जमीनी स्तर पर सामने दिखने लगी हैं।

Rashtriya Sahara 25-February-2021

हाइड्रो पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स से पर्यावरण को नुकसान नहीं

बिजली मंत्री ने कहा, इस पर अध्ययन कराया जाए

- बांध भी पर्यावरण को नहीं पहुंचाते हैं नुकसान
- जल संग्रहण में प्रगति का विज्ञान देखता हूं : सिंह
- भाखड़ा बांध ने ही पंजाब, हरियाणा को बनाया विकसित

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। बिजली मंत्री आरके सिंह ने बांधों और जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं के निर्माण से पर्यावरण को नुकसान की आशंका को खारिज करते हुए बुधवार को विशेषज्ञों से सच्चाई का पता लगाने के लिए प्रामाणिक और वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन करने को कहा।

बांध और नदी बेसिन के स्वस्थ विकास विषय पर आयोजित संगोष्ठी में सिंह ने कहा, 'मैंने पर्यावरण के विज्ञान को नुकसान होते नहीं देखा है। मैं इसमें (जल संग्रहण में) प्रगति का विज्ञान देखता हूं। पंजाब और हरियाणा विकसित हुए और वे आज जहां हैं, उसका कारण भाखड़ा नांगल बांध है।' उन्होंने कहा, 'अगर आप बिहार के किसी व्यक्ति से पूछे तो उसकी दिली इच्छा नेपाल में कोसी नदी पर बड़े बांध के निर्माण की होगी। जहां भी हमने बड़े बांध बनाए, हमने लोगों के जीवन व उत्पादन में सुधार लाया। हमें यह संदेश देने की जरूरत है।' मंत्री ने देश में जल भंडारण या बांध परियोजनाओं को लेकर गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (एनजीओ) के

प्रतिकूल रुख का जिक्र किया। उनका यह दावा है कि इससे पर्यावरण को नुकसान पहुंचेगा। उन्होंने कहा, 'हमारे देश में एक या दो दशकों से बिना वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन के एनजीओ इन परियोजनाओं का विरोध कर रहे हैं।' फिलहाल देश में 14,000 मेगावाट की पनबिजली उत्पादन क्षमता का विकास किया जा रहा है। सिंह ने कहा, 'पिछले दशक में भी जल संसाधन के उपयोग के मामले में हमें चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

जल संसाधनों के विकास, बांधों से जुड़ी परियोजनाओं के विरोध में समन्वित रूप से आंदोलन चलाए गए।' उन्होंने कहा कि ये चीजें अभी भी हैं, जिसका हमें समाधान करना है। मंत्री ने कहा कि हमें सबसे पहले यह स्वीकार करना है कि सभ्यता की शुरुआत के साथ जल का उपयोग लोग करते आ रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा, ''सबसे पहले नील नदी (मिस्र) पर बांध की शुरूआत हुई। वहां जल का बड़े स्तर पर उपयोग ईसा पूर्व से हो रहा है। ऐसा नहीं है कि यह अब हो रहा है।'