

The Times of India- 21- March-2023

Explain delay in Yamuna desilting tender: HC to DJB

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New Delhi: The inordinate delay in processing a tender related to last year's desilting plan of the Yamuna at the crucial Wazirabad pond led Delhi High Court to reprimand Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Monday.

A bench of Chief Justice S C Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad flagged the delay of several months by DJB to take a call on the work tender that was floated in the 2022 summer season, saying it "speaks volumes about your conduct".

While DJB maintained that silt in the river had increased so it needed to issue fresh tender, the court sought an affidavit explaining the delay in opening the financial bids of the earlier tender when a successful bidder had emerged. "What kind of process is going on in your organisation? A person who was not part of the bidding process you are inviting, offering a tender? File an affidavit stating reasons for not taking action in the bid submitted," the court said after the company that successfully got the bid moved it as

While DJB maintained that silt in the river had increased so it needed to issue fresh tender, the court sought an affidavit explaining the delay in opening the financial bids of the earlier tender when a successful bidder had emerged

DJB scrapped the tender.

In its plea, the firm said it had bid for the work tender floated by DJB last year for dredging 1.6 lakh cubic meter of silt at the mouth of the Wazirabad pond. Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Amit Sibal and advocate Ankit Jain with Mohit Gupta highlighted that despite winning the bid out of five rivals, DJB suddenly refused to go ahead, citing a complaint against the company.

Terming the complaint frivolous, the company again emerged as the only bidder in the second round in May 2022.

However, as per the petition, this time DJB sat on the financial bid for months to negate the claim of the firm, and on January 30 this year, decided to scrap the tender itself, leading to a further delay in clearing the silt.

In its reply earlier, DJB defended its action, saying it scrapped the tender because work was limited to desilting a specific quantity of silt. But once the rainy season of 2022 got over, more silt had accumulated and no purpose would have been served by removing only 1.6 lakh cubic meter in as much as quantity of silt increased and it is imperative to remove the entire quantity, it claimed. DJB claimed that the tender was cancelled to prepare an estimate for dredging the full quantity of silt and increase competition by inviting more bidders.

The court, while seeking the affidavit, also asked DJB to attach a copy of the complaint it had received against the petitioner company that was cited as a ground to decline the award of work to it. "Let us see the gravamen of the complaint," the court said.

The Hindu- 21- March-2023

Government takes the PPP route for restoration of Adyar river

The ₹1,500-crore project will focus on river cleaning, preventing sewage inflow and construction of treatment plants besides developing recreational facilities such as parks, green walkways, open air gymnasium and cafeteria

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The restoration of Adyar river will be taken up for on the 44-km stretch with various recreational facilities to realise the objective of Singara Chennai project.

Tackling untreated sewage will be the main aim apart from riverfront development, the officials said.

In his Budget speech delivered in the State Assembly on Monday, Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said the State government was committed to restore the Adyar, the Cooum and other waterways.

The ₹1,500-crore project is expected to be implemented through public private partnership (PPP) mode as the first phase of the initiative. The project will focus on river clean-



Conservation mode: A trunk sewer line will be laid near the Adyar bund and this would collect the sewage from the inlets and send it to the treatment plants. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

ing, preventing sewage inflow and construction of treatment plants. Moreover, recreational facilities such as parks, green walkways, open air gymnasium and cafeteria would dot the banks of the river.

The Water Resources Department and other government agencies, including the Greater Chennai Corporation, have executed various improvement works with the support of

Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust. However, the river continues to be easy prey to the menace of untreated sewage in city limits and used as a dump on the outskirts.

The department had taken up improvement work estimated at ₹94 crore in 25-km portion of the river from Thiru. Vi. Ka. bridge to Tiruneermalai bridge two years ago. It is continuing desilting efforts down-

stream of Thiru. Vi. Ka. bridge. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board is setting up a few modular sewage treatment plants.

The Corporation has started planting saplings along the river banks from the river mouth to the Airport. The civic body has taken steps to prevent sewage mixing in storm-water drains and canals that carry water to the river and the Adyar creek.

The number of species in the Adyar Poonga has increased after the restoration of the 358 acres of the creek. But illegal sewage outfalls continued to pollute the waterway. Officials of the Water Resources Department said the project aims at addressing the issue of sewage pollution for

a comprehensive restoration with improved water quality to bathing standards.

A trunk sewer line would be laid on the lands near the bund and this would collect the sewage from the inlets and send it to STPs to be constructed along various points of the river to be treated. The step would help treat sewage at the

end source and prevent entry into the river. The implementing agency for the project is yet to be chosen.

The department has taken up 12 flood mitigation works in Chennai and neighbouring districts at a cost of ₹434 crore. Nearly 75% of the work to bridge missing gaps in channels around Porur lake has been completed, the officials added.



Millennium Post- 21- March-2023

'YET TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM STATES'

Some damage to wheat crop due to untimely rains: Centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday said there has been some damage to the standing wheat crop in key growing states due to untimely rains and hailstorm, but it is yet to receive a ground report from the state governments. There is no concern about mustard and chickpea (chana) crops as most of it has been harvested. In the case of horticultural crops, localised hailstorms might have affected some crops like banana and potato, it said.

For the last two days, many parts of the country have been receiving unseasonal rains, hail and heavy winds due to western disturbances. Wheat is the main rabi crop, harvesting of which has started in some parts of the country. Mustard and chickpeas are other major rabi crops. The government has projected a record wheat output of 112.2 million tonnes for the 2022-23 crop year (July-June).

"There has been some damage. We have not received an assessment report on the extent



A farmer inspects his wheat crop, affected due to rains and strong winds, at a village on the outskirts of Gurugram, on Monday

PTI

of damage from the state governments," Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Choudhary said. He said the state governments are utilising the funds under the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF). The central government will provide compensation under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) if the state governments submit a report after assessing the extent of damage.

Speaking separately, Agriculture Commissioner P K Singh said untimely rains were

observed over wheat growing states of Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, UP and Rajasthan in the last two days. Some parts have received fewer rains and that would benefit the crop. However, two lakh-hectare of the area might have received heavy rainfall and hailstorm. "The assessment of the damage is being made by the state governments which will submit a report in the next 2-3 days," he said.

Even if some percentage damage happens in 2 lakh hect-

Highlights

- » For the last two days, many parts of the country have been receiving unseasonal rains, hail and heavy winds due to western disturbances
- » Wheat is the main rabi crop, harvesting of which has started in some parts of the country. Mustard and chickpeas are other major rabi crops
- » "The assessment of the damage is being made by the state governments which will submit a report in the next 2-3 days"

ares of wheat area, Singh said it would hardly have any impact considering the total wheat acreage of 343.2 lakh hectares in the current year.

In the case of mustard and chickpeas crops, most of these have been harvested. Mustard harvesting in some areas of Rajasthan and Haryana is still due, he added.

Singh said some of the horticultural crops are likely to have been impacted in areas with localised hailstorms. For example, banana and potato crops. Potato farmers have been asked to halt harvesting.

Isolated thunderstorm,

lightening, squall and hailstorm are expected over west Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and East Rajasthan on March 20; and over Uttarakhand on March 21, it said in its daily forecast. Meanwhile, IMD has advised farmers of Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra, Punjab and Haryana to postpone harvesting.

Assam farmers have been asked to postpone harvesting and move the already harvested produce to safer places immediately. Farmers have been told to postpone maize sowing in Sikkim and jute sowing in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal.

Millennium Post- 21- March-2023

Heavy rain lashes parts of Capital

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Heavy rain, accompanied by strong winds, lashed parts of Delhi on Monday.

Earlier during the day, pleasant weather conditions prevailed in Delhi with the maximum temperature settling at 27.1 degrees Celsius, three notches below the season's average.

The minimum temperature was recorded at 17.4 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal, while humidity levels oscillated between 48 per cent and 94 per cent. For Tuesday, the weather office has forecast generally cloudy skies with the possibility of very light rain or drizzle. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to hover around 26 and 16 degrees Celsius, respectively.

At 4 pm, Delhi's 24-hour Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded in the 'moderate' category at 154.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and



100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

According to the government's air quality forecast agency SAFAR, moderate surface winds are likely to maintain dispersion and air quality.

"Overall air quality is

likely to be within 'moderate' or 'upper end of satisfactory' for the next three days due to moderate dispersion by surface wind speed as well as wash out by likely rain spells," it said.

For the subsequent six days, the air quality is likely to remain in the 'moderate' category.

The Indian Express- 21- March-2023

STANDING COMMITTEE FLAGS FREE POWER FOR FARMERS

Panel suggests prepaid cards for power to save groundwater

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

OBSERVING THAT the primary reason for excessive exploitation of groundwater is wide cultivation of water guzzler paddy and sugarcane crops, which are "heavily incentivised", a Parliamentary Standing Committee has said that use of electric pumps needs to be further discouraged by introducing measures such as prepaid cards for power supply and restricting power supply to few hours a day.

The committee has recommended that the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under Jal Shakti Ministry should take the initiative by urging both the Power Ministry and Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare along with state governments to take measures on the suggested lines.

In its report, "Groundwater: A Valuable but Diminishing Resource", which was tabled in Parliament on Monday, the Standing Committee on Water Resources said, "States like Punjab, Haryana, Telangana and Tamil Nadu offer completely free power, while other states have provision for collection of token charges."

According to the report, the committee observed that while restricting free electricity to the farmers will certainly reduce the misuse of groundwater, both the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare "have expressed inability to per-



Government asked to devise measures for adoption in agriculture to reduce dependence on groundwater. *File*

sue states to reduce/stop subsidy for power given in agriculture as electricity is a concurrent subject and SERCs determine the electricity tariff for retail supply of electricity to end consumers under the extant provisions of Electricity Act, 2003".

"The Committee, however, note that Punjab introduced a scheme by way of which farmers were refunded money if they consumed less electricity. They further note that under Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana of Ministry of Power, separate component of agriculture and non-agriculture feeders have been created for facilitating judicious rostering of supply to agriculture & non-agriculture consumers in rural areas," the report said.

"However, groundwater continues to be used excessively for catering to irrigation demands. Therefore, the Committee are of the view that use of electric pumps need to be further discour-

aged by way of devising such measures as introduction of prepaid cards for power supply, restricting it for a few hours in the day, etc," it said.

The committee, headed by BJP member Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel, also asked the government to devise "integrated measures" for adoption in agriculture to reduce dependence on groundwater in agriculture.

"The Committee notice that over-extraction of groundwater for meeting irrigation needs is prevalent mainly in northern states, particularly in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, which are extracting 97%, 90% and 86% of groundwater, respectively, for this purpose. Other states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and UP are also significant users of groundwater for irrigation as they are using approximately 89%, 92% and 90%, respectively, of their total groundwater extraction for agricultural purposes," said the report.

Jansatta- 21- March-2023

गंगा की तर्ज पर यमुना नदी के लिए 'ई-प्रवाह' बने : समिति

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 20 मार्च ।

दिल्ली में यमुना नदी में प्रदूषण की अधिक मात्रा को रेखांकित करते हुए संसदीय समिति ने गंगा नदी की तर्ज पर ही यमुना नदी के लिए 'ई-प्रवाह' बनाने की सिफारिश की है। यह रिपोर्ट सोमवार को लोकसभा में पेश की गई। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा कि नदी को स्वच्छ बनाने के लिए सभी उपचारात्मक उपाय अपनाए जाएं, ताकि यमुना का कार्याकल्प हो सके। नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग से संबंधित जल शक्ति मंत्रालय से जुड़ी स्थायी समिति की रिपोर्ट में यह बात कही गई।

भाजपा सांसद परबतभाई सवाभाई पटेल इस समिति के अध्यक्ष हैं। समिति ने जांच में पाया है कि केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) के मानदंडों में बायो केमिकल आक्सीजन मांग (बीओडी) को स्नान प्रयोजन के लिए 3 मिलीग्राम/लीटर से कम

होना चाहिए।
जबकि रिपोर्ट के अनुसार

वर्ष 2019-2021 के दौरान यमुना नदी में बीओडी की मात्रा बहुत अधिक थी। वर्ष 2020 के दौरान अधिकतम सांद्रता 114 मिलीग्राम/लीटर पाई गई, जो कि यमुना नदी में स्नान के लिए 3 मिलीग्राम/लीटर की बीओडी से कम होने की निर्धारित सीमा से बहुत अधिक है।

हालांकि जल संसाधन, नदी विकास विभाग के प्रतिनिधि ने समिति को बताया है कि दिल्ली में कई जलमल शोधन संयंत्र (एसटीपी) जल्द चालू किए जाएंगे। समिति ने पाया है कि यमुना नदी की सफाई के लिए प्रमुख बाधाएं शुष्क अवधि के दौरान वजीराबाद में कम प्रवाह, जलमल और औद्योगिक अपशिष्ट का अवैध बहाव, नालियों में ठोस कचरे को डालना, जलमल शोधन संयंत्र (एसटीपी) का ठीक से काम नहीं करना और संबंधित राज्य के पास अपर्याप्त जलमल उपचार क्षमता है।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यमुना नदी के दिल्ली में आने वाले क्षेत्र की भूमिका को ध्यान में रखते हुए समिति की राय है कि केंद्र सरकार और राज्य सरकार दोनों करीबी सहयोग से कार्य करें, ताकि यमुना नदी का कार्याकल्प हो सके।

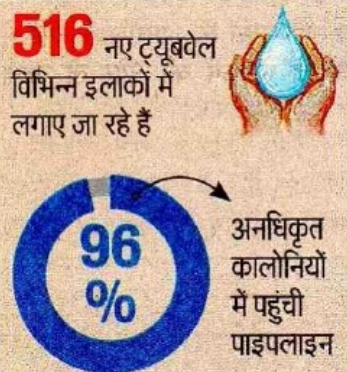
कार्यालय : प्लॉट नं. 4, सैक्टर-10,
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Dainik Jagran- 21- March-2023

राजधानी में पेयजल के लिए भूजल पर बढ़ी निर्भरता

राज्य ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली: राजधानी में पेयजल के लिए जरूरत के मुताबिक नदियों का पानी उपलब्ध न होने और वजीराबाद में यमुना नदी के पानी में प्रदूषण की समस्या बढ़ने से पेयजल आपूर्ति के लिए भूजल पर निर्भरता बढ़ती जा रही है। यही बात दिल्ली के आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण की रिपोर्ट में कही गई है। इसलिए दिल्ली सरकार विभिन्न इलाकों में 510 नए ट्यूबवेल लगवा रही है। लेकिन, गिरता भूजल स्तर, भूजल में फ्लोराइड की अधिकता व खारा होना भी बड़ी समस्या बनी हुई है।

जल बोर्ड लगभग 117 एमजीडी (मिलियन गैलन डेली) पेयजल की आपूर्ति भूजल से कर रहा है। वर्तमान समय में विभिन्न इलाकों में जल बोर्ड के 4,919 ट्यूबवेल हैं। इसके अलावा यमुना खादर के क्षेत्र में 11 रेनीवेल हैं। यमुना नदी और नजफगढ़ झील के आसपास भूजल स्तर ठीक है। इसलिए सरकार यमुना खादर और नजफगढ़ झील के आसपास के इलाके के भूजल से पेयजल आपूर्ति बढ़ाने का विकल्प तलाश रही है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 96 प्रतिशत अनधिकृत कालोनियों में पानी की पाइप लाइन पहुंच चुकी है, जबकि 113 कालोनियों में पाइप लाइन नहीं बिछाई जा सकी है। इसके कारण के तौर पर बताया गया



इस वजह से यमुना है मैली
प्रतिदिन 784 एमजीडी सीवरेज उत्पन्न होता है। वर्तमान में एसटीपी की शोधन क्षमता 632.26 एमजीडी है, लेकिन 560 एमजीडी का ही शोधन हो पा रहा है। यानी, एसटीपी से क्षमता के अनुरूप सीवरेज का शोधन नहीं हो पा रहा है। इसका कारण सीवर लाइन की सफाई न होना व एसटीपी तक पूरा सीवरेज नहीं पहुंच पाना है। ट्रंक और पेरिफेरल सीवर लाइन भी अब तक एसटीपी से ठीक से जुड़ नहीं पाए हैं।

है कि ये कालोनियां वन विभाग व भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण विभाग की जमीन पर हैं, तो कुछ कालोनियों में तकनीकी रूप से पाइप लाइन बिछाना संभव नहीं है। सरकार की कोशिश है कि सभी कालोनियों में पानी की पाइप लाइन बिछा दी जाएं।

विधायक प्रदीप यादव ने जताई चिंता गंभीर जल संकट की ओर झारखंड के कई जिले, अलर्ट मोड में सरकार

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
patrika.com

रांची. जिले में गर्मियों में पानी की भारी कल्लित होने लगी है। सेंट्रल ग्राउंड वाटर बोर्ड की ताजा रिपोर्ट में ना सिर्फ रांची बल्कि धनबाद, रामगढ़ समेत दूसरे जिलों में भू जल स्तर के गिरते स्तर पर चिंता जताई गई है। झारखंड विधानसभा में विधायक प्रदीप यादव ने इस पर चिंता जताई और सवाल पूछा, जवाब में सरकार ने इस पर हामी भरी और कहा कि जल संकट गंभीर है। मंत्री आलमगीर आलम ने सोमवार को बताया कि भू जल दोहन पर अंकुश के लिए भू गर्भ जल अधिनियम बनाने की कार्यवाई प्रक्रियाधीन है। संसदीय कार्यमंत्री आलमगीर आलम ने बताया कि अधिनियम बनने से भू जल दोहन को प्रभावी तरीके से नियंत्रित किया

त्रिस्तरीय आयोग का गठन : आलम

सोमवार को सदन की कार्यवाही के दौरान बोकारो विधायक बिरंची नारायण ने जेपी आंदोलनकारियों के लिए सवाल उठाया जिस पर संसदीय कार्य मंत्री आलमगीर आलम ने कहा कि झारखंड में जेपी आंदोलन का कोई मतलब नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा

कि झारखंड आंदोलन के आंदोलनकारियों और उनके आश्रितों को सुविधा मिलेगा। आंदोलनकारियों को चिह्नित करने के लिए सेवानिवृत्त अखिल भारतीय सेवा के पदाधिकारी की अध्यक्षता में त्रिस्तरीय आयोग का गठन किया गया है।

जा सकेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि भू जल का दोहन कम हो, इसको ध्यान में रखा जा रहा है। जल संसाधन विभाग की ओर से डीप बोरवेल आधारित सिंचाई योजना का निर्माण नहीं कराया जाता है। उन्होंने बताया कि सभी सरकारी भवनों में रेन वाटर हारवेस्टिंग अनिवार्य कर

दिया गया है। इस संबंध में 7 मार्च 2022 को आदेश जारी किया गया है। मंत्री आलमगीर आलम ने बताया कि राज्य के विभिन्न जिलों में सरकारी, अर्धसरकारी और सार्वजनिक भवनों पर वाटर हारवेस्टिंग संरचनाओं का निर्माण किया जा रहा है।