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The Hindu - 26- January-2024



Kerala: new dam in Mullaperiyar 'only solution'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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New Mullaperiyar dam is the 'only solution': Kerala

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has reiterated that a new dam at Mullaperiyar in Idukki is the "only solution" for guaranteeing the safety of lakhs of people who reside in the downstream regions.

The State government's stand on the dam, which is over 120 year old, was made clear once again in the Governor's policy address to the State Assembly on Thursday. Kerala would take all possible steps for an amicable settlement with Tamil Nadu on this matter, according to the policy address.

It noted that the dam's front and rear faces are constructed of uncoursed rubble masonry in lime mortar. Lime-surkhi concrete constitutes the central core.

"Taking into account the excessive and erratic rainfall and floods during

the monsoon seasons in 2018-21, particularly in Idukki, the only solution lies in constructing a new dam which assures water to Tamil Nadu and safety to the people of Kerala living in the downstream region," according to the policy address.

'Entitled quantity'

The State government will also explore all possibilities for renewing the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project agreement with Tamil Nadu during 2024-25, the policy address said. The government would make all efforts to make sure that the State gets its entitled quantity of water under the agreement. Kerala proposes to utilise 2.87 thousand million cubic feet (tmc) of water for the Attappady Irrigation Project against the total allotment of 6 tmc for the Bhavani basin as per the final verdict of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

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Deccan Chronicle - 26- January-2024

Tambaram corpn to rejuvenate 7 water bodies

T. SUDHEESH | DC
CHENNAI, JAN. 25

Realising the importance of protecting water bodies in preventing the annual flooding, the Tambaram corporation, one of the worst-affected civic bodies in the city's suburbs in the last deluge, has taken up a comprehensive lake rejuvenation project.

Corporation commissioner R. Alagumeena told DC that the proposal prepared by the civic body administration for seven water bodies in the corporation limits had been approved by the Central and state governments and Rs 7.87 crore have been allocated for the projects.

"The civic body has been facing trouble during the monsoon season due to flooding. Most of the water bodies have been encroached upon by private parties, as they are

not protected properly. So we have decided to rejuvenate all water bodies. As the first phase, we have prepared proposals for seven water bodies and they have been approved. A couple of projects have already been undertaken by the respective department. These projects include deepening and strengthening of bund, footpath with paver block arrangements, sitting benches, lighting facilities, construction of inlets and outlets and rain water harvesting. The work will be completed within three months," she said.

The commissioner added that they had also prepared an exclusive project for the massive Madambakkam Lake. The Madambakkam project will be executed separately. Apart from this, the corporation has appointed Exnora International, an

eco restoration NGO, to rejuvenate water bodies in the city. Their works are underway on the sidelines. The corporation has also planned to rejuvenate the water bodies with the support of CSR funds from corporate companies. Those who are interested in the projects can contact the corporation administration, she said.

Noothanseri at Madambakkam ward will be rejuvenated with ₹ 57 lakh. Rejuvenation works and rainwater harvesting system in Kulakkarai Street Kulam in ward 40 of Sembakkam will be executed with ₹ 64 lakh. A total of ₹ 1.25 crore will be spent for restoration works and rainwater harvesting structure at Ramasamy Chetti Kulam in ward 13 in Pallavapuram. Mangaleri Kulam, near Samathuvapuram Salai at ward 56 in Perungalathur

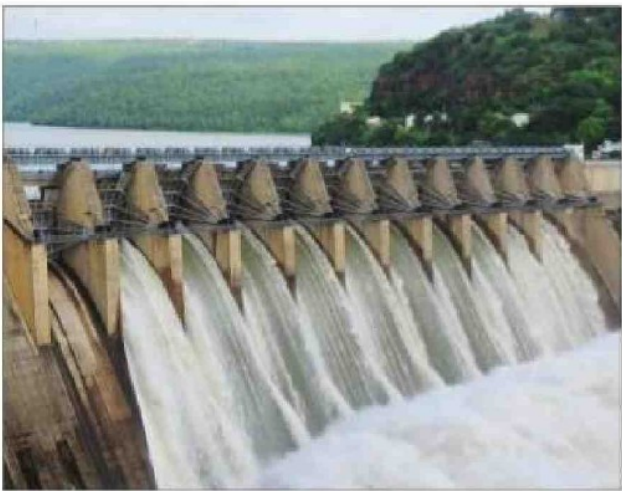
area, will get a facelift at a cost of ₹1.4 crore. A ₹2.85 crore project for rejuvenation of water bodies at Kalmadavu in ward 4 in Anakaputhur area has been given approval. Uyaliamman Koil Kulam in ward 31 in Thiruneermalai will be restored with ₹ 83 lakh.

V. Subramani, state president, water-body conservation, Exnora International, said they were undertaking restoration works in Pallavaram and Keelkattalai lake with the CSR funds and the Tambaram corporation. "We have found funds separately for these projects. The work launched a month ago will be completed within six months. The projects include fencing works, construction of children's playground, micro forests, open gym, bunds and cleaning up," he said.

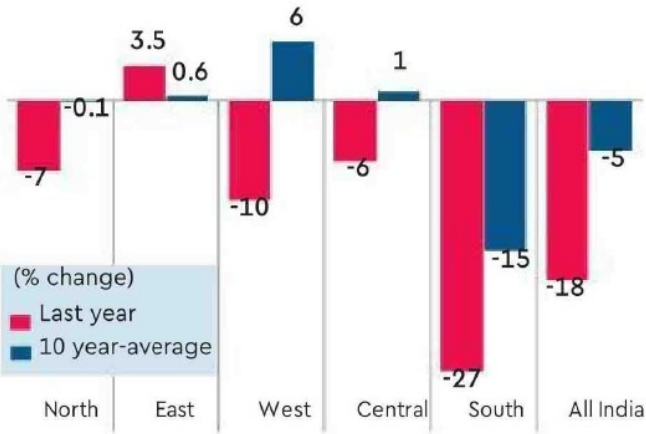
Financial Express - 26- January-2024

Reservoir levels down 18%, no big impact on rabi crop yet

Water levels in India's 150 key reservoirs have fallen sharply to 18% below last year's level, on Thursday, due to a deficient monsoon last season and scanty rainfall in winter months, reports **Sandip Das**. Water levels were 5% below the last 10-year average. As many as 42 reservoirs in southern states currently fill up to only 36% of total capacity as per Central Water Commission data. In the east, 23 reservoirs hold more water than last year and also the 10 year-average. Although lower water level is unlikely to hit the rabi sowing, prolonged dry climate during the winter months could lead to development of pests in several crops.



WATER LEVELS AT RESERVOIRS



Source: CWC, as on Jan 25, 2024

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The Hindu Business Line - 26- January-2024

Storage level dips for 16th consecutive week

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

The water level in the 150 major Indian reservoirs continued to decline for the 16th consecutive week with the situation in the North adding to the concerns raised by dropping storage in the South.

Kerala and Tamil Nadu were the only States to receive rainfall in the past week with a major part of the country going dry. According to the India Meteorological Department, three-fourths of the 711 districts that provide weather data received deficient, large deficient or no rainfall since the beginning of 2024.

This has compounded the reservoir situation with the monsoon and post-monsoon seasons also receiving defi-

cient rainfall. According to the National Centers for Environmental Information of the US, at least 25 per cent of the country was under drought in December.

LACK OF SNOWFALL

In its weekly bulletin on live storage status, the Central Water Commission (CWC) data showed that the storage in the major 150 reservoirs this week was 53 per cent of the 178.784 billion cubic metres (BCM) at 95.326 BCM.

During the same time a year ago, the storage was 82 per cent of the capacity and the last 10 years average is 95 per cent. Barring the eastern region where three reservoirs are filled to capacity, the water level is below 50 per cent of the capacity in 58. As there is

no western disturbance in the Himalayas, there has been no snowfall yet. This raises further concerns since horticulture, pulses, groundnut and paddy are grown as summer or *zaid* crops.

According to SK Chaudhary, Founder-Director of Safex Chemicals, the production of apples could be affected badly.

APPLE LEVEL -55%

Per CWC data, the storage in the 10 northern region reservoirs was 9.611 BCM, which is 48.9 per cent (51.3 per cent last week) of the 19.663 BCM capacity. The level in four of the reservoirs was below 50 per cent of the capacity, and it was below 60 per cent in another four.

No reservoir was filled above 90 per cent of the capacity.

In Punjab, the storage was 34 per cent below normal.

In the southern region, the storage in 22 of the 42 reservoirs was below 50 per cent of capacity. The water level was 36 per cent (37 per cent) of the 53.334 BCM capacity at 18.999 BCM.

The situation in Andhra Pradesh was 55 per cent below normal, while it was 34 per cent below normal in Karnataka and 13 per cent lower in Tamil Nadu, where it improved from a negative 16 per cent. The level in Metter (Stanley) reservoir, which serves the Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu, was 74 per cent of the capacity against 69 per cent a week ago.

In the 26 reservoirs in the central region, the level was 61 per cent (64 per cent) of

the 48.227 BCM capacity at 29.430 BCM. The storage in 13 of them was below 50 per cent, while barring one the situation in the rest was 70 per cent below the capacity.

SET TO TURN GRIM?

In the eastern region, the storage in 7 of the 23 reservoirs was below 50 per cent the capacity. Assam has water over one-and-a-half times the normal. CWC data showed that the level was 63.5 per cent (66 per cent) of the 20.430 BCM live storage at 12.968 BCM.

In the western region, none of the 49 reservoirs was full and 12 of them were filled below 50 per cent of the capacity.

Overall, the storage in the region was 65 per cent (67 per cent) of the 37.130 BCM capacity at 24.318 BCM.