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4 states using only 65% Krishna basin water, finds central panel

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Amaravati: Even as Krishna riparian states fight over the sharing of water every year, the Central Water Commission (CWC) has found that only around 65 per cent of the total water available in the Krishna basin is utilized by different states. Absence of reservoirs and flash floods are resulting in loss of nearly 40 per cent water flowing in the river.

The CWC in its latest study found that more water is going into the ocean in the last few years due to the downpour in the river basin in a short duration. Although the CWC did not spell out anything about the impact of

FINDINGS OF CWC STUDY	
<p>144 tmc ft of water available during water year (from Oct 1 & Sept 30 next yr) in Krishna basin</p>	<p>► States have facility to store about just 2,048 tmc ft</p>
	
<p>► Rain increased quantum but resulted in loss</p>	
<p>► Absence of storage leaving massive extents barren</p>	
<p>► Srisaillam filled 5 times during monsoon but level falling due to power generation</p>	

climate change, experts are of the view that it was the result of fast changing climatic conditions. They noted that witnessing massive rains in short durations could be frequent instances in the future

which might make it difficult to tap water by any state.

"The quantum of water received has doubled in the recent past but scope is remote to tap and store it as there is unexpected level of floods in

the basin," said a senior irrigation official.

According to the latest report of the CWC, entire Krishna basin has around 3144.41 tmc ft of water during a water year. The CWC estimated that the states along the Krishna basin could tap just around 2060 tmc ft which is just around 60-65 per cent of the total available water in the basin. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh depend on Krishna water for irrigation and drinking water needs while Tamil Nadu gets a small quantum of water from AP through Telugu Ganga project for Chennai drinking water scheme designed to tap water from Krishna river.