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SYL row: Union Minister to meet Punjab, Haryana CMs today

Chandigarh: Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will hold a meeting with the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab on the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue in Chandigarh on Thursday, a Haryana government statement said Wednesday.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar had recently written to his Punjab counterpart, Bhagwant Mann, expressing readiness to hold a meeting to resolve issues related to the SYL canal's construction. Mann, too, had said this month that he would attend the meeting, but asserted that the state has no spare water to share. **PTI**

No water, no land for SYL: Govt refuses to budge

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 27

The Punjab Government will remain steadfast in its stand on the construction of the Satluj Yamuna Link (SYL) canal — the state has no water to spare for sharing with Haryana, and it does not have any land for constructing the canal after the land acquired for the purpose was returned to the original landowners in 2016.

The meeting convened by Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Shekhawat on Thursday evening, to find a 'way in resolving the long standing issue', is the third between the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana, convened by the Centre. The latter had already mediated twice between the CMs of the two states, once on January 4 and another on August 18, 2020, but talks had remained inconclusive. These meetings have been convened on the directions of the SC, which is hearing the water dispute case. The next date of hearing in the case is in January 2024.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been reportedly holding preparatory meetings with officers of the Water Resources Department for the past two days. Thursday's meeting will see the Chief Minister proposing alternative solutions — hearing on the case be adjourned and kept pending till the hearing on the Ravi-Beas tribunal is decided; constitution of a new tribunal to re-evaluate the availability of Ravi-Beas waters with new terms and references, keeping in mind the severe depletion of groundwater and river water in Punjab; and including Punjab as beneficiary in the Sharda Yamuna Link canal project.

Sources in the government

CM Mann to offer alternative solutions



CONTROVERSY DATES BACK TO 1960s

- **1966:** Re-organisation of Punjab led to the carving out of Haryana. Punjab refused to share water with it
- **1976:** Executive order was passed by the Government of India allocating share of water to Haryana
- **1980:** Water-sharing agreement signed between Punjab and Haryana. It was decided to construct the SYL canal
- **1990:** Construction of canal stopped after the Chief Engineer associated with the project was shot dead by militants
- **1999:** Haryana filed a suit in the SC seeking canal construction
- **2002:** The SC directed Punjab to complete the construction of the canal. Punjab filed a review petition
- **2004:** Punjab passes Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, abrogating all its river water agreements
- **March 2016:** Punjab SYL Canal Land (Transfer of Proprietary Rights) Bill passed to return land to the original landowners
- **2022:** The apex court asks the Centre to mediate between the chief ministers of Punjab and Haryana

say that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will demand a review of the Yamuna Water Sharing Agreement of 1994 between Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana, and seek Punjab's inclusion for share of water.

Punjab will also highlight how in 1981, when the SYL canal was first envisaged, Haryana and Rajasthan got a much higher share of the

Ravi and Beas waters, though they did not have any riparian rights on these rivers. He will also point out that though the state was initially allocated 17.17 MAF of water, but it was later reduced to 13.25 MAF. Moreover, the severely depleting groundwater table in the state will make it impossible for Punjab to give away any more of its river waters.

JAL JEEVAN MISSION HITS 72% RURAL TAP WATER COVERAGE



MAKING SUBSTANTIAL
PROGRESS towards
the government's
ambitious Jal Jeevan

Mission, approximately 72% of rural households now have access to tap water connections, according to official data. In 2024, the Jal Shakti ministry faces the crucial target of achieving the 100% coverage of tap water connection to every rural household.

Telangana Today – 28-December-2023

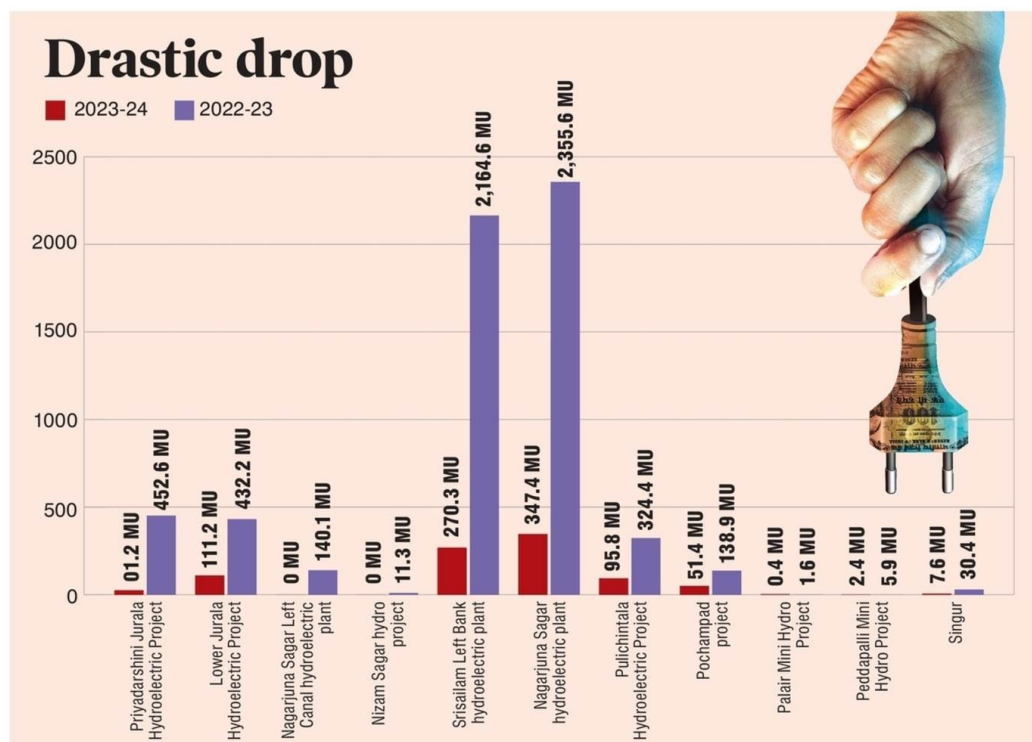
Poor rains hit hydel power supply hard

Most of the power stations in TS operated at 40% of potential

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Telangana has witnessed a significant drop in power generation in the State-owned hydro power stations, following deficit rainfall in catchment areas and reduced water inflow from Karnataka and Maharashtra this year. From April to November this year, the hydel power generation in the State stood at 987.7 million units (MU), a substantial decline from the 6,058.0 MU generated in the same period last year and 5,654.7 MU during 2021-22. The State has 11 hydro power stations with a combined capacity of 2,441.8 MW, but due to poor rainfall during the south-west monsoon, most of these stations operated at just 30 per cent to 40 per cent of their potential, an Energy Department official said.

Srisaillam Left Bank hydroelectric plant, which has a total capacity of 900 MW, managed to generate just 270.3 MU of power in the last eight months, whereas during the same period it generated 2,164.6 MU last year and 2,076.3 MU in 2021-22. Similarly, Nagarjuna



Sagar hydroelectric plant, which has a power generation capacity of 815.6 MW with 8 units, could manage to generate 347.4 MU, whereas during last year 2,355.6 MU and in 2021-22 2,262.5 MU was generated.

In Priyadarshini Jurala Hydroelectric Project, 101.2 MU and in Lower Jurala Hydroelectric Project only 111.2 MU could be generated this

year. The Pulichintala Hydroelectric Project could generate 95.8 MU, whereas last year during the same period it generated 324.4 MU. The Pochampad project also managed to generate only 51.4 MU against 138.9 MU last year.

In fact, in Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal hydroelectric plant and Nizam Sagar hydro project no power gen-

eration took place this time. In Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal, 140.1 MU and in Nizam Sagar 11.3 MU power was generated last year during the same period.

With power generation through hydel plants coming down drastically in the State this year the Power Department has been forced to look for alternative sources.