Central Water Commission
Water Systems Engineering Directorate
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2nd Floor (S), Sewa Bhawan
R K Puram, New Delhi-66

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Subject: ***Submission of News Clippings***

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings will also be uploaded on the CWC.website.

Encl: As stated above.

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Senior Artist
(WSE, Dte.,)

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Director, WSE Dte. 5/7/19.

For information to:

Chairman, CWC, New Delhi

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Saving India's groundwater

WATER: REFORM OR PERISH

MIHIR SHAH

Over 70 per cent of India's water comes from below the ground. India is, by far, the largest and fastest growing consumer of groundwater in the world. China and the US are in second and third positions, respectively, but India uses more than the two of them put together. Over the last four decades, around 84 per cent of the addition to irrigated area came from groundwater. Most of this was from deep drilling of tubewells or borewells, which are the single largest source of irrigation, as also drinking water, in both rural and urban India.

Tubewells, which were once seen as the solution to India's water problem, have tragically ended up becoming the main cause of the crisis. This is because we have indiscriminately drilled borewells without paying attention to aquifers, the rock formations within which our groundwater is stored. Much of India is underlain by hard rock formations, which have limited capacity to store groundwater and have very low rates of natural recharge. Once we extract water from them, it takes very long for water to regain its original level.

For decades, we have drilled aquifers at progressively greater depths, lowering water tables and water quality everywhere. Water quality is impacted because at certain depths we encounter deposits that gravely pollute groundwater. Official estimates indicate problems of high fluoride in 203 districts, iron in 206 districts and arsenic in 35 districts. Fluorosis is estimated to afflict 65 million and leads to crippling, skeletal problems and severe bone deformities. Arsenicosis affects around 10 million people and causes skin lesions and develops into cancer of lungs and the bladder. Overall, we have reached a situation where nearly 60 per cent of India's districts have either seriously fallen water tables or low groundwater quality or both.

It is also not often understood that perhaps the single most important cause of our peninsular rivers drying up is over-extraction of groundwater. After the rains stop, for these rivers to keep flowing, they need base-flows of groundwater. But when we over-extract groundwater, the direction of these flows is reversed and "gaining" rivers get converted into "losing" rivers. In a similar way, in our mountainous regions, springs, which have historically been the main source of water of the population there, are drying up.

To understand how we can reverse this dire situation requires a careful reflection on the nature of groundwater and a recognition that it is a common-pool resource. By its very nature, it is a shared heritage. We can divide the land under which this water is located but we cannot divide the water, which moves in a fluid and fugitive manner, below the surface. Competitive, individual extraction leads to a mutually destructive cycle, where each user tries to outdo the others in drilling deeper and deeper, till the point — which is being reached in so many aquifers in India today — where virtually no groundwater is left.

How then can we protect and continue to use arguably India's single most important natural resource without driving it to extinction? Can we save the goose that lays the golden egg? One commonly proposed solution is to meter and license the use of groundwater. While this might make sense for the few very large consumers, such as industrial units, it would be impossible to implement on a large-scale, bearing in mind that we have more than 30 million wells and tubewells in India.

Fortunately for us, there are a few examples, which show the way forward. A million farmers in the hard rock districts of Andhra Pradesh have come together to demonstrate how we can use groundwater in an equitable and sustainable manner. Of course, this initiative required a strong mooring in both science and social mobilisation. With the co-operation of hydrogeologists and civil society organisations, facilitated by the government, these farmers clearly understood the nature of their aquifers and the kinds of crops that could be grown with the groundwater they had. Careful crop-water budgeting enabled them to switch to less water-intensive crops, more suited to their specific agro-ecology. Such examples have mushroomed all over India, especially in Maharashtra, Madhya

Pradesh, Kutch and Sikkim. All of them are based on collective action by farmers, who come together to jointly manage their precious shared resource. They develop protocols for pumping of water, sequencing of water use, distance norms between wells and tube-wells and strictly adhere to them once they understand that this is the only way they can manage to meet both their farm and domestic requirements.

Of course, taking these innovations to scale requires massive support from government. Paradoxically, as groundwater has become more and more important, groundwater departments, at the Centre and in all states, have only become weaker over time. We need to urgently reverse this trend, strengthening state capacities in a multi-disciplinary manner. The 12th Plan saw the initiation of the National Aquifer Management Programme and the NDA government subsequently launched the Atal Bhujal Yojana. Both of these are pioneering initiatives, the likes of which the world has never seen before. However, they have failed to take off primarily because the requisite multi-disciplinary capacities are missing within government. But also because they cannot be implemented by government alone. They demand a large network of partnerships with stakeholders, across the board: universities, research centres, panchayati paj institutions and urban local bodies, civil society organisations, industry, and the people themselves.

At the same time, we need profound changes in the structure of incentives to support farmers in moving towards less water-intensive crops, which were elaborated in the first article in this column. We also need to break the groundwater-energy nexus that has only encouraged the mining of groundwater. The Jyotigram Yojana of Gujarat shows the way forward here through the separation of power feeders. This needs to be urgently implemented through the length and breadth of India. We also need to replace archaic British law, which has only helped in the destruction of India's groundwater, as I will explain in the last article in this column.

The writer is Distinguished Professor, Shiv Nadar University and former Member, Planning Commission, Government of India. Every fortnight, he will outline multiple dimensions of long overdue reforms in the water sector

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'Shift focus to water productivity'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDET
CHANDIGARH

The Economic Survey 2018-19 has said as far as agriculture is concerned, the country should shift its focus from land productivity to irrigation water productivity and on devising policies to incentivise farmers to adopt efficient ways of water use.

This should become a national priority to avert a looming water crisis.

Agriculture remains the predominant occupation in terms of number of people employed. Also, agriculture is dependent highly on water. So, appropriate mechanism needs to be framed for economical use of water among small and marginal farmers, said the Survey.

"The cropping pattern in India is highly skewed towards crops that are water-intensive. The incentive structures like minimum support price, heavily subsidised electricity, water and fertilizers have played a significant role in the misalignment of crop patterns in the country," said the Survey, adding that the water guzzlers, paddy and sugarcane, consume more than 60% of irrigation water available in the country, reducing water availability for other crops.

The survey said States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, which have high land productivity, tend to have very low irrigation water productivity, reflecting inefficient use of water and the need to recalibrate cropping pattern.

"Adopting improved methods of irrigation and irrigation technologies will have a critical role in increasing irrigation water productivity," it said.

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Digging deep for drinking water? You may have to shell out ₹10,000 as fine

GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION: CPCB Panel Suggests Industries In Over-Exploited Areas Be Shut

Ritam.Halder@timesgroup.com

TOI-S

New Delhi: To stop illegal extraction of groundwater, a panel of the Central Pollution Control Board has suggested environmental compensation (EC) ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1,00,000, especially in Delhi and the National Capital Region. The panel says in the report submitted to the National Green Tribunal, "Considering water as a basic human need, environmental compensation charges in case of domestic or household uses may be kept low and higher rates prescribed for institutional, commercial, infrastructural and industrial purposes by the extraction of ground water."

For drinking or domestic purposes, the minimum EC suggested is Rs 10,000 for households and Rs 50,000 for institutional activity, commercial complexes, townships, etc. For industrial activity, the minimum rate suggested is Rs 1 lakh. Repeat violations should attract EC 1.25 times higher, the panel recommended.

"The falling water table is a matter of special concern since it tends to reduce the accessibility of the resource to small and marginal farmers due to increase in costs of extraction," says the report titled 'Assessment of Environmental Compensation in Case of Illegal Extraction of Ground Water', submitted in compliance with NGT's order of May 7 in the case filed by Delhi environmentalist Shailesh Singh on the illegal extraction of groundwater by industries in Noida and Greater Noida.

The panel recommended that the "violation duration" should be assumed as being at least one year in cases where no evidence of the date of borewell installation could be established. For industrial groundwater abstraction where a metering system is not available, water consumption should be estimated as per consent conditions imposed by the state pollution control board or the pollution control committee.

The panel also said that water in an over-exploited area should be permitted to be drawn out only for drinking, and industries established in such areas without prior consent or clearance of the Central Ground Water Authority or similar departments must be closed down immediately.

Activists, however, felt more needed to be done. For instance, Vikrant Tongad, founder member, Social Action for Forest & Environment, pointed out the absence of EC for the agriculture sector. Tongad, who has pursued the issue of groundwater in NGT with a number of petitions, said, "Almost 85% of the consumption of groundwater is by the agriculture sector. We are not saying that farmers should be burdened, but agriculture should also be covered, and a provision made for groundwater recharge penalties with EC."

The panel report will be reviewed at the next hearing in NGT on July 19, after which there will be a decision on the possible implementation of these compensation charges.

PAY UP FOR ILLEGAL EXTRACTION OF GROUNDWATER

1 CPCB suggests environmental compensation rates (ECRGw) directly proportional to water consumption and scarcity

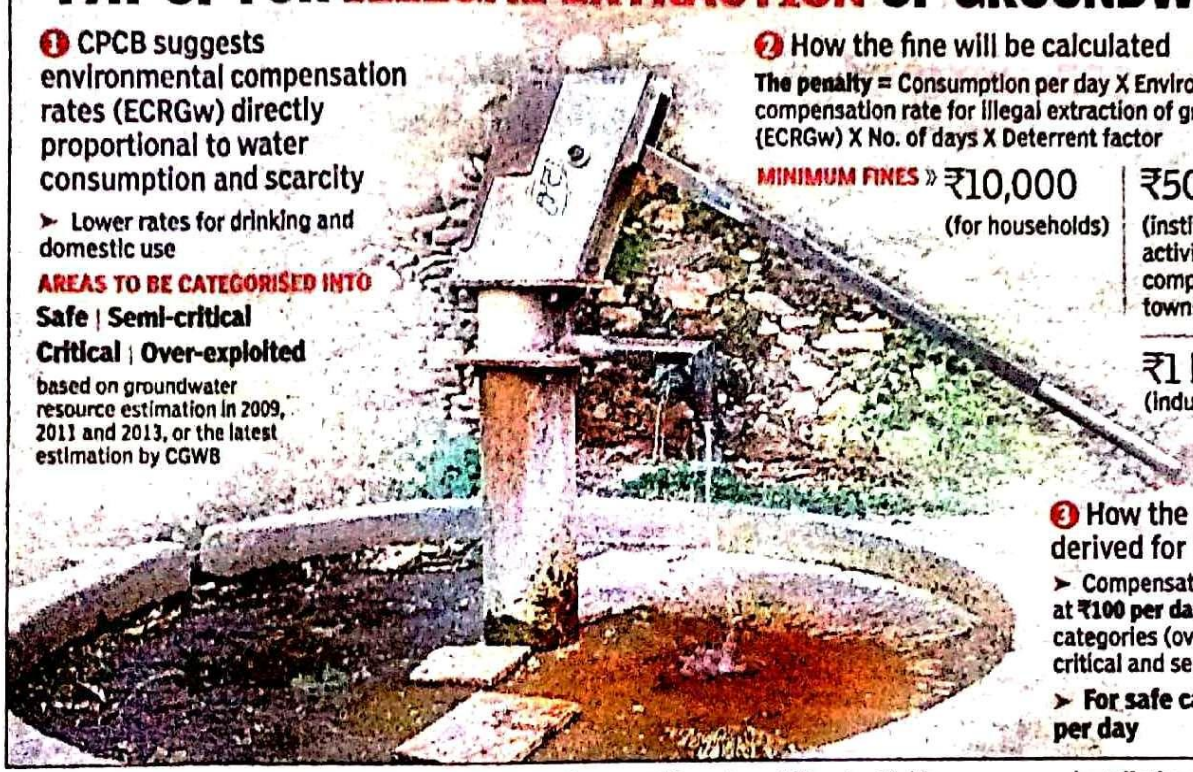
- Lower rates for drinking and domestic use

AREAS TO BE CATEGORISED INTO

Safe | Semi-critical

Critical | Over-exploited

based on groundwater resource estimation in 2009, 2011 and 2013, or the latest estimation by CGWB



2 How the fine will be calculated

The penalty = Consumption per day X Environmental compensation rate for illegal extraction of groundwater (ECRGw) X No. of days X Deterrent factor

MINIMUM FINES » ₹10,000 (for households) | ₹50,000 (institutional activity, commercial complexes, townships, and so on) | ₹1 lakh (industrial activity)

3 How the fine will be derived for households

- Compensation to be charged at **₹100 per day** for OCS categories (over-exploited, critical and semi-critical)
- **For safe category, ₹50 per day**

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'To-Do List' Issued to Implement Jal Shakti Abhiyan

18-point list is for all joint secys & additional secys deputed as CNOs for implementation of Abhiyan

Anubhuti.Vishnoi@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre has issued an 18-point to-do list to all joint secretaries and additional secretaries deputed as Central Nodal Officers/ Central Prabharis for implementation of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

Tasks have been clearly spelt out, beginning from three days after the launch of the Abhiyan on July 1.

At the top of the ladder is the Central Nodal officer (CNO), or Central Prabhari, who is made responsible for the time-bound implementation and monitoring of the scheme in their allotted districts and is supposed to report on its progress straight to the Cabinet Secretary on a fortnightly basis.

He has been tasked with touring the identified districts within a week of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) launch, plan three visits of three-day duration each during the course of the JSA and submit reports to the Cabinet Secretary, as per the latest instructions issued to them.

A seven-point list has been circulated for Block Nodal Officers (deputy secretary/director level) and three tasks have also been outlined for technical officers at the district level, besides 21 of them for the district collector. State-level nodal officers (additional chief secretary/principal secretary level) will also pitch in the same way.

THE TO-DO LIST

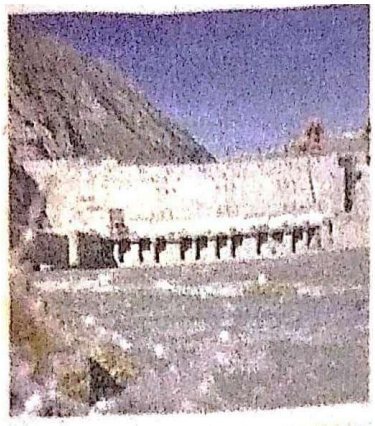
The Prabhari must hold the first meeting with Block Nodal Officers (BNO) and Technical Officers (scientists/ technical experts) within three days of the JSA launch and conduct their first field trip to the district within a week of the launch of the mission, according to the directions given.

He will get two officials nominated by the District Collector to assist the BNO and TO with local conditions and concerns. A WhatsApp group will also to be created immediately involving all central and district teams for a 'seamless interaction'.

The Prabhari is also asked to firm up the district-level plan with fortnightly targets, decide fund source mechanisms towards water conservation interventions at the district level meet and upload the same within ten days of the campaign. He will also draw up a list of government-owned buildings where rainwater harvesting can be taken up within 10 days of the launch.

The CNO is expected to undertake at least three visits of minimum three days duration to the allotted district, hold fortnightly reviews and upload feedback on the same.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 05.07.2019 in **The Economic Times, New Delhi** and documented at WSE Dte, CWC.



REGULAR MONITORING

India Keeping Close Watch on Chinese Dams on Brahmaputra

DipanJanRoy.Chaudhury
@timesgroup.com

ET-5

New Delhi: India is closely monitoring construction of dams by China on river Brahmaputra including any diversion of water due to construction of dams, the minstry of external affairs (MEA) told Parliament.

"The 'Outline of the 12th Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China' endorsed in March 2011 indicated that three hydropower projects on the main stream of Brahmaputra river in Tibet Autonomous Region were approved for implementation by the Chinese authorities. A hydropower project at Zangmu was declared fully operational by Chinese authorities in October 2015," Minister of state MEA V Muraleedharan stated while answering a query.

The Indian govt has consistently conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities

Zangmu dam over the Brahmaputra, which became partially operational in 2014, raised serious concerns in India as the first major hydropower project among a few more planned by China on the trans-border river in Tibet.

The dam's reservoir capacity of just 86.6 million cubic meters of water accounts for a tiny portion of the average annual runoff of the Brahmaputra.

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No proposal under consideration for water sharing between India, Pakistan: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is no new proposal under consideration for water sharing between India and Pakistan, the Government said on Thursday.

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on whether there is any proposal for water sharing among India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria said an agreement is already in place between India and Pakistan for sharing waters of the Indus river and its tributaries.

"The use of waters of Indus is governed by the Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan in 1960. There is no new proposal under consideration with regard to water sharing between India and Pakistan," Kataria said in a written response to a question.

The treaty specifies that the waters of three eastern rivers — Ravi, Beas and Sutlej — have been reserved for India while that of western rivers Indus, Chenab and Jhelum are for Pakistan.

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MUMBAI'S TRAGEDY

Another monsoon takes a heavy toll, spotlighting corruption and incompetence in infrastructure planning and governance

ANOTHER MUMBAI MONSOON tragedy has yielded another high-level inquiry, this time to probe the circumstances in which at least 26 Mumbaikars died when a wall along a suburban hillock collapsed on two shanty colonies. A technical experts' committee will also probe if the quality of construction and design of the wall along the slope was appropriate. Meanwhile, the first week of rains left thousands with flooded and damaged homes and vehicles. The suburban railway and bus transportation systems are counting their losses, running into crores, from flood water ingress. Thousands of underground water tanks in suburban residential colonies are contaminated, and municipal authorities are bracing for an impending round of viral and water-borne diseases. Incidentally, even as rains battered the financial capital earlier this week, a CAG report tabled in the Maharashtra state legislature slammed agencies for incomplete works on flood preparedness.

After every major tragedy in Mumbai, inquiry reports point to blinkered urban planning and moribund municipal governance. Meanwhile, the tiresome trope about Mumbai's resilience almost appears to be its undoing — the city that never stops returns to business as usual and long-term corrective measures are forgotten. At least two near-stampedes on stations on the suburban railway system were reported this past week, almost as if 23 Mumbaikars headed to work never died in the September 2017 Elphinstone Road station stampede. After the 2005 deluge that claimed over 700 lives in the city after a 944 mm downpour in a single day, not only were large parts of a fact-finding committee's recommendations never implemented, but 14 years and several hundred crores later, a project to rejuvenate the Mithi River, Mumbai's mother drainage system, remains incomplete. Faced with citizens' anger, top officials and the Shiv Sena's heir apparent Aaditya Thackeray parried, saying this week's record rainfall must be looked at in the context of climate change. But very recent lessons on sustainable development are already a hazy memory. Just last monsoon, the marooning of satellite towns, Vasai-Virar, following a three-day deluge suggested that the devastating results of Mumbai's development trajectory were playing out in a suburb, not in a distant future. The peculiarity of Vasai-Virar's relatively inexpensive housing market is the widespread construction on flood plains, reclaimed wetlands and former salt pan lands — all buffers against flooding.

Corruption and incompetence in infrastructure planning and governance cannot be brushed under the climate change carpet. Various agencies responsible for Mumbai's ramshackle systems must do both — fix accountability for the dereliction and simultaneously mandate scientific sustainability studies to inform all development planning, zoning initiatives, real estate development and mass transit projects.

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Too Big To Fail

TOI-S

The Ratnagiri dam failure highlights the safety risks posed by large dams amid official negligence

The dam breach in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district leaving 15 people dead and at least eight more missing is a wakeup call on poor dam management practices. After two years of villagers complaining about major leakages in the earthen dam, plastered with cement, authorities apparently conducted repairs two months ago. But these now appear to be stopgap measures given how nearly a third of the 308-metre-long dam was washed away amid copious rainfall and the reservoir filling to capacity. The heavy loss of lives and property demands that accountability be fixed.

Failure to do so will only intensify the impunity and negligence that devalues human life. Unlike other unsafe public structures like buildings where risks are localised, failed big dams threaten everything downstream, including other dams, and can have catastrophic domino effects. According to Central Water Commission, India has 5,264 large dams in operation, of which 75% are over 25 years old and 164 big dams more than 100 years old. Until 2018, there were 36 large dam failures, possibly making Tuesday's Tiware breach the 37th failure.

Last year's Kerala floods were also attributed to poor dam management practices. With extreme weather phenomena making short-term rainfall predictions a challenge despite improved weather forecasting, vigilant dam management is critical for flood mitigation. The Dam Safety Bill 2018 sought to create a legal and institutional framework to ensure proper inspection, surveillance, operation and maintenance of dams but is stalled over some states fearing a central takeover of their dams. These disputes need to be quickly resolved in the interest of the primary stakeholders: citizens at risk. Maharashtra, accounting for the largest chunk of India's big dams – 2,069 dams – also needs to rethink the utility of big dams amid recurrent droughts which demands age-proof, cost-effective and eco-friendly rainwater storage structures.

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Polavaram project's deadline extended by three years

H-5

Coffer dam is the first priority, says project authority CEO

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The Polavaram multi-purpose project, considered a lifeline for Andhra Pradesh, is likely to be completed only by 2022.

An indication to this effect was made by Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) Chief Executive Officer Rajendra Kumar Jain after emerging from a review meeting here on Thursday. The PPA team will visit the site on Friday.

Mr. Jain said work on the coffer dam was partially completed, and a target had been set to complete it before floods hit the area. It was estimated that about 10,000 cusecs of flood water would reach the coffer dam this year. The coffer dam, however, would not be affected, he added.

The Estimates Committee had to examine the increase in project expenditure. The Committee has asked the State government to submit a few more details. The Central government had already released ₹6,700 crore for the project, he said.

Audits pending

Mr. Jain said the State government was yet to complete certain formalities with regard to the submission of bills to the Centre, which initiated an audit into the expenditure incurred on the project in 2014. An audit relating to the expenditure of ₹1,300 crore on relief and rehabilitation was still going on. The audit relating to the expenditure incurred by the State government on the project before it was declared a national one was also yet to be completed, he said.

To a question, Mr. Jain said he had no information on reverse tendering for the project. The PPA was in no way concerned with the tenders. The State government would take a call on it, he added. The previous government had announced that water would be released through gravity by December 2018 and the project would be completed in December 2019.

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पानी पर दिखी मरु प्रदेश की सक्रियता

बिरला का सुझाव, मेघवाल की सहमति, अब शेखावत देंगे ब्योरे

संसद में जल संरक्षण पर अब होगी विशेष चर्चा

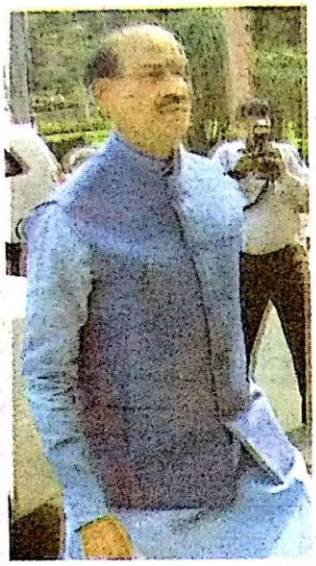
केंद्रीय मंत्री शेखावत ने कहा पारंपरिक स्रोतों का होगा आधुनिकीकरण

पत्रिका ब्यूरो
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. जल संकट को ले कर यूं तो पूरा देश चिंतित है, लेकिन गुरुवार को संसद में इस पर विशेष तौर पर मरु प्रदेश राजस्थान के शीर्ष नेता सक्रिय दिखे। लोकसभा अध्यक्ष को वैसे तो दल और प्रदेश की सीमा से ऊपर माना जाता है, लेकिन उन्होंने सदस्यों की दिलचस्पी को देखते हुए अपनी ओर से इस पर अलग से चर्चा के लिए सुझाया। जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र शेखावत ने इसके लिए सहमति दिखाई और केंद्रीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्री अर्जुन मेघवाल ने तुरंत इस पर सरकार की ओर से मंजूरी दे दी। संयोग से ये दोनों मंत्री भी राजस्थान के ही हैं।

हुआ यूं कि लोकसभा में प्रश्न काल के दौरान जल संरक्षण संबंधी सवालों का शेखावत जवाब दे रहे थे। इस दौरान बड़ी संख्या में सदस्य इसी विषय पर सरकार से सवाल पूछने को आतुर दिखे। सदस्यों की उत्सुकता को देखते हुए लोकसभा अध्यक्ष बिरला ने कहा कि जल संरक्षण के महत्व को देखते हुए ही जल शक्ति मंत्रालय बनाया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि सदस्यों की जो उत्सुकता इस विषय को लेकर है इसलिए संसदीय कार्य मंत्री से आग्रह करता हूं कि इस पर एक बार अलग से बहस होनी चाहिए। ताकि अधिकतम सदस्य इस विषय पर अपनी राय रख सकें। इसके बाद संसदीय कार्य राज्यमंत्री अर्जुन मेघवाल ने कहा कि सरकार इसके लिए तैयार है। अब सरकार और लोकसभा सचिवालय मिल कर इस चर्चा के लिए समय तय करेंगे। चर्चा के दौरान सरकार की ओर से केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र शेखावत जवाब देंगे।

अध्यक्ष बिरला के विशेष चर्चा के प्रस्ताव का सदस्यों ने मेज थपथपा कर अनुमोदन और स्वागत किया। इससे पहले सदस्यों ने सरकार से जानना चाहा कि जल संरक्षण को लेकर उसकी कार्ययोजना क्या है। जवाब में शेखावत ने दावा किया कि सरकार जल संरक्षण के मुद्दे पर बेहद गंभीर है और इसके लिए जल के पारंपरिक स्रोतों का आधुनिकरण किए जाने की बड़ी योजना पर काम किया जा रहा है।



संसद के सत्र में शामिल होने जाते लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला।

इस तरह हो रहा जल संरक्षण का काम

भाजपा सांसद अजय मिश्र टेनी के पूरक सवाल के जवाब में शेखावत ने कहा 12वीं योजना के तहत जल संरक्षण के लिए 1765 करोड़ रुपए की अनुमानित लागत से 2064 जल निकासी निकायों का कार्य प्रारंभ हुआ था। जिसमें से मार्च 2019 तक 1160 जल निकायों का कार्य पूरा हो चुका है। शेखावत ने कहा कि महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना के तहत नहर तथा नालों आदि के सृजन, पुनरुद्धार तथा संरक्षण के साथ ही पारंपरिक जल निकायों के पुनरुद्धार से संबंधित कार्य तथा बांधों से गाद हटाने की प्रक्रिया पर काम चल रहा है।

संगठन निष्ठा से ही 2 से 300 सीटों पर पहुंची भाजपा

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जयपुर. भाजपा प्रदेश में शनिवार से सदस्यता अभियान शुरू करने जा रही है। रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह जयपुर से सदस्यता अभियान की शुरुआत करेंगे। इससे पहले गुरुवार को सदस्यता अभियान को लेकर भाजपा ने प्रदेश स्तरीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया। कार्यशाला में अभियान के राष्ट्रीय सह-संयोजक अरूण चतुर्वेदी ने कहा कि भाजपा की संगठननिष्ठा का ही परिणाम है कि 2 सीट से 79 सीट और आज 300 से अधिक लोकसभा सीटें देशभर में भाजपा की हैं।

सतीश पूनिया राजेन्द्र राठौड़, प्रदेश संगठन महामंत्री चन्द्रशेखर ने भी संबोधित किया।

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केंद्रीय मंत्री ने लोकसभा में कहा

100 वर्ष पुराने 59 बांधों का होगा पुनरुद्धार

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नई दिल्ली. मध्यप्रदेश के 100 वर्ष पुराने 59 बांधों का पुनरुद्धार किया जाएगा। केंद्रीय जलशक्ति राज्यमंत्री रतनलाल कटारिया ने गुरुवार को लोकसभा में यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि केंद्रीय जल आयोग ने 100 साल से पुराने देश के 220 बांधों को चिहिन्त किया हैं। इनके पुनरुद्धार और सुधार के लिए 3466 करोड़ रुपए स्वीकृत किए गए हैं। इसमें मध्यप्रदेश के 59 बांध शामिल हैं।

कटारिया ने बताया कि बांधों के संरक्षण के लिए आपदा प्रबंधन योजना और आपातकालीन कार्ययोजना राज्यों को बनाने को कहा गया था। मध्यप्रदेश सरकार और बांध से जुड़ी उसकी एजेंसियों ने आठ बांधों की कार्ययोजना तैयार की है। मंदसौर सांसद सुधीर गुप्ता द्वारा चंबल नदी पर बने गांधीसागर बांध में जमा गाद निकालने को लेकर पूछे गए सवाल के जवाब में जलशक्ति मंत्रालय ने बताया कि बांधों में औसतन हर साल एक प्रतिशत गाद जमा होती है। इसके निपटारे का प्रबंधन किया जाता है।

ट्रांसमिशन लाइन के 11 टॉवर ध्वस्त

मध्यप्रदेश में 2016 से 2018 के बीच ट्रांसमिशन लाइन के 11 टॉवर ध्वस्त हो गए। सरकार ने इसमें गुणवत्ता और निर्माण से जुड़ी कमियों को माना है। केंद्रीय ऊर्जा मंत्री आरके सिंह ने लोकसभा में लिखित जवाब में बताया कि इन क्षतिग्रस्त टॉवरों को स्थायी समिति की सिफारिशों पर फिर से पुनर्स्थापित कर दिया है। मध्यप्रदेश में ट्रांसमिशन लाइन के जो टॉवर ध्वस्त हुए थे, उनमें जबलपुर-बीना ट्रांसमिशन लाइन के पांच टॉवर पांच साल से कम अवधि में ही टूट गए। बाकी छह अन्य इससे अधिक अवधि के पहले स्थापित किए गए।

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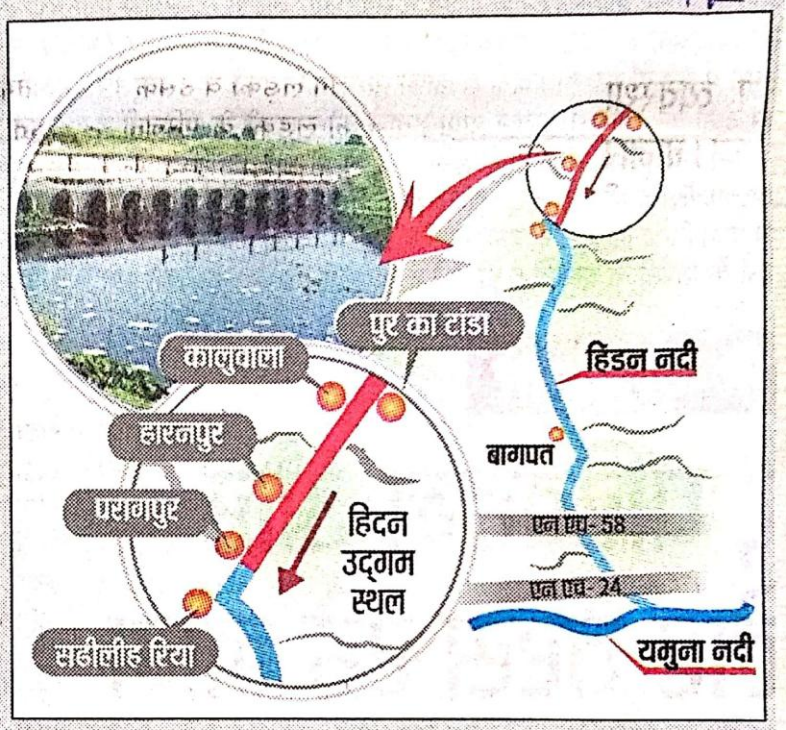
हिंडन से प्रदूषण खत्म करने की तैयारी

PK

गाजियाबाद, (पंजाब केसरी): पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए नासूर बन चुके हिंडन नदी और काली नदियों को साफ-सुथरा व प्रदूषण मुक्त करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार और प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने गंभीरता से लिया है। पीएमओ के निर्देश मिलने पर केन्द्रीय नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने हिंडन को प्रदूषण मुक्त बनाने के लिए ढाई साल का एक्शन प्लान तैयार किया है। इसमें अल्प अवधि और लम्बी अवधि की योजना बनाकर हिंडन नदी के प्रदूषित पानी को छह माह में नहाने योग्य बनाने की तैयारी की जा रही है। हिंडन और काली नदियों का पानी यमुना में गिरता है और यमुना गंगा में जाकर समा जाती हैं। इन प्रदूषित नदियों से लाखों लोग परेशान हैं। सहारनपुर, मुजफ्फरनगर, मेरठ, बागपत, गाजियाबाद और गौतमबुद्ध नगर जनपद से होकर हिंडन नदी गुजरती है। ग्रेटर नोएडा क्षेत्र में यह नदी यमुना में मिल जाती है। विभिन्न जिलों से गुजरने के दौरान हिंडन में उद्योगों का कचरा, सीवेज और



एनजीटी के आदेश पर हिंडन साफ करने के लिए एक्शन प्लान तैयार किया गया है। योजना बना 30 महीने में न्यूनतम नहाने योग्य हिंडन के जल को बनाने की तैयारी है।

विवेक राय,
क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

नाले आकर मिलते हैं। यही वजह है कि साल दर साल हिंडन का पानी दूषित होता चला गया। एनजीटी के आदेश पर हिंडन के पानी को साफ करने के लिए योजना बनाई गई है। इसके तहत सहारनपुर से गाजियाबाद के बीच हिंडन के सबसे प्रदूषित क्षेत्र के उद्योग, ठोस कचरा निस्तारण, सीवेज निस्तारण के लिए अलग से योजना बनाकर पानी साफ करने की तैयारी की जा रही है। हिंडन किनारे शराब, कागज, स्लॉटर हाउस , चमड़ा कारखाने नदी के पानी को सबसे ज्यादा दूषित कर रहे हैं।