The Times of India - 07- August-2022

High level of uranium in Bihar groundwater triggers concern

Patna: Recent findings of radioactive uranium in groundwater in some pockets of Bihar has set alarm bells ringing for the state administration as well as environmentalists, reports **BK Mishra**.

In the analysis of water samples collected from different parts of the state, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has found uranium in concentrations above the permissible limit. While the permissible limit of uranium in potable water is 30 parts per billion (PPB), the CGWB found uranium traces in the groundwater samples in the range of 40-50 PPB.

Thakur Brahmanand Singh, regional director of CGWB (mid-eastern region), told TOI that water samples from 10 districts, namely, Nalanda, Nawada, Katihar, Madhepura, Vaishali, Supaul, Aurangabad, Gaya, Saran, and Jehanabad, have been sent to the Lucknow centre of the CGWB for detailed isotopic uranium analysis.

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Concern over high uranium levels in Bihar's groundwater

Samples from 10 districts sent for tests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

The high concentration of uranium in groundwater in certain districts in Bihar has left authorities worried.

About 100 water samples from 10 districts have been sent to the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) centre in Lucknow for scientific analysis, a top official said.

"The presence of uranium in drinking water is a matter of great concern with respect to public health," CGWB (Middle-East region) regional director Thakur Brahmanand Singh said.

"The water samples have been sent for isotopic uranium analysis through Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry method, which measures isotopic ratios at a reasonably high accuracy. The future course of action will be decided only after getting the report," Mr. Singh said.

The districts from where the groundwater samples have been recently collected are Nalanda, Nawada, Katihar, Madhepura, Vaishali, Supaul, Aurangabad, Gaya, Saran and Jehanabad.

The uranium concentration reported in previous studies conducted in the State will be compared with the new findings.

Cauvery tribunal award for Kerala goes begging

KALPETTA

The 'lethargy' of successive governments in completing dam projects in a time-bound manner to utilise the Cauvery water awarded by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal decades ago has turned out to be a gain for Karnataka.

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Cauvery tribunal award for State goes begging

'Lethargy' of successive governments to complete dam projects in a time-bound manner turns advantageous to Karnataka

E.M. MANOJ
KALPETTA

The 'lethargy' of successive governments in completing dam projects in a time-bound manner to utilise the Cauvery water awarded by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal decades ago has turned out to be a gain for Karnataka.

The tribunal had awarded 30 tmcft of water to the State from the three river basins of Kabani in Wayanad (21 tmcft), Bhavani at Attappady in Palakkad (6 tmcft), and Pambar in Idukki (3 tmcft).

Cauvery Circle

The government had constituted a Cauvery Circle in the Water Resources department in 2009 to investigate and coordinate irrigation projects to be implemented in the river basins to utilise the water.

The plan was to have the Karapuzha, Banasurasagar, Noolpuzha, Manchat, Thirunelly, Thondar, Peringothupuzha, Kallampathy, Kadamanthodu, Ckekad, and Chundalipuzha projects in the Kabani river basin. The circle collected basic data of a few projects before it was wound up in 2011 for constituting the Kuttanad circle.

The proposals for two dams in Wayanad across the Chundali and Kadamanthodu rivers had to be frozen owing to public protest.

The proposals for other projects in the State also came to an end after the Cauvery Circle was wound up.

A view of the Karapuzha reservoir in Wayanad. Though more than ₹350 crore has been spent on the Karapuzha irrigation project, its commissioning has remained a distant dream.

The Banasura Sagar dam at Padinharethara was built to support the Kakkayam hydroelectric power project and satisfy the demand for irrigation and drinking water in the area. The reservoir was commissioned in 2005. Though the reservoir in the Kabani river basin also aimed at providing 1.7 tmcft of the 6.7 tmcft of water for irrigation, the target is yet to be achieved even after around ₹70 crore was spent on the project.

Land acquisition issues

If the project had materialised on time, close to 2,500 hectares in five grama panchayats could have come under irrigation. The delay in land acquisition owing to the lack of coordination between departments has been cited for the delay.

The Karapuzha irrigation project is the first such project planned with a view to utilising 2.8 tmcft of water of the 21 tmcft awarded to the State by the Cauvery tribunal under the Kabani river basin.

Though more than ₹350 crore has been spent on the project over three decades, its commissioning remains a distant dream, thanks to the lack of coordination between officials of departments.

The Kabini dam, on the Karnataka side, is a good example of how State-led efforts can help harness water for irrigation purposes. The dam, built across the Kabini river at Beechanahalli in Heggadadevan Kote taluk in Mysuru district in 1968, has collected 18.04 tmcft of water, mainly from the rivers in the Kabani river basin, till August 6 this year as against 15.47 tmcft during the corresponding period last year.

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Water release from Mettur comes down

TIRUCHI

Though the reduction in water release from Mettur brought relief to people living along the Cauvery and Kollidam rivers, the heavy discharge of water from the Bhavanisagar reservoir remained a cause for concern.

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Delta districts on high alert even as discharge from Mettur dips

Heavy discharge of water from Bhavanisagar Reservoir remains a concern

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUCHI

Though the reduction in quantum of discharge of surplus water from the Stanley Reservoir in Mettur brought a sigh of relief to people living along the Cauvery and Kollidam Rivers, the heavy discharge of water from the Bhavanisagar Reservoir remained a cause for concern.

According to sources in the Water Resources Department (WRD), the Upper Anicut at Mukkombu realised 1.89 lakh cusecs of water at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The inflow was about 25,000 cusecs less than the inflow on Friday. Of the 1.89 lakh cusecs, 59,661 cusecs was let into the Cauvery. About 1.29 lakh cusecs was diverted into the Kollidam River as against 1.43 lakh cusecs on Friday.

Collectors, Revenue, Police, WRD and other line departments of the Delta districts, including Tiruchi, Thanjavur and Karur remained on high alert following the opening of the Bhavanisagar Reservoir and the Amaravathi dam to discharge surplus water. Since the Bhavanisagar Reservoir reached its maximum level of 102 feet as against 105 feet, the WRD discharged 25,863 cusecs into the Bhavani River on Saturday.

Minister Siva. V. Meyyanathan inspecting the flood situation in Mayiladuthurai on Saturday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The water level in the Cauvery and the Kollidam has come down a bit. But we remain on alert as the entire inflow is being discharged from the Bhavanisagar dam besides the Mettur Reservoir and the Amaravathi dam. The water level will go up again once the water discharged from the Bhavanisagar and the Amaravathi dams reach the Upper Anicut," said M. Pradeep Kumar, Tiruchi Collector.

He told *The Hindu* that personnel had been posted at 27 vulnerable spots in the district. Flood inputs were being shared with them every hour. More than 300 persons had been moved to six shelters in Srirangam, Mannachanallur and Lalgudi. As a precautionary measure, 159 camps had been readied to provide shelters to the affected persons.

Minister's inspection

Minister for Electricity V. Senthilbalaji visited various flood-hit areas, including Thavuttupalayam, Thimmachipuram and Aranganathapettai in Karur.

He inspected the water management system at Mayanur barrage. Karur Collector T. Prabhu Shankar said 150 families had been evacuated to safety, and provided shelter in various places.

Siva. V. Meyyanathan, Minister for Environment, accompanied by Mayiladuthurai Collector R. Lalitha, held discussion with the officials on the steps being taken to prevent flood in the district due to the flow of over one lakh cusecs of water into the Kollidam River. The Minister asked the officials to remain on high alert.

Reduced inflow

The flow into the Stanley Reservoir in Mettur came down to 1.10 lakh cusecs on Saturday as the rain in the catchments abated, officials of the WRD said.

The dam had water to its full level of 120 feet for the 22th consecutive day.

At 8 a.m. Saturday, the inflow dipped to 1.77 lakh cusecs from 1.81 lakh cusecs on Friday. It went down to 1.31 lakh cusecs at 12 p.m. and to 1.10 lakh cusecs at 5 p.m.

The amount of water discharged into the Cauvery was reduced to 1.10 lakh cusecs: 87,000 cusecs through the 16-vent surplus sluices and 23,000 cusecs through the dam and the power house tunnel. The amount discharged for canal irrigation through the East-West Bank Canal was maintained at 400 cusecs.

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Cheruthoni dam shutter to go up by 70 cm today

KSEB puts reservoir on red alert

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

One shutter of the Cheruthoni dam in Idukki will be raised at 10 a.m. on Sunday to release excess water from the Idukki reservoir. The shutter will be raised 70 cm to discharge 50 cumecs, the Idukki district administration said on Saturday.

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), which manages the Idukki reservoir, put the reservoir on red alert on Saturday morning after the water level crossed 2,382.53 ft. The level has been rising due to rainfall in the catchment area and the release of water from the Mullaperiyar dam situated upstream, the Water Resources department said.

People residing on the banks of the Periyar and Cheruthoni rivers have been advised to remain alert. The district administration and the District Disaster Management Authority have taken the necessary precautionary measures, Idukki District Collector Sheeba George said.

At 7 p.m. on Saturday, the water level in the reservoir stood at 2,383.30 ft, even as moderate rain was reported in the region.

The live storage in the reservoir was at 1,130.8 mcm (77.48%), according to the data collected by the department.

Mullaperiyar

Ten shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam are currently open for discharging excess water.

The water storage facility of the 780-MW Idukki hydroelectric project, the reservoir features three dams – the Idukki arch dam, the Kulamavu dam and the Cheruthoni dam, which features five shutters.

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Do not panic over release of water from Idukki reservoir, says Minister

'Water will have a smooth passage through the Periyar'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Industries Minister P. Rajeeve has said that there is no need to panic about the impending release of water from the Idukki reservoir on Sunday.

He was speaking after a meeting to discuss precautionary measures to be taken ahead of the release of water at Aluva on Saturday. A red alert was sounded in the reservoir on Saturday morning after water rose to the level as fixed by the rule curve.

Mr. Rajeeve said water from the reservoir would have a smooth passage through the Periyar. The flow of water through the tributaries of the river has smoothened since the launch of Operation Vahini. Outlets facilitating the flow of water to the sea remained open without any blocks, he said.

The district authorities had earlier this year claimed to have completed the removal of silt and waste from nearly 137 tributaries of the Periyar as part of Operation Vahini.

Mr. Rajeev said water level at the Marthanda Varma, Mangalapuzha and Kalady stations was showing a declining trend. There was no alarming rise in water level at any point, he added.

All arrangements have been made to shift people along the banks of the Periyar, if needed. Camps have been readied in all taluks, and arrangements have been made for serving food. Medicines have also been stocked.

People living near the Chalakudy river have been relocated in view of the rise in water level.

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Intel India's Net Water-Positive Now

Development in line with the 2030 sustainability goals co has adopted globally: Country head Nivruti Rai

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Pune: US-based technology company Intel has achieved net positive water status in India.This means the company restored and returned more fresh water than it took in, one of three countries globally where it has been able to do so. The development is in line with the 2030 sustainability goals Intel has adopted globally, said Nivruti Rai, country head, Intel India, and vice president, Intel Foundry Service.

"Our intention was always to look at how we can give back to the community, and this was significantly amplified a few years ago when we started looking into the rejuvenation of Dyavasandra and Nanjapura lakes in Bengaluru," said Rai.

In addition, the company also adopted rainwater harvesting and set up an on-campus water use system which recycles 25 million gallons of water every year, using it for flushing, irrigation and cooling tower top-up. Once the two restoration projects are fully implemented, they will restore more than 100 million gallons of water each year between the two lakes.

"Intel restored 99.6 million gallons of water in India in 2021 which can potentially meet the needs of about 2.3 million people for a day," Rai added.

Data shows that one person uses about 160 litres of water a day in India. The United States and Costa Rica are the other two countries where Intel achieved this goal, well ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Nanjapura lake in Bengaluru before restoration (top) and after restoration (left)

The other goals, under its 'Rise' framework, are conserving 60 billion gallons of water and funding external water restoration projects, achieve 100% renewable energy use across its global manufacturing operations and conserve 4 billion kWh of energy.

Further, the company aims to drive a 10% reduction in its absolute Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions and achieve zero total waste to landfill and implement circular economy strategies for 60% of its manufacturing waste streams in collaboration with its suppliers. Intel's main operations in India are in Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Rai said the company would likely undertake similar projects in Hyderabad next. On the other sustainability goals, Intel is also leveraging technology, like converting mechanical energy, from when employees walk on a pathway, to electrical energy.

"Technology is extremely important to drive these initiatives," she said. "We have a product lab which is built based on these requirements of sustainability and reusability," she said. These initiatives are also helping the company drive awareness and adoption across its suppliers.

Intel India is now sharing these best practices with other countries as they work towards their water conservation goals.

Rashtriya Sahara- 07- August-2022

नोएडा प्राधिकरण पर 100 करोड़ का जुर्माना

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) ने बिना शोधित मलजल नालों में बहने से रोकने में विफल रहने को लेकर न्यू ओखला औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण पर 100 करोड़ रुपए का जुर्माना लगाया है। अशोधित मलजल यमुना नदी में प्रदूषण का कारक है। एनजीटी अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति आदर्श कुमार गोयल के नेतृत्व वाली पीठ ने दिल्ली जल बोर्ड पर भी 50 करोड़ रुपए का जुर्माना लगाया।

- यमुना प्रदूषण मामले में एनजीटी की कार्रवाई
- दिल्ली जल बोर्ड पर भी 50 करोड़ का जुर्माना

एनजीटी ने उल्लेख किया कि नोएडा में 95 ग्रुप हाउसिंग सोसाइटी में से 56 में मलजल सुविधा या आंशिक उपचार सुविधा है और बिना शोधित मलजल सीधे नाले में बहता है। पीठ ने कहा, 'इसे रोकने के लिए निर्दिष्ट प्राधिकारी हैं, लेकिन वे अधिकरण द्वारा नियुक्त समितियों की जमीन पर तथ्यात्मक स्थिति का पता लगाने के बाद रिपोर्ट के आलोक में पिछले लगभग चार वर्षों में इस अधिकरण की ओर से जारी कई निर्देशों के बावजूद इस तरह के प्रदूषण रोकने में विफल रहे हैं।'