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Telangana Today- 08- January-2024

# Fund crisis in river boards

**KRMB uncertain of paying employees' salaries, GRMB running on reserve funds**

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HYDERABAD

The cash-strapped Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) and the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) are likely to face gloomy prospects in the new year.


With water sharing between the two Telugu States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh turning more and more ticklish year after year, the river boards are expected to play a decisive role in conflict resolution. Being low on funds, the tasks shouldered by the board are likely to be plagued by the serious money worries they were in for.

The KRMB, left with a precarious balance sheet, is uncertain of paying salaries to its staff, while the GRMB is supporting its activities with reserve funds. Both are on the verge of running dry in terms of funds. It is difficult to expect funds to come by in a day or two.

As a result, the KRMB has been forced to convene a special meeting for an urgent review of its finances as the sole issue on its agenda. The KRMB has scheduled the meeting for January 12. The GRMB will hold a similar meeting in the first week of February to discuss its finances, among other issues.

The issue of fund crunch impacting their operations is likely to figure prominently in the deliberations at the meeting of the five river management boards of India — including the KRMB and GRMB — to be held in Delhi on January 9, with Debashree Mukerjee, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Jal Shakti, in chair.

Commenting on the worsening financial situation of the river boards established under Section 85(1) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014, a senior officer said both



**DIRE SITUATION**

- TS, AP have to release **₹11.75 cr** each per annum to support KRMB
- KRMB left with only **Rs 22 lakh** to support its operations
- TS, AP to extend a support of **Rs 8 crore** each to support GRMB budget
- GRMB left with minimum reserve fund to meet its expenses

**Issue of fund crunch likely to figure prominently at a meeting of 5 river management boards — including KRMB and GRMB — to be held in Delhi on January 9**

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were not releasing funds as agreed upon. Some 56 employees are in the fold of the KRMB. They are uncertain of receiving their salaries for the current month unless at least one of the States comes to their rescue.

Another 45 employees and officials of the GRMB are being paid from the reserve funds of the board and they may last less than a month or two. After failing to evoke the desired response from the governments of both States, they plan to take up the issue with the Jal Shakti Ministry.

Both the KRMB and GRMB are autonomous bodies under the administrative control of the Central government. Under Section 86(2) of the AP Reorganisation Act, it has been stipulated that the two successor States should provide necessary funds to the river boards to meet their expenses.

Both the States contributed Rs 45.63 crore to the KRMB in the last 10 years as against Rs 45.45 crore it spent on its operations and salaries during the period.

Both States were to provide the KRMB with Rs 11.75 crore each per annum to meet its expenses. For the 2023-24 fiscal, while the government of Telangana was expected to contribute Rs 11.75 crore, AP has to pay Rs 13.61 crore (including dues) to the board. AP released only Rs 3.35 crore in May 2023. Several letters were addressed to both governments. The KRMB is left with a balance of just Rs 22 lakh, which would suffice to pay its employees even for January.

As for the Godavari board, it is left with the minimum reserve fund to run its show and this may not last long, said an official. While AP owed it Rs 9.43 crore, Telangana has to clear dues of Rs 4.77 crore.



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The Tribune- 08- January-2024

# 138 Pong Dam oustees fail to get land transferred in their name

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JANUARY 7

Despite the recommendation of the Kangra district administration, 138 landless Pong Dam oustees are still waiting for their homes to be transferred in their names. The district administration had in 2021 recommended that forest land on which the houses of the 138 Pong Dam oustees were located in Dehra subdivision should be

Kangra settlement office rejects 100 claims

## ADMN'S RECOMMENDATION OF LITTLE HELP

- Kangra district administration had in 2021 recommended that forest land on which their houses were located in Dehra subdivision should be transferred in their name
- Its plea was that their houses were classified as forest land under 'faulty revenue entries' in the 1980s when entire common land in Kangra was declared forest land



transferred in their name.

The district administration had made the recommendation to the settlement office

of Kangra on the plea that the houses of these people were classified as forest land

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under "faulty revenue entries" in 1980s when the entire common land in Kangra district was declared as forest land. The administration had recommended that the revenue entries should be corrected and the ownership rights of the houses of the 138 Pong Dam oustees should be vested in their name.

Sources said the settlement office at Kangra had rejected 100 claims and a decision was yet to be taken on the remaining 38 cases.

Kangra Deputy Commissioner Nipun Jindal admitted that the settlement office had rejected the claims in 100 cases referred to it for correction of revenue records.

*The Tribune* first highlighted the plight of the landless Pong Dam oustees residing in villages in Dehra subdivision. Many of these oustees were living even without power and water connections as they did not have any land in their name. After the construction of Pong Dam, their houses got submerged in the Pong Dam lake. They were not given any compensation as there was no land in their name.

The villagers moved uphill and settled on common land in their own village. However, in the 1980s, the common land on which the villagers had settled was converted into forest land by the

Himachal Government. This made these villagers encroachers on forest land. They were bereft of all benefits, including power and water connections. After *The Tribune* highlighted the plight of the landless Pong Dam oustees, power and water connections were provided to them at Nandpur village. The Deputy Commissioner also initiated the process of allotment of land to landless oustees and fixed December 31, 2021, as the deadline for completing the process. However, it has been over 24 months since the deadline expired but the applicants have not got land transferred in their name.



Jansatta- 08- January-2024

# केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने कहा देश में 72 फीसद घरों तक पहुंची पेयजल सुविधाएं

जोधपुर, 7 जनवरी (भाषा)।

केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत ने रविवार को कहा कि देश के 72 फीसद घरों तक पेयजल सुविधाएं पहुंच चुकी हैं और शेष में दिसंबर 2024 तक पहुंच जाएंगी। सिंह ने यहां असम से आए पत्रकारों के एक समूह को बताया कि जब 2019 में 'जल जीवन मिशन' शुरू हुआ तो 16 फीसद से कुछ अधिक घरों में ही पेयजल की सुविधा थी।

उन्होंने बताया कि योजना का कार्यान्वयन राज्य सरकारों की जिम्मेदारी है। प्रत्येक राज्य को अलग-अलग भौगोलिक चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है। हमने राज्य सरकारों

के परामर्श से एक दिशा-निर्देश तैयार किया है और योजना का कार्यान्वयन उसी के अनुसार किया जा रहा है। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि मैं गर्व के साथ कह सकता हूं कि कोविड के दो वर्षों के दौरान तमाम चुनौतियों का सामना करने के बावजूद 72 फीसद घरों तक पेयजल की सुविधाएं पहुंच गई हैं।

सिंह ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने प्रतिज्ञा की है कि प्रत्येक घर को पेयजल की सुविधा मिले और 'हम दिसंबर 2024 तक इसे सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं'। उन्होंने कहा कि दिसंबर 2019 में योजना शुरू होने के बाद से राजस्थान ने घरों में पेयजल की आपूर्ति के मामले में बहुत कम प्रगति देखी गई।

हालांकि, राज्य सरकार बदलने के साथ उन्होंने उम्मीद जताई कि दिसंबर 2024 तक महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति होगी। नदियों को जोड़ने के संबंध में केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि कई राज्यों को या तो बाढ़ की समस्या या सूखे की स्थिति का सामना करना पड़ता है।

उन्होंने कहा कि नदियों को जोड़ना और नदी के प्रवाह को आवश्यकता के अनुसार मोड़ने के लिए एक ग्रिड बनाना पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी का सपना था। इसके अध्ययन के लिए एक समिति का गठन किया गया था। इस योजना के तहत नदी के प्रवाह को अधिशेष वाले क्षेत्रों से पानी के अभाव वाले क्षेत्रों की ओर मोड़ा जा सकता है।