

The Tribune - 9 March-2024

4 women from state to share ideas on water conservation

ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, MARCH 8

Four women from the state will share their experiences related to water conservation on Saturday at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Although 75 women from the state will participate in this programme, these four women have been selected to share their experiences on the stage.

The four women are Manju Bala, Sarpanch of Panniwala Mota village in Sirsa district, Tannu Singh, who runs a voluntary organisation in Yamunanagar, Neetu, a member of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) in Rohtak and Anuradha, a pump operator from Sureti Jakhal village in Mahendragarh. They will also be felicitated at the event.

Their names have been

Sarpanch Manju Bala to be honoured for outstanding work



included for their commendable work in water conservation.

Besides Haryana, 50 women from Rajasthan and 125 women from Uttar Pradesh will participate in the programme. Prime Minister Modi will interact with the women during the programme.

Manju Bala has made special efforts regarding water conservation and proper use of water. She said after

becoming the sarpanch in November 2022, finding solutions to drinking water problems was her priority.

"Solution to polluted water in the village was found. Thereafter, work of providing drinking water facilities in every household was undertaken," she said. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, work of laying drinking water lines was done and everyone was made aware of water conservation, Manju Bala said, adding that ponds in villages have been rebuilt under the Amrit Sarovar scheme.

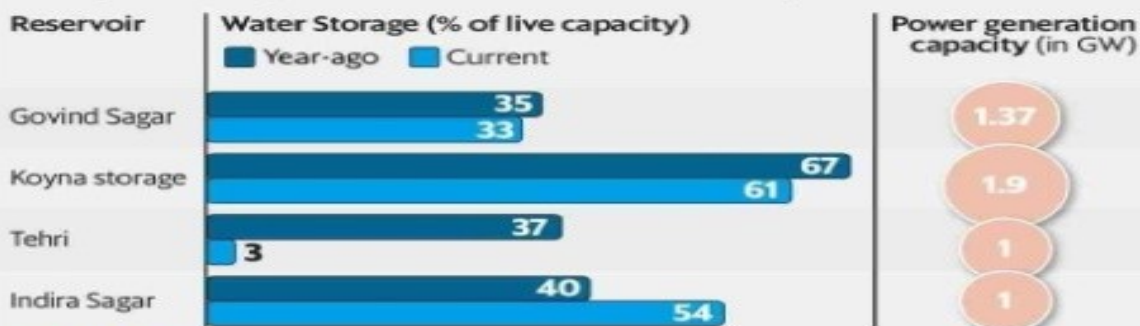
Rakesh Soglan, district consultant of Water and Sanitation Support Organisation, said Manju Bala, Anuradha from Mahendragarh, Tannu Singh from Yamunanagar and Neetu from Rohtak would participate in the program in Delhi. Manju Bala's participation in the programme was a matter of pride for the district, Soglan said.

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Dipping levels

Major hydro power generation projects are short on reservoir storage and may find it hard to meet summer production demand.



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Source: Central Water Commission

SATISH KUMAR/MINT

Drying dams a bad omen for summer

Rituraj Baruah & Puja Das

NEW DELHI

Falling water levels in hydro power dams are raising worries, as a looming summer threatens to turn up power demand and strain the electricity grid.

Thanks to last year's late monsoon, scanty winter rains and the lack of snowfall, reservoir levels fell 17% from a year earlier to 73.29 billion cubic metres (bcm) on Thursday, data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) showed. The levels are also nearly 3.6 percentage points below the 10-year average of 76.06 bcm.

"Reservoir levels are very low currently; in case rainfall is deficient in the upcoming months, hydro power generation would be further impacted," an official with a

hydro power generation company said. "Last year, the monsoon was delayed and it hampered generation by hydro projects to a great extent. Govind Sagar, Indira Sagar and others are key reservoirs for hydro power projects," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

India has a hydro power capacity of 46.92 GW, which is 11% of the total capacity of 429.96 GW. Despite this small share, it has an outsized role in keeping the power grid stable, since its generation can be regulated when required, unlike other renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, which depend on wind and sunshine.

Most top reservoirs are running low on water levels com-

TURN TO PAGE 15

Telangana Today - 9 March -2024

Drying reservoirs raise power worries

FROM PAGE 18

pared with last year. Govind Sagar reservoir in Himachal Pradesh, which caters to a hydel capacity of 1.37 GW, currently is only 33% full, against 35% a year ago. Koyna dam in Maharashtra, with a hydro power project of 1.9 GW, was 61% full, against 67% last year. Uttarakhand's Tehri dam, which caters to 1 GW capacity, was at just 3%, against 37% the year before.

One exception is Indira Sagar dam in Madhya Pradesh, where storage has risen to 54% of its capacity from 40% last year, according to data from CWC. It has a hydro power capacity of 1 GW.

Until monsoon rains arrive, melting snow in the Himalayas is a key source of water for hydro power generation from March to June. However, there was little snow this time.

"This year, there was deficient winter rains compared with previous years. Usually, rains during winters in northern India coincides with snow formation in the upper reaches of the Himalayas. However, this winter, we witnessed only some scanty rains in late February and the formation of snow was also lesser, leading to no



Tehri dam in Uttarakhand has only 3% storage now. **MINT**

major source for snow melting and hydro power generation in the coming months. So, power generation may be impacted going ahead," said A.K. Singh, general manager, NTPC, Hydro Headquarters.

Hydro power generation during April-January was already 17% lower at 121.28 billion units from the previous year's 146.12 billion units, data from Central Electricity Authority (CEA) showed.

"Especially acute has been the September to December period, with generation in these months being on an average 29% lower than the same months of last year," said Miren Lodha, director- research,

Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics. "This stems from uneven monsoons in fiscal 2024, coupled with unusually high temperatures seen since September of the fiscal prior to winters setting in."

In India, thermal power has the highest share of 48% in installed capacity, while renewable power (excluding large hydro) has 31%. The likely fall in hydro power generation could put further pressure on thermal plants going ahead.

"Power generation from hydel power plants can be ramped up very quickly, unlike thermal power plants. In this context, the role of hydro

power projects would remain prominent amid the increasing share of solar and wind power, which are intermittent in nature," said Vikram V., vice-president & co-group head, corporate ratings, Icria.

Given India's net-zero ambitions, hydro power and pumped storage projects will play a much more important role going ahead, he said.

Further, with the anticipation of a warmer summer this

year, power demand projection is also likely to grow, with increased cooling requirements. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday said India is likely to experience a warmer start to summer this year, with El Niño conditions predicted to continue through the season.

More heatwave days than normal are predicted over north-east peninsular India, including in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and north interior Karnataka, and also in many parts of Maharashtra and Odisha.

"Based on IMD guidance for the upcoming summer months, normal to above normal

temperatures are expected over most parts of the country during March-May 2024," said Crisil's Lodha.

"This will be a key monitorable as it could lead to surge in power demand from cooling equipment along with irrigation, coupled with higher water consumption needs, eating into hydro generation resources where water sources are common," he added.

rituraj.baruah@livemint.com

Hydro power generation during April-January was already 17% lower at 121.28 bu from the previous year's 146.12 bu

Punjab kesari - 9 March -2024

केंद्रीय मंत्री शेखावत व विधायक राठौड़ में टकराव बढ़ा

शेखावत का विरोध करने वाले भाजपा कार्यकर्ताओं के घरों पर पुलिस ने दी दबिश, ग्रामीणों ने दूसरे दिन भी दिया धरना

जोधपुर, 8 मार्च (मुकेश कुमार): जिले के शेरगढ़ विधानसभा क्षेत्र के चामू और आसपास के गांवों में केंद्रीय जलशक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत के गुरुवार को हुए विरोध का मामला गर्मा गया है। पुलिस ने कुछ भाजपा कार्यकर्ताओं के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की तो इसको लेकर कार्यकर्ताओं ने विरोध करना शुरू कर दिया। उनकी पुलिस से बहस भी हुई। शुक्रवार को ग्रामीणों ने पुलिस के खिलाफ चामू थाने के बाहर धरना दिया। बड़ी संख्या में ग्रामीण धरना स्थल पर मौजूद रहे। बाद में दोपहर में एसपी ग्रामीण धर्मेन्द्र सिंह यादव की समझाइश के बाद धरना समाप्त किया। दरअसल गुरुवार को केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शाम सात बजे शेरगढ़ विधानसभा क्षेत्र में पहुंचे थे। यहां पर कार्यकर्ता केंद्रीय मंत्री से मिलना चाहते थे, लेकिन विरोध की आशंका के चलते मंत्री वहां रुके नहीं। इस पर कार्यकर्ताओं ने नारेबाजी शुरू कर दी। इस दौरान चामू क्षेत्र के भालू रतनगढ़ में भाजपा कार्यकर्ताओं ने उनका विरोध किया। इसको लेकर पुलिस में शिकायत दी गई। इसके बाद देर रात पुलिस ने कई कार्यकर्ताओं को घरों से हिरासत में ले लिया।



जोधपुर: चामू पुलिस थाना के बाहर धरना-प्रदर्शन करते विधायक बाबू सिंह राठौड़ के समर्थक।

संजीवनी घोटाले का मामला उठाया

दोनों के बीच अब तकरा इतनी बढ़ गई है कि विधायक बाबू सिंह राठौड़ ने संजीवनी मुद्दे पर शेखावत पर निशाना साधते हुए कहा कि लोगों के पैसे डूब गए और जब लोग मदद के लिए शेखावत के पास गए तो वो भी नहीं की। उन्होंने धरने को संबोधित करते हुए संजीवनी घोटाले को लेकर केंद्रीय मंत्री पर जमकर निशाना साधा। वे बोले-संजीवनी के मामले में कई लोगों ने अपनी जिंदगी की कमाई गंवा दी। कई लोगों के पैसे डूब गए। इसको लेकर जब लोगों ने केंद्रीय मंत्री शेखावत से कहा कि अब केंद्र और राज्य दोनों में आपकी सरकार है इसकी जांच हो जाए और हमारे गरीबों का पैसा मिल जाए तो हमारी आशीष आपको मिलेगी। इसमें भी आगे बढ़कर कोई मदद नहीं की। आज गरीब खून के आंसू रो रहे हैं। उन्होंने इस दौरान केंद्रीय विद्यालय, एलिवेटेड रोड और ईसीएस मुद्दे पर भी शेखावत पर निशाना साधा। करीब 2 बजे तक चले धरना प्रदर्शन में समझाइश हुई कि पुलिस अब दबिश नहीं देगी। इस पर वे माने और कहा कि इस मुद्दे को लेकर वे जयपुर में सीएम से मिलेंगे।