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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 have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

P. N. Sharma
4.8.17
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Deputy Director (Publication)

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Director (T.D.)

[Signature]

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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O/C

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 4/8/17 in the

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Deccan Chronicle
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Narmada dam: 40k families wait to be resettled

SC To Hear Matter On Tuesday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Twelve people, including 62-year-old Medha Patkar of Narmada Bachao Andolan, have been sitting on fast at Nimar in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district for eight days now, seeking proper rehabilitation of the nearly 40,000 families whose homes and lands will be submerged once the water in the Sardar Sarovar Dam is allowed to rise to its full height of 138.68 metres.

The gates of the dam were shut as early as June 17, and the water could now spread in the flat plains of the area, submerging this very fertile region.

M Sudha, who had joined the protest and was on her way home to Bengaluru on Thursday by train, told **TOI**, "This is land with lush vegetation, crops on every field, flat land with dark soil that is obviously very fertile. Your heart will cry when you see it and think that it is all soon to be submerged. What have been set up for rehabilitation are tin sheds," she said.

"Those given plots have 90 feet x 60 feet area — one family that I stayed with while I was there had about 40 heads of cattle! How will they see to lands for grazing the animals? What the government is offering is only the plots and, from what we saw there, the same plot was sometimes given to two different people."

In February this year, the Supreme Court ruled that rehabilita-



Activists are also concerned about the deteriorating health of Medha Patkar as the fast entered its eighth day

tion of all people should be done ahead of July 31, so that no one is affected when the water rises.

Activist and politician Prashant Bhushan and soil scientist Sanjai Parikh later managed to convince the court that the rehabilitation was far from complete.

The apex court then withdrew its directive that the area be emptied by July 31. The matter will be taken up again in the Supreme Court on August 8.

Meanwhile, activists are also concerned that the health of Medha Patkar is deteriorating, as the fast entered its eighth day. The government is still to begin any talks. "There is just no concern. The government behaves like it does not need to engage," Sudha said.

Union water resources minister Uma Bharti was in a meeting when **TOI** attempted to reach her. Attempts to reach ministry of water resources secretary Amarjit Singh also proved futile.

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
जयभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

Brahmaputra: need for holistic development

■ Dr Tapan Dutta

A1- 2

The publication of the news, captioned 'Centre wants Ganga unfettered, silent on Brahmaputra' (AT, July 17) had opened up the differential policy of the Government of India between 'Maa' Ganga and 'Baba' Brahmaputra. No doubt, this has been observed during the last decade of the previous century, when over-exploitation of the natural resources of the Brahmaputra basin became known through media reports. For more than a decade, there have been demands for restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board into an authority for holistic management of the Brahmaputra river basin in the principle of the watershed management concept. In this connection, one was little optimistic on restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board, when the proposal for the Brahmaputra and Barak River Basin Regulatory Authority was pursued by the Union Ministry of the Water Resources. This concept was initiated at the intervention of late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, who had directed both the Ministry of Water Resources and the NEC, Shillong, based on the proposal of this author.

It was exciting to receive a letter from the Ministry of the Water Resources dated November 24, 2014 regarding restructuring of the Brahmaputra Board into the North East Brahmaputra River Rejuvenation Authority (NEBRRA) in response to my letter dated June 12, 2014 to Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India. Subsequently it was confirmed in the Parliament on December 18, 2014. Further, Uma Bharti, Minister for Water Resource had given a positive indication through a personal communication, dated April 14, 2015. However, ultimately the Bill was not placed in the Budget Session of 2015, as proposed. Therefore, this author had visited the offices concerned in New Delhi to know the status. One could learn that there was a shuffling not only in the Brahmaputra Board wing, but also important replacement was effected in the senior bureaucratic level post in the Ministry. On pursuing, any how, it was learnt that one senior technocrat from Assam might have motivated the Prime Minister on the possibilities of creating complicity by the authority in exploration of energy and other resources by the Government of India.

Thereafter, *The Assam Tribune* (January 29, 2017) reported that PK Dutta, a noted offshore oil technocrat submitted an ambitious plan to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the management of the Brahmaputra with construction of two highways along the both banks of the river. This not only created greater confusion, but also diverted the main issue of construction of big dams with reservoirs for generating 41,400 MW of electricity. Such attitude is a reversal of the present government at the Centre, compared to their prior commitment during the last general election.

The views of management of the Brahmaputra in the manner of the Huang He river is not relevant in consideration of its geophysical and environmental factors. However, the experience of thwarting the Japanese invasion by the Chinese Government during 1934 by flooding their valley, even by killing an estimated 90,000 people, most of them were Chinese only, should be kept in mind. Of course, in apprehension of a similar situation, the 3,000 MW Etalin hydel project at the Dibang valley in Arunachal Pradesh under PPP model might have been kept on hold on the pretext of environmental issues. It should be an eye opener for the

Assam Government too.

The editorial 'Rivers in peril' (AT, July 28 last) has also expressed views in support of NEBRRA. In the meantime, a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs was included in its governing body in view of involvement of the neighbouring countries in the river basin.

As per recent reports in *The Assam Tribune*, an eminent scientist of the State has been advocating holistic management of the river, avoiding the establishment of an institution, similar to NEBRRA. Further, an internationally-recognised Assamese expert on designing big dams for generation of electricity has given assurance of designing a structure which can withstand the impact of earthquake above 9 Richter scale. But the question is who will assure that such water reservoirs will have no adverse effect in the valley, when the North-east is placed in the very sensitive seismic Zone V.

No one can deny the importance of dyke, although its long-term effect has been questioned. Even dredging is essential on specific situations. The adverse effect of the super highways during the flood season under the situation of a great earthquake should not be ig-

nored too.

The undernoted suggestions are for everyone's perusal:

(i) Initially dredging may be undertaken from Bangladesh border up to Pandu Ghat, not from Sadiya as has been proposed. It should be implemented with a bottom-up approach.

(ii) Since the Bhogdoi river is flowing near Jorhat town above the ground level with construction of dykes on both the banks, it will offer the opportunity for both dredging and canalization.

(iii) The Tuni river stream can be developed into a waterway in Majuli district, more particularly to connect its western areas with Garamur, the administrative town.

(iv) There are also scope to develop modern waterways connecting the north and south banks of the Brahmaputra, both for economic and environmental interests.

Since development and destruction are inseparable, therefore, imbalance in developmental activities leads into degradation, resulting in devastation. There is an apprehension of reaching this stage in near future. Therefore, it is very essential to consider the implementation of the developmental activities with greater caution.

दिनांक 03.08.2017 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru) ✓
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

53% shortfall in inflow into Cauvery basin & reservoirs: minister DM

BENGALURU, DHNS: The shortfall in the inflow of water in the four reservoirs of the Cauvery basin stands at 52.94% and the present storage levels were not sufficient to meet the irrigation requirement for the kharif season, Water Resources Minister M B Patil said on Wednesday.

Patil told reporters in Bengaluru that deficient rainfall had resulted in poor inflow into the four reservoirs — Harangi, Hemavathi, KRS and Kabini. He said the total inflow received during the water year from June 1 stood at 57.83 tmcft as against the long-term 43-year average inflow of 122.88 tmcft — a shortfall of 52.94%.

The total live storage in the four reservoirs as on date stood at 43.3 tmcft as against 52 tmcft on the same date last year. The water levels last year was considered a historic low in the last 40 years, he said.

He said Karnataka has released 7 tmcft water to Tamil Nadu since June 1 as against 34 tmcft as stipulated by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

Requirement for Cauvery water

Irrigation

96.16 tmcft

Drinking water

36 tmcft

Total requirement

132 tmcft

Total Availability

43.3 tmcft

(CWDT) award. "As of now, 2017-18 appears to be a distress year. The releases as stipulated by the CWDT award is not possible."

Patil said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will convene a meeting with various stakeholders, including farmers, soon to decide on the next step of action following the distress situation in the Cauvery basin.

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पंजाब-4-8-17

सरदार सरोवर बांध पुराने ओवरफ्लो स्तर के करीब

भांशीनगर/के वडिया, ● परन्तु इस साल
(वार्ता): नर्मदा पर बने मशहूर सरदार सरोवर बांध के इस साल छलकने (ओवरफ्लो) की उम्मीद बहुत कम

इसका जलस्तर दोपहर एक बजे 121.35 मीटर तक पहुंच गया था और धीमी गति से बढ़ रहा था। यह स्तर इस वर्ष जून में बांध पर लगे 30 दरवाजों को बंद किये जाने से पहले के ओवरफ्लो स्तर 121.92 मी. के काफी निकट है पर अब पहले जैसी अफरा-तफरी नहीं है क्योंकि न केवल दरवाजे लगने से अब ओवरफ्लो स्तर 138.68 मीटर हो गया है बल्कि तकनीकी कारणों से जरूरत पड़ने पर 131 मीटर के बाद दरवाजे ही खोल दिये जाएंगे।

सरदार सरोवर नर्मदा निगम लिमिटेड के महाप्रबंधक स्तर के अधिकारी ने बताया कि अब तक का बांध का सर्वोच्च जलस्तर 131.18 मी है जो भारी ओवरफ्लो के दौरान 25 अगस्त 2013 को पहुंचा था। इसलिए अब अगर पानी इस स्तर तक पहुंचता है तब तक दरवाजे बंद ही रहेंगे। इसके बाद इंडियन स्टैंडर्ड कोड के अनुरूप अगर जलस्तर में उठान प्रति 48 घंटे में 30 सेमी से अधिक की गति से होगा तो दरवाजे खोल दिये जाएंगे। ओवरफ्लो के नये स्तर तक जाने का इंतजार नहीं होगा। गुजरात में अब तक कई दौर की भारी वर्षा के बावजूद नर्मदा नदी के मध्य प्रदेश स्थित जलग्रहण क्षेत्रों में अब तक अधिक वर्षा नहीं हुई है।

इस साल बांध के छलकाव की संभावना बेहद कम दिख रही है क्योंकि अगर अब बहुत तेज दर से पानी की आवक होगी तो दरवाजे ही खोल दिये जाएंगे। दरवाजे लगने के पहले प्रति वर्ष औसतन 50 दिन तक ओवरफ्लो होता था पर इसके बाद इस अवधि के घटकर 15 दिन तक हो जाने का अनुमान व्यक्त किया गया था। पर हो सकता है कि इस साल ओवरफ्लो हो ही नहीं। इससे केवडिया में जलप्रपात जैसा नजारा देखने जाने वाले सैलानियों को भी खासी निराशा होगी।

उक्त अधिकारी ने बताया कि दरवाजे लगने से बांध के जलाशय की जल संग्रहण क्षमता 3.46 मिलियन एकर फीट (मैफ्ट) बढ़ गयी है। यह पहले 1.27 मैफ्ट थी पर अब 4.73 मैफ्ट हो गयी है जो कि पहले की तुलना में पौने चार गुना है। अब इससे अधिक पानी आने पर ही ओवरफ्लो होगा। हालांकि क्षमता बढ़ने से बिजली उत्पादन तथा जलापूर्ति पर सकारात्मक असर पड़ेगा।

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गंगा में गाद की समस्या के लिए समिति जल्द

लोकसभा

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती ने गुरुवार को कहा कि गंगा में बाढ़ के लिए एक बड़ा कारक बनी गाद की समस्या के लिए जल्द ही एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया जाएगा।

इसकी सिफारिशें आते ही गाद की सफाई का काम शुरू कर दिया जाएगा।

वे खुद सड़क परिवहन मंत्री नितिन गडकरी से बात कर रही हैं कि इस गाद

का इस्तेमाल सड़क बनाने में किस तरह किया जाए।

उमा ने लोकसभा में सांसद राजेश रंजन उर्फ पणू यादव और अन्य के सवालों का जवाब दिया। उमा भारती ने कहा कि गंगा में गाद की समस्या चिंताजनक है और सरकार इसके समाधान के लिए तत्पर है। बिहार सरकार के आग्रह पर जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के सचिव के नेतृत्व में एक विशेषज्ञ दल ने पांच जून को राज्य का दौरा किया था। इस दल ने बक्सर से फरक्का तक हवाई सर्वेक्षण भी किया था। मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश

फरक्का बांध के कारण नहीं आती है बाढ़

इसके पहले राज्यमंत्री संजीव बालियान ने सांसदों के फरक्का बांध के कारण बाढ़ आने के आरोप को खारिज कर दिया कि इससे गाद जमा होने से गंगा में बाढ़ आ रही है। बालियान ने कहा कि केंद्रीय जल आयोग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार फरक्का बांध का असर केवल 43 किलोमीटर तक ही हो सकता है।

कुमार के अनुरोध पर केंद्र सरकार ने एक समिति के गठन का फैसला लिया था। बिहार सरकार ने समिति का प्रारूप केंद्र सरकार के पास भेज दिया है।

राज्यसभा में भी उठा गंगा में गाद का मुद्दा: राज्यसभा में जदयू की कहकशां

परवीन ने गंगा के कारण बिहार में बाढ़ और कटाव की समस्या का जिक्र किया और नदी से गाद निकाले जाने की जरूरत पर बल दिया। जदयू सदस्य ने शून्यकाल में कहा कि गाद के कारण गंगा नदी का जल प्रवाह प्रभावित हुआ है।

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