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Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

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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. J. Chelvan
14.9.18
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

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For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

6 ECONOMY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Centre's hybrid-annuity model to be tested in Ganga clean-up

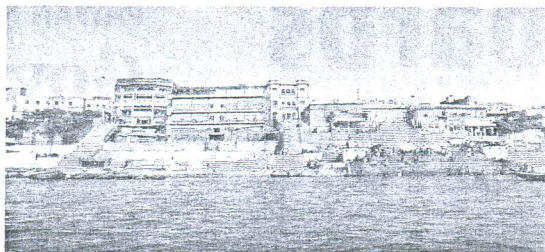
MEGHA MANCHANDA
New Delhi, 13 September

After reviving private sector participation in the infrastructure sector, the Centre's hybrid-annuity model will be put to the test during the Ganga's cleaning and rejuvenation.

This model has been adopted by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for creating sewage treatment infrastructure in 97 towns across the country.

The list of 97 towns includes 20 big towns in the country, including Kanpur, Allahabad, Haridwar and Patna. These hybrid annuity contracts for sewage treatment are usually 15-year ones where construction, operation and maintenance is done by one agency.

Forty per cent of the capital cost quoted is payable on completion of construction while the balance 60% will be paid over the life of the project as annuities along with operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses. The finances will be disbursed to the private company over the 30-month gestation period of the



SEWAGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

| | Projects | Capacity* | Completed | Work in progress | Tendering process |
|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Uttarakhand | 31 | 156 | 14 | 17 | 0 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 32 | 899 | 8 | 10 | 14 |
| Bihar | 20 | 538 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Jharkhand | 2 | 16 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| West Bengal | 16 | 497 | 2 | 4 | 10 |
| Haryana | 2 | 145 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Delhi | 2 | 1,044 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

*Million litres per day

Source: Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

contract.

In this model, the concessionaire will invest in the construction of treatment infrastructure using his own equity and debt funds from financial institutions.

"A condition analysis

assessment was done by international consultant Atkins (design, engineering and project management consultant) and based on the analysis we adopted the hybrid-annuity model," Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, director general of National

Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) said.

Earlier, these sewage treatment plants were executed on design, build, operate and transfer (DBOT) basis but it failed to attract adequate bidders. So, the government opted for this model. Companies like Essel Infra, Shapoorji Pallonji, Triveni Engineering and Toshiba are executing these contracts.

"We have relaxed the norms for participation of foreign players for these contracts," Mishra said.

Mishra added that the earlier Central Public Works Department (CPWD) manual said only foreign players which had prior experience of executing such sewage treatment plants were allowed to bid for such contracts in India.

The central government feels that the challenges faced during the previous efforts to clean the Ganga lacked ownership, had lesser support for sustainability of assets and showed sub-optimal performance of the treatment infrastructure.

However, Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator for South

Asia Network on Dams, Rivers & People, said, "The minister said on May 10 that by March 2019, 70-80% of the Ganga will be cleaned and that by December 2019, Ganga will be 100% clean. However, on ground there was no immediate sign of improvement in the state of the Ganga. None of the actions of the NMCG were a break from the past. At no stage was there even an honest attempt to review past actions to learn as to what works and what does not."

The Namami Gange project was launched with a cost of ₹200 billion, including ongoing commitments of ₹72 billion and new initiatives of ₹128 billion.

Nearly 65% of the fund allotment for the new initiatives has been earmarked for sewage treatment infrastructure. NMCG was registered as a society on August 12, 2011, under the Societies Registration Act 1860.

It acted as the implementation arm of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 14.09.2018 in the

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Monsoon Watch



Countrywide rainfall since June 1 remains 8% below normal

Deficient rainfall recorded over 28% area of the country since June 1



Overall rainfall recorded on Thursday morning remained **46% below normal**
No rain was recorded over **14% area** of the country on Thursday



Only south peninsula has recorded normal rainfall since June 1



CURRENT WEATHER & FORECAST

Widespread rainfall likely over northeastern states, sub-Himalayan West Bengal till today



Highest maximum temperature recorded at 39° Celsius in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday

South peninsula, Central India likely to see subdued rainfall over the next 2 days



Increased rainfall activity likely over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab till Saturday



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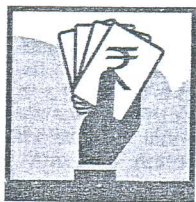
Economic Times

Sinking Deeper Into the MSP Mire

Farming's global competitiveness at risk

The political compulsion to be seen to be doing something earnest to address farm distress is entirely understandable, but expanding the scheme of minimum support prices (MSP) for crops is not the right solution. The government already runs a very expensive MSP scheme for the grains covered by the National Food Safety Act: rice, wheat and coarse grains. Offering MSP for crops without reference to efficiency prices is the surest way to kill the global competitiveness of Indian farm produce. For the government to procure huge amounts of any farm produce without a plan for how to offload the stocks is a prescription for financial loss and waste.

Schemes for the government to make good the difference between the MSP it announces and the market price end up in traders colluding to beat down the market price so as to get a liberal handout from the government. India has to move out of the MSP paradigm to boost agricultural productivity. MSP is computed as a mark-up over the



cost of production. The cost can be computed in either of two ways. One is dubbed in the jargon as $A2 + FL$ — the actual cost of all purchased inputs and the imputed cost of unpaid family labour. A broader measure is $C2 + FL$, in which, the imputed rental of the land used for cultivation and the income

forgone from alternative uses of other fixed capital used in cultivation is added to $A2 + FL$. If costs are reimbursed via MSP, the incentive to minimise costs is eroded. The way to support agriculture has to shift to something else.

Farmers can be given income support linked to how much land they cultivate, regardless of crop, as the government of Telangana has started to. Choice of crop and the cost of cultivation should be left for the farmer to determine, in response to price signals emanating from an efficient market for agricultural commodities, in which global prices play the role they place for tradable industrial goods. The bulk of state assistance for farming must go into investment, not subsidy. The subsidy strategy, diligently followed hitherto, has only produced distress. It is time to accept it.

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ECONOMIC TIMES ✓

NTPC Plant Clearance: Odisha Puts Ball Back in Govt's Court

Says Centre is pushing state and its consumers to pay high power cost

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Bhubaneswar: A day after Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan accused Odisha of delaying NTPC's proposed power plant in Talcher, the state government has hit back with a counter charge — that the central government is pushing the state, and its consumers, to pay high cost for power.

"The tariff of power intimated by NTPC for the first year of operations is in the range of ₹3.40 per unit, which is much higher than the ₹2.70 per unit indicated in the review meeting held by the chief secretary on 28 July 2018," state power minister Susanta Singh pointed out in a letter to R K Singh, the central minister of state for power, new and renewable energy, on Wednesday. On Tuesday, Pradhan, minister of petroleum and natural gas, had written to Odisha chief minister Naveen Patna-

ik, suggesting that the state government was sitting over an important approval to NTPC's ₹9,785 crore brownfield plant.

BJP members raised the 15-month delay from the state's high level clearance authority in the assembly on the eve of Patnaik's investors' meet in the New Delhi.

LETTER TO RK SINGH



In his letter, the Odisha power minister suggested a 'win-win solution for NTPC and Odisha'

In his letter to R K Singh, the Odisha power minister suggested a "win-win solution for NTPC and Odisha" that would facilitate early setting up of the proposed 1320 MW plant.

He said NTPC could commit to evacuate power through the state transmission network, saving the state Power Grid Corporation's "very high transmission charges" in the range of ₹0.60 to 0.80 per unit, in the state's estimate.

In addition, Odisha should also be allocated power from NTPC's other plants within the state, he said. "Odisha was being allocated power from NTPC's Barh-I and Barh-II plants (in Bihar) instead of the Kaniha and Talcher plant within the state, costing it ₹5 more per unit," Singh said in the letter to the central minister. "If the above issues are not resolved, Odisha would end up paying higher cost for power from NTPC to the extent of ₹500 crore per annum for the next 25 years. You would agree that such enormous financial burden amount to almost ₹12,000 crore on the power consumers of Odisha. It can be avoided if Government of India agrees," it said. ET reviewed a copy of the letter.

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Economic team SL

Govt May Auction Power Contracts with Coal Supplies

Plans to allow coal usage for short-term PPAs, put a payment system in place for recovery of dues

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New Delhi: The government plans to auction power supply contracts with attached coal supplies, ease norms to allow coal usage for short-term power contracts and put in place a payment mechanism to help power projects recover dues in time from state electricity distribution companies to alleviate the sectoral stress to a large extent.

The proposals are being deliberated at the high-level empowered committee headed by the cabinet secretary that is likely to meet next on Friday. "It has been proposed that the government removes restrictions on coal usage to include short-term PPAs," a person in familiar with the development said. "Auction of another 2,500 MW aggregated PPA scheme, this time with attached coal supply, has been proposed. Work has already begun on drafting a bill discounting mechanism to ensure recovery of timely payments from state power distribution companies directly to banks."

A payment mechanism for private power companies will release Rs 15,000 crore dues owed to private power companies. The state-owned power generators have payment security mechanism with the Reserve Bank of India on its board. Private sector generators, on the other hand, face delay of up to six months in payments by discoms, adding to their stress and defaults on loan servicing.

The empowered committee will also discuss issues related to gas-based power plants on Friday. The

first meeting of the committee took place on August 31.

"All these proposals, if implemented, will address the problems in the Indian power sector to a large extent," he said.

Amendments to the tariff policy are also likely to be finalised soon to address regulatory issues, sources said. The draft amendment to National Tariff Policy 2016 provides for consumer friendly measures, including penalising the discoms for power cuts other than in force majeure conditions.

It also provides that after March 2019, the distribution companies will not be able to pass on more than 15% technical losses into electricity tariffs. The government on August 27 directed power regulator Central



Amendments to the tariff policy are also likely to be finalised soon to address regulatory issues

Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) to allow changes in any central or state government duty to be passed on to consumers even after award of bids, in a move to help revive some stuck power projects.

The pilot round of PPA auction was conducted by Power Finance Corp and Power Trading Corp in July for 2,500 MW contracts. Seven companies including RKM PowerGen, Jaiprakash Associates and IL&FS bid for bagging 1,900 MW three-year power supply contracts at a price of ₹4.24 per unit.

Telengana and Tamil Nadu are negotiating to offtake 500 MW each from the scheme, while Haryana is likely to buy 400 MW and Bihar another 200 MW, the sources said.

According to the report of the 40th Standing Committee on Energy, the total coal-based power capacity in the private sector is nearly 90,000 MW, of which 75,000 MW is operational. It is estimated that 60,000-65,000 MW of this capacity may be under financial stress.

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Andhra Tells Discoms to Buy all Power Produced by Wind Units

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Bengaluru: The Andhra Pradesh government has clarified that state discoms have to take all the electricity wind power developers produce and pay for it irrespective of the capacity utilisation factor (CUF) of the developer's project, bringing to an end a major controversy in the state's wind energy segment.

In its order setting the feed-in tariff discoms should pay wind energy developers, Andhra Pradesh's power regulator had assumed a CUF of 23.5% for an average wind project.

State discoms had been interpreting this as a directive to accept only the quantity of power a wind plant would generate if its CUF was 23.5%, and reject any additional power supplied. If the plant produced more power by adopting efficiencies that led to a higher CUF, the discoms would turn it down.

Anand Kumar, secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), had written to Ajay Jain, principal secretary in Andhra Pradesh's energy ministry, in December last year that "the generic tariff determined by the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commis-



sion (APERCO) may have taken 23.5% CUF as average CUF in the state for wind power projects and therefore, it is likely that there may be certain sites where CUF is more than the average CUF".

On Wednesday, Jain wrote to the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERCO), as well as all state discoms, that "in the view of Secretary, MNRE's letter, discoms have to treat wind power as 'must-run stations' and take the entire power from them without curtailment".

Developers estimated that wind power from over 2000 MW of projects had been turned down by the state's discoms since March this year. "These would have all turned into NPAs. The clarification is really good for the industry," said Sunil Jain, president, Wind Independent Power Producers Association (WIPPA).

Some in the industry felt, however, that the bigger problem of 'backdowns' - discoms' refusal to take wind power at times citing non-availability of grid capacity - had not been addressed. "In all these years, whenever the discoms backed down, they basically said they don't have grid capacity," said a developer who did not want to be named. "Rarely did they say it was because the wind project was generating more power than had been estimated, or that they were not willing to pay for the extra power. The letter will not make much difference to the current situation."

The wind industry has been going through a difficult phase lately due to paucity of grid transmission facilities. Developers feel this is leading to connectivity issues and hence participation in inter-state bids has been lukewarm. Tariffs too have been rising because debt rates are firming up.

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Haryana panels for cut in protected Aravali area

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Gurgaon: District-level committees formed by the Haryana government for a fresh survey of areas demarcated as natural conservation zones (NCZ) have recommended exclusion of some land parcels owned by private parties from its purview. Several other areas in different parts of South Haryana, including 1,200 hectares of "bhoo" (Aravali foothills) land, could also be excluded from the "confirmed" and "yet to decided" categories of NCZ, effectively bringing down the area that has legal protection from construction activity.

The forest department has, however, opposed the move and recommended that status quo be maintained. It may be noted that the Supreme Court had earlier this week pulled up the state government for allowing construction on Aravali land at Kant Enclave in Faridabad and ordered demolition of all buildings built after 1992 by the end of this year. The court, while passing this order, had also observed that the constructions at Kant Enclave had done irreversible damage to the Aravalis.

The state-level committee for delineation of NCZ is set to hold a meeting on September 15 to take a decision. TOI has a copy of the agenda of the meeting. The Faridabad sub-committee has recommended exclusion of a 52-acre land owned by Bharti Realty in Farida-



The forest department has, however, opposed the move and recommended that status quo be maintained

bad from NCZ. Its report said that the whole of the licensed land was currently under the "yet to be decided" NCZ category. However, the divisional forest officer (DFO) has proposed maintaining status quo.

Similarly, parts of Green Field Colony in Sector 43, Faridabad, have been recommended to be excluded from NCZ. According to the ground-truthing report of the sub-committee, a major chunk of the colony currently falls under the "yet to be decided" NCZ category. In this case, too, the DFO has recommended maintaining status quo. Three parcels of land in Sonapat owned by Sangam Jute Fabricators, Sidharth Jain and MTS Enterprise, respectively, and a site proposed for setting up a warehouse in Dudoli village, Mewat, also face exclusion from the "confirmed" NCZ category. The Mewat land originally belonged to the irrigation department and was transferred

to the state warehouse corporation after chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced the setting up of a warehouse on it.

In December 2017, on the request of the state government, it was decided at the 37th board meeting of National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) that district-level committees would collect ground data from areas falling under NCZ and examine revenue records. Following this, directions were issued to deputy commissioners and district town planners to carry out surveys. Now, the department of town and country planning (DTCP) is likely to exclude areas from NCZ on the basis of reports from the districts.

The department, according to sources, is also planning to exclude "bhoo" land from the "yet to be decided" NCZ category after which the total land falling under this particular category would come down to 11,621.94 hectares from 12,820 hectares. "The NCRPB at its 37th meeting had clearly said that the 'gair mumkin pahar' areas were very much a part of the Aravalis in NCR. The land falls under NCZ and no real estate construction can be allowed here," said environmental analyst Chetan Agarwal, adding that it was not clear on what grounds, the state was now planning to exclude land from NCZ.

Senior officials of DTCP and forest department refused to comment.

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Efforts to rein in sand, gravel rates

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

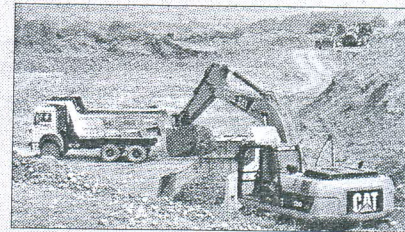
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 13

The Punjab government is likely to bring in its new mining policy, which aims to bring down the prices of sand and gravel for the common man by over 50 per cent, in the coming week. Though the state government is looking to get Rs 400 crore as revenue from the auction of sand and gravel quarries, it is hopeful that the new policy will bring down the rate of sand and gravel to less than Rs 2,000 per 100 cubic feet.

The state government proposes to fix low reserve price for each quarry and fix the price of sand (at the pit head) not exceeding Rs 800-Rs 900 per 100 cubic feet. The bidders will thus have to offer bids at lower rates, considering the price at which he can sell sand will be pre-decided. However, in order to make sand mining attractive for the bidder, the latter will be

MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SHELVED

- Govt to fix price of sand and gravel at pit head at the rate of ₹800-900 per 100 cubic ft. This is expected to ensure that prices remain low at ₹1,800-2,000 per 100 cubic ft
- Presently, price of sand is between ₹3,000 and ₹3,800 per 100 cubic ft. Gravel is being sold for ₹2,100-4,000
- Proposal to set up mining development corporation shelved for the time being
- Instead of auctioning each mine, groups of mines in subdivision, district or revenue division to be auctioned



- Bidder to get environmental clearance for quarrying on his own
- Of 79 quarries auctioned since May 2017, only 15 are operational.

offered groups of mines. Also, the contractors will be asked to get the Environmental Clearance (EC) of the quarrying site themselves. The proposal sent by Local Bodies Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu for setting up a mining development corporation on the lines of a similar corporation in Telangana has been shelved for the time being.

Official sources have told The Tribune that as against the earlier policy of auction-

ing single mines, the government now proposes to auction a group of mines, which could be all quarries in either a subdivision, district or revenue division. A final call on the size of the group is to be taken by the government, though a preliminary meeting to discuss the new policy was held here late this evening between Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and Minister for Mines Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria

and his team of officers.

Over the past one year, ever since the Congress government changed the system of bidding for sand and gravel mines from reverse bidding to progressive bidding, prices of sand and gravel shot up by almost 100 per cent. Those who bagged the contracts for operating these mines in 2017, got these at very high rates. Thus the rates at which they sold the mined minor minerals also shot

up. Prices of sand have remained as high as Rs 3,000- 3,800 per 100 cubic feet, while the prices of aggregate (sand and gravel mix) have remained at Rs 2,100- 4,000 per 100 cubic feet. By making such high bids, majority of bidders were also unable to pay their quarterly instalments to the government and they left the contracts mid way. Of the 79 odd quarries that were auctioned since May 2017, only 15 quarries are operational.

Officials in the Mining Department said the annual requirement of sand and gravel in the state was 4.50 crore metric tonnes. "We are ready to auction almost 170 odd quarries, after the new policy is approved by the Cabinet. Once the quarries are auctioned, we will have more supply than the demand. This will automatically bring down the prices of sand and gravel," said a senior officer in the Department of Mines.

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Aravallis' sandy foothills may be out of green zone

Jayashree Nandi

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NEW DELHI: Parts of the Aravalli Range, which act as groundwater recharge zones for the national capital region (NCR) around Delhi, are likely to be excluded from the natural conservation zone (NCZ) category in a move that could result in real estate development in the areas and which has been criticised by environmentalists.

The Haryana Town and

Country Planning (HTCP) department's September 17 meeting agenda mentions its decision to exclude several Aravalli stretches from the NCZ which includes sanctuaries, major lakes and water bodies. A large part of the area being cleared for development is bhood, or sandy foothills of the Aravallis that act as water recharge zones.

The NCR Regional Plan, 2021, restricts construction and encourages conservation in NCZ areas. All of the Aravallis is categorised as NCZ in

THE MOVE COMES ON THE HEELS OF AN ORDER TO DEMOLISH BUILDINGS IN KANT ENCLAVE, ALSO IN THE ARAVALLIS

the plan.

The decision to exclude the sandy foothills was taken after the HTCP department's recent verification exercise to determine whether these areas conform to the NCZ cri-

terion. The decision comes on the heels of a Supreme Court verdict this week ordering the demolition of buildings located in Kant Enclave in Haryana's Faridabad, also in the Aravallis.

"The bhood areas do not meet the definition of NCZ. It is a very sensitive matter so I cannot elaborate on it now. A survey was conducted and these areas were decided to be excluded," said Haryana's assistant town planner Babita Goyal.

CONTINUED ON P6

Aravallis foothills

The 2021 NCR as well as the Haryana Sub-Regional Plan, 2021, categorise Aravallis as NCZ, where constructions are restricted.

The Haryana government had categorised some of these Aravalli stretches as "status yet to be decided" and reopened them in 2014 for ground-truthing to ascertain their forest status.

The agenda of the September 17 meeting, circulated to various government departments, says that both "status yet to be decided" areas and confirmed NCZ parts have been recommended for exclusion. This means they can be opened up for real estate development.

The agenda document states that the Haryana forest department has objected to the exclusion of the Sarai Khwaja land and the green field colony project land from NCZ.

"All these areas listed to be excluded in the agenda are part of Aravallis and they fall under NCZ, where no real estate construction is allowed," said Gurgaon-based environmentalist Chetan Agarwal.

"The bhood areas are one of the pristine aquifers that should be protected for drinking water supply to water scarce region of northwest India. Opening it up for development will be a mistake," said Shashank Shekhar, assistant professor of geology at the Delhi University.

The NCR Planning Board can overrule HTCP's decision.

In July 2017, the Haryana government wrote to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) saying that certain parts of uncultivable hills cannot be categorised as Aravallis as they have been used for roads, buildings and other such projects.

The Union environment ministry told the NGT that areas categorised as uncultivable hills, foothills, ravined hills, grassy foothills, and the rocky area between hills in NCR will be treated as Aravallis.

The development will boost real estate in Gurugram and Faridabad.

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NOT BY MSPs

If farmers are to be paid remunerative rates, the best way to do it is not through distorting but by liberating the markets

HAVING STEEPLY HIKED the minimum support prices (MSP) of crops to levels covering at least 1.5 times their estimated production costs, the Narendra Modi government seems to be tying itself in knots to implement the decision. There is hardly a month to go for commencement of the kharif marketing season, but it is an ominous sign that most crops — from moong, urad and groundnut to bajra and jowar — are selling at below MSPs even before mandi arrivals are to peak. A move by the Devendra Fadnavis administration in Maharashtra forcing even private traders to buy at MSPs, or face a one-year jail term, has had to be withdrawn for its sheer imprudence. Now, the Union Cabinet has approved a new initiative called PM-AASHA. Short for Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan, it basically combines three schemes — one existing (Price Support Scheme, in which MSP-based procurement of pulses and oilseeds is done by central agencies such as Nafed), one tried out by Madhya Pradesh and Haryana with limited success (Price Deficiency Payment Scheme), and one new (Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme, in which private players have also been enlisted for MSP operations).

While there's no doubting the intention behind PM-AASHA or even the new 1.5-times-cost MSP formula, the question, however, is again with regard to implementability. When market prices today are consistently ruling below MSPs, it only means that the latter do not reflect supply-demand fundamentals. That being so, the responsibility for making purchases at MSP and incurring both sale as well as storage losses would be solely on government agencies. How much can these agencies buy and store? Moreover, how will they dispose of these stocks? Nafed is now struggling with the roughly 6.5 million tonnes of pulses and oilseeds it bought in 2017-18 — and which is currently being offloaded back into the market at below MSPs. Even if private corporates are entrusted with procuring on the government's behalf, they will have to be compensated for losses and not merely paid a service charge of up to 15 per cent on the MSP. And how does the Modi government plan to put in place all these procurement mechanisms under PM-AASHA in the next one month?

If farmers are to be paid remunerative rates, the best way to do it is not through distorting but by liberating the markets. Let the farmer grow any crop based on market signals and sell anytime at the going price that traders are willing to pay. Simultaneously, introduce competition by allowing anybody from anywhere to buy from any mandi within India, while doing away with all storage and movement restrictions. A truly national market for agricultural produce, coupled with a flat per-acre government payment independent of the crop being grown, is the need of the hour.

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

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Govt to rope in NIUA to look into causes of urban flooding

Move will set into motion guidelines issued by expert panel in 2010

SHALINI NAIR

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

IN THE wake of the recent floods in Kerala, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is set to rope in the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) to chalk out ways in which the ministry can take charge of prevention and mitigation of floods in Indian towns and cities.

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told *The Indian Express*, "We will ask the NIUA to put together facts on the recent floods, be it in Kerala or Kashmir, and hold talks with experts to look at the causation. We will begin with urban flooding for now and later look at disaster management in all kinds of urban areas."

The move is part of attempts by the ministry to belatedly set into motion the national guidelines on management of urban flooding issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) expert panel in 2010.

The NDMA panel, set up in the wake of the 2005 Mumbai floods, held that urban flooding is a phenomenon distinct from rural flooding. Hence, the panel said, it needs to be dealt with by the ministry in charge of urban affairs through an urban flooding unit headed by an officer at the level of joint secretary.

In July 2012, the Ministry of Home Affairs had issued orders designating the urban affairs ministry as the nodal ministry for urban flooding, but since then there has been no movement to make it operational.

Puri said that while on some level, flooding can be an indictment of municipal management, as in lack of dredging and drain cleaning, it can also be caused by the urban heat island effect.

The NDMA report has documented how Indian cities, owing to lack of vegetation, moisture-absorbing soils and increase in built surfaces, have reported urban heat island effects, which results in localised high-intensity rainfall.

Puri said that the area between natural disaster and man-made blunders is becoming very difficult to define, as much of what appears to be natural is often man-made due to climate change.

"We have to deal with disaster management in the context of robust urban-



The recent floods in Kerala claimed at least 488 lives and damaged properties worth crores. PTI file

isation. There are measures that cities can undertake, such as changing the nature of buildings and materials used, ensuring water conservation or planting more trees, and overall design an eco-system that helps prevent and mitigates the impact of floods. Since land is a state subject, our role has been mostly advisory," said the minister.

He added that as the ministry lacks the mandate to make it enforceable, flood mitigation and management could be made a reform condition in various flagship missions of the ministries and fund release be tied to implementation.

The NDMA panel held that unlike rural flooding, with urbanisation, natural catchments develop and the increase in impervious surfaces results in higher run-off of rainwater during heavy rainfall, which increases the flood peaks from 1.8 to 8 times and flood volumes by up to six times.

It noted that flooding in urban centres is made worse by inadequate stormwater drains and largescale encroachments along natural waterways, and stressed the need for improved forecasting and urban planning strategies. For this, it held that a dedicated cell under the MoUD, headed by a joint secretary-level officer, must coordinate all urban flood disaster management and mitigation efforts at the national level. This pattern is to be replicated at the state level, where the nodal agency would be the state-level urban development department.

Flood relief: Kerala seeks Rs 4,700 cr from Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

THE KERALA government has sought Rs 4,700 crore from the Centre as compensation for the damage caused by the recent floods, termed as the worst in a century, officials said. At least 488 people died in the floods.

The Kerala government has sent a memorandum to the Home Ministry giving details about the loss of human life, property, infrastructure and crops, and sought about Rs 4,700 crore, a senior government official said.

In case of a natural calamity beyond the coping capacity of a state, the state government submits a detailed memorandum indicating sector-wise details of damage and requirement of funds for relief operations. As per guidelines, the Centre will soon send an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) for an on-the-spot assessment of damage.

The IMCT report will be considered by the Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary and then by a high-level committee, chaired by the Home Minister, for approving the quantum of additional assistance.

Hindustan Times ✓
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Don't blame farmers for being unreasonable

They are paying a heavy price because India still doesn't have a coherent and holistic agrarian policy framework



ROSHAN KISHORE

Responses to India's agrarian crisis can be best described by the story of blind men feeling an elephant. One set feels that all that needs to be done is ensuring that Minimum Support Prices (MSP) guarantee returns of 1.5 times over C2, and not A2+FL measure of costs. The basic difference between A2+FL and C2 costs is that the latter includes the imputed value of rent of land, which can be described as the opportunity cost of farming for a land-owning household. Another set of people believe that an overhaul of warehousing and processing infrastructure is the solution to the problem. Lack of the same is a big reason why producers of horticultural products see a lot of their produce wasted and can do nothing when sudden glut or other factors lead to a crash in prices. Then there are those who think that middlemen are the biggest problem in agriculture, because they squeeze farmers' margins. In principle, there is nothing wrong with such arguments. But the situation at hand is much more complex.

This is borne out by the continuing crisis in the sugarcane and milk production sectors. Farmers' anger over pending sugarcane arrears came into the limelight after the BJP lost the by-poll in Kairana in Uttar Pradesh. Sugar mills, which are supposed to pay farmers, blame the non-payment on unsold sugar stocks and fall in sugar prices. Milk producers in Maharashtra were protesting demanding a hike in prices offered to them by dairies. In an article published in the Indian Express, Harish Damodaran has reported that milk prices offered by dairies in Maharashtra have fallen by around Rs 5-8 per litre in the last one year. The article also warns that the crisis in both these sectors could worsen in the next few months as production will increase. The irony is that these two sectors do not face

the usual problems that have been discussed above. In case of sugarcane, the bigger issue is non-payment of prices for crops rather than prices being lower or non-procurement. The dairy sector is among the few success stories of the cooperative model in India.

Herein lies an important and often under-appreciated aspect of India's agrarian crisis. It is not confined to areas where there is no procurement or there is a lack of processing and storage facilities. Sugarcane and dairy are big examples of this. The problem in these sectors is rooted in a prolonged mismatch in demand and supply. If sugar mills and dairies start going bankrupt because they cannot sell sugar and milk powder, even successful institutions and mechanisms such as cooperatives for dairies and fair and remunerative prices for sugarcane are bound to lose their relevance. There is nothing to guarantee that the government starting procurement of food grains at desired MSPs and proliferation of storage infrastructure will not lead to a similar glut in other commodities. After all, it is fair to expect that better prices and logistical facilities will encourage farmers to increase production.

Logically speaking, there are two ways out of such a crisis. Either we put a voluntary limit to agricultural growth, or ensure that domestic consumption or export markets make sure that rising production is disposed of in a proper manner.

The first, as is obvious, will entail a freeze on agricultural incomes, something we cannot afford. The second will not happen on its own. Unless incomes in agriculture rise significantly, average Indian diets are unlikely to diversify to levels which will increase the demand for agricultural products. A large scale export push will also require intervention by the state, given the uncertainties which cloud the global trade regime today and the dominance of cartels in export of important agricultural products. The problems which have been discussed above are far easier to list than solve. It is also a fact that there is a limit to how much the state can intervene to make sure that agricultural markets are always in equilibrium.

However, what it does underline is the pitfalls of handling an agrarian economy as big as India's without a holistic policy framework.

State intervention, which often works in silos and is driven by short term considerations, often ends up creating more contradictions than it can solve. It is unfair to blame farmers for being unreasonable when there is neither coherence nor larger reason in our agricultural policy.

■ roshan.k@hltive.com

STATE INTERVENTION, WHICH OFTEN WORKS IN SILOS AND IS DRIVEN BY SHORT TERM CONSIDERATIONS, ENDS UP CREATING MORE CONTRADICTIONS THAN IT CAN SOLVE

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RP-14

वाराणसी. वार्निंग लेबल के पास पहुंच कर अब गंगा के जलस्तर में घटाव शुरू हो गया है। गुरुवार को केन्द्रीय जल आयोग के अनुसार दोपहर दो बजे गंगा का जलस्तर 69.85 मीटर दर्ज किया गया है जो चेतावनी बिन्दु से लगभग आधा मीटर कम है। वरुणा नदी में भी उफान जारी है और नदी किनारे रहने वालों की मुश्किलें कम होने का नाम नहीं ले रही हैं।

पहाड़ों पर हुई जबरदस्त बारिश के चलते ही गंगा का जलस्तर प्रभावित हुआ है। बनारस में गंगा घाट का आपस में संपर्क काफी पहले ही टूट चुका था। घाट की अधिकांश सीढ़ी पानी में डूब चुकी है। सबसे अधिक दिक्कत शवदाह करने वालों को हो रही है। मणिकर्णिका व हरिश्चन्द्र घाट पर भी बाढ़ का असर हुआ है और शवदाह करने वालों के पांच से छह घंटे इंतजार के बाद ही चिता लगाने का

लोगों के घरों में प्रवेश कर चुका है वरुणा का पानी

वरुणा का पानी पहले ही लोगों के घरों में पहुंच चुका है जहां पर पानी कम हो रहा है, वहां पर गंदगी के चलते संक्रामक रोग फैलने का खतरा मंडरा रहा है। वरुणा के पानी से सबसे अधिक प्रभावित कोनिया का क्षेत्र है। वरुणा के बाढ़ ने अधिकारियों के बड़े खेल का खुलासा भी किया है। वरुणा कॉरीडोर पानी में डूब चुका है जिससे लाखों के नुकसान का अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है।

मौका मिल रहा है। बनारस दौरे पर आये सीएम योगी आदित्यनाथ ने गंगा के जलस्तर को देखते हुए सभी प्रभावी कदम उठाने का निर्देश जारी किया है। एनडीआरएफ लगातार गंगा के जलस्तर पर नजर रख रही है। जिला प्रशासन ने पांच नाव को किराये पर लिया है।

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केरल की केंद्र से 4,700 करोड़ की मांग

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): केरल सरकार ने हाल की बाढ़ के कारण जनधन की भारी क्षति के मद्देनजर केंद्र से राहत के लिए 4,700 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की है। अधिकारी ने कहा कि इस बाढ़ को राज्य में सदी की सबसे बुरी बाढ़ करार दिया गया है। बाढ़ से प्रदेश के 14 जिले प्रभावित हुए हैं और कम से कम 488 लोगों की मृत्यु हुई है। एक वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी ने कहा कि केरल सरकार ने गृह मंत्रालय को एक ज्ञापन भेजा है जिसमें जनधन, बुनियादी ढांचे और फसलों के नुकसान की जानकारी दी गयी है और तत्काल राहत के लिए 4,700 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की गई है। किसी प्रदेश की उसके निपटने की क्षमता से परे किसी भी प्राकृतिक आपदा के मामले में, राज्य सरकार एक विस्तृत ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत करती है जिसमें तत्काल प्रकृति के राहत कार्यों के लिए क्षेत्रवार ब्योरा सहित धन की आवश्यकता का विवरण होता है। अधिकारी ने कहा कि इसी के अनुरूप केरल सरकार ने ज्ञापन भेजा है। मौजूदा दिशानिर्देशों के



बाढ़ की आपदा डोल रहा है केरल

मुताबिक, केंद्र सरकार जल्द ही क्षतिपूर्ति और धन की अतिरिक्त आवश्यकता के प्रभावित स्थल पर आकलन के लिए अंतर-मंत्रालयी केंद्रीय टीम (आईएमसीटी) भेज देगी। आईएमसीटी की रिपोर्ट मानदंडों के अनुरूप केंद्रीय गृह सचिव की अध्यक्षता में राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारी समिति (एससी-एनईसी) की उप समिति द्वारा विचार किया जाएगा और उसके बाद एनडीआरएफ से अतिरिक्त सहायता की मंजूर करने के लिए गृह मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में उच्च स्तरीय समिति द्वारा विचार किया

प्रत्येक राज्य में गठित की गई हैं आपदा प्रतिक्रिया निधि

किसी भी अधिसूचित आपदा घटना के दौरान बचाव और राहत व्यय को पूरा करने के लिए वित्तीय तंत्र राज्य आपदा प्रतिक्रिया निधि (एसडीआरएफ) और राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रतिक्रिया निधि (एनडीआरएफ) के दिशानिर्देशों के अनुरूप किया जाता है। प्रत्येक राज्य में राज्य आपदा प्रतिक्रिया निधि गठित की गई है जिसमें केंद्र की ओर से हर साल निरंतर वित्त आयोग के अवार्ड के अनुसार सामान्य श्रेणी के राज्यों के लिए 75 प्रतिशत और पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के विशेष श्रेणी राज्यों के लिए 90 प्रतिशत का योगदान दिया जाता है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और गृहमंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने राज्य के अपने अपने दौरे के समय सहायता की घोषणा की थी। इसके अनुरूप 21 अगस्त को, केंद्र सरकार ने 600 करोड़ रुपये जारी किये। मोदी ने 500 करोड़ रुपये और राजनाथ सिंह ने 100 करोड़ रुपये देने का वायदा किया था। यह मदद राज्य के प्रदेश आपदा राहत निधि में पहले से उपलब्ध करार गए 562.45 करोड़ रुपये के अतिरिक्त है।

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नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी): दिल्ली सरकार यमुना की सूरत बदलने के साथ राजधानी को बेहतर बनाने की दिशा में काम कर रही है। यह दावा है मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल का। कोरिया की यात्रा पर गए मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल ने एक व्यक्ति के सवालों का जबाब देते हुए ट्वीट कर कहा कि आप सरकार को अभी ज्यादा समय नहीं हुआ है। उस समय हमारी

सरकार नहीं थी अब ऐसा नहीं होगा। आप सरकार हर क्षेत्र में ठोस काम कर रही है। हम यमुना की सफाई को लेकर गंभीर हैं।

नालों की सफाई को लेकर कड़ी मेहनत की जा रही है। इसमें कुछ समय जरूर लगेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि कोरियाई लोगों ने भी 27 महीने में ऐसा किया। उन्होंने कहा कि मुझे विश्वास है कि हम सफल होंगे।