

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

West Block II, Wing No-5
R K Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated 30.1.2019.

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 will be uploaded on the CWC website.

P. Maheshwari
30.1.2019
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

o/c

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

30/1/19

Director, WSE Dte.

30/01

For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned, uploaded at www.cwc.nic.in

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Time of India (New Delhi)
Indian Express
Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu (New Delhi) ✓
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald
The Times of India (A)
Business standard
The Economic Times

and documented at Bhagirath (English) & Publicity Section, CWC

'Sterlite plant has polluted groundwater, Uppar river'

NGT cannot delegate its powers, TNPCB tells SC

41-30

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Pollutants have wormed their way from the Thoothukudi Sterlite copper plant into the ground water and the nearby Uppar river, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) told the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

Arguing before a Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nari-
man, the Board said it was a "scientific certainty" that the plant was the cause of contamination with pollutants entering the stream and impeding the flow of the river. The ground water contains total dissolved solids (TDS) more than 20 to 40 times the permissible limit, it contended. The Board, represented by senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, said the National Green Tribunal, by setting up a committee

led by former High Court Chief Justice Tarun Aggarwala to examine the Vedanta appeals, ended up delegating its adjudicatory powers. "Adjudicatory powers cannot be delegated," Mr. Vaidyanathan submitted.

'Onus is on Vedanta'

He argued that the onus was on Vedanta to prove that the plant was not the source of pollution.

Mr. Vaidyanathan said the case flouts long-embedded environmental norms and principles like that of sustainable development, inter-generational equity, precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle. Mr. Vaidyanathan submitted that the violation of environmental norms have become so common that "the question now being asked by cer-

tain sections of industry is why are we extracting just three per cent of our mineral resources... why not more?"

The court is hearing the appeal filed by the Tamil Nadu government that the NGT failed to consider the entire gamut of data, documents and evidence before directing the Board to pass fresh orders of renewal of consent and issue authorisation to Vedanta to handle hazardous substances.

The State argued that the tribunal went outside the four walls of the statute governing its functions to appoint the Justice Aggarwala Committee to prepare a report in the case. It said the NGT was not a constitutional court liked the Supreme Court to employ unbridled powers to constitute a committee like that.

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HC raps Haryana for not ensuring flow of clean water into Yamuna... As Delhi says water too dirty to treat at reservoir

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi high court on Tuesday rapped the Haryana government for reneging on its commitment to ensure clean water flow in the Yamuna for Delhi, and demanded an explanation from the state.

A bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V K Rao issued a notice to Haryana government and directed its principal secretary, water department, to reply to the allegations made by Delhi government that bunds/obstacles have been created at key entry point of the river flow into Delhi.

In an application, Delhi Jal Board complained to the high court that Haryana was not allowing clean water to flow into the capital and should be directed to immediately stop polluting the river.

The plea, filed through advocate Sumeet Pushkar, informed HC that the channel which supplies ad-



DIRTY PICTURE: Delhi government cited proof that bunds/obstacles had been created at key entry point of the river flow into Delhi

ditional water to the Yamuna to dilute its pollution levels has also been blocked by Haryana and the water being received at Wazirabad is unusable for treatment as it had high levels of ammonia.

The plea claimed that if urgent steps are not taken to remedy the situation, it would adversely affect the water supply to central Delhi,

including the Lutyens' zone. HC gave the neighbouring state time till February 4 to explain why water supply to the capital is being blocked and listed the matter for further hearing on February 5.

DJB has sought the court's intervention for removal of the 'bunds' put up on the DD-8 channel, which supplies clean water into the Yamuna to

dilute its pollution levels and to control the pollutants that are being discharged into the river from factories there.

The application said if Haryana government could not control pollutants being discharged into the river, it should increase the amount of clean water being supplied to the Yamuna to dilute the pollution.

The DD-8 channel carries clean water from the Delhi Sub Branch Canal and the Munak Canal into the Yamuna to ensure the reservoir at Wazirabad is always kept full. "Immediate directions are required so that the drinking water supply to Delhi is restored in full," the application stated.

HC had earlier asked Haryana government to ensure that it releases the entire quantity of water required as per the undertaking given by it to the court. Haryana has to release 719 cusecs of water per day into Munak Canal and 330 cusecs per day in DSBC, according to the undertaking and earlier court orders.

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Monday rushed to the Delhi high court against neighbouring state Haryana after it feared sudden water shortage in Wazirabad reservoir in the run up to Republic Day and Beating Retreat functions.

In its plea heard on Tuesday, DJB cited its inability to treat polluted water coming from Haryana at the Wazirabad plant and highlighted how supply to various areas, including NDMC and central Delhi, has been affected.

The application said that water treated at Wazirabad is supplied to central Delhi, where all the major government offices and bungalows, Supreme Court and Delhi high court are located.

DJB pressed for immediate relief citing the "critical period" when a host of functions such as Republic Day are held and several international dignitaries are in the city.

Explaining the urgency

DJB pressed for relief citing the 'critical period' when a host of functions are held and international dignitaries are in the capital

behind its move, the board said that the water being received in Yamuna has been so heavily polluted for the last few days that it is not in a position to treat it at Wazirabad. The reservoir there has to be kept full for drinking water needs of Delhi at all times as per the orders of Supreme Court.

Delhi government also threatened of penal action on creation on bunds/obstacles in the river by Haryana saying sections of Indian Penal Code can be slapped if these are not removed. "Anything that impacts the drinking water supply of Delhi due to hindrance and bunds created by Haryana irrigation de-

partment is punishable by law," the application said. It highlighted that obstructing the water channel attracts the provisions of IPC Section 431 which lays down the punishment — maximum jail term of five years — for making any road, bridge or river impassable or un-navigable. The agency alleged that the bunds have decreased clean water supply into the Yamuna, whose levels are in any case low at present. This has led to an increase in the concentration of pollutants making the water unfit for treatment.

DJB also contended that blocking of the DD-8 channel violated Supreme Court's order to ensure the Wazirabad reservoir is always kept full of water. Interestingly, DJB has argued that the DD-8 channel, since it is partly in Delhi's territorial jurisdiction, should be either handed over to the state government or controlled directly by the central government or a neutral body.

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on 30.01.2019 in the

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Green tribunal not happy with Yamuna cleaning

81-30

PTI

NEW DELHI, 29 JANUARY

The National Green Tribunal Tuesday expressed dissatisfaction over the cleaning of river Yamuna and directed Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh governments to submit a performance guarantee of Rs 10 crore each within a month.

A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the state governments to furnish a performance guarantee with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure there was no further lapse in this regard. The tribunal also warned that chief secretary of all the three states would be personally liable for any non-compliance.

The green panel made it clear that the amount will be



forfeited if the work was not carried out as per the recommendations of the monitoring committee constituted by it and asked the panel to expeditiously submit its final report.

It directed that steps be taken by the three states at the earliest for disposal of municipal solid waste, cleaning of drains and ensuring cleaning of garbage.

The order came after perus-

ing the interim report filed by the monitoring committee comprising retired expert member B S Sajwan and former Delhi chief secretary Shailaja Chandra.

The monitoring committee in its action plan submitted has recommended a study to assess the environmental flow of Yamuna river for the stretch between Hathanikund and Okhla.

It said the river was "fighting to stay alive" and it would not be possible to rejuvenate it unless minimum environmental flow was provided.

With regard to idol immersion, the committee has asked the authorities in the city to look for the possibility of creating artificial ponds and pits in various localities.

The NGT had earlier asked the Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

governments to consult the members of the monitoring committee appointed by the tribunal for constituting their own full time committees.

The tribunal had expressed displeasure that despite its specific order, the status of the compliance was unknown, and said there appeared to failure of the authorities in performing their duties, thus undermining the rule of law.

The green panel had said pollution in the Yamuna was of serious concern as it was highly contaminated with industrial effluents and sewage.

It had also asked the Haryana pollution control board to conduct a study of water quality and the flow of Yamuna at the point it enters Haryana, and submit the list of industries located in the catchment area.

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Pak team inspects hydro project in J&K

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Jammu: Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah, Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters, heading a three-member delegation from Pakistan, inspected the Pakal Dul Hydro Electricity project in Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday, along with the Indian counterparts.

The Indo-Pak Indus Wa-

ter Treaty Delegation is on a three day visit to Jammu & Kashmir for inspection of the Chenab river basin. The delegation arrived in Kishtwar on Monday evening, and both the teams will return to New Delhi on January 31, sources said.

The Indian delegation led by Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters, Pradeep Kumar Saxena, comprises A K

Aggarwal, Rajveer Singh, Yoki Vijay, and Ajay Gupta. Apart from the Pakistan Commissioner, the Pak delegation comprised Usman E Ghani, adviser and joint commissioner and Tahir Mehmood Hayat, adviser.

Sources said that the joint delegation inspected the dam site of 1,000 MW Pakal Dul Hydro Electric project at Drang Doru on Chenab in

Kishtwar and will be inspecting Lower Kalnai, Rattle, and Baglihar Hydro Electric Projects.

Under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), water flowing in three Indus tributaries — the Sutlej, the Beas, and the Ravi — has been allotted to India, while the Chenab, the Jhelum, and the Indus waters have been allotted to Pakistan.

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Centre sanctions Rs 4,714-crore aid for drought-hit Maharashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, JANUARY 29

THE UNION government on Tuesday announced financial assistance worth Rs 4,714.28 crore for Maharashtra to tackle the drought prevailing in the state. This comes days after the Fadnavis government in the state sanctioned Rs 2,900 crore to help farmers who have suffered losses due to drought.

The decision was taken by a high-powered committee headed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi. The money has been sanctioned from the National Disaster Relief Fund. Besides Maharashtra, five other states and one Union Territory have been provided funds, worth Rs 7214.30 crore in all, to tackle for floods, drought and cyclone damage.

Last October, Chief Minister Devendra

Fadnavis had sought financial aid worth Rs 7,962 crore from the Centre. This was after the state government declared drought in 151 of the total 355 talukas in Maharashtra.

An official in the CMO said, "In a clear departure from the past, the state government had declared drought and started relief measures during the winter. As a result, even the process of seeking financial aid from the Centre was expedited... it was done in October, last year. In the past, the decision to declare drought and seek relief package from the Centre was always taken during May-June."

Thus, the funds sanctioned by the Centre are likely to reach the state during February-March, the official added.

Though the Centre has not sanctioned the entire Rs 7,962 crore sought by the state, officials said that Rs 4,714.28 crore is one of the highest packages that the state has received in the last decades.

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DATA POINT

Drought-hit

Of the 36 meteorological divisions in India, 25 received less rain during the South West monsoon in 2018 than the average precipitation in the last 118 years. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

There is wide variation in the average rainfall across geographical divisions. The graphic compares South West Monsoon rainfall data for all divisions historically to find where their measures for 2016, 2017 and 2018 are placed.

Graph explained | The rainfall for each division is plotted in a row. Each circle represents the rainfall in a year. The years 1901 to 2015 are in grey (○); 2016 & 2017 are in blue (●); and 2018 in red (●). The dash (|) denotes the average rainfall of each division.



^ Karn. = Karnataka; Raja. = Rajasthan; Maha. = Maharashtra; visit <https://bit.ly/2sNJ30A> for detailed rainfall subdivisions map