



सत्यमेव जयते



आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

देवश्री मुखर्जी
Debashree Mukherjee
सचिव
SECRETARY

D.O. No. F-12011/1/2023-Coord

14th January 2025

Dear Sir ,

In compliance with your D.O. letter dated 24.10.2024, I would like to bring to your notice the following significant matters of Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

(i) Laying of Foundation Stone of Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP) : Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Ken-Betwa river linking project (Daudhan Dam) on December 25, 2024 marking the implementation of first River inter-linking project. The project, planned to be completed in 8 years by March, 2030, will irrigate 10.62 lakh ha annually and provide drinking water to about 62 lakh people in drought prone Bundelkhand region of MP and UP. It is stated that the land acquisition for the Ken-Betwa Link Canal has progressed in 99 out of 109 villages and the DPR for modernizing the Ken Canal System, costing Rs. 1191.51 crore has been approved. Phase-II projects in MP, including Lower Orr Dam, Kotha Barrage, and Bina Complex are progressing well, with irrigation benefits expected from the next financial year. A total expenditure of ₹10,536.12 crore has been incurred as of December 2024, with substantial budgetary provisions for FY 2024-25 to ensure continued momentum.

(ii) Signing and Exchange of MoA for Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project (MPKC): A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed amongst the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Government of India (MoJS) on 05.12.2024 for implementation of MPKC link project. This MoA was ceremoniously exchanged among all three parties - the Chief Ministers of both the states and Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in Jaipur on 17.12.2024. The project envisages interlinking of rivers of Chambal basin including the integration of Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) for optimum water resources utilization of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The project aims to provide drinking water to 21 newly constituted districts of Eastern Rajasthan and en-route towns and villages. The project will also provide water to meet industrial demand of Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). It will irrigate more than 2.5 lakh ha of new command area, stabilize the existing command area of about 1.5 lakh ha in Rajasthan, and provide annual irrigation to 6 lakh ha in Madhya Pradesh and drinking water supply to several districts, including Shivpuri, Gwalior, Bhind and Malwa region.

(iii) Release of Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report and Annual Ground Water Quality Report : The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri CR Patil have released "Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report 2024" and the "Annual Ground Water Quality Report 2024" for the country on 31.12.2024.

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- **Ground Water Resource Assessment Report 2024:** As per the report total annual groundwater recharge is **446.90 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM)**, while the annual extractable groundwater resource, after accounting for natural discharge, is **406.19 BCM**. The annual groundwater extraction for all uses is 245.64 BCM - which is 60.47 % of the extractable GW resource. Out of the total 6746 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas) in the country, 4951 (73.4%) assessment units have been categorized as "Safe", 711 (10.5%) as "Semi critical", 206 (3.05%) as 'Critical', 751 (11.1%) as 'Over-exploited', and 127 (1.8%) as 'Saline'. *It is worth mentioning here that the percentage of Assessment Units under 'Safe' Category have increased from 62.6% in 2017 (The benchmark year when 1st GW Assessment report was started with new improved methodology) to 73.4% in 2024 and Over Exploited Assessment units have declined from 17.24% in 2017 to 11.13% in 2024. Further the total Annual GW recharge has increased (15 BCM) substantially and extraction has declined (3 BCM) in 2024 from 2017 assessment.*
- **Annual Ground Water Quality Report, 2024:** The report provides a comprehensive analysis of groundwater quality of India through background monitoring, trend analysis and hotspot identification with a robust dataset derived from over 15,200 monitoring locations and focused assessments at 4,982 trend stations. The report is the first to adopt a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for groundwater quality monitoring, ensuring uniformity in data collection, analysis and interpretation. This report is a vital scientific baseline for policymakers, researchers and stakeholders engaged in groundwater management.

(iv) Storage Position of Important Reservoirs: Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring the live storage position of 155 important reservoirs spread all over the country and issuing bulletins every Thursday. The overall storage position in 155 reservoirs as on 26.12.2024 was 135.404 BCM which is 124% of the live storage of corresponding period of last year and 119% of average storage of last ten years. Out of the 155 Reservoirs, 20 reservoirs are of Hydro-Electric projects having total live storage capacity of 35.299 BCM and 16 Reservoirs of these had Storage more than the average of last 10 years.

*With Regards and warm wishes for a
happy new year.*

Yours sincerely,



(Debashree Mukherjee)

Dr. T. V. Somanathan,

Cabinet Secretary,

Cabinet Secretariat,

Rashtrapati Bhavan,

New Delhi -110001.

Email: cabinet@nic.in, cabinet@nic.in, cabsec@gov.in