

English News Paper Clippings

Workshop

The New Indian Express

Bill soon to prevent illegal drawing of water by farmers

ENS @Bengaluru

STATE government is bringing in a stringent law to take action against farmers who draw water illegally from the canals using pump-sets. Water Resources and Minor Irrigation Minister D K Shivakumar said a bill will be brought in to prevent water theft.

He was speaking after inaugurating a workshop on "Focused attention on vulnerable and over exploited areas" organised by National Water Mission in association with Depart-



Officials explain the Yettinahole project to Water Resources and Minor Irrigation Minister D K Shivakumar at a workshop in Bengaluru on Thursday **INAGARA JA GADEKAL**

ment of Water Resources, Government of Karnataka. He said the state is spending ₹18,000

crore on the Yettinahole project which will help in getting water to various districts in the state.

BUILD MORE CHECK DAMS, WIN ₹ 1CR

Minister Shivakumar offered panchayats a scheme to construct more check dams at their place and said that those who construct the highest number dams will get Rs 1 crore. "We will select two panchayats from each district. They can construct at private or government land," he added.

"Most of these districts do not have a river and people are waiting for the project to be

completed," he said while praising Kolar for its utilisation of water.

"But, while water is flowing from the Nethravathi, farmers will draw water from the canal using their hand-pump machines. There is a need to prevent them from doing this. We have formed a committee that will have official representation from water resources, police and power supply departments and it will draft the bill and we will make sure to take stringent action against water theft," Shivakumar said.



New law to end water theft by farmers

Diversion from canals hits tailend users

BENGALURU: Having spent a bomb on irrigation projects for years, the state government is worried about increasing incidents of illegal water diversion by farmers from the canals to their fields and the eventual shortage of water to the farmers in tailend.

Anticipating similar trend all along the Yettinahole canal, passing through the parched 'Bayaluseeme' region, the government will soon bring in a legislation to put an end to such practice by farmers.

Addressing a state-level workshop organised by the National Water Mission and the state department of Water Resources, Irrigation Minister D K Shivakumar said on Thursday that the government would form a committee comprising officials from the irrigation, energy and police

departments to draft the legislation and rules. "During the inspection of various projects I have seen farmers illegally drawing water from canals using diesel pumpsets. I have not seen this anywhere else, other than Karnataka.

"I am worried that if this happens along the Yettinahole canal, parched regions like Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Tumakuru will hardly get water. We have decided to enact a law and prevent water theft," Shivakumar said.

Win 1 cr for check dams

Alarmed by the fast depleting water table in parts of Karnataka, especially Tumakuru, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagar and Chitradurga districts, the government has hit upon a novel idea to incentivise gram panchayats by motivating them to build as many check-dams as they can under MGN-

REGA. The gram panchayat with the highest number of check dams will be rewarded with a cash award of Rs 1 crore.

Shivakumar said, "Water is crucial for everything and we need to save it for the future. But we have overexploited the groundwater table and there is an immediate need to stop the running water and make it percolate to the ground. This can be achieved by building check-dams in all GP limits."

The minister said, "All the 6,000 plus GPs will be bunched into 60 units. Each unit will be annually assessed for the number of check-dams built within the district.

The panchayat that builds the highest number of dams in an unit will be awarded Rs 1 crore and we have set aside Rs 60 crore for the project."

DH News Service

Water theft: Govt to crack down on ryots

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The irrigation department is planning to crack the whip on farmers who illegally draw water from canals and is proposing to bring in a law to punish those siphoning off water.

“We need to get tough with those diverting water from canals illegally as water conservation is of utmost importance. We will set up a committee of officials to study the issue and take steps to bring in legislation based on the committee report,” said irrigation minister DK Shivakumar, in his presidential address at a workshop on Focused Attention on Vulnerable and Over-Exploited Areas, on Thursday.

The government is worried about increasing water theft involving farmers and fears it could undermine the Yettinahole project. “During inspection, I have myself

seen farmers illegally drawing water from canals using diesel pumps. I have not seen this anywhere else other than Karnataka. I’m worried that if the same trend continues along the Yettinahole canal, the parched regions like Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Tumakuru will hardly get any water,” Shivakumar said.

The workshop was organized by the National Water Mission, Government of India, and department of water resources, Karnataka.

Rs 60 crore for GPs

Shivakumar also announced Rs 1 crore incentive for gram panchayats for excellence in water conservation by building check dams and rainwater pits. The irrigation department will identify two GPs from each of the 30 districts and the department will set aside Rs 60 crore the purpose.
