Incomplete Isarda Dam behind water wastage

WASTE OF GOOD RAINS It was to be built on the Banas river

This year there was 830 mm rainfall in Tonk but the water flowed into Banas, Chambal and, finally into Yamuna

A PHED OFFICIAL

BISALPUR: While water conservation is the government mantra, 2,500 million cubic feet (mcf) of water went waste this monsoon due to non-completion of the Isarda dam, about 100 km south of Jaipur in Tonk district, after Rs44 crore were spent on it.

The state government had sanctioned the project in 1995 and given to the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED). The cost of the dam was estimated around Rs50-800 crore.

The hydrology report was approved by the Central Water Commission in 2007 according to which 11.5 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water could be stored in the dam, an engineer of the PHED told Hindustan Times.

"The hydrology report will have to be revisited as the last 10 years have seen poor monsoon," he said.

On the government side, there is not much action. A senior official of the Water Resources department said the hydrology was under study and a decision would be taken after that.

"The dam was to be built 80 km downstream of Bisalpur, on the Banas river. This year there was 830 mm rainfall in Tonk but all the water flowed into the Banas, Chambal and, eventually, into the Yamuna," the PHED official said.

A coffer dam (an enclosure within a water environment constructed to allow water to be pumped out to create a dry work environment) was completed in 2007 at a cost of Rs44 crore but there has been no further work.

The Isarda dam along with the Rs15 crore Bisalpur dam was to be taken as a composite project. The dam could fill drinking water needs of arid districts like Tonk, Sawai Madhopur and Dausa, said the official.

But with Bisalpur project having started, the PHED seems content to go slow.

"Bisalpur has water for one year. Next July, if it does not rain, the situation could be as bad as it was this time when the PHED was scouting for water daily to fulfill needs of Ajmer and Jaipur. A Rs600 crore contingency plan was also made to import water in case the rains failed."

A meeting of department secretaries linked to the Isarda project was held in 2007 but there was no agreement on who would fund the project.

"The PHED wanted the Urban Development Department to levy water charges in colonies sanctioned by it to fund the project. But no decision was taken," said an official.

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HANUMANGARH COPS BEATEN UP IN SIKAR

HT Correspondent

JAIPUR: The policemen, including in-charge of a police station, from Hanumangarh district were beaten and tied up with a tree at Kedia village of Nechwa area in Sikar district on Sunday night where they had come to arrest a thief.

According to the police, Assistant Sub Inspector Ram Prasad and head constable Om Prakash of Rawatsar police station in Hanumangarh district had come to arrest Hariram of Kedia village.

Nechwa SHO, Mushtaq Ahmed said when the policemen arrested Hariram from his house his family members attacked the cops and tied them up with a tree.

They were rescued late night after additional force was called from Sikar. Ahmed said that the villagers kept on beating the cops even after tying them with the tree. Both were injured in the incident and have been