

Gujarat could use only 6.45% of water available at SSP during 2007

Who is responsible for this WASTAGE?

According to information obtained under the Right to Information Act from the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, a govt of Gujarat organisation in charge of the controversial Sardar Sarovar Project on Narmada River, Gujarat passed 19.91 BCM (Billion Cubic Meters) of water through its Canal Head Power House (CHPH) and River Bed Power House (RBPH) during the calendar year 2007. Out of this amount of water available to Gujarat at SSP, Gujarat could use only 1.285 BCM water. This means that Gujarat could not use 93.55% of the water that was available to it at SSP in 2007. The figures are given in the table 1 and 2 below.

These figures have many important implications. Firstly, this means that Gujarat has no case for increasing the dam height from the current level, as far as question of water available is concerned. Secondly, it is the mismanagement of the project by Gujarat that is responsible for this abysmal underutilization of the country's costliest irrigation project ever. 93.55% of the water available from the project could not be utilised basically because Gujarat has yet to build the canal infrastructure that is necessary for making such utilisation possible. In stead of focusing on optimum utilisation of the water made available, Gujarat govt has been focusing on just increasing the height of the dam and unjustly submerging lands and people.

Table 1 Water Use at SSP during 2007

Month	Narmada Water Supplied for (in mcm)			Total (mcm)
	Municipal	Industrial	Irrigation	
Jan, '07	4.7290	2.8274	202.0382	209.5946
Feb, '07	4.1570	2.5570	181.9655	188.6795
March, '07	4.4000	2.9680	108.2180	115.586
April, '07	13.2703	3.2175	92.5610	109.0488
May, '07	12.7220	3.1125	48.3080	64.1425
June, '07	12.2360	2.7510	6.5460	21.533
July, '07	12.8230	2.7950	7.8200	23.438
Aug, '07	13.5180	2.7110	10.7800	27.009
Sept, '07	13.6250	2.8050	14.0075	30.4375
Oct, '07	14.0080	3.0670	55.8339	72.9089
Nov, '07	13.4460	2.9510	182.9755	199.3725
Dec, '07	14.2860	2.9090	205.9448	223.1398
Total	133.2203	34.6714	1116.9984	1284.8901

Table 2 Water available and used at SSP during 2007

Month	Water Released through CHPH (mcm)	Water Released Through RBPH (mcm)	Total Released (mcm)	Total Use (mcm)	Total Use as % of total releases	Not able to Use (mcm)
Jan, '07	475.202	777.023	1252.225	209.5946	16.74	1042.63
Feb, '07	415.337	324.464	739.801	188.6795	25.50	551.12
March, '07	411.047	198.654	609.701	115.586	18.96	494.11
April, '07	420.607	501.729	922.336	109.0488	11.82	813.29
May, '07	238.051	304.551	542.602	64.1425	11.82	478.46
June, '07	172.071	875.978	1048.049	21.533	2.05	1026.51
July, '07	462.860	3070.016	3532.876	23.438	0.66	3509.44
August, '07	691.273	3096.945	3788.218	27.009	0.71	3761.21
Sept, '07	219.088	2327.899	2546.987	30.4375	1.20	2516.55
Oct, '07	260.695	1252.570	1513.265	72.9089	4.82	1440.36
Nov, '07	295.443	1381.453	1676.896	199.3725	11.89	1477.52
Dec, '07	421.902	1314.918	1736.82	223.1398	12.85	1513.68
Total	4483.576	15426.200	19909.776	1284.8901	6.45	18624.89

We had earlier obtained similar figures for 2005 and also 2006. These figures are given in the table 3 along with the 2007 figures.

Table 3 Water available at SSP during 2005-07

Year	Water flowing through CHPH	Water Flowing through RBPH	Total water available at SSP
2005	4513.41	7993.14	12506.55
2006	4391.30	14903.27	19294.57
2007	4483.58	15426.20	19909.78

Now if we compare the figures in last column in table 3 with the figure of 11718.345 MCM (Million Cubic Meters) that is the total share of Gujarat and Rajasthan from the Narmada River, as per the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) Award, we see that Gujarat has received at SSP, in each of the last three calendar years, more water than is the total share of Gujarat and Rajasthan. These figures again underline the conclusion that Gujarat has no case for increase the height from the current level at all. If the height of the SSP dam is freezed at the current height, Gujarat and Rajasthan would continue to get more than their share of water as stipulated by NWDT.

These figures also indicate that Sardar Sarovar would take long time, at least another decade to complete. And yet SSP has been given more money under AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme), than any other project in the country, right from 1996-97, the year when AIBP was launched. SSP should have never been included under AIBP, since AIBP was supposed to be meant for last mile projects.

It is very important that the lobby behind the SSP is made responsible and answerable for these issues. The lobby includes the Union Ministry of Water Resources, the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan among others.

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