

नर्मदा बचाओ आंदोलन

- नर्मदा-आशिश, नवलपुरा, बडवानी, मध्यप्रदेश ४५१५५१
• दूरभाष : ९७५५५४४०९७
इमेल : nba.badwani@gmail.com, medha.narmada@gmail.com
- मैत्री निवास, टेंबेवाडी (काकावाडी के पीछे) घडगाव,
जिला नंदुरबार, महाराष्ट्र ४२५४१४
• दूरभाष : ९४२३९०८१२३
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Narmada Bachao Andolan

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PROTEST ON NARMADA BANK AND IN THE SS RESERVOIR

WARN AGAINST RISING WATER LEVEL & ON JALSATYAGRAHA!

Today, when Sardar Sarovar water level has risen beyond 135 meters (with some lowering, over last 24 hrs), some hamlets in villages in the Narmada Valley (districts Barwani, Dhar & khargone) have started becoming marooned. With the gates of Indira Sagar & Omkareshwar dams getting opened, almost every day & SS gates not opened to an adequate extent, there is serious danger of more than 170 villages & thousands of houses, shops etc getting submerged again , as in 2023, the last year. Since after year long dialogue & memoranda, concrete action is not taken to complete rehabilitation and repeal revised back water level, which are proved to be unscientific & false as well as violative of law. The farmers, labourers, potters, fishworkers & all with representatives from more than 30 villages, with large number of women, therefore, carried out a day long mass protest today, in village Kukra- Rajghat, warning against repeating the calamity as illegal & unjust!

The protesters then stood in the reservoir water and took a pledge to save Narmada, save the habitation & attain legal & human rights! If the water level rises, they expressed commitment & readiness to hold Jal-satyagraha!

Sushila Nath, Rukmini & Kamala Yadav expressed their anger against the insensitivity exhibited by the Authorities who have neither complied with law nor their own promises. Those in the tin sheds since 2019, described their plight with problems related to water, power supply & stay in 10'*10' tinsheds. Farmers who have lost their agricultural land without acquisition too spoke out on the issues of injustice faced, including MSP, crop insurance too.

When the regulation & monitoring of water flows including discharge from dams in the upstream & tributaries of Narmada is not improved, the rising water

level can again bring in devastation in violation of Supreme Court judgments too. Dhanraj Bhilala, Kailash yadav, Devendra Solanki & Wahid Mansoori expressed determination to continue with legal & mass actions. Rehmatbhai explained the way river Narmada is affected with tens of lift projects, diverting water to other river basins as well as lack of e-flow.

Medha Patkar responded to the utterly false statement by the Executive Engineer Of Narmada Authority, M.P. claiming that all families in village Kukra are rehabilitated in Gujarat. She also expressed anguish over the similar claim of '0' balance in rehabilitation, made in the annual reports of Narmada Control Authority till 2022-23 & false replies given to a senior Member Of Parliament, Mr. Ramjilal Suman by the Union Minister Of Jalshakti, too. The protest was also made against a baseless allegation by the Rajyasabha M.P from Badwani, regarding pollution of river, which is proved through repeated test reports by NBA that 'Andolan is deceiving people'. Mr. Sumersingh Solanki, M.P. has made a claim that Narmada is the most unpolluted river in India, which is challenged by the Andolan, asking him to prove it on the basis of scientific test documents.

Today, the representatives in hundreds have given a message to the officials & Government authorities, responsible to regulate the flood waters, to hold it at or below the present level & not to permit submergence of anyone's property without full & fair rehabilitation. Jalasyagraha will be intensified agitation which everyone expressed his/her commitment to, if water is allowed to rise & destroy the habitats, this monsoon.

Mr. Sundersingh Patel, a farmer leader from Mahu, arrived & supported the people's movement in Narmada which is 39 yrs old. He appreciated the perseverance & achievements which have inspired the displaced across India, including Berchha- Hema Defence Project, which he has fought and attained rights to rehabilitation for the affected people. He expressed commitment to the people & activists in the Narmada Valley in the upcoming phases too!

The protest ended with a strong voice raised through slogans, song & the pledge with warning to the concerned authorities.

Sevanti Bahan Dhanraj Bhilala Bhagawan Septa Om Patidar Rahul Yadav

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