

# **Bhakra Beas Management Board**

Madhya Marg, Sector 19-B, Chandigarh

**Press Release: Dated 19.8.2019**

**Subject: Bhakra Dam saves downstream areas by regulating incoming flood and restricting releases from spillway gates**

**Chandigarh:** Water level in reservoir of Bhakra Dam is 1681 feet at 10.00 am on 19.08.2019 against the permissible storage level of 1680 feet. Considering the available forecast from the India Meteorological Department in the entire catchment area of the river Satluj from Tibet up to the dam site on 16.08.2019, Bhakra Beas Management Board took the decision to release about 538 cumec (19000 cusec) through spillway of the dam in addition to the releases from turbines from **16.08.2019**, in order to minimise synchronisation of water flow generated in the rivulets downstream of the dam.

There were heavy rains in the catchment area of Bhakra dam, Pong dam and downstream areas of Punjab on the intervening night of 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August. These heavy rains resulted in a flood peak of 3,11,130 cusec into the reservoir at 7.00 AM on 18.08.2019 in Bhakra dam reservoir. This has happened despite the closure of diversion of 8500 cusec of water of the Beas river through Beas Satluj Link Project into the river Satluj. This implies that the flood peak recorded was even more than that of 1988 floods which was about 3,18,000 cusec. All rivulets in Punjab having catchment area downstream of Bhakra dam i.e. Sirsa, Swan, Lohand, etc., heavy inflow/floods of around 2,00,000 lacs cusecs were generated. This 2,00,000 cusec inflow in these rivers is due to heavy rainfall in Punjab areas and not due to any release of water from Bhakra dam. About 2,40,000 cusecs of water passed downstream Ropar in the morning of 18.08.2019 whereas small quantum of 19,000 cusec was released through the spillway of Bhakra dam.

Though every effort was made to restrict the releases from Bhakra, however, considering the present level of 1681 feet and the heavy inflows to the tune of more than 1,00,000 lac cusecs coming into the reservoir, it has been decided to increase the release through spillway of Bhakra dam from 538 cumec (19,000 cusec) to 1161 cumec (41,000 cusec), in addition to the releases from turbines. This release from spillway will be about 14% of the total capacity of spillway.

BBMB has stopped generation of power from Pong Dam. Thus, water release of 10,000 cusec for generation in Pong dam has also been stopped to minimize the flooding at Harike barrage.

The position of water in Bhakra dam is being monitored continuously and is under control. All necessary steps are being taken for the safety of the Dam as well as for release of minimum possible water through spillway, downstream of the dam.

Secretary

To

The News Editor