



BASAI News Updates

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Water authority seeks report on illegal extraction of groundwater

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, OCTOBER 5

The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority (HWRA) has sought a status report on illegal extraction of groundwater in the city and the measures taken to curb the supply of water from unauthorised tubewells. A number of unauthorised water resources are being allegedly used to supply drinking water in the city and parts of the NCR.

In a letter addressed to the DC, the HWRA has reportedly asked the district authorities to conduct a probe and submit a report within a week. The HWRA has also supplied a list of about 112 units allegedly engaged in



REPLY WITHIN A WEEK

- The HWRA has asked the district authorities to conduct a probe into illegal extraction of groundwater and submit a report within a week
- It has also supplied a list of about 112 units allegedly engaged in illegal extraction of water and its onward supply

the illegal extraction of water and its supply in an unauthorised manner.

A letter in this regard was

also written by the HWRA on June 30. "You are requested to get an inquiry conducted through an enforcement officer and send a report to the office within 15 days," says the letter addressed to the DC.

Though the communication had been sent earlier, the alleged delay on part of the officials concerned has made the HWRA send a reminder, according to sources. The number of illegal tubewells in the district could be around 500, given the difference in the demand and supply of water in the city, they added.

"Around 200 tankers supply water from local resources daily to Delhi," said an official. Though a disconnection drive of illegal tubewells was also launched in 2020, it was halted after a protest.

130 new farm fire incidents, count now 545

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PATIALA, OCTOBER 5

With 130 new farm fire incidents, the number of cases has reached 545. Amritsar with 70 and Tarn Taran with 26 farm fires, led the chart on Wednesday.

Experts have suggested that there could be a dip in stubble-burning incidents after Friday as rain has been forecast from October 6 onwards across northern India. There will be a spike in activity once the farms get dry, as the window for clearing the fields for the next crop gets narrower.

In 2019, the state had reported 52,991 incidents of fire fires. This increased to 76,590 next year — a rise of 44.5 per cent. In 2021, the number was 71,304 in spite of spending crores of rupees on awareness drives. Between 2018 and 2021, the state received 76,626 machines under a Central scheme on promotion of agricultural mechanisation for in situ management of crop residue.



Heaps of paddy lying in a Karnal grain market. SAYEED AHMED

Tardy lifting of paddy adds to farmers' woes

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CROP PROCURED

KARNAL, OCTOBER 5

Already worried over high moisture content, low production and discolouring of paddy grains, farmers are now facing space crunch at grain markets in the district due to slow pace of lifting. As per officials, only around 24 per cent of the procured paddy has been lifted so far.

Around 22,55,095 quintals of paddy has been procured by various agencies at 15 purchase centres in the district. This includes 13,26,799 quintals of paddy procured by the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, 5,20,528 quintals by Hafed and 4,07,768 quintals by the Haryana Warehousing Corporation (HWC).

Out of the total procured paddy, 5,49,923 quintals have been lifted. The Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department has lifted 3,42,839 quintals (26 per cent of its procurement), Hafed 1,44,335 quintals (28 per cent) and the HWC 62,749 quintals (15 per cent).

"Paddy arrival has picked up pace, but lifting is very tardy due to which farmers are not getting requisite space in major grain markets," said Rajnish Chaudhary, president of the Karnal Arhtiyas' Association. The authorities should ensure smooth arrangements for paddy lifting, he said.

Farmer Ravinder Kumar said he brought two tractor-trailers loaded with paddy to

the grain market here, but didn't get space to unload his produce for several hours. The authorities should make proper arrangements, he said.

Anil Kalra, DFSC, said they had speeded up lifting and transporters had been asked to ensure 100 per cent lifting of the procured paddy.

Deputy Commissioner Anish Yadav said the procurement agencies had been asked to ensure timely lifting, otherwise penal action would be taken against transporters and the officials concerned.

Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma and Deputy Commissioner Anish Yadav on Wednesday visited various grain markets to review arrangements there and directed officials to speed up paddy lifting as the weather might change in a day or two.

Verma visited Taraori grain market, while Yadav reached the Nissing grain market to take stock of the situation. They interacted with farmers and also inquired about the facilities in the grain markets.