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### Groundwater table dips in State capital

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*The Hindu* Women struggling to draw drinking water at Indiramma nagar, Rasoolpura, in Hyderabad, Residents staying on the city suburbs were facing untold problems due to insufficient water supply. Photo: Nagara Gopal

There is an alarming fall in the groundwater table in the city. In view of the worsening situation, the Groundwater Department has advised against further extraction of water through bore wells. While there is no recharge of ground water in any part of the city, alarming fall is observed in most places.

Pizometers installed at different locations show that the water level has gone down to a depth of more than 20 metres at Marredpally, 10 to 20 metres at S.R. Nagar, Ameerpet, 5 to 10 metres at Asifnagar, Bandlaguda, Charminar, Nampally and Saidabad mandals and 5 metres at ESCI, Gachibowli, Shaikpet.

As a result of 27 per cent deficit rainfall last year, the net fall of district average from December 2010 to December 2011 is 3.909 metres. During 2011-12, Hyderabad district received just 577.40 metres of rainfall against the normal of 787.40 metres.

The depleting groundwater has increased the demand on piped water. The Water Board is justifiably worried about the grim situation looming ahead of summer. Levels in the two principle city reservoirs – Osmansagar and Himayatsagar are not encouraging. But the Board is confident of continuing the present supply of 40 mgd till May through gravity. Thereafter, it might have to go in for pumping.

Again this depends on the quality of water. Two years ago there was a big hue and cry as the old city received coloured water. An expert committee comprising JNTU scientists and retired Board engineers are already examining the whole thing. Luckily the levels in Singur-Manjeera are comfortable.

Authorities are actually worried about the post-summer situation in case the monsoon plays truant again. The excess rainfall of 29 per cent received in 2010 is still serving the city. “We will try to maintain the present levels of supply in during the summer,” says Adhar Sinha, MD, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Recharge of groundwater, he says, is extremely important since the pressure on piped water is increasing by the day. As an advance action plan, the Board is taking up rain water harvesting structures to conserve more and more water.

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