

## **Govt urged to take up dams issue with India**

**By Amin Ahmed**

**Saturday, 20 Mar, 2010**

**ISLAMABAD, March 19:** As the country's water economy is running dry day by day leading to serious crises of water and energy, experts allege that India wants to legitimise its theft of Pakistan's share of water of the Indus River.

Arshad Abbasi, adviser on environment, water and energy at a local think-tank, the Centre for Research and Security Studies, feared that Pakistan might face serious crises in water and energy if the government did not apply all means to pressurise India to reduce the under-construction dam projects on the Pakistani rivers to half of their present size.

Speaking at a forum organised by the think-tank on Friday, Mr Abbasi said Pakistan had already failed to highlight the issue of Baglihar Dam due to incompetence of the Ministry of Water and Power.

He demanded that an independent inquiry commission should be constituted to evaluate performance of the officials, who lost the country's case on the issue and committed negligence regarding the ongoing Indian projects.

Instead of going to the International Court of Justice regarding the under-construction Indian dams, he said Pakistan had the right under international law to seek details of environment assessment from India regarding construction of dams on Pakistan's share of water.

While the Pakistan Muttahda Kisan Mahaz in a statement on Friday said India wanted to make amendments to the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 to legitimise the theft of Pakistan's share of Indus water.

"The Indian desire for an amendment to the treaty is totally against the interests of Pakistan, rather it is an enmity to the country's agriculture," Mahaz chairman Ayub Khan Mayo said.

He called upon the government to take every effort to protect and get the implementation of the treaty in letter and spirit as the waters of rivers Chenab, Jhelum and Sindh were source of guarantee for the country's agri-economy as well as defence.

The Mahaz also announced to hold a peaceful demonstration on Pakistan-India border at Ghondi Burki on Sunday against India's water aggression. In order to take future course of action against the government's anti-people policies and for not taking action on major hydel and power projects, the Mahaz will hold a conference in Lahore on Monday on the occasion of World Water Day, the statement said.

Meanwhile, a World Bank report suggests that Pakistan needs to develop its indigenous capacity and make a major push to establish and nurture a new set of institutions which can provide scientific, technical and policy support for the management of increasingly scarce water.

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**THE NEWS**

**Govt urged to pressure India to halt work on dams**

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**By Our correspondent**

**Islamabad**

Pakistan may face serious crisis of water and power in the days to come, if the government does not apply all its means to pressurise India to halt work on the under-construction dams in Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK).

This was stated by Arshad H Abbasi, adviser (environment, water and energy) at the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), while addressing a press briefing on the 'Indus Water Treaty 1960: Baglihar Dam Case & Way Forward'.

He said that Pakistan had the right under international law to seek details of environment assessment from India regarding construction of these dams, and thus, the government should contact India for acquiring the same.

He said that India was bound under the law to get ratification from Pakistan prior to start construction of any dam whether the project would cast any negative impact on Pakistan in respect of environment or in any other way. "Pakistan has already failed on the issue of Baglihar Dam due to incompetence of the Ministry of Water and Power team that pleaded the case at the court of neutral expert, and thus, it needs to be extra cautious regarding India's under construction dams projects affecting Pakistan", he said.

He demanded that an independent inquiry commission should be constituted to evaluate performance of the officials, who lost Pakistan's case on Baglihar Dam and were also committing negligence on the ongoing Indian projects. Instead of going to the international court of justice regarding the under-construction Indian dams, he said Pakistan needed to exercise its right under the international law and write to India to get details of these dams.

CRSS Chairman Imtiaz Gul said that people in Pakistan would have to suffer a lot due to loadshedding in the next few months as the country was facing acute shortage of water because of scarce rains and construction of dams by India in Indian occupied Kashmir.

He said that Pakistan was already facing shortage of 1200MW hydel power, which might increase because the water level in Mangla Dam and Tarbela Dam has reached the dead level, from which hydel power could not be generated. He warned that the country would face serious consequences, if the government did not take timely preventive measures in this regard.

## Talks with India over dams a futile effort'

By Our Staff Reporter Friday, 02 Apr, 2010

ISLAMABAD, April 1: The Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) has expressed concern over the recent three-day talks held between Pakistan and India over the two dams being constructed by India on its Western rivers.

In a press release issued here on Thursday, the CRSS said it was a futile effort by Pakistan to raise the issue as the construction of Nimo Bazgo Dam and Chutak Dam had already reached the final stages. Both the projects were also scrutinised and certified by Norwegian firm Det Norske Veritas Certification (DNT) on March 31, 2009, so that India could earn carbon credit under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) initiative of the United Nations.

Nimo Bazgo Dam, 57 metres high, has been constructed on Indus River near Alchi village, about 70 km off Leh town in Jammu and Kashmir. The design of the project was finalised on July 1, 2001. The dam would submerge 711 acres of land. As per schedule, the project is going to complete in July 2010.

Similarly, Chutak Dam, 42-metre high, is located on Suru River in Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir. The dam has the initial installed capacity of 44 MW.

The CRSS said the Ministry of Water and Power concerned officials were responsible for this negligence, demanding a commission to probe into the matter.

The centre had highlighted this issue by writing a letter to the prime minister in January 2009.