

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



Report No.2

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND REFORMS

ON

STARRED QUESTION NO.45 ASKED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MEHMOOD IN THE SENATE ON 2ND NOVEMBER, 2017.

**PRESENTED BY
(SENATOR COL. (R) SYED TAHIR HUSSAIN MASHHADI)
CHAIRMAN**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND REFORMS ON FACT-FINDING REGARDING SENATE STARRED QUESTION NO.45 ASKED BY SENATOR MOHAMMAD TALHA MEHMOOD ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2017, IN THE SENATE.

I, Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reforms, have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, Report under Rule 193 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, on the matter related to finding facts regarding Senate Starred Question No.45 asked by Senator Mohammad Talha Mehmood on 2nd November 2017, in the Senate and to ascertain as to where did the money for Akra Dam go and who is to be blamed for its failure along with issues regarding provision of clean drinking water for Gwadar and CPEC Projects.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under :

1.	Senator Col. (R) Tahir Hussain Mushhadi	Chairman
2.	Senator Sirajul Haq	Member
3.	Senator Mufti Abdul Sattar	Member
4.	Senator Hasil Khan Bizenjo	Member
5.	Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	Member
6.	Senator Saeedul Hassan Mandokhail	Member
7.	Senator Agha Shahzaib Khan Durrani	Member
8.	Senator Saud Majeed	Member
9.	Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari	Member
10.	Senator Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi	Member
11.	Senator Sheher Bano Sherry Rehman	Member
12.	Senator Karim Ahmed Khawaja	Member
13.	Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Standing Committee in its meeting held on 29-12-2017 at Parliament House, Islamabad, constituted a three Member Sub-Committee, comprising following Members, to make recommendations on above-mentioned issue :-

1. Senator Agha Shahzaib Khan Durrani
2. Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar
3. Senator Mohsin Khan Leghari

Convener
Member
Member

T.O.R.'s for Sub-Committee :-

"To find facts regarding Senate Starred Question No.45 asked by Senator Mohammad Talha Mehmood on 2nd November 2017, and to ascertain as to where did the money for Akra Dam go and who is to be blamed for its failure along with issues regarding provision of clean drinking water for Gwadar and CPEC projects."

4. The Standing Committee in its meeting held on 01-03-2018, at Parliament House, Islamabad, adopted the Report of the Sub-Committee, laid by Senator Agha Shahzaib Khan Durrani, Convener of the Sub-Committee and recommended that the Report maybe laid in the House as a Report of the Committee. The said meeting was attended by the following members :

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| i | Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi | Chairman |
| ii | Senator Mufti Abdul Sattar | Member |
| iii | Senator Saud Majeed | Member |
| iv | Senator Karim Ahmed Khawaja | Member |
| v | Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani | Member |

5. The Report of the Sub-Committee adopted by the main Committee is at Annexure-A.

Sd/-


FARZANA KHAN
D.G., Interpretation/
Secretary, Committee

SENATOR Col. (R) SYED TAHIR HUSSAIN MASHHADI
Chairman Committee

Islamabad, the 7th March, 2018.

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



**Report of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on
Planning, Development and Reforms
For the Main Committee**

**Presented By
Senator Agha Shahzaib Khan Durrani
Convener**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND REFORMS

In terms of Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure and the Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, a Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reforms was appointed in the Committee Meeting held on 29th December 2017, with the following composition and TORs:-

Composition

1. Senator Agha Shahzaib Khan Durrani	Convener
2. Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	Member
3. Senator Mohsin Khan Leghari	Member

TORs

“To find facts regarding Senate Starred Question No.45 asked by Senator Mohammad Talha Mehmood on 2nd November 2017, and to ascertain as to where did the money for Akra Dam go and who is to be blamed for its failure along with issues regarding provision of clean drinking water for Gwadar and CPEC projects.”

2. A meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on 13th February 2018 in the Parliament House under the convenership of Senator Agha Shahzaib Khan Durrani. The following members attended the meeting:

i	Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	Member
ii	Senator Mohsin Khan Leghari	Member

3. In the meeting, the Sub-Committee expressed serious displeasure at the fact that concerned authorities had miserably failed to offer any solution whatsoever to the acute water shortage in Gwadar. Water supply from Akra dam had stopped many months ago, desalination plant at Karwat had been in-operational since its commissioning and the water being supplied through tankers had serious health and hygiene issue, coupled with the fact that it is the most costly and unsustainable method of water provision. The Sub-Committee decided to visit Gwadar to gain firsthand information, observe the situation on ground and make recommendations accordingly.

4. The Sub-Committee visited Gwadar on 26th February 2018 and held meeting there together with onsite visits. Senator Agha Shahzaib Khan Durrani and Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari made the visit. The first onsite visit was to Akra Dam in order to see the condition on ground. Secretary Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Government of Balochistan, briefed the Sub-Committee that the dam was commissioned in 1994-95 with a gross storage capacity of 17,025 acre-feet and yield of 1.62 millions of gallons per day (MGD). Live and dead storage levels of the dam are 32 and 27 meters respectively while at present the silt level has reached 26.3 meters. At the dead storage level, storage capacity would fall to 5,270 acre-feet. However the dam is dried since May 2017 due to drought. The Convener expressed concern at the fact that silt has reached almost the dead level and no action has been taken to revive the storage capacity by possible measures such as desilting, so that whenever there is rain, maximum water can be stored for use. Secretary PHE assured that feasibility for capacity revival would be submitted within a week and Expression of Interest (EOI) would be floated within a period of three months.

5. Thereafter the Sub-Committee visited the 2-MGD desalination plant at Karwat. It was informed that the plant was completed in 2013 by Balochistan Development Authority (BDA) at a total cost of Rs.984.59 million. After commissioning it in 2014-15, BDA handed over the plant to PHED in May 2016. At the rate of 40% recovery, the plant was designed to intake 6-MGD water and supply 2-MGD desalinated water. However it has only been operational for a total of 43 days – 16 days in May 2016 immediately after taking over by PHED from BDA and then 27 days in June 2017 when Chief Minister's Inspection Team (CMIT) facilitated the operation in the wake of acute water shortage in Gwadar and since then it has been shut down. Through the information made available and questions asked to inquire into different aspects of the problem, the Sub-Committee noted that major fault leading to this situation was design failure. Water intake pipe was only extended to 400 meters whereas it was required to be at least 1.6 kms so that it gets to deep water off the shore. Intake pipe's diameter was also too small for the envisaged feeding capacity of 6-MGD. Intake system also failed to design proper mechanism to keep Silt Density Index (SDI) within the range of 5. Brine water disposal outfall pipe was also placed very close to the intake pipe's inlet, which is a serious flaw. The Sub-Committee asked as to why BDA failed to identify these glaring flaws at the time of project approval however no representative from BDA was present to answer the query. The Sub-Committee was briefed that rehabilitation of the plant has been estimated at Rs.800 million and thereafter annual operation and maintenance cost is

estimated to be Rs.500 million. EOI for rehabilitation on RBOT basis has been floated in national newspaper and tenders would be opened on 7th March 2018. Looking at the five companies that had so far purchased bidding documents, the convener and member of the Sub-Committee expressed dissatisfaction at the bidding process and emphasized that in order to avoid repeating the same mistake of hiring unqualified firms, the EOI shall be floated in international newspapers and if that is not possible, international firms having established experience of building and running such plants in other countries should be approached and encouraged to participate in the bidding.

6. The Sub-Committee also visited Swad Dam, which is located at a distance of around 50 kms from Gawadar city. The recently completed dam has a capacity of 5-MGD however due to drought conditions, it has never been filled to capacity and is almost dried at present. A de-sedimentation and chlorination system comprising four ground tanks is also being constructed near the dam, from where water would be pumped to Gwadar city through a pipeline while also supplying water to population along the way.

7. On return from site visits, a meeting was held at the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) office. The Sub-Committee asked to brief about the current water supply situation in Gwadar city and surrounding areas, in wake of drought conditions and absence of functional desalination plants. Secretary PHE and Deputy Commissioner Gwadar informed that since May 2017 when Akra dam dried, the sole means of water supply to the city and surrounding areas is water tankers from Mirani Dam. About 1.3 to 1.8 MGD water is being supplied through water tankers, which costs around Rs.220 million per month. On a query by the Sub-Committee, it was admitted that quality of water so supplied is not good, it is contaminated because it's stagnant dam water. And although it's drinkable, it's not safe. The Convener also took exception to the fact that in a meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan sometime back, PHE had assured that water being supplied through tankers would be treated so as to make it safe for drinking but the same has not been done so far. He also said that instead of continuing with such costly and unhealthy water supply recourse, alternate, long term and cost-effective solutions should have been found out by now. The Sub-Committee also noted with concern the long delays in payments to water tankers owners, which results in periodic strikes and hence disrupts the water supply.

8. Chairman GDA briefed the Sub-Committee that if there are no rains, water tankers would remain the only water supply source in the next at least six months, after which Karwat

desalination plant is expected to be rehabilitated while water purchase arrangement with FWO is also expected to be operational in coming months under which FWO will provide up to 2-MGD water through its desalination plant at less than one rupee per gallon. Noting that Gwadar's water requirement at present stood at 6-MGD, he informed that the requirement is estimated to be 12-MGD in 2020, 30-MGD in 2035 and above 100-MGD a score later. Efforts are afoot to meet these requirements and in addition to 4-MGD water through desalination plants narrated above, a 5-MGD desalination plant is also expected to be completed in three years' time for which 67% financing would be done by the federal government and 33% by the province. Additionally, 2.7, 2.5 and 5 MGD water is expected from Akra, Shadi Kaur and Swad dams respectively. During the discussion, Irrigation Department representative also pointed out possibility of building a dam on Dasht River at the location of Manjo, saying that proposed dam would be a reliable natural water source being on a river as compared to all other dams that fall in arid area surrounding Gwadar. After deliberation, it was agreed that feasibility study of the proposed dam should be carried out.

RECOMMENDATIONS/DIRECTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

9. In view of the discussions and onsite visits, the Sub-Committee makes the following observations, recommendations and directions.
- i. There's an acute problem of water in Gwadar and surrounding areas and steps are needed to be taken on war footings to address this problem both in the short and the long runs.
 - ii. In the short run, there should be no reliance on natural water sources.
 - iii. Water being supplied through tankers be treated to make it safe for drinking. Report in this regard be submitted within a week.
 - iv. Report on feasibility of desilting Akra dam and floating EOI to carry out desilting be submitted within three months, with a clearly outlined roadmap for carrying out the desilting work.
 - v. The water purchase arrangement from FWO be meticulously pursued and it shall be commissioned during the month of March without fail.
 - vi. For rehabilitation of Karwat desalination plant, TORs for bidding firms be improved such that best and most suitable companies come forward. Tender opening date can be extended

for forty five days from 7th March 2018, if needed, to include more qualified firms under revised/improved TORs and every effort shall be made to bring in internationally reputed firms in the bidding.

vii. The Sub-Committee expressed displeasure that BDA again did not appear to brief on the failure of Karwat desalination plant. It was the third time BDA had not attended the Sub-Committee meeting.

viii. Since the federal government had financed the Karwat desalination plant, it should initiate an inquiry into the failure of the said plant, which not only resulted in waste of public funds but also acute water shortage for and inconvenience to the people of Gwadar.

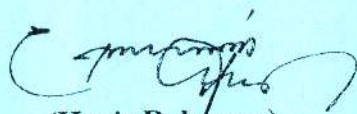
ix. In the long run, proposed 5-MGD desalination plant shall be completed in time while ensuring that no loopholes or flaws are made in the project.

x. Water supply from FWO's desalination plant be extended to its maximum capacity.

xi. Natural resources shall also be focused vis-à-vis maintenance, sustainability and connectivity.

xii. A comprehensive report on water supply situation in Gwadar be submitted to the Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reforms after every three months. In order to ensure that the said report also incorporates the voice of the people of Gwadar, a committee comprising the district administration, GDA and representatives of local population (elected local representatives, notables etc.) may be set-up for formulating the report.

10. The Sub-Committee presents this report to the Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Reforms for its consideration and adoption.



(Haris Rehman)

DS/Secretary Committee



(Senator Agha Shahzaib Khan Durrani)
Convener Sub-Committee

Islamabad
The 28th February, 2018