

**SENATE OF PAKISTAN
HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION**



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER
RESOURCES**

ON

**MOTION UNDER RULE 218, REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF TELEMETERING
SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTION OF WATER AMONG THE PROVINCES
AND THE REASONS OF NON-IMPLEMENTATION**

Presented by

**SENATOR SHAMMIM AFRIDI
CHAIRMAN**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES ON MOTION UNDER RULE 218, REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF TELEMETERING SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTION OF WATER AMONG THE PROVINCES AND THE REASONS OF NON-IMPLEMENTATION

1, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources, have the honour to present the report on behalf of the Committee on Motion Under Rule 218, regarding Importance of Telemetering System for Distribution of Water among the Provinces and the Reasons of Non-Implementation, referred by the Chairman Senate on 24th August, 2020.

2. The matter was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources for consideration and report to the House.

3. The composition of the Committee is as under:

1. Senator Shammim Afridi	Chairman
2. Senator Brig. (R) Mr. John Kenneh Willams	Member
3. Senator Walid Iqbal	Member
4. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
5. Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
6. Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
7. Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani	Member
8. Senator Qurat ul Ain Marri	Member
9. Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	Member
10. Senator Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini	Member
11. Senator Rana Maqbool	Member
12. Senator Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo	Member
13. Minister for Water Resources	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Standing Committee considered the issue in its meetings held on 25th September, 2020 & 28th January, 2021, and decided to submit the report to the House.

First Meeting:

5. First meeting was held on 25th September, 2020, at 10:30am in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the following members:

1. Senator Shammim Afridi	Chairman
2. Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
3. Senator Rana Maqbool	Member
4. Senator Walid Iqbal	Member
5. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
6. Senator Samina Saeed	Mover
7. Senator Gianchand	Mover

6. Senator Gianchand, mover of the Motion Under Rule 218 and other members of the Committee showed their concerns on the non-installation of Telemetry System and asked the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) that how did it distribute water among the provinces without knowing the exact volume of water in system.

7. Responding to the queries of the Senators, Mr. Zahid Abbas, Chairman, Indus River System Authority (IRSA), briefed the Committee and said that IRSA is responsible for the regulation and distribution of water amongst the provinces according to Water Accord, 1991. He said that in order to adequately monitor this process, IRSA needed to be able to provide verification of flow measurements. He admitted that Telemetry System has the ability to accurately sense and distribute water. He further said that in General Musharaf's regime, a directive was issued in 2002 for installation of Telemetry System in pursuance of which a PC-I was prepared and within two years, Telemetry System was in place, but due to some technical problems that system failed to work properly and was abandoned. He informed the Committee that the aim of Telemetry System previously installed by IRSA and WAPDA was to develop mutual trust among the provinces regarding water distribution but due to technical problems, non-availability of funds for operation & maintenance as well as non-ownership by the stakeholders, it did not serve the purpose. He apprised the Committee that in the recent past, based on lessons from past experience, Government of Pakistan had secured additional funds for phase-II to the tune of 34.95 million dollars from the World Bank for "Water Sector Capacity Building and Advisory Service Project (WCAP).

8. Giving the detail of Phase-II, Chairman, IRSA, informed the Committee that under Phase-II of WCAP Project under the World Bank, IRSA was to install the state of the art Telemetry System called as "Indus Basin Irrigation Telemetry System Automation" at 07 pilot key sites. World Bank approved the TORs on 4th April, 2018. After completion of all bidding formalities, M/S MM Pakistan stood on top. During negotiations with the MM Pakistan, IRSA received queries from Team Leader of WCAP/PMPIU requesting IRSA to certify the expertise of key experts and performance of M/S MM Pakistan which claimed in their technical proposal that they were doing similar work of the similar nature with the Punjab Irrigation Department, namely Installation of Real Time Flow monitoring. IRSA contacted the Secretary, Punjab Irrigation and PMO-Punjab Barrages to certify MM Pakistan's performance regarding RTFM, who showed serious concerns about their capacity and performance. Upon receiving negative report about MM Pakistan from PMO, Punjab Barrage. IRSA requested World Bank to allow cancellation of the bid. World Bank didn't allow the rebidding and therefore, IRSA Authority in its meeting held on 9th January, 2020, decided to complete that activity from its own resources.

9. Regarding queries from members of the Committee, Mr. Zahid Abbas, informed the Committee that Ministry of Water Resources had directed IRSA that Telemetry System would be executed by WAPDA sponsored by IRSA. WAPDA is in process of development of PC-I which will be submitted shortly. Members of the Committee did not agree with Mr. Zahid Abbas's statement and said that this had been pending since long. After a detailed discussion, the Committee recommended that WAPDA should prepare PC-I of the Telemetry System and submit it within two weeks which will be considered in the next meeting of the Committee.

Second Meeting:

10. Second meeting was held on 28th January, 2021, at 11:00 am in Old PIPS Hall, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the following members:

1. Senator Shammim Afridi	Chairman
2. Senator Usman Khan Kakar	Member
3. Senator Walid Iqbal	Member
4. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
5. Senator Siraj-ul-Haq	Mover

11. The Secretary Water Resources Mr. Munir Azam while briefing on Motion under Rule 218, and the status of implementation of recommendations made in the Committee meeting held on 25th September, 2020, informed the Committee that earlier a telemetry system was installed

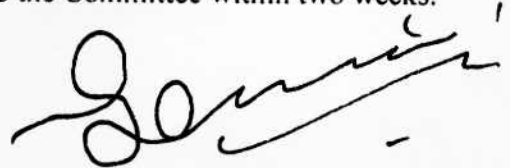
at a cost of Rs. 450 million but had failed to work properly. On the directions of the Committee, a new PC-I for installing telemetry system has been prepared which would soon be presented to IRSA.

12. Chairman of the Committee said that instead of detailed discussions and briefings, practical steps should be taken to construct water storage and ensure fair distribution of water in the country. He asked that what steps have been taken to enhance the storage capacity of water in the country. Answering the question, the Secretary Water Resources informed the Committee that budget for water sector projects has been enhanced to Rs. 90 billion. Construction of Mohmand and Diamer Basha dams would help to enhance water storage capacity in the country. He further said that physical work was being carried out on construction of small dams in all four provinces. The Committee disposed of the Motion Under Rule 218 with the following recommendation:

- i. The Committee recommended that WAPDA will prepare PC-I, of installation of Telemetry System and will submit it to the Committee within two weeks.



(DR. HASSAN G. ESHRAT)
Secretary Committee



(SENATOR SHAMMIM AFRIDI)
Chairman Committee