

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

to be asked at a sitting of the Senate to be held on

Friday, the 15th August, 2025

DEFERRED QUESTIONS

*[Question Nos. 10, 12 and 1]
were deferred on 25th April, 2025 (349th Session)*

***(Def.) Question No. 10 Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro:**
(Notice Received on 20/12/2024 at 3:17 PM) QID: 42729

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that un-announced domestic and industrial gas loadshedding is ongoing in Karachi and Jacobabad hampering productivity and economic stability, if so, the steps taken or being taken to address the issue indicating the timeline by which such issue will be resolved?

Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik: With every passing year, the demand of natural gas is increasing across the country while the indigenous gas supplies are depleting, thus widening the demand supply gap. During last five years, SSGCL has witnessed a substantial decline in its indigenous gas supply input i.e. it has reduced from 1,083 MMCFD in FY 2019-20 to 710 MMCFD in FY 2023-24. The natural gas supply to SSGC alone has reduced by 34% since FY 2019-20.

It is understood that the demand of gas increases manifold during winters in domestic sector due to space and water heating requirements. In order to manage the available gas supply, Sui companies carry out load management in winters whereby supply to domestic sector is given first priority.

There is no unannounced gas load shedding in SSGC's franchise area including Karachi and Jacobabad, especially in domestic sector. However, as part of load management strategy, during night time, gas pressure profiling is done from 10:00 pm to 05:00 am in domestic sector to maintain the line-pack pressure for supplies during rest of the gas usage hours / peak cooking hours.

(Def.)* Question No. 12 **Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro:
(Notice Received on 24/12/2024 at 9:48 AM) QID: 42740

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide relief in gas prices to domestic consumers, if so, the details thereof?

Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik: Up to 64 % domestic consumers fall in protected category which are charged within tariff of Rs. 200/mmbtu to Rs. 350/mmbtu as against OGRA determined average prescribed price of Rs.1,793/mmbtu for both Sui companies, so the consumers are already subsidized and getting relief in tariff terms.

(Def.)* Question No. 1 **Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan:
(Notice Received on 14/03/2025 at 10:10 AM) QID: 43052

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

(a) details of land acquired from local residents for construction of Diamir Bhasha Dam; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the rehabilitation of locally displaced residents have not taken place, if so, the reasons thereof indicating steps taken for their settlement along-with the time by which said rehabilitation would be completed?

Mr. Muhammad Mueen Wattoo:

(a) The detail of land required for construction of Diamer Basha Dam is as under:

Descriptions	Land required			Land acquired		
	GB	KP	Total	GB	KP	Total
Private land	16,866	439	17,305	14,791	369	15160
Govt. Land	18,073	546	18,619	17,630	–	17630
Total	34,939	985	35,924	32421	369	32790

(b) LAND ACQUISITION OF DBDP:

Land acquisition and resettlement of DBDP affectees is the basic responsibility of DCs/LACs Diامر, GB and Upper Kohistan KP. At present, total 32,790 acres of land (91.27 %) has been acquired for which WAPDA has transferred Rs. 61.614 billion to concerned DC/LAC for land and assets compensation

RESETTLEMENT:

- Initially, 3 model villages were planned for the resettlement of Dam Affectees:

Model Village	No of Plots
Thak Das	2,800
Kino Das / Sigachal Das	2,387
Harpan Das	1,350

- Despite hectic efforts, the GB Govt. could not acquire land for Thak Das & Kino Das/Sagachal Das due to the refusal by the community. Land for Harpan Das was acquired where WAPDA developed the model village with facilities like Community Centre, Market area, Sewerage, Water supply, schools and Mosques etc.
- To resolve the issue of resettlement of remaining affectees, WAPDA and GB Govt. worked out an alternate package which was duly approved by ECNEC on 30.04.2020. Detail of options offered to the affectees under the packages as under:

- Cash compensation of Rs. 3.5 Million + Rs. 1.2 million additional amount.
- 10 marla Plot + Cash compensation of Rs. 1.7 million + Rs. 1.2 million additional amount.
- 17 marla Plot + 1.2 million additional amount.

- WAPDA transferred Rs. 13.562 billion rupees to the concerned LAC/DC for implementation / disbursement among the 4102 affectees DBDP. Detail of disbursement is as under:

Total No of Households	4,102
Total Paid (Rs in million)	3,826

- 276 unpaid cases are under the verification process by DC / LAC Diامر.
- As per the demand of the affectees, the contractor has been mobilized for levelling of residential plots at Harpan Das Model Village. Contractor has been working on site for the development of residential plots at Harpan Das Model Village since 10.06.2024. Work is likely to be completed by the end of 2025. However, land for the graveyard and Eid Gah will be earmarked on completion of residential plots. As per the agreement 2025, the residential plots with allied facilities will be handed over to the affectees of DBDP by 31.05.2026.

***Question No. 1 Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur:**

(Notice Received on 23/06/2025 at 11:16 AM) QID: 43309

Will the Minister for Law and Justice be pleased to state the details of pension, perks and privileges admissible to the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court after their retirement indicating also the increases made in the same during the period from 2010 to 2024 with year wise break-up?

Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar:

Under Article 205 of the Constitution, terms and conditions of service including pension of a Judge of a High Court or a Supreme Court are regulated under Fifth Schedule to the Constitution and have been determined under *the Supreme Court Judges (Leave, Pension and Privileges) Order, 1997* (P.O 2 of 1997). Payable pension and other retiring facilities admissible to a Chief Justice and Judges of Supreme Court are at **Annex-I**. Year wise break-up of pension of Chief Justice of Pakistan increases from 2010 to 2024 is at **Annex-II**.

Annex-I

**PAYABLE PENSION AND FACILITIES TO RETIRED JUDGES OF
SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN**

Under the Supreme Court Judges (Leave, Pension & Privileges Order, 1997 (P.O 2 of 1997)

Paragraph 16. Payable pension. (1) Subject of sub-paragraph (2), the Chief Justice and a Judge on his retirement or resignation as provided in paragraph 15 shall be entitled to the minimum amount of pension equal to seventy per cent (70%) of the salary determined by the President from time to time payable to the Chief Justice or as the case may be, a Judge plus five per cent (5%) of the said salary for each completed year of service either as the Chief Justice or, as the Judge not exceeding the maximum amount of pension equal to eighty-five per cent (85%) of the said salary.

Paragraph 8, encashment of leave.- A Judge who has, at the time of retirement three hundred and sixty-five days to his credit shall be paid twelve months salary in lieu of leave not availed of.

Paragraph 25 of P.O.2 of 1997

1. A Judge on retirement and after his death, his widow shall be entitled to the following benefits and perquisites at Government expense, namely:-
 - (a) the services of a driver and an orderly or to draw a Special Additional Pension equal to the pay and allowances of a contingent driver and an orderly as admissible from time to time to the employees of same scale of the Supreme Court of Pakistan:

Provided that the Chief Justice shall also be entitled to the services of an Assistant Private Secretary (BS-16):

Provided further that his widow shall not be entitled to the facility of Assistant Private Secretary;

- (b) 3000 free local telephone calls per month;
- (c) 2000 units of electricity as well as 25 hm³ of gas per month and free supply of water
- (d) 300 liters of petrol per month;and
- (e) at the residence of a retired Judge during his lifetime deployment of one security guard by concerned police round the clock so that after every eight hours a new security guard replaces the former security guard:

Provided that widow of the retired Judge shall not be entitled to such security facility under this clause.”

(3) No income tax shall be payable in respect of benefits and perquisites to which a judge or a widow, as the case may be, is entitled under this paragraph.

(4) A Judge on retirement opting to avail the facilities specified in sub-paragraph (1) shall under take to perform the work of arbitration involving Government interest if assigned to him without charging any fee;

NOTE:- The Judges of Supreme Court are entitled to purchase of official vehicle in their use on their retirement at depreciated value in terms of Cabinet Division policy guidelines vide u.o No.7-15/89-Min-I, dated 27.4.1991

Annex-II

YEAR WISE BREAK-UP OF INCREASES MADE IN THE PENSION OF
CHIEF JUSTICE OF PAKISTAN

EFFECTIVE DATE	PENSION				
	SALARY	SUP. JUDL. ALLOW.	TOTAL PENSIONABLE AMOUNT	70% GROSS PENSION	85% GROSS PENSION
01.07.2010	389,757	170,625	560,382	392,267	476,325
01.07.2011	448,221	196,219	644,440	451,108	547,774
01.07.2012	537,865	235,463	773,328	541,330	657,329
01.07.2013	591,651	259,009	850,660	595,462	723,061
01.07.2014	650,816	284,910	935,726	655,008	795,367
01.07.2015	699,627	306,278	1,005,905	704,134	855,019
01.07.2016	769,590	336,278	1,105,868	774,108	939,988
01.07.2017	846,549	370,597	1,217,146	852,002	1,034,574
01.07.2018	931,204	407,657	1,338,861	937,203	1,138,032
01.07.2021	1,024,324	428,040	1,452,364	1,016,655	1,234,509
01.07.2023	1,229,189	428,040	1,657,229	1,160,060	1,408,645
01.07.2024	1,229,189	1,161,163	2,390,352	1,673,246	2,031,799

***Question No. 3 Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur:**

(Notice Received on 24/06/2025 at 9:56 AM) QID: 43312

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state whether it is fact that administrative control of hydro power stations of WAPDA have not yet been transferred to the respective provinces, if so, the reasons thereof indicating also the time by which the same will be handed over to the provinces?

Mr. Muhammad Mueen Wattoo:

As per WAPDA Act 1958 and applicable framework, there is no such provision under the WAPDA Act, 1958 or any subsequent legal framework mandating the transfer of the administrative control of its hydropower stations to the respective provinces. WAPDA is an Autonomous Body and retain administrative and operational control of hydropower stations to ensure integrated water and power resources management at the National level. Furthermore, these assets are of strategic National importance and are operated centrally as per NPCC directions to maintain grid stability, optimize water distribution across provinces as per IRSA directions and manage multi-purpose reservoirs accordingly.

***Question No. 4 Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand:**

(Notice Received on 25/06/2025 at 1:51 PM) QID: 43320

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to address the water scarcity and growing drought conditions in various areas of the country during the last two years?

Mr. Muhammad Mueen Wattoo:

- The National Water Policy (NWP) 2018 is to take cognizance of the emerging water crisis and provide an overall policy framework and guidelines for a comprehensive plan of action. Recognizing the water scarcity and drought conditions faced by the country, the policy prioritizes the construction of new storage reservoirs by 2030 to enhance water storage capacity and build resilience against drought, while supporting national food security.
- Through the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), the Federal Government is financing the construction of small, medium, and large dams/reservoirs. These projects are aimed at capturing and storing surplus floodwater for use in irrigation and domestic supply during low-flow/dry periods.
- Currently, the Federal Government is sponsoring eighteen (18) dam projects at various stages of development, with a total cost of Rs 1,036.069 billion. Upon completion, these projects will provide a cumulative storage capacity of approximately 8,231,984 acre-feet, bringing 346,447 acres of new land under irrigation. Details are at **Annex-I**. Among these, the Diamer Basha Dam alone will store 6.4 million acre-feet of water. This will significantly enhance irrigation supplies to the existing 45 million acres of land currently irrigated by the Indus Basin Irrigation System.
- In addition, five (5) new water sector projects have been initiated during the last two years to improve the flood water management, water supply and construction of small dams, as given at **Annexure-II**.
- These initiatives demonstrate the Government's commitment to addressing water scarcity through enhanced infrastructure, improved water management practices, and long-term planning for water security in the face of growing demand and climate change challenges.

Annex-I

List of ongoing projects under Federal PSDP

Sr No	Project Name	Cost (Rs in million)	Location/ District	Benefits		
				Storage Capacity (Acre-Feet)	CCA (Acre)	Other benefits/ Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3		4	5	
Gilgit Baltistan						
1	Diamer Basha Dam Project (Dam Part), Chilas.	479,686.000	Indus River near Chilas	6,400,000	0	4,500
Sub-Total		479,686.000		6,400,000	0	4,500
Balochistan						
1	Naulong Dam Project,	39,944.336	Jhal Magsi	199,956	47,000	4.4
2	Construction of 100 Delay Action Dams in Balochistan (Package-3: 20 Dams), multiple districts	8,867.283	Multiple districts	91,610	58,500	-
3	Construction of Awaran Dam	23,579.263	Awaran	159,897	29,652	
4	Construction of Gish Kaur Storage Dam	11,789.592	Kech	94,500	13,800	
5	Construction of Mara Tangi Dam,	1,969.903	Loralai	16,510	7,500	
6	Construction of Panjgur Dam	22,340.590	Panjgur	110,000	24,711	
7	Construction of Shehzanik Dam	2,630.293	Kech	37,891	1,235	
8	Construction of Sunni Gar Dam	5,114.781	Khuzdar	34,226	8,896	
9	Construction of Winder Dam	15,230.760	Lasbela	54,500	10,000	
10	Construction of Tapok Dam	1,248.877	Kech	24,953	3,756	
11	Construction of Garuk Storage Dam	27,753.763	Kharan	53,025	12,500	
12	Construction of 100 Dams in District Areas/ Districts of Balochistan (Package-IV)	13,512.725	Multiple districts	96,475	54,284	
13	Construction of 200 Dams in Killa Abd. Gulistan & Dobandai Tehsils, District Killa Abdullah.	2,937.520	Killa Abdullah	18,300	8,100	
Sub-Total		176,919.686		991,843.00	279,934.00	4.40
KP						
1	Mohmand Dam Project	309,558.379	Mohmand Tribal District	676,000	18,233	800
2	Kurram Tangi Multipurpose Dam Stage-I	21,059.260	North Waziristan Tribal District	-	16,380	18.40
3	Construction of Chashma Akhora Khei Dam	1,865.442	Karak	4,141	3,100	-
Sub-Total		332,483.081		680,141.0	37,713.0	818.4
Sindh						
1	Nai Gaj Dam Project	46,980.350	Dadu	160,000	28,800	4.20
Sub-Total		46,980.350		160,000.000	28,800.000	4.200
Total		1,036,069.117		8,231,984.00	346,447.00	5,327.00

Annexure-II

LIST OF PSDP WATER SECTOR PROJECTS INITIATED DURING LAST 2 YEARS
(Rupees Million)

S. No	Name of the Project	Approval Status	Cost Total	Allocation 2025-26
1.	Remodelling of Pat Feeder Canal System in Balochistan District Nasceraabad	ECNEC 27.07.2023	61,793.367	1875.000
2.	Umbrella PC-I of the Flood Protection Sector Project (FPSP-III)	ECNEC 27.06.2023	194625.003	200
3.	Kachhi Canal Project Restoration of Flood Damages 2022 (Rd 0+000 to RD 1005+000)	CDWP 03.09.2024	8,280.647	698.079
4.	Water Requirement for K-IV Project Improvement of Kalri Baghar Feeder and Keenjhar Lake- Plain Cement Concrete (PCC) Lining of Karli Baghar Feeder Upper Phase-I	ECNEC 19.07.2023	39,942.559	10000.00
5.	The Project for Flood Management Enhancement in the Indus Basin-JICA Grant	CDWP 11.10.2024	5178.412	200

***Question No. 5 Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand:**
(Notice Received on 27/06/2025 at 2:55 PM) QID: 43321

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state the current status of the claims/ litigations of the affectees of Tarbela Dam?

Mr. Muhammad Mueen Wattoo:

The claims / litigation of Tarbela Dam affectees have been taken up on priority basis by WAPDA and vigorous efforts have been made to resolve the same.

Presently, there are 06 nos of court cases pending for decision before the Honorable Peshawar High Court. Details are also enclosed as

Annex-I

Annex-A

Sr No	Name of Parties	Nature of Case	Name of Court	Institution Year	Status
1.	F. N Lodhi Vs. Federation of Pakistan etc.	(W.P. 1184-A.2018) for Possession of allotted plots at KTS Haripur.	Peshawar High Court Abbotabad Bench	2018	Arguments
2.	Zahoor Jaan Vs. Govt. of Pakistan etc.	(W.P No.1369-A. 2020)for allotment of plots to the affectees of Kala Dhaka.	Peshawar High Court Abbotabad Branch	2020	Arguments
3.	Haider Khan Vs. Federation of Pakistan	Petition of affectees for allotment of plot. (W.P 400-A/2022) affectees of Khala Dhaka	Peshawar High Court Abbotabad Branch	2022	Arguments
4.	Dilawar etc Vs. Federation of Pakistan	Petition of affectees for allotment of plot. W.P 399/2022 affectees of Khala Dhaka	Peshawar High Court Abbotabad Branch	2022	Arguments
5.	Ejaz Fareed Vs. Govt. of Pakistan etc.	For allotment of agricultural land. (W.P No.375-A, 2023)	Peshawar High Court Abbotabad Branch	2023	Arguments
6.	Haq Nawaz Vs. Govt. of Pakistan etc.	For allotment of agricultural land.(W.P No. 552-A,2023)	Peshawar High Court Abbotabad Branch	2023	Arguments

***Question No. 6 Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hassan:**

(Notice Received on 30/06/2025 at 12:27 PM) QID: 43327

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that MOL company is extracting oil and gas from Union Council Lachi rural, District Kohat, if so, details of development projects carried out by the company under Corporate Social Responsibility in said area indicating also the details of schemes/projects under taken by the company during the last five years and the expenditure incurred on each of the same; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that due to movement of heavy machinery in the said areas the condition of roads has deteriorated specifically that of Lachi to Ghurzandi road, if so, the details of repair works carried out by the company and if not, the reasons thereof indicating also the time by which the same will be carried out?*

Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik: (a) Yes. MOL Pakistan is operating in Union Council Lachi rural, district Kohat. The details of development projects carried out by the company under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) undertaken during the last five years. along with project descriptions and expenditure incurred, is enclosed at **Annex-A**.

(b) MOL Pakistan has provided funds for rehabilitation & repair of road from Sanda Fateh to Ghurzandi, Lachi, in coordination with the Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA), Lachi. The project was executed by TMA Lachi at a total cost of PKR 15.00 million, funded under MOL Pakistan's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Commitment.

Annex A

Details of Development Project/ Schemes carried out through Social Welfare Obligation in District Kohat			
Year	Scheme	Executing Agency	Amount
2020	Construction/rehabilitation of sub health center darmalak uc lachi rural district kohat	Executive Engineer Communication & Works Division Kohat	1,118,991
2020	Sanitation scheme At lachi rural kohat-social welfare kohat	Tehsil Municipal Officer Lachi	2,613,720
2020	Drainage & sanitation Scheme hoti banda lachi rural district kohat	Tehsil Municipal Officer Lachi District Kohat	1,258,210
2020	Technical/vocational center for women at lachi-district kohat-	District Officer Social Welfare Department Kohat	3,500,000
2020	Construction of check dam at tolanj-district kohat-social welfare program-tal block	Director Soil & Water Conservation Kohat	4,200,000
2020	Drain & street at Ghorzai TPF UC gumbat	TMO Gumbat Kohat	1,560,080
2020	Drain & street at tolanj, Jabbar-district kohat-social welfare program-tal block	TMO Gumbat Kohat	1,560,080
2020	Drain & street at tolanj (tolanj x-1) uc gumbat -district kohat-social welfare program-tal block	TMO Gumbat Kohat	1,312,273
2021	Water supply scheme ghorozai payan district Kohat	Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Kohat	377,954
2021	Water supply scheme watai banda tehsil lachi district kohat-social welfare obligation district kohat (tal block)	Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Kohat	4,166,900
2021	Construction of check dam at tolanj district kohat-social welfare program-tal block	Director, Soil & Water Conservation Office Kohat	700,000
2021	Extension of Vocational Center for Women at Lachi District Kohat	District Officer Social Welfare Dept	2,500,000
2021	Drainage & Sanitation Scheme at Hoti Banda Lachi (Rural)	Tehsil Municipal Officer Lachi District	1,103,130
2021	Drain & Street at Kiri Sheikhan UC Chorlaki	Tehsil Municipal Officer Gumbat	779,800

2022	Pressure Pumps at Various areas District Kohat	Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Kohat	198,126
2022	Drainage & Sanitation at Hoti Banda	Tehsil Municipal Officer Lachi	230,795
2022	Free Medical Camps in District Kohat	District Health Officer, Kohat.	800,000
2022	Extension of Vocational Center at Lachi Urban District Kohat	District Officer, Social Welfare Dept	2,500,000
2022	Construction of PCC Street at Ghuruzai	Tehsil Municipal Officer Gumbat	2,153,970
2022	Construction of PCC Street at Tolanj	Tehsil Municipal Officer Gumbat	2,290,607
2022	Construction of PCC Street at Gandiyali Payan	Tehsil Municipal Officer Gumbat	1,674,504
2022	Construction of PCC Street Drain at Lachi Urban	Tehsil Municipal Officer TMA Lachi	2,002,695
2022	Scholarship for students in operational area in District Kohat	District Education Officer	1,500,000
2022	Supply and fixation of submersible Machinery at Lachi	Tehsil Municipal Officer TMA Lachi	480,000
2022	Construction / Rehabilitation of Sub Health Center at Darmalak UC Lachi	Executive Engineer C&W Kohat	449,758
2022	Construction of Street at Darmalak & Banda Fateh Khan	Tehsil Municipal Officer TMA Lachi	2,292,225
2022	Construction of PCC Street Drain at Lachi Urban District Kohat	Tehsil Municipal Officer TMA Lachi	1,178,244
2023	Construction of PCC Street & Culvert at Tulanj District Kohat	Tehsil Municipal Officer TMA Lachi	1,423,465
2023	Construction of Street at Darmalak & Banda Fateh Khan	Tehsil Municipal Officer TMA Lachi	1,795,643
2024	Free Medical Camp at kohat	District Health Officer, Kohat	800,000
2024	Free medical camp for Local Communities Gumbat	MS DHQ Kohat	300,000
Total			48,821,170

Details of Development Project/ Schemes carried out through Corporate Social Responsibility (Own initiatives) in District Kohat		
Year	Scheme	Amount
2021	Free Eye Camp Gandiyali	384,441
2022	Celebration of International Women's day	132,000
2022	Celebration of International day of people with Disabilities	195,000
2023	Sports Festival at Kohat	700,000
2023	Ramadan package for Deserving people of Kohat	500,000
2023	Repair/ rehab of Tulanj road	12,000,000
2023	Construction of Waiting Area at Dabbar Chowk	731,000
2024	Ramadan Package for deserving people of Kohat	3,333,333
2025	Free Medical Camp Kharatloo Kohat	300,000
2025	Donation of Ambulance	11,544,500
	Total	27,820,274

***Question No. 11 Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand:**

(Notice Received on 4/07/2025 at 9:58 AM) QID: 43342

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state whether it is fact that repair/restoration of Neelum Jhelum Power Project has been carried out recently, if so, the details thereof indicating also the names of executing consultants and firms, their PEC registration and expenditure incurred on the same?

Mr. Muhammad Mueen Wattoo: Due to collapse of Headrace Tunnel of Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project, the project was forced to shut down on May 01, 2024. After shutdown of Plant in May 2024, dewatering of tunnels and some debris removal works from Headrace Tunnels/Adits were carried out for making the damaged portion of tunnel accessible. An access road for an access tunnel (Adit A-2) previously damaged was also restored.

For recommending the commencement of work at site, Prime Minister of Pakistan office constituted a committee on 11-10-2024, Minister for Planning is the Chairman of Committee to recommend start of remedial works. The committee held a meeting recently on 08-07-2025 in which the Chairman Committee directed to prepare PC-I for approval before starting remedial works at Headrace Tunnel. The same is being prepared and would be submitted for seeking approval.

Remedial works will be commenced after approval of PC-I and concurrence of the said committee.

***Question No. 13 Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro:**

(Notice Received on 28/07/2025 at 10:44 AM) QID: 43296

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India has put the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance, if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Mr. Muhammad Mueen Wattoo:

- On 24 April 2025, the Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India conveyed through a letter addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Pakistan that “the Government of India has hereby decided that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) will be held in abeyance with immediate effect.”
- At the outset it is clarified that the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 under its Article XII (**Annex-I**) provides as follows:

Paragraph (3) of Article XII of the Treaty:

The provisions of this Treaty may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments.

Paragraph (4) of Article XII of the Treaty:

The provisions of this Treaty, or the provisions of this Treaty as modified under the provisions of Paragraph (3), shall continue in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments."

- In light of above provisions of the Treaty, Pakistan has conveyed to India that the term "abeyance" is not a term of international law with respect to the application of treaties and there is no basis whatever in international law for any purported holding in abeyance of the Treaty by India. The Treaty accordingly continues to be in force as enshrined in Article XII (4) of the Treaty. India's statement that it is holding the Treaty in abeyance is therefore of no legal effect whatsoever. Moreover, as India knows well, the Treaty provides a clear, comprehensive and robust mechanism under Article IX for the resolution of any question concerning its interpretation or application, or the existence of any fact which, if established, might constitute a breach. If India considers that there is a conduct by Pakistan that either effects the application of the Treaty or constitutes a breach, it is open to India to pursue these claims under the mechanisms established by Article IX of the Treaty. Were India to do so, Pakistan would engage fully and without hesitation, including as appropriate by agreeing to the urgent empanelment of a Court of Arbitration to address such matters without delay.

- Besides, a delegation headed by Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari recently reached out various capitals of the world including, Washington DC, London, Brussels and presented Pakistan's position on India's action of holding the Indus Water Treaty, 1960 in abeyance.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also highlighting the issue at various forums including the United Nations Organization.

Annex-I

Most Immediate
Parliamentary Business

Indus Waters Treaty, 1960

ARTICLE XII

Final Provisions

(1)- This Treaty consists of the Preamble, the Articles hereof and Annexures A to H hereto, and may be cited as "The Indus Waters Treaty 1960".

(2) This Treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged in New Delhi. It shall enter into force upon the exchange of ratifications, and will then take effect retrospectively from the first of April 1960.

(3) The provisions of this Treaty may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments.

(4) The provisions of this Treaty, or the provisions of this Treaty as modified under the provisions of Paragraph (3), shall continue in force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments.

***Question No. 14 Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro:**
(Notice Received on 28/07/2025 at 10:44 AM) QID: 43297

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether any subsidy is given to SNGPL and SSGCL consumers on discovery of gas reserves in their area, if so, the details thereof indicating also the names of areas, details of consumers and justification for provision of subsidy; and*

- (b) *whether any subsidy is being provided on petroleum products to the consumers in Sindh on account of discoveries of oil reserves in the province, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik: (a) No, subsidy is given to the consumers of SNGPL and SSGCL on discovery of gas reserves. Both Gas utility companies charge OGRA notified gas tariff to their consumers.

(b) No, Federal Government is not providing any subsidy on petroleum products to consumer in Sindh in lieu of discovery of Oil reserves in the province.

***Question No. 15 Senator Muhammad Aslam Abro:**
(Notice Received on 28/07/2025 at 10:45 AM) QID: 43407

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it a fact that the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 contains provisions that either restrict or prohibit India and Pakistan from undertaking cleansing, desilting, or dredging operations in water channels or dams under their respective control; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that following the suspension (held in abeyance on 23 April 2025) of the Indus Waters Treaty, India had unilaterally initiated reservoir flushing operations at its dams without prior intimation to Pakistan?*

Mr. Muhammad Mueen Wattoo:

(a) **With regard to cleansing, desilting or dredging operations in dams,** it is important to clarify at the outset that such operations/measures are considered in the context of removal of sediments deposited in the reservoirs.

Sediments are considered harmful, inter alia, for generation of hydropower. Another adverse impact of sediments is in the form of loss of water holding capacity of water storage reservoirs.

In general, there are several techniques to control the sediments, whereas sediment-flushing is one of such techniques which – unlike others – require emptying or drawdown of reservoir.

The emptying of reservoir helps create river-like conditions in the reservoir area so that the deposited sediments in the reservoir can be eroded with the help of high velocity of flows passing through the emptied reservoir.

Since flushing requires emptying of reservoir, the next step after flushing action is completed is to fill the reservoir by stopping the available river flow.

Therefore, the flushing of sediments disrupts natural pattern of flow which is against the spirit of the Indus Waters Treaty and is thus prohibited for India. Such prohibition is to ensure that Pakistan receives uninterrupted flow of waters of the Western Rivers.

In order to restrict India from interrupting natural pattern of flows of Western Rivers by carrying out reservoir-emptied flushing, the Paragraph 19 of Annexure E of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 states that, *“the dead storage shall not be depleted except in an unforeseen emergency. If so depleted, it will be refilled in accordance with the conditions of its initial filling.”*

The filling of the Dead Storage for new Run-of-River Hydroelectric Plants is governed by Paragraph 14 of Annexure D to the Treaty which states that, “ *The filling of Dead Storage shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 18 or 19 of Annexure E.*”

Paragraph 18 of Annexure E as referred to in Paragraph 14 of Annexure D states that *“the annual filling of Conservation Storage and the initial filling below the Dead Storage Level, at any site, shall be carried out at such times and in accordance with such rules as may be agreed upon between the Commissioners. In case the Commissioners are unable to reach agreement, India may carry out the filling as follows:*

- (a) *if the site is on the Indus, between 1st July and 20th August;*

- (b) *if the site is on the Jhelum, between 21st June and 20th August; and*
- (c) *if the site is on the Chenab, between 21st June and 31st August at such rate as not to reduce, on account of this filling, the flow in the Chenab Main above Marala to less than 55,000 cusecs.”*

Finally, Paragraph 19 of Annexure E to the Treaty as already provided above states that *“the dead storage shall not be depleted except in an unforeseen emergency. If so depleted, it will be refilled in accordance with the conditions of its initial filling.”*

Despite above explained express provisions of the Treaty which prohibit emptying of reservoir, India pursued designs of its hydroelectric plants on Western Rivers which possess capability to drawdown the dead storage or empty the reservoir.

Pakistan raised the matter before a Court of Arbitration constituted under the Treaty. The Court of Arbitration handed down its award in 2013 in which it decided as follows:

“B. In relation to the second dispute:

- (1) Except in the case of an unforeseen emergency, the Treaty does not permit reduction below Dead Storage Level for drawdown flushing.***
- (2) The accumulation of sediment in the reservoir of Run-of-River Plant on the Western Rivers does not constitute an unforeseen emergency that would permit the depletion of the Reservoir below Dead Storage Level for drawdown flushing purposes.”***

With regard to cleansing, desilting or dredging operations in channels, Paragraph 3 of Article IV of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 states:

“(3) Nothing in this Treaty shall be construed as having the effect of preventing either Party from undertaking schemes of drainage, river training, conservation of soil against erosion and dredging, or from removal of stones, gravel or sand from the beds of the Rivers: Provided that

- (a) in executing any of the schemes mentioned above, each Party will avoid, as far as practicable, any material damage to the other Party;
- (b) any such scheme carried out by India on the Western Rivers shall not involve any use of water or any storage in addition to that provided under Article III;
- (c) except as provided in Paragraph (5) and Article VII(1)(b), India shall not take any action to increase the catchment area, beyond the area on the Effective Date, of any natural or artificial drainage or drain which crosses into Pakistan, and shall not undertake such construction or remodeling of any drainage or drain which so crosses or falls into a drainage or drain which so crosses as might cause material damage in Pakistan or entail the construction of a new drain or enlargement of an existing drainage or drain in Pakistan; and
- (d) should Pakistan desire to increase the catchment area, beyond the area on the Effective Date, of any natural or artificial drainage or drain, which receives drainage waters from India, or, except in an emergency, to pour any waters into it in excess of

the quantities received by it as on the Effective Date, Pakistan shall, before undertaking any work for these purposes, increase the capacity of that drainage or drain to the extent necessary so as not to impair its efficacy for dealing with drainage waters received from India as on the Effective Date.”

(b) With particular regard to India’s announcement of holding the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance as communicated to Pakistan vide a letter written by the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti dated 24 April 2025, it was observed at Marala Barrage that from 1st to 4th May 2025, the river flows were initially increased to more than 80,000 cusecs followed by a reduction observed from 4th to 5th May 2025 when the river flows were declined to 1,500 cusecs.

The second cycle of rising and falling trend of flows of Chenab River was witnessed at Marala from 28th to 31st May 2025 when an increase in flows was observed up to 115,000 cusecs followed by a decline up to 4,800 cusecs.

The recent reduction in flow of Chenab River at Marala was reported on 3 August 2025 when it was dropped to 25,765 cusecs for three hours from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

These variations are reckoned as abnormal when compared with the natural pattern of variation of flows. There was no formal intimation made from India to Pakistan in this regard.

Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters has raised the matter of the above explained variations in flows of Chenab River with his Indian counterpart under the framework of the Treaty, as according to Article XII (4) of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, the Treaty shall remain in full force until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments. Therefore, India’s policy of holding the Treaty in abeyance is an action neither known to the international law nor has any legal basis.

***Question No. 16 Senator Zeeshan Khanzada:**
(Notice Received on 30/07/2025 at 11:18 AM) QID: 43437

Will the In-Charge of the Prime Minister's Office be pleased to state the steps taken by the NDMA to improve flood preparedness and management post 2022 floods?

Minister Incharge of the Prime Minister's Office:

As per Section 9 (a) of the National Disaster Management (NDM) Act 2010; **NDMA is mandated to 'Act as implementing, coordinating and monitoring body for National Plan and National Policy with reference to Disaster Management'**. The fundamental responsibility to manage the disasters with all allied activities rests with respective **Provincial and Districts Departments**, while **NDMA acts as National backup support** at Federal level. Pakistan's Disaster Management System is structured in a *three-tier devolved system* with the **primary onus at District and Provincial level**. However, NDMA does support in disaster related activities when these are beyond the capacities of Provincial / District Governments during emergency on the directions of Federal Government.

2. In this regard, NDMA has undertaken the following measures to strengthen coordination for effective flood response during the Monsoon season:-

a. NDMA regularly updates the National Disaster Response Plan and National Disaster Management Plan on a biennial basis and circulates them among all relevant stakeholders.

b. Issuance of National Level Contingency Plans.

c. Timely dissemination of Quarterly Disaster Early Warnings (DEWs), weather advisories, guidelines, and informative pictorial brochures in local languages. Additionally, daily situation reports and information related to prevailing weather systems, major rivers and their tributaries, and associated disaster risks are shared with all stakeholders and the general public through various platforms including NDMA's mobile application, social media, mainstream media, WhatsApp groups and call tunes.

d. Organization of regular coordination meetings and briefings at NEOC, NDMA such as pre and post-monsoon conferences and daily monsoon briefings to ensure synchronized preparedness and response.

3. Coordination with Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) / State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) AJK and Gilgit Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA)

1.

1. Establishment of Provincial & NDMP Coord (PNC) Directorate for coordinating disaster management activities between the National and Provincial levels tiers to bring synergy/ efficiency in all phases of disaster preparedness/ management.

2. PNC Wing conducted **2nd Disaster Management Coordination Forum (DMCF) Meeting** on 29th May, 2025, engaging all PDMA representatives to provide strategic guidance and to oversee, coordinate, and monitor disaster management activities at both national and provincial levels, in preparation for the upcoming monsoon season.
3. Coordination with PDMA, GBDMA & SDMA and relevant stakeholders for daily Monsoon Conference organized by NDMA's Operations Wing.
4. Promptly sharing of early warning alerts and advisories anticipatory actions and preparedness measures with all Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), GBDMA, and SDMA to enable preemptive measures at the provincial and district levels.
5. Consistently sharing of situation reports and flood forecasts with provincial counterparts to ensure synchronized responses.
6. Provincial preparedness and response efforts are being coordinated to ensure consistency with the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Policy.

4. **National Emergencies Operation Center Capabilities.** Established in October 2023, the National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC) is a pioneering initiative by NDMA aimed at transforming disaster management from reactive to proactive. With access to over 200 real-time satellite feeds and advanced tools like GIS, remote sensing, and climate modeling, NEOC can predict disasters up to six months in advance with 80–85% accuracy. It comprises two core wings: one for global hazard monitoring and another focused on local threats across Pakistan. The multidisciplinary team—comprising experts in meteorology, seismology, hydrology, and data sciences—works round-the-clock to issue timely advisories and policy guidance. Collaborating with national and international data sources, NEOC has already successfully forecasted extreme events such as the heatwaves, demonstrating its capability to safeguard lives and livelihoods through early warning systems.

*ISLAMABAD,
the 13th August, 2025*

SYED HASNAIN HAIDER,
Secretary.