

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
(Standing Committee on Water Resources)

PRESS RELEASE

FBR should pay Rs. 1916 million deducted from the account of Naulong Dam, forthwith.
Government of Balochistan and Government of Sindh should pay the outstanding dues of water charges to Hub Dam.
Standing Committee on Water Resources

Islamabad() FBR should pay Rs. 1916 million deducted from the account of Naulong Dam, forthwith and Government of Balochistan and Government of Sindh should pay the outstanding dues of water charges to Hub Dam. These directions were passed by the Standing Committee on Water Resources in its meeting. The meeting of the Committee was held in the Committee Room of Ministry of Water Resources under the Chairmanship of honourable Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur, MNA. The Standing Committee was informed that Government of Pakistan approved the project of Naulong Dam in 2009. Thereafter all the formalities were fulfilled and when funds were released for the Naulong Dam, the FBR deducted Rs. 1916 million from the account of Naulong Dam without any legitimate ground and adjusted the amount against the receivables from WAPDA. Consequently, the work of Naulong Dam could not be started. So, an important national project has been delayed. The representative of FBR was of the view that Naulong Dam was a project of WAPDA. So, the receivables from WAPDA could be deducted from hundreds of accounts of WAPDA. Hence, FBR deducted and received the amount from the account of Naulong Dam. The Standing Committee showed serious displeasure and declared that FBR should not deduct funds from the Public Sector Development Projects. Moreover, it was informed that Lahore High Court had already directed FBR to return this amount but FBR has taken a new position. According to FBR now the sales tax has been imposed, so, they would adjust the amount deducted from account of Naulong Dam against the sales tax imposed on WAPDA. On the other hand, the Ministry of Water Resources, while briefing the Standing Committee informed that since funds were once sanctioned for Naulong Dam and same have been deducted by the WAPDA. Hence Ministry of Finance is reluctant to give more funds for this purpose. The Standing Committee directed the FBR to immediately return these funds to the Naulong Dam project and directed WAPDA to immediately pay its other dues to the FBR. However, the FBR has also been directed to return the money immediately without waiting for other WAPDA funds to arrive. Failing which it will be assumed that the delay in construction of Naulong Dam would be attributed to FBR. The Standing Committee was informed that the Hub Dam was built, forty years ago, and it was decided that two third of its water would be given to Sindh and one third to Balochistan. It was also decided that cost for the construction of Hub Dam would be paid by Sindh Government and Balochistan Government to WAPDA but both Government have failed to fulfil their commitments. In addition, forty years ago it was decided that the monthly expenditure for the Hub Dam would be Rs. three million out of which Rs. two million would be provided by Sindh Province and one million by Balochistan Province but both Governments have paid very negligible amount for this purpose. However, Balochistan pays better than Sindh. Representatives of the Balochistan government committed that remaining dues would be paid within six months to WAPDA. No representative of the Sindh Government's water board attended the meeting. Therefore, the Standing Committee took stern notice of this and directed the Chairman and other officers of the Water Board to attend the next meeting of the Standing Committee otherwise legal action would be taken against them. The meeting was presided over by the Chairman, Standing Committee of National Assembly on Water Resources, Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur and attended by Members National Assembly; Mr. Ali Nawaz Awan, Ch. Shoukat Ali Bhatti, Mr. Muhammad Farooq Azam Malik, Ms. Naureen Farooq Ibrahim, Ms. Nuzhat Pathan, Ch. Muhammad Hamid Hameed (through Video Link), Mr. Riaz-ul-Haq, Mr. Ehsan-ur-Rehman Mazari and Mr. Afreen Khan. Mr. Saleh Muhammad, Parliamentary Secretary for Water Resources was also present in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Chairman, IRSA, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Special Secretary, Irrigation Department, Sindh and senior civil officers of the Ministry of Water Resources FBR, Irrigation Department and WAPDA.

(CH. MUKHTAR AHMED)
Secretary Committee
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Tel: 9207606