Scenario 252

PAKISTAN IS DRYING UP: WATER CRISIS

> *"According to a recent report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF),* ***Pakistan ranks third in the world among countries facing acute water shortage.*** *Reports by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) also warn the authorities that the South Asian country will reach absolute water scarcity by 2025.*
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> *No person in Pakistan, whether from the north with its more than 5,000 glaciers, or from the south with its 'hyper deserts,' will be immune to this [scarcity];"* an article at **energyupdate.com.pk** dated 9th January 2021 is referred.

Researchers predicted that Pakistan is on its way to becoming the most water-stressed country in the region by the year 2040. It was not the first time that development and research organizations had alerted Pakistani authorities about an impending crisis - probably a bigger threat to the country than terrorism. Pakistan had once touched the ***'water stress line'*** in 1990 and again crossed the ***'water scarcity line'*** in 2005. Presumably, the situation continued to persist - still likely to face an acute water shortage or a drought-like situation in the near future, according to PCRWR, which is affiliated with the South Asian country's Ministry of Science and Technology.

Fact remains that Pakistan has the world's fourth-highest rate of water use. Its current water intensity rate — the amount of water, in cubic meters, used per unit of GDP — is the world's highest. This suggests that no country's economy is more water-intensive than Pakistan's. As per statistics with the IMF, Pakistan's per capita annual water availability is 1,017 cubic meters — perilously close to the scarcity threshold of 1,000 cubic meters. Back in 2009, Pakistan's water availability was about 1,500 cubic meters.

The bulk of Pakistan's farmland is irrigated through a canal system recovering only a quarter of annual operating and maintenance costs. Meanwhile, agriculture, which consumes almost all annual available surface water, is largely untaxed. Experts say that ***population growth and urbanization are the main reasons behind the said crisis***. The issue has also been exacerbated by climate change, poor water management and a lack of political will to deal with the crisis. Michael Kugelman, South Asia expert at Washington's Woodrow Wilson Center, told DW in a 2015 interview:

> *"Pakistan is approaching the scarcity threshold for water. What is even more disturbing is that groundwater supplies — the last resort of water supply — are being rapidly depleted. And worst of all is that the authorities have given no indication that they plan to do anything about any of this."*

Water scarcity has been triggering security conflicts in the country, too. Experts held the economic impact of the water crisis would remain immense, and more people would be fighting for resources. Water scarcity in Pakistan has also been accompanied by rising temperatures. In May 2020, at least 65 people died from heatstroke in the southern city of Karachi. In 2015, at least 1,200 people died during a spate of extremely hot weather in the country - heat waves and droughts in Pakistan are a result of climate change, in fact.

During the previous decade, the monsoon season remained mostly erratic; the winter season had shrunk from four to two months in many parts of the country. On top of it, Pakistan could not save floodwater due to scarcity of dams. At the time of Pakistan's birth in 1947, forests accounted for about 5pc of the national area, but it dropped to only 2pc till ending 2020.

Water politics had also been playing havoc in Pakistan since its coming into being. The Tarbela and Mangla dams, the country's two major water reservoirs, reached their ***'dead levels'*** during last week of December 2020. The news had sparked a debate on social media over the inaction of authorities in the face of that crisis. The said two big reservoirs were able to save water only for 30 days. India can store water for 190 days whereas the US can do it for 900 days; the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) has all the figures about such facts; little details from its files are:

> *"Pakistan receives around 145 million acre feet of water every year but can only save 13.7 million acre feet. Pakistan needs 40 million acre feet of water but 29 million acre feet of* ***our floodwater is wasted*** *because we have few dams. New Delhi raised this issue with international bodies, arguing that it should be allowed to use the western rivers because Pakistan can't use them properly.*
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> *In 1960, the World Bank brokered the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) that gives Pakistan exclusive rights to use the region's western rivers — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — while India has the authority over three eastern rivers. BUT New Delhi is building the Kishanganga hydroelectric plant in the north of Bandipore in India-administered Jammu and Kashmir region. Moreover, India violated the IWT by building the dam on a Jhelum River basin, which was against the terms of the said treaty."*

The reality is that the Pakistani authorities could have stepped up efforts to overcome the water crisis much earlier - which is partly man-made. Pakistan's successive leaders and stakeholders could have taken ownership of this challenge and declare their intention to tackle it. ***Simply blaming previous governments, or blaming India, for the crisis didn't solve the actual problem.*** The governments were needed to institute a major paradigm shift that could promote more judicious use of water. ***Unfortunately, no govt, military or civil, none of the PMLN, PPP or PTI leader, had ever seriously felt the need for remedy.***

<u>TARBELA-5 INSTALLED BY PM KHAN</u>:

On 12th August 2021: Prime Minister Imran Khan said his government had decided to construct 10 dams in as many years with a view to avert the looming threat of water scarcity in the country as well as protect the future generations. While addressing the ground-breaking ceremony of the Tarbela-5 (T5) expansion project, he said:

> *"We have decided to construct 10 dams including Dasu and Bhasha dams within 10 years. We may face water shortage in the future and would be unable to cope with the needs of people and farmers unless we have storage. With the financial assistance of the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the project costing $807 million would be completed within a three-year period."*

The Tarbela-5 project was then aimed at protecting the Tarbela Dam against silting besides helping generate 1,530 MW of electricity and provide 1.34 billion units of power to the national grid. The construction of the said expansion project also intended to beget 3,000 jobs and enhance the power production capacity of the Tarbela Hydropower Project from 4,888 MW to 6,418 MW. It was planned to play an important role to cope with the country's needs of water, food, and energy – including the continuing water supply for irrigation purposes.

PM Khan told the gathering that the construction of the ***Bhasha Dam*** was decided in 1984 but was not constructed owing to a lack of long-term planning. The previous governments had signed exorbitant contracts making the country pay whether the electricity was consumed or not. The consumers including the industry had to bear the cost. Owing to the costly electricity, the industry could not compete with the world market until the government paid a subsidy - China made progress just because of the long-term planning.

The fact remains that Pakistan's rivers got 80% of water inflow within three to four months and the construction of reservoirs was extremely essential to store and supply water throughout the year. It was hoped that construction of the ***Mohmand Dam*** would be completed by 2025 and Bhasha dam till 2028 but ***most things slipped into doldrums due to his departure in April 2022.*** Till the departure of Imran Khan's government on 10th April, the projects those were in progress in terms of construction, planning and financial arrangements included Diamer-Bhasha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, Sindh Barrage, Nai Gaj Dam, and K-IV Project. These large-scale hydropower developments were scheduled to be completed and made operational one by one – and mostly till year 2028; some of these had already been started during PM Shahid K Abbassi's PMLN government.

On 23rd July 2021: The PTI's government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) got together and signed a $300 million agreement to finance the development of the **Balakot Hydropower Project**. The total cost of the project was estimated at $755 million. According to a statement by the ADB, the preparatory work on the dam had already been completed. The project was expected to create hundreds of jobs. The then Minister of Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan told that the construction of this hydroelectricity dam would take place on the Kunhar River; and the upcoming project would be able to generate around 300 MW of electric power.

The water crisis in Pakistan, as narrated in detail above, went worsened year by year, especially over the past decade. Many factors, including not getting enough rain sometimes, lack of planning, and the increase in population, got combined to make the daily life of the people living in Pakistan an unusual challenge, to say the least. The shortage of water also played a significant role in the power shortage in the country. Thankfully, the last two successive governments of the PMLN and PTI had decided to start the construction of several new dams in the country to increase the overall water storage capacity and eliminate the deficiency of electricity in the country.

The population ratio of Pakistan witnessed a substantial increase over the past few years, which implied that the demand for water kept on increasing with every passing day; thus, the construction of new dams was vital to protect citizens, and the national occupation of the county – farming.

According to the records of the International Commission on Large Dams, the list of dams and reservoirs in Pakistan totals 150. Additionally, there are about ten major dam sites in the country including Tarbela Dam, Mangla Dam, Sukkur Barrage, Rawal Lake, Head Marala, Jhelum River, Margalla Hills – National Park, and Islam Headworks, out of which Tarbela Dam and Mangla Dam are the largest ones with the depth of 470 ft and 453 ft respectively. Also, the storage capacity of the aforementioned dams has been recorded at 13,690,000,000 m^3 and 7,251,811,000 m^3 respectively.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION DAMS IN PAKISTAN:

As per records of the Ministry of Water and Power, there has been already a scarcity of water in the country - which means that the governments remained in a race against time to achieve their target of developing new dams in Pakistan. Taking into account some under-construction dams, the ***two main dams remained Mohmand and Diamer-Bhasha***, which we'll discuss in more detail separately. During Imran Khan's era, **Diamer-Bhasha Dam, Naulong Dam, Kurram Tangi Dam, Nai Gaj Dam, and Darawat**

Dam were in the initial stages of development. These five dams combined had a storage capacity of around 7.747 million acre-feet, while, **Garuk Dam, Winder Dam, Papin Dam, and Pelar Dam** were four other dams which were all set to become functional in future. These four dams would have a water storage capacity of 0.142 million acre-feet. The PTI government was also planning to construct seven (more) dam-projects in Pakistan including **Hingol dam, Akhori dam, Shyok dam, Munda dam (Mohmand Dam), Tank Zam dam and Chiniot dam**. These seven dams combined would add another 13.948 million acres of storage capacity to the already-existing water reservoirs in the country. Upon completion, the under-construction dams in Pakistan would collectively increase the water storage capacity of Pakistan by 21.837 million acre-feet.

MOHMAND DAM: The Government of Pakistan started the construction of Mohmand Dam in July 2018 upon the directives of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The primary purpose of the dam was to resolve water shortage by storing water in the periods of surplus and releasing in the times of scarcity. Some secondary purposes served by the dam could include the production of hydropower and moderation of water flow in rivers. The moderation could result in flood mitigation and thousands of innocent lives being saved from natural disasters.

The new Mohmand Dam, also popularly known as the ***Munda Dam*** project due to its geographical location in Northern Pakistan was aimed to enhance the agricultural development at 16,737 acres – with 9, 017 acres on its left and 7,720 acres on its right sides. Built on Swat River and managed by WAPDA, it is situated approximately 5 km opposite to Munda Headworks in Mohmand Tribal District situated in Khyber PK. Originally launched in March 2019 by Imran Khan's government, Munda dam is a concrete faced rock-fill, and it is around 700 ft deep with a storage capacity of about 1.293 million acre-feet. Upon completion, the dam could have the capacity to generate 800 MW of hydro-electricity. Then the **estimate cost in PKR** was 309,558 million. The project was scheduled to be completed and made functional by July 2024 but the PTI govt was sent home in April 2022.

DIAMER-BHASHA DAM: More details have been separately dealt with in another scenario of this book.

Diamer-Bhasha Dam is one of the most crucial and state-of-the-art under construction dams in Pakistan. Considering the project's hype and reputation, it was justified to say that this dam would be a valuable addition to the assets of the country. Ideally situated on the Indus River, in the northern part of Pakistan, Bhasha Dam was originally estimated to cost around $14 billion.

The construction work on Diamer-Bhasha Dam was all set to begin in the second quarter of 2019; several consulting firms were invited to bid for the evaluation process of this Dam. The Government of Pakistan, the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and WAPDA worked together to expedite the development of this under-construction dam. ***Although the project was proposed seven years back, the actual implementation and planning started in July 2018,*** with the political will of Imran Khan and cogent assistance of the then CJP Saqib Nisar when he initiated an international donation drive for this dam's construction. Then the project was mostly sponsored through local resources, with an initial estimated cost of PKR 625 billion.

Moreover, Diamer-Bhasha Dam would be the highest roller-compacted concrete (RCC) dam in the world once it is completed boasting a water storage capacity of around 8.5 million acres feet. The reservoir is planned to serve irrigation and drinking purposes. Being a protection source of the 35-year-old Tarbela Dam, the multipurpose dam, when completed, would also be a source to control flood damages caused by the River Indus.

DASU DAM:

As per records of Pakistan's Ministry of Water & Power, the Dasu Dam's original inventory of March 2014 is here:

- Dasu Hydropower Project is a run off river project on Indus River located 7km upstream of Dasu Town, District Kohistan, Khyber PK. The site is 74 km downstream of Diamer Bhasha Dam site and 350 km from Islamabad.
- Dasu Hydropower Project was planned to have total installed capacity of 4320 MW with 12 generating units and was among the priority projects under the **National Power Policy 2013 and Vision 2025** of Government of Pakistan. Project's implementation was designed to be carried on in two Stages; each Stage with 6 units of capacity of 2160 MW. About 12 billion power-units could be generated annually on completion of Stage-I being in implementation stage. PC-I of the Project (Stage-I) for Rs:486,093 million was approved by the ECNEC promptly.
- Total land required for Project was 9917 acres; 2029 acres for Preparatory & Main Civil Work on priority basis and remaining land to be used as reservoir area to be acquired at later stage before impounding.
- Out of 2029 acres, 633.78 acres of land had been acquired during 2nd spill of PMLN government and possession handed over to Contractors. Remaining land was to be acquired by the end of January 2018. World Bank had extended the deadline till 20th November 2018 to utilize the funds allocated in IDA-1 Credit in respect of land acquisition payments.
- *Agreement between the Government of Pakistan, WAPDA and **the World Bank** for IDA-1 Credit of US$ 588.4 Million along with an IDA PCG of US$ 460 Million had already been signed on 25th August 2014 - Loan Agreement was made effective immediately and kept valid till 30th June 2022.*

WAPDA awarded five Contracts related to Relocation of Karakorum Highway (KKH), Access Roads and 132 KV Transmission Line. Contractors for three Contracts, KKH-01, RAR-01 & TL-01, were mobilized at Project Site; contracts of KKH-02 and RAR-02 signed and commencement launched. Bids for Project Colony & Dasu-RV (Resettlement Villages) were opened on 22nd November 2017. Three Contracts of Resettlement Sites were awarded and signed with Chinese firms; the contractors were asked to mobilize at Project immediately.

On 8th March 2017: Main Civil Works Contract - agreements were awarded to M/s CGGC, China. Just within three months, the contractors commenced the services and mobilized at Site (on 23rd June 2017 precisely). Construction activities on Access Roads (CR-1 & CR-2) to Diversion Tunnels Inlet started.

On 29th March 2017: Agreement with Local Commercial Banks led by M/s Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for financing up to Rs:144 billion was signed; 1st tranche of Rs:25 billion was released in May 2017.

On 29th June 2017: Agreement with M/s Credit Issue Bank for $350 million credit signed; next day, 1st tranche of $188 million was released by the bank.

On 9th August 2017; for Electro-Mechanical Works**,** the bidding Documents were issued to prequalified applicants; bid submission / opening date was extended till 10th January 2018.

A landmark moment took place at the Dasu Hydropower dam in February 2023 when Pakistan's largest river, the Indus, was successfully diverted from its course. In a country that is susceptible to severe flooding this achievement was no small success.

Although it was a project of WAPDA in pursuit of its ***Water Vision 2025***, Dasu Dam was financed by a number of funders. Besides the World Bank's $588 million, as enumerative in above lines, local commercial financing from a consortium of local banks gave Rs:144 billion ($558 million), and foreign commercial financing from Credit Suisse Bank contributed another $350 million. WAPDA injected its equity equivalent to 15% of the project's base cost. Overall, it would reportedly cost an estimated $4.278 billion to construct

the dam. The main civil works, undertaken by China's *Gezhouba Group Company Limited*, started in early 2018. Meanwhile, work on the water diversion tunnel was inaugurated in December 2018 by the PTI government.

Pakistan has been facing a serious water crisis since decades – that's due to the increasing population and declining water resources. Huge dams like Mangla and Tarbela helped in providing water to the population and crops. Since the construction of the Mangla Dam decades ago, the country's population has been rising and was estimated to go up to 280 million by 2025. With the increase in the population, not only demand for water for food crops would increase but also requirements for drinking water and electricity would also rise. Referring to **Sputnik** magazine of 17th February 2023:

> *"Hence, WAPDA's **Water Vision 2025** aimed to solve the water and energy crisis; Dasu Hydropower was a big step toward achieving that goal. In early 2023, stage 1 of the dam was under construction and was likely to start generating electricity in 2026; an annual energy generation of 12 billion units. The 2160 MW stage 2, when finished, would provide a further 9 billion units to the national grid. On completion of both stages, Dasu could become the project with the greatest annual energy generation in Pakistan at about 21 billion units per annum on average.*
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> *For Pakistan, diverting **the Indus River** was of utmost importance because the river is the lifeline of country's economy; though can cause huge losses when it floods. **The great trans-Himalayan river of South Asia is one of the longest rivers in the world at 3,200 km.** The river's annual flow is about 241 cubic km, twice that of the Nile River and three times that of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers combined. Indus becomes much larger when it reaches Punjab because other rivers of the province combine into it and during the flood season (July to September) it becomes several miles wide."*

In Indo-Pak, modern irrigation engineering work started in 1850s and during the period of British administration, large canal systems were constructed. Thus, ***the greatest system of canal irrigation in the world*** was created and although embankments had been constructed along the Indus River to prevent flooding, occasionally these give way and floods destroy large areas, demolishing crops and livestock in the country. The floods of 2022 had a devastating effect on Pakistan's economy as two-thirds of the country was underwater; more than 30 million people were displaced from their homes, over one thousand people died and thousands of livestock perished. Hence, it was vital for Pakistan to have a good network of dams such as Dasu with its diversion tunnels for controlling the river; so finally, it's there.

The diversion system of the **Dasu Hydropower Project** consists of two tunnels - tunnel A and B. Of these, tunnel B was completed in early 2023, which has the discharge capacity enough to divert water of River Indus during the lean flow season. Meanwhile, the 1.5 km long tunnel A, with 20-m width and 23-m height, was projected to be ready till ending 2023.

For the completion of the Dasu project, WAPDA signed a first Rs:52.5 billion ($200,000) contract with a Chinese joint-venture, regarding electro-mechanical works. This contract included design, supply and installation of the first stage's six 360 MW turbines, along with their generators, and transformers. Furthermore, WAPDA was spending Rs:17.34 billion ($66,000) on the schemes related to the resettlement, environmental management and social development in the project area; more than 3,700 jobs were created till then.

CHINIOT DAM:

On 26th January 2019: The interest expressed by Imran Khan's PTI government in building ***five new dams***, including the Chiniot dam, was a positive sign to help overcome the impending water crisis in the country; the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry had extended a proposal for constructing the Chiniot dam about a decade ago; the estimated cost was approximately Rs:146.3 million then – daily ***The Express Tribune*** dated 26th January 2019 is referred.

On 7th October 2021: During PM Imran Khan's governance, Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) invited proposals by 21st October 2021 from qualified consultants to provide detailed engineering design, preparation of bidding documents and PC-I for the Chiniot Dam Project on the Chenab River.

The Chiniot Dam, 17m-high zoned earth-fill embankment dam, located near Chiniot in Punjab, was designed to store surplus flows from the Chenab River to meet downstream irrigation water requirements as well as generate electricity for the national grid. The reservoir was to be bound by left and right sides dykes / embankments to create a gross storage capacity of 1110 million m3 (0.9 MAF) and a live storage capacity of 1048 million m3. The proposed barrage was designed to cater for the peak discharge of about 34000 m3/s at a level of 190 masl. Twenty-two radial type gates were proposed in the dam. A surface powerhouse was planned as part of the development comprising six 13.34 MW units with a combined installed capacity of 80 MW to generate average annual output of 275 GWh at a design discharge of 720 m3/s - comprising horizontal shaft bulb type turbines.

The objective of the consultancy services - to be financed by the Government of Pakistan, was to review the previous feasibility study, review and prepare the project planning report, detailed engineering design, preparation of bidding drawings / documents and PC-I Proforma of the project. The assignment was expected to be carried out in three phases over 18 months starting in March 2022:

- *An inception report to be completed three months after the start of the contract,*
- *A project planning report after 12 months and detailed engineering design report, preparation of bidding drawings / documents and PC-I by the 18th month of the assignment. Quality and cost-based selection method (QCBS-80:20) could be used following single stage, two envelope bidding procedure.*
- *Request for Proposals (RFP) documents, (containing all details, description of assignment and evaluation criteria) were made available along with the RFP documents.*

Referring to daily **THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE** dated 11th April 2022; during Khan's era, the Chiniot Dam located on the Chenab River was expected to be completed by December 2022. Located five kms from Chiniot city, the dam was projected to generate 80 megawatts of cheap and environment friendly electricity; additionally, the gross storage of Chiniot Dam was 0.9-million-acre feet (MAF). The project was near completion as the implementation agency WAPDA had expedited development work it. The PTI government provided Rs:50 million under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), whereas Rs:96.33 million was provided by WAPDA's own resources.

The feasibility study of the **Chiniot Dam Project** was carried out by WAPDA and had completed in 2019. The PC-II Proforma for Detailed Engineering Design was submitted to Ministry of Water Resources for consideration in forthcoming Departmental Development Working Party (DDWP) meeting which was duly approved. The project held a great deal significance, as it was meant to help generate a daily water supply for Chiniot city and help establish business opportunities for locals, such as fisheries and tourism.

CHAHAN DAM PROJECT:

Referring to daily **THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE** dated 8th April 2022, the cost of ***Chahan Dam*** water supply project surged to over Rs:8 billion after CM Usman Buzdar's Punjab government failed to release funds within given time; a revised project concept (PC-1) of the water supply project was sent to the Planning and Development (P&D) Department Punjab seeking the said amount of funds (Rs: 8.10 billion). In 2018, the original PC-1 had estimated the original cost of the project at Rs:5.50 billion.

The design of Chahan Dam was altered to ensure full pressure water supply to six densely populated union councils (UCs) falling within the jurisdiction of the Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB). Under the new design, the route of distribution lines were changed to supply water at full pressure and prevent water theft and after the design alteration and the recent increase in the price of construction material, the original cost had increased to Rs:1 billion; with the completion of the project, 6 million gallons of water per day was to be supplied to the said densely populated areas; a grant of Rs:800 million had initially been released and the work on the project had to take start in May 2022 – but Imran Khan was no more there in saddles.

HINGOL DAM:

Hingol Dam is a small, low-head, Central Core Zone, hydroelectric power generation dam of 3.5-megawatt (MW) generation capacity, located in the Lasbela District across the Hingol River in the Balochistan province of Pakistan. It is located at a distance of 260 km northwest of Karachi and about 16 km north of bridge across the Hingol River on the Makran Coastal Highway and about 8 km north of Kund Malir where the river falls into the sea.

With the construction of the proposed Hingol Dam, flood waters of Hingol River were to be stored for irrigation. Gross storage of the reservoir was planned at 2.10 MAF of which an average of about 1.3 MAF water would be annually available for developing irrigated agriculture of 80,000 acres. This project was designed to produce 3.5 MW of power generation with annual energy of 4.4 GWh. Damming the flow of Hingol River would save the flood water for irrigated agriculture development, power generation and water supply for drinking etc. Maximum height of the Dam was worked out as 172 ft (52 m) while its length was proposed as 2,500 ft (760 m). The project was poised to uplift the local community of the area by consequently raising the living standard of the people and generating employment.

The project would greatly increase the development of fisheries in the area and provide employment opportunities to the residents. Estimated cost of the project was $311 million when conceived - $227 million for civil works and $28 million for electro-mechanical works.

Interestingly, feasibility studies for the dam were completed in 1992. However, due to various reasons including mainly the local opposition, *the dam is still not constructed*. ***In 2008, members of the Balochistan Assembly opposed the construction of the dam.*** The local Hindu community protested the construction of the dam as it could damage the historic Hindu temple Hinglaj Mata and would destroy the eco-system of the nearby situated Hingol National Park. The later proposed site was shifted 16 km upstream to facilitate the demands of local Hindu Community and to protect the temple; however, since then the progress on construction of the dam remained zero due to financial constraints.

The proposed plan to build that dam at the Hingol River close to the Shri Hinglaj Mata temple shrine was protested against because it was a major Hindu pilgrimage center in Pakistan. The dam could have flooded the accommodation roads to the temple and endangered the locality and its associated festivals. ***Following protest from the Hindu community, the dam proposal was abandoned by the Balochistan Assembly***. However, the WAPDA initially suggested relocating three holy places to a higher elevation and

guaranteed the construction of a new access road. This proposition was rejected by the Hinglaj Sheva Mandali, which argued that these sites were not like common temples and could not simply be relocated.

- *In 2008, the lawmakers in the Balochistan Assembly reacted to the concerns and protests of the Hindu community and asked the federal government to stop the project. In 2009, following a one-year of suspension, the WAPDA chose to continue with the controversial Hingol Dam construction plans. However, they decided to shift the site of the dam 16 kms north in order to protect the temple. This resolution was reached through a consensus among the Power Development Authority, the Balochistan Assembly, and the Hindu community. PC-I Proforma (New Site) was cleared by CDWP in its meeting held on 19th November 2009, and cleared for approval of ECNEC. Detailed Engineering Design and Tender Documents of the New Site were completed in January 2011. Construction bids were invited on 11th July 2011 but the project couldn't take start.*

PM Imran Khan had motivated the local politicians and Assembly members – and the time was announced to complete the said project till mid 2023 – but Khan was sent home in April 2022 – thus the project had to die its own death.