

EDITORIAL

Despite a GDP as low as Rs. 240 billion a year and inflation rate touching new heights, it is a pity that our policy makers and legislatures have not been able to devise or implement ways and means to overcome this problem. As a result, or may be vice versa, every institution is in crisis, be it pertaining to energy, fuel, water, communications, industry, agriculture and what not. All these are totally professional disciplines but have over the years been marred by too much politicization. Talking of just the electricity, crisis here is resulting in a yearly loss of around 2% in our GDP growth. Not to speak of large dams and reservoirs, we have not been able to harness the God gifted wind and solar energy resources which could help us get rid of the power crisis to some extent. No headway appears to have been made on much trumpeted Thar Coal and Shale Gas projects and these also appear to have been politicized. At present 35% of our electricity is produced through furnace oil, 32% through natural gas, 30% through hydro energy, 2% through nuclear energy, but none through coal as fuel. The huge bill on furnace oil would have been minimized had the issue of Thar Coal not been politicized about hydropower, even the claims of plans to install small sized power plants on irrigation canals have turned out to be merely lip service for the same reason. The precious gold and copper resources may also, God forbid, meet the same fate. The point to ponder is, will we ever be able to get rid of this attitude of politicization which has become a menace for our economy? The blunder of an individual may affect himself or herself alone, but for the blunder by one generation, all the future generations have to suffer.