

TIME and TIDE WAITS FOR NONE

By

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We must develop our Power, Energy, Industry and Agriculture sectors, if we really want to survive. Energy is the major gift of Almighty Allah to mankind. It's all up to us to decide, how to get, achieve and further, how to utilize. If we can get it from water, by storing the river water in Dams we shall get it free when required, just by providing a fall on the blades of turbine, which would rotate the generator and transmit it throughout the Country. The other alternate is to get it by converting water to steam through fuel (oil/gas) and steam forced to generate for obtaining, the Electric Power. In any way Thermal / Hydel, it is the water which does the job. In Hydel Electricity, there is no fuel cost while additional benefit of using water for irrigation during dry seasons but in Thermal, main cost of generation is of the fuel (Furnace Oil, Diesel/Gas). Certainly Diesel/Gas are expensive as they had to be drilled out of the earth may be thousands of feet below the ground level and further fuel transported to Power House Sites after getting it from the refineries located near to availability of furnace oil and Gas fields

Even if the Government just recovers the purchase cost of the fuel and does not impose any Tax on Oil/ gas, the Electricity shall still be expensive than Hydel but affordable. But if government imposes tax on Diesel / Gas, the cost of Electricity shall be three to four times and could even jump to seven to eight times depending upon the taxation value. It must now be clear, that as the Govt. has imposed heavy Taxation on Diesel and Gas, we cannot get cheap electric power. If, however, Tax is to be imposed, it should only be on Petrol / Aviation. The cost of Diesel have gone so high that Thermal Power houses have to stop supply of Electricity, despite having the capability. Moreover the economy of the Country is at stake; as the transportation Industry, like trains, trucks, trailers, tractors, tube-wells and all such industry based on Diesel are forced to raise the cost of their produce thus crippling the economy. A big storm is now in the offing if the Government does not work out the solution, in reducing the prices back to normal to the level of late nineties or early 2000 to 2007. The economy in the past remained stable, just on account of keeping the cost of fuel and foreign exchange stable for ten years.

Solution:

Kalabagh Dam is the only immediate, cheapest and the best located substitute for generation through river Indus as shall cost a billion dollars per year and complete within six years, providing more than 3500 megawatts of power. The other substitute is BHASHA but is going to take at least 18 years as there are four projects in one (1) Dam (2) Training works on mountains up stream of Dam (3) Renovation of complete KKH with increased classification of bridges. (4) Construction of absolutely new piece of 150 KM-KKH, uphill of lake as the previous shall be completely submerged in the lake. The estimated cost thus shall be around more than 15 to 20 billion dollars. This shall provide about 4000 MW to 4500 MW of Electricity. Third big substitute is Boonji Tunnel, which at the moment is in very early stage of investigation and design, but is expected to provide more than 5000 MW of power, after a completion period of 15 years from now. There are many other merits / demerits / cost comparison under study at the moment on account of 500 or 750 KV transmission lines along the difficult terrain of KKH for transporting Power to the load centres. THE BEST CHOICE HOWEVER IS KALABAGH TECHNICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, WHICH CAN PROVIDE IN MINIMUM TIME OF SIX YEARS, MORE THAN 3000 MW AT A MINIMUM COST OF 6 BILLION DOLLARS AND NEEDS TO BE STARTED FORTHWITH IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION AND COUNTRY. IT IS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE THAT A TECHNICAL PROBLEM IS MADE POLITICAL, INSTEAD OF TO BE HANDELED BY TECHNICAL PEOPLE. WE ARE LUCKY TO STILL HAVE WITH US LIKE ENGR SHAMSUL MULK WHO SHOULD BE ENTRUSTED THE JOB OF CONSTRUCTION OF KALABAGH DAM.

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Remember if we are not sincere to ourselves nobody on earth shall be a bigger ENEMY THAN OUR OWNSELF. THE SOLUTION, AS WORKED OUT EARLIER IS TO FOLLOW THE RATIO OF 60% HYDEL AND 40% THERMAL ACCORDING TO OUR DEMAND. FOR ECONOMICAL USE AND NOT TO IMPOSE ANY TAX ON GAS/DIESEL TILL SUCH TIME THAT WE START GETTING POWER FROM SUN and WIND AND REDUCE OUR LIABILITY ON THERMAL (.) FOR A WORKABLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TOO RICH and TOO POOR INCOME SHOULD NOT VARY MORE THAN 9% TO 10% WHILE KEEPING A BALANCE AT AROUND 50% FOR MIDDLE CLASS (.)