

# WAPDA TO ADD 364 MW TO NATIONAL GRID THIS YEAR

By

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Lahore : The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) would add 364 MW of hydroelectricity this year in the power supply system of the national grid, the chairman of the authority told The News on Wednesday.

“WAPDA is also working on projects that will generate 35,500 MW of hydroelectricity including 22,800 MW run of the river projects”, said.

“We are committed to ensure that Pakistan takes full advantage of its hydroelectricity production potential”, he said.

The first unit of 96 MW hydropower project at Jinnah Barrage has already been commissioned and it would start operating on full capacity by the end of this year, he said.

Durrani said that the 130 MW Allai Khwar project at Battagram is almost complete and would start generating power within few months.

“Duber Khwar – a 130 MW hydroelectric project at Kohistan, is scheduled to generate full power by December 2012”, he added. In addition Satpara Dam is generating 17.36 MW of hydroelectricity.

The 72 MW Khan Khwar hydropower project in 2011 is already generating its installed capacity, Durrani said.

“This is a humble contribution of WAPDA to reduce the gap between demand and supply of electricity”, he said.

Work on high capacity hydroelectricity projects is in full swing. He said the feasibility study and detailed engineering and design of 7,100 MW Bunji project in Gilgit Baltistan has been completed and is currently under review of WAPDA experts.

He said feasibility study of Dasu Dam in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been completed. This dam he added would store 1.15 million acres of water and produce 4320 MW hydroelectricity “Consultants for preparation of detailed design and tender documents have been mobilized”, he added.

“Hydroelectric power projects having the potential to recover cost in short time are darlings of world donor agencies”, he said. Finances for such projects are available with much ease than other power projects.

There are 17 run of the river power generation sites that have been identified by WAPDA experts and work on the feasibility studies on most of them have been initiated.

These include some high power potential projects like 2100 MW Tungas, 2800 MW Yulbo at Sakardu, 2800 MW Thakott at Besham and 2800 Patan at Patan.

He expressed confidence that the speed of work at Neelum Jehlum Hydroelectric Project would accelerate as the high tech tunnel boring machines have arrived at site. He said this would help WAPDA to complete the 969 MW power project on schedule in 2016.

Durrani said the 496 MW Lower Spat Gah ; 665 MW Lower Palas Valies ; and 600 MW Mahl ; run of the river projects would be completed under Public Private Partnership. He hoped that the private sector would come forwards to grab this lucrative opportunity.

Chairman Water and Power Development Authority hoped that resources for 896 MW Tarbela (extension) and 1401 MW Munda Dam would be soon mobilized. Munda with a storage capacity of 1.3 million acres feet (MAF) would also act as buffer against floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said Mangla raising would add 2.88 MAF of water in the reservoirs. He said 34 MAF additional water storage would be available after completion of Munda Dam, Dasu Dam, Gomasl, Basha and Kurram Tangi Dam – both of which are ready for construction would add 9.3 MAF in water reservoirs.

He said the current water storage capacity in the country is 11.91 MAF after depletion of the MAF due to silting in the existing dams.