

ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST
HONOURABLE MIAN MUHAMMAD YAWAR ZAMAN
MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION, GOVT OF PUNJAB
on
WORLD WATER DAY – “WATER & ENERGY”
(Saturday 22nd March, 2014)
at
Pakistan Engineering Congress, Lahore

Engr. Iftikhar Ahmad, President Pakistan Engineering Congress
Members of Pakistan Engineering Congress
Distinguished Guests and Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen!

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

I feel myself extremely honored to be in a galaxy of renowned water and energy experts and given an opportunity to listen to their views on the various issues concerning the theme of “Water and Energy”.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan is overwhelmingly an agricultural country and a source of employment for a large segment of the country’s population, provides food for the ever increasing population and the backbone of its textile and garment industries, earning huge and valuable foreign exchange.

It has been rightly pointed in the welcome address that Water is the greatest, priceless and free reward of nature upon which depends the survival of the humanity and all human beings, vegetation, forests, marine and all other species. However, it is unfortunate that we did not realize the importance which water plays in our socio-economic life. Had we realized it there would have been a number of large dams and canals in operation in the country conserving and storing water and ensuring its availability in times of droughts and famines? We would have been even more prosperous and progressive country not requiring foreign assistance for our economic development.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The disaster of water and energy shortage that we have been facing over the years is not natural but a making of our own ill planning and short sightedness. We have abundant of water but lack storage facilities. We have plenty of coal deposits for running our thermal electricity units but it remains unexploited.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Ensuring adequate food and fiber supply for feeding the population, for earning valuable foreign exchange through its exports, warrants that each and every drop of water is conserved and used for economic development and for bringing more lands under cultivation. The world is not only using fresh water for its socio-economic development but has also started using the waste water in agricultural production and other uses. Even the rain water is being harvested on a large scale.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We need to fully exploit our water resources and power potential both hydle and thermal as well as employ alternate energy resources of wind and solar electricity generation then and then only we can ensure sustained economic advancement. It is gratifying that present democratic government has embarked on correcting these mistakes of the past and has entered into numerous agreements for construction of large dams, exploitation of coal deposits etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I will keenly await the recommendations of the panel of experts and assure you that these will be brought into the notice of planners and policy makers for implementation. God willing and with joint efforts, we would soon overcome these apparently insoluble problems in the path of our socio-economic development and poverty mitigation etc.

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