

NEED FOR CONSERVATION OF WATER

The Phenomenon of increase in global temperature by 2 °C to 3 °C vis-à-vis pre-industrial era due to man-made unchecked greenhouse gas emissions is resulting in disastrous socio-economic effects. Accelerated melting of glaciers in particular Himalayan glaciers, is causing untimely abnormal rains, floods, droughts, leading to loss of precious human lives, destruction of houses / displacement of people, loss of infrastructure, standing crops, deprivation and poverty. Pakistan has already suffered losses of billion of dollars, but has shown and continues to show unspeakable negligence in construction of any mega-dams in the last 37-years. Resultantly, the country is facing water scarcity, as well as 4000-5000 MW energy deficits resulting in economic retardation. It is high time that a major budgetary chunk is allocated for construction of mega reservoirs (especially Kalabagh), and on construction of canals, small dams etc. as well as undertake measures for optimum utilization of water / check wastage of water, depletion of groundwater resources etc. This is all the more necessary as a study of fast melting of Ice sheets of Green land and of Arctic has revealed that it is going to increase sea level by more than 10 meters which would lead to unprecedented rains, floods and droughts. True that Pakistan's contribution of emission of Greenhouse gases is a fraction of the world's (only 0.7%). However, the country is highly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming and must take effective measures to mitigate implications of global warming to avoid colossal human, financial and infrastructure loss.

Chief Editor