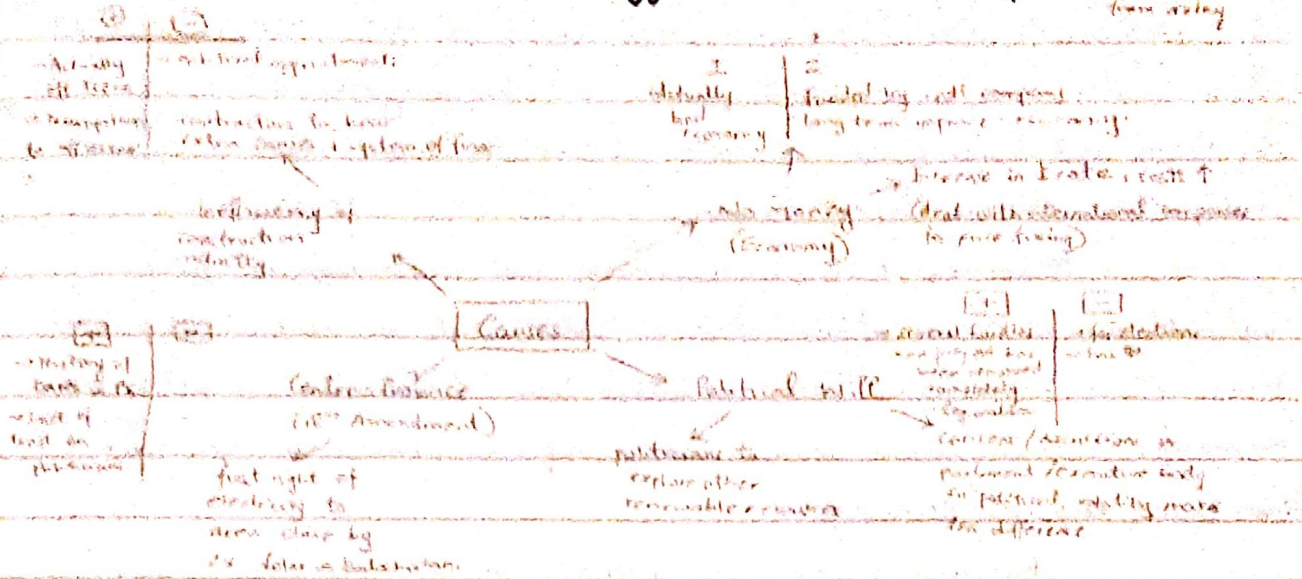


Q: Critically analyze the key causes of delaying construction of DAMS in Pakistan. Give some suggestions to revert the potential loss.



Introduction

In the last 30 years, China has built 3,000 dams. In the last 40 years, India has built 250 dams but in the last 50 years Pakistan has built no dam. The causes of the result of not focusing on dam projects has been intense floods, most expensive electricity in South Asia, water life of 28 days and irrigational problems.

Pakistan has identified several sites for dams in all of its four provinces. It is noted that Pakistan has 450+ sites in Khyber Pakhtun Khawa, 70+ in Punjab, 15 in Sindh and 10 in Gilgit. However, no province wants to share the benefits and bear costs of dams. Moreover, Pakistani politics is so regional that the political will is also low.

Currently Pakistan is also facing an economic crisis and has an extremely inefficient construction industry due to which the construction of dams is further delayed.

However, all these causes for delay have a solution, provided the parties involved are willing to shoulder responsibility.

Day: _____

Date: _____

Weak Economy:-

Pakistan currently has a foreign loan of 124.3 bn \$. The government does not have enough money to run the systems let alone build dams. It is estimated that the suggested dams of Kalabagh and Dimer Bhasa will take \$14bn to build. Even a smaller dam like Mamund need \$1.3bn.

However, it is to be noted that most dams are funded by international organization such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank. These institutions have provided loans to Pakistan in part as well. Moreover, building dams will actually improve economy in long run.

Timely Dams support economy:

Building dams can actually improve economy in long run. The price of electricity will reduce and that would cause the cost of industrial goods to reduce which make Pakistani products cheaper in world market hence increasing import.

Also, the more we Pakistan delays building dams the higher the costs. The past delay has also caused price of dollar to increase and has increased cost of building a dam as all dam machinery is imported. It might be wise to purchase futures in financial markets for dam building in Pakistan or do contract with foreign governments for cheaper dam machinery.

Three Inaugurations of One Dams:

Dimer Bhasa dam was inaugurated in 2004, then 2008, then 2014 and work started in 2020. Mamund dam was also inaugurated in 2008 and work started in 2012. The ribbon cutting ceremony of the dams translates into politicians taking initiative in development of Pakistan. However, once the appreciation and votes are received, the political will dwindles due to which dam construction is delayed.

The reason behind delay in dams due to political reasons can also be attributed to provincial ~~border~~ and political volatility.

Day: _____

Date: _____

Each successive government abolishes the project of the previous one.

The construction of dams after inauguration should not be tied to the motivation of political leader but rather to project contractors who have been paid to construct.

It seems that it is not just the will of politicians but the entire system that weakens once appreciation is received.

It might be of value to country to pass a law to construct all dams which are inaugurated because before inauguration parliamentary consensus and funding is received.

Which province owns the dam?

Under 18th Amendment, Article 157, Federal government cannot construct a dam without consensus of the provinces.

The reason behind passing of this law is the history of Pakistan. Historically, whenever a dam is constructed people have to be displaced from their homes. In certain cases, overflow in dams have also caused floods in surrounding areas, for example, 2010 Thelum flood because of Mangla dam overflowing. However, the costs that these people paid gave them little advantage as electricity was distributed to other provinces.

^{hence} ~~the~~ sentiment of exploitation prevailed and the law was passed.

Today, despite huge potential for dams the provinces do not agree to allow construction on multiple sites and pro parliamentary debates take a huge chunk from time causing delays.

Perhaps, it would be wise to pass laws limiting the costs and increasing the benefits for provinces in which dams are constructed. Such a law could state that the province with dam has first right to electricity so that at least some part of Pakistan can develop.

Politicians should also take a break from regional politics and inculcate the sentiment of national interest in people. Efforts of council of common interest would be appreciated in regards.

For the damage done so far, it might be wise to start building equal number of dams in each province. In provinces with limited dam

Day: _____

Date: _____

Right other sources of energy can be explored. For example, solar energy fields in Balochistan

~~What if it is~~ Inefficiency in construction industry

The construction industry of any country is the first building block for its development. Pakistan's construction industry is inefficient and highly politicized.

For most projects, a contractor is chosen politically. The pressure to perform on political candidates is already extremely low ^{therefore} so the management is weak. Due to weak management incompetent engineers and project managers are hired, who keep on delaying the project for convenience or monetary benefit. Additionally, the supply of construction material is low and ~~almost~~ slow. The supply chain suffers from several inefficiencies. Together, these reasons cause delay in construction of dams and add costs.

The impact of such delays can be mitigated by imposing heavy fines on misreporting timelines and delayed projects. Additionally, the competency of contractors should be ensured before a project is handed over. A law should be passed to bar all ^{politicized} ~~politicized~~ contractors.

Conclusion

Pakistan has a huge potential for construction of dams but inefficiency of system and social culture is preventing Pakistan from capitalizing on this opportunity. In order to construct dams in time it is important to remove biases and inefficiencies from bottom to top, step by step. The government of Pakistan should create a plan to successfully construct multiple dams to catch up with the modern world. Energy and water conservation should be a top priority for Pakistan and it is only when Pakistan ^{as a nation,} sees the issues importance, the delays can be prevented.