

# **FCCI endorses CJP's efforts to construct new dams**

Page No.13 Col No.06

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REPORT

FAISALABAD: The executive committee of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) has unanimously approved a resolution for the construction of new dams in order to overcome the shortage of water for the coming generations.

The executive committee specially acknowledged the efforts of the Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar to start the construction of Basha and Mohmand Dams as soon as possible from the own resources.

The resolution also urged the need to create much needed consensus among all the federating units on the construction of Kala Bagh dam as it will not only generate cheap electricity but also store maximum water in addition to averting the flood related devastations.

Chairing the meeting, FCCI president Shabbier Hussain Chawla said Pakistan has already moved from water surplus country to water stress country. "If this trend of climate change continued, our green pastures will be turned into barren lands", he feared. In this connection, he specifically mentioned the Indians designs to build dams on rivers allocated for Pakistan under Sindh Tas Agreement.

He termed it water aggression by our neighbouring country and said we must move expeditiously to foil its nefarious designs and in this connection each and every Pakistani must contribute its humble role.

Continuing Chawla said predominantly Pakistan is an agrarian economy and water is its lifeline. He said during 60's Tarbela, Mangla and Warsk dams were build. "These dams had multiple and trickling impacts on our agriculture and economy but after this decades no major initiative to build water reservoirs was taken. He said that most feasible and viable project of Kala Bagh dam was intentionally made controversial through which we could easily brought under plough an additional barren and unclaimed land of 250 crore Acres in all the 4 provinces. "This dam has also potential to generate 3,600 mega watt of electricity which will certainly pay a key role in cutting down the cost of production in Pakistan. "Furthermore, this dam is also imperative to save huge infrastructure from the ravages of flooding every year", he added.

He thanked CJP Mian Saqib Nisar for taking practical steps to start immediate construction of two major dams. He suggested that separate bank accounts should be opened for Basha, Mohmand and one also for Kala Bagh Dam so that people could voluntary donate for the dam of their own choice.