



Press Brief Regarding IRSA Advisory Committee Meeting Held on 02.04.2019 For Kharif 2019 Season

IRSA Advisory Committee meeting was held at IRSA Headquarters under the chairmanship of Mr. Sher Zaman Khan, Chairman IRSA on 02.04.2019 to discuss and approve the anticipated water availability Criteria for ensuing Kharif season 2019 (April – September) and other related agenda items. The meeting was attended by all IRSA Members, Chief Engineering Advisor, Representatives of Members Water and Power of Wapda, representatives of Agriculture and Irrigation Secretaries of the provinces.

2. The Committee discussed thread barely the expected / likely water availability for Kharif 2019. It was discussed that better water situation had been foreseen for the current season compared to previous one due to better hydro-meteorological scenarios also informed by representative of DG Met Deptt. Based on the forecasted hydrological parameters, the Committee anticipated a shortfall of 14 % in Early Kharif, whereas 6% shortfall in Late Kharif season. The indicated shortage would be equally shared between Punjab and Sindh, whereas, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would remain exempted from shortages as per existing arrangements. Hence, the worked-out shares of the provinces under likely scenario would be as under:-

(Million Acre Feet)

Province	Anticipated Shares for Kharif 2019	Last Year Actual Utilization	10-Year Avg: Actual Utilization
Punjab	33.11	29.19	33.02
Sindh	30.17	27.75	28.32
KPK (Below)	0.82	0.99	0.91
Balochistan	2.81	1.69	1.76
Total	66.92	59.62	64.01

3. The forecasted water availability was discussed and deliberated at length by offering of comments by all participants. Finally, the water availability for Kharif 2019 was approved. Sindh, however, advocated sharing as per Para 2 of the Water Apportionment Accord (WAA) 1991, while Punjab held the view that the present Three Tier arrangements by IRSA were very much within the ambit of Water Accord 1991. IRSA said that the issue was pending with the offices of the Attorney General of Pakistan for recommendation, its outcome was awaited, which was ultimately to be discussed & decided by Council of Common Interests (CCI) till then the existing arrangement would remain in-vogue.



4. There was also at length discussions about the expected conveyance losses in the system. Sindh advised 35% and Punjab advised 25% losses in Indus Zone. However, the approved losses were 35%. It was agreed by all that IRSA Team along with M/S International Sedimentation & Research Institute (ISRIP) of WAPDA, a subsidiary of WAPDA for actual discharge calculations, would make surprise visits of different barrages and would measure the actual flows in the system. It was decided that the XENs found reporting incorrect discharges by IRSA teams would be recommended for strict action.

5. Upon request made by GM Tarbela for maintaining the Tarbela Level below 1430 Ft up to 15.07.2019 to cater for the operational constraint of Tunnel 3, currently under repair, IRSA and Provinces were of the view that it would not be advisable to maintain Tarbela at lower levels or else it may endanger the filling of the Dam during current Kharif 2019. However, it was decided that in order to further consider Wapda's constraint, the situation would be reviewed by IRSA keeping in view the prevalent flows in a meeting to be held in the first week of May, 2019.

End.