

WATER DISTRIBUTION (1947–1951)

INTRODUCTION

- Partition created serious disputes about division of rivers and canal systems.
- Most rivers flowed into Pakistan, but canal headworks remained inside India.
- Pakistan's agriculture completely depended on irrigation water from these canals.
- India gained power to control water flow into Pakistan's territory.
- Water dispute became one of first major issues after independence.
- Lack of fair agreement increased mistrust between India and Pakistan.
- Problem showed difficulties of dividing resources after creation of Pakistan.

WATER CRISIS OF 1948

- In April 1948, India stopped canal water supply to Pakistan.
- This action affected Punjab's agriculture and millions of Pakistani farmers.
- Crops in Lahore, Multan, and nearby regions were badly damaged.
- Pakistan protested strongly against this unfair and sudden Indian decision.
- Water stoppage created food shortages and serious economic difficulties.
- This incident showed Pakistan's extreme dependence on Indian-controlled water.
- Immediate solution became necessary for Pakistan's survival and stability.

TEMPORARY AGREEMENT OF 1948

- India and Pakistan signed temporary water agreement in May 1948.
- India resumed water supply but Pakistan had to pay charges.
- Agreement was not permanent and left main dispute unresolved.
- Pakistan continued to depend on India for essential irrigation water.
- This created mistrust and future tensions between both neighboring countries.
- Pakistan realized need to secure permanent and independent water arrangements.
- Dispute became international issue, attracting attention from world powers.

IMPACT ON PAKISTAN

- Agriculture production decreased because of limited water supply from India.
- Food shortages created hunger, poverty, and social problems for people.
- Pakistan's economy weakened further during its early years of independence.
- Government faced difficulty managing both refugees and water crisis together.
- Farmers lost trust in stability of irrigation systems and crop security.
- Crisis highlighted vulnerability of Pakistan's economy to Indian control.
- Problem strengthened Pakistan's demand for fair water distribution agreements.

IMPORTANCE AND LEGACY

- Early water dispute shaped future relations between India and Pakistan.
- Showed importance of rivers for Pakistan's survival and agricultural growth.
- Crisis proved Pakistan needed independent water sources and storage projects.
- International community later helped solve dispute through Indus Waters Treaty.
- Dispute created long-lasting mistrust between two newly independent countries.
- Water issue became central in Pakistan's foreign and domestic policies.
- 1947–1951 period showed resilience of Pakistan despite many difficulties.

Thank You 😊