

Water Resources♦

Water is a great blessing of Allah. It is one of the basic requirements of human beings; therefore, Allah has given many directives instructing its appropriate use, and prohibiting its pollution and wastage. Since water being a necessity for everyone, its monopoly has been prohibited and its hoarding and storage with intent to harm others' rights has been forbidden.

- 15.1 Excessive and unnecessary use of water for the permitted purposes is wastage.
- 15.2 Wastage of water from the *mauqufa* (dedicated as *waqf*) water sources i.e. dedicated for public user is forbidden; wastage of water from privately owned but permitted for public water sources is undesirable.
- 15.3 *Shari'ah* commands that water should neither be wasted nor allowed to be polluted.
- 15.4 In the water scarcity situations, governments are entitled to impose restrictions on use of water, and compliance of such restrictions would be necessary for all provided such restrictions do not prohibit use of water for any natural or *Shari'ah*-commanded purpose.
- 15.5 Ground water beneath a privately owned land is a permitted commodity for public; therefore, governments are competent to impose restrictions on extraction of ground water if necessary.
- 15.6 Responsibilities to conserve and store water primarily rest with the governments, however, in order to preserve ground water at certain levels, individuals may also be directed to take or cooperate in such measures as are necessary.
- 15.7 In case of need and for the purpose of public welfare, construction of dams and displacement of population for the purpose is permissible provided displaced people are paid such just and proper compensation which is sufficient enough to recompense their losses and rehabilitate them.
- 15.8 Protection of populations, both living in higher and in low-lying areas, is essential during floods; the measures to be adopted for the purpose should be such which minimize losses.
- 15.9 It is permissible to fulfill one's legitimate needs without causing harm to others.
- 15.10 Use of canals as per one's requirement is permissible provided such use neither causes harm to the canals nor to the rights of other people.
- 15.11 Stocking water in small or big size containers for securing the same is a proof of ownership, however, in doing so, method should be such that do not cause harm to general public.
- 15.12 Trading in all forms of ownership of water is permissible provided public good is not adversely affected. As such, drawing excess water from public water supply and public water resources and depriving others from their entitlements in order to sell such water is not permissible.

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15.13 Setting up of colonies in the low-lying areas prone to water-logging for habitation by selling plots or pieces of land is not permissible irrespective of prohibition or permission by the governments.

15.14 Provision of water to all is responsibility of the governments. It is permissible for the governments to recover a reasonable charge for this purpose and they are entitled to stop supply of water to such persons who do not pay this charge despite having means.

Governments are responsible for provision of drainage system and public health care and public is duty-bound to comply with the governmental regulations in this regard.