

NAB smells a rat in installation of water digital meters by KWSB

By Aslam Shah, December 4 2016, Karachi, Pakistan

KARACHI: Malpractice in installation of imported digital meters for monitoring inflow and outflow of water at pumping stations marred magnitude of conservation and consumption of water in Karachi.

This was revealed by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Karachi during an inquiry at water meter division of Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB).

NAB said inquiry in this matter was still going on in order to obtain more financial misuse and mismanagement in the meter project.

NAB also revealed that according to the records of Finance Department KWSB payment to contractor of the meter project has not been mentioned in any head .

166 meters were imported from England at a cost of Rs 660 million during tenure of Mustafa Kamal Ex Nazim Karachi for 52 water pumping stations, 18 Towns and for installation at different water ducts in city.

Besides that meters had also to be installed at Dehbaji Pumping Station, Pipri Pumping Station, Gharo Pumping Station, Hub Dam Pumping Station COD and North-East Karachi Filter Plants, Tariq Lateef head of KWSB Meter Division informed.

Only eight meters were installed at Dehbaji, 12 at COD, 4 Pipri, 4 Hub Dam, 2 Gharo and 12 meters were installed at North East Karachi Filter Plants, KWSB official added.

The money used for the importing of these meters was a leftover chunk of Rs 2.5 billion from K-3 Greater Water 100 million gallon per day Project, Lateef informed.

It is worth mentioning that the City Nazim did not seek permission from federal or the Sindh Government for importing these meters, which is a clear violation of the terms of using government funds, he added.

Later the federal government withheld the rest of the amount of K-3 Project though City Nazim had planned to use this money for plugging of water pipelines and improvement of water supply to city, he added.

Khalid Dar Chief Executive of NPI Construction Engineers Company has revealed to Daily times that his Company was awarded the meters installation work but till date no payment has been made to Company but till on installing 42 meters since December 2008 at the completion of the work. The total contract was of Rs 660 million.

Imran Zaidi, Director Finance KWSB clarified by stating said the entity had paid Rs 103.7 million to said contractor on June 25, 2008 by its own while showing office record. "K-3 Project money was not used for paying the contractor.

These digital water meters had to be installed under Water System Scheme (WSS-21) and scope of contract package-9 (WSS-15 and 17) in major and town areas water pumping stations.

Digital water meters were meant for conduits and large diameter pipelines ranging 72, 66, 54, 48, 36, 33, 24, 18 and 12 inches.