

tive system. The saline groundwaters being pumped or proposed to be pumped can neither be used in the same area nor can they be passed on to downstream users without acceptance of ultimate desolation. The salts must be removed from the irrigated areas by a permanent horizontal sub-surface drainage system and the saline waste disposed of in evaporation flats in the Upper Indus Plain and conveyed to the sea through special canals in the Lower Indus Plain.

A basic problem in the irrigated agriculture of West Pakistan is the deficiency of water supply to meet the consumptive use requirements of crops and to leach down the salts. This deficiency is being made good by the farmers in the non-saline groundwater areas with the installation of private tubewells. The government must increase the capacity of canals and divert additional river water on to the best agricultural lands in the saline groundwater areas and initiate a programme for the construction of subsurface drainage facilities.

Reclamation of saline soils even in high quality groundwater areas would cause the groundwater to become unfit for use due to leaching down of salts. No canal or tubewell water should therefore be used for such reclamation. Similarly no canal or tubewell water should be used for the development of marginal lands and all available water supplies should be used on the best agricultural lands already under cultivation.

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