

Afghanistan Records 60% Drop In Water Levels

The Ministry of Energy and Water says Afghanistan is currently facing more than sixty percent of the water losses.

Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rehabilitation on Monday were summoned to parliament over concerns regarding the drought.

The Ministry of Water and Energy said that with each passing day, Afghanistan's water resources are decreasing.

“People are even digging wells of up to 250 meters but there is no water; water dams around Kabul should have been built but this has not been done,” said MP Mohammad Hashim Mahdawi.

“The aqueducts are drying up, and there is no drinking water and people are being forced to move to the cities,” said MP Khalilullah Shahidzad.

“The Ministry of Water and Energy is silent and is not paying attention to these issues that can create a disaster,” said another MP Nazifa Zaki.

The Ministry of Energy and Water, says Afghanistan is extremely vulnerable to climate change and that each day, water levels drop in the country.

“The size or amount of rainwater or water that was present has dropped by sixty-two percent,” said Khan Mohammad Takal, Water and Energy deputy minister.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Mujib Rahman Karimi told parliament that providing fodder, distributing and storing wheat in various provinces, creating water dams and reservoirs and designing emergency plans to help affected people are currently being worked on by government.

“As far as I know, we have dig 768 semi-deep wells in different parts of Afghanistan,” said Karimi.

“All three ministries, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Agriculture, and Energy and Water must draw up plans for the next eight months on how to build emergency infrastructure so a repeat the issue of drought and water shortages is not repeated next year,” said Hashmat Ghafoor deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

United Nations statistics show that this year more than twenty provinces are experiencing drought.

According to the UN 2.5 million people need assistance in the areas affected by the drought.