

Dams in Water-deficient Regions

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The Government of Rajasthan has decided to build two dams at Chaksarmadhia and Bujanaka at a cost of \$315 million on two rivers of Sabarmati and Sei. The two dams will be used to divert waters to the districts of Chittorgarh and other dry districts of Rajasthan.



Chief Minister, Rajasthan: Ashok Gahlot

Many leaders in North Gujarat are opposing these two dams since they feel that Dharoi dam may become infructuous since Sabarmati may dry up before it reaches Dharoi dam, if the flow of Sabarmati is blocked in its upstream journey by dams in Rajasthan.

This issue must be examined by experts before permission for the two new dams in Rajasthan is given.

BACKGROUND: Rajasthan and North Gujarat had become water deficient areas in India, after Saraswati river changed its course a few thousand years back. After independence, Government of India built Bhakra dam during 1955-65 for irrigation. It was to irrigate the farms of (East) Punjab and parts of Rajasthan. (*West Punjab, which was the granary of India and had a large irrigation network of canals had gone to Pakistan after partition of India.*) A network of canals was built in Punjab and Indira Gandhi canal was brought to Rajasthan.

In 1972, Dharoi dam was built on Sabarmati river. It brought drinking water and irrigation to 3 districts, 9 cities and 700 villages of North Gujarat. It was decided that no other dam will be constructed within 300 Km of Dharoi dam.

Note: Our readers can read the news in **Gujarati language in Gujarat Guardian at <https://gujaratguardian.com/due-to-a-decision-of-the-government-north-gujarat-will-become-droughty/>**