

30 dams coming up at a cost of RO49m

Thirty dams are under various stages of construction and development across the sultanate at a total cost of more than RO49mn. According to the Dams Directorate, Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, the new dams are being built for underground feeding, surface feeding and protection.

The Wadi Adai protection dam is being built at Amerat Heights and has a capacity of around 22mn cubic metres of water. Nearly 65 per cent of the work has already been executed and the project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Eng Saleh al Harthi, manager, Dams Directorate, said that a group of 16 surface feeding dams are being constructed in Jabal Akhdar with a total capacity of 40,000 cu m.

Another dam is being built in Jabal al Hareem in the wilayat of Dima W'attayeen in the Sharqiyah region with a capacity of 4,000 cu m. The project is almost ready and only a small portion of it remains to be completed. Harthi said, "There are now more than 116 dams of which 32 are underground, 72 have surface storage capacities and 12 protection dams.

"The amount of water blocked by the underground feeding dams had reached 1,243 cu m until 2010. This represents 96 per cent of the total underground feeding in the sultanate, which stands at 1,294cu m."

Among other dams under construction are five underground feeding dams in Buraimi governorate in the wadis of Mesaileek, Muhadha, Haya-wan, Musah and Abu Qal'a. The total capacity of these dams is 3mn cu m and the work is in the completion stages.

Feeding dams in Sharqiyah and Muscat are also being constructed in the wadis of Rassa, Aqeeda and Nam with a total capacity of 3.51mn cu m. Harthi said that nearly 75 per cent of the work on these projects is complete.

Another underground feeding dam, which is coming up at one of Sohar's wadis will serve the nearby villages. This dam has a capacity of 20,000 cu m. Nearly ten per cent of the work on it has been completed.

Harthi said the work on two dams in Wadi Sarrin in Amerat is making good progress and nearly 85 per cent of it is over. The total storage capacity of these two dams is 1.77mn cu m.

He said that the Khoudh dam will be improved in terms of safety. A cement wall will be built along the water flow exit. The manual gates of the dam will be replaced by electronic ones.

"Dam projects are given priority by the ministry but fixing financial aspects such as budgeting takes time and needs special attention." Among the upcoming dam projects is Wadi Darbat in Dhofar, but it is still at planning and consultation stage.