

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad, the 9th April, 2021: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development expresses displeasure over consecutively absence of its meetings by the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

2. 14th meeting of the Standing Committee held today at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No. 07 4th (Floor), Parliament House, Islamabad, under the Chairmanship of Sheikh Fayyaz ud Din, MNA.

3. After detailed briefing by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, the Committee unanimously approved the Bills namely “The Employees Old-Age benefits (Amendments) (Government Bill), 2020”.

4. The Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, briefed the Committee on the Monitoring Policy of Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs). He apprised that Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) has been mandated to make efforts to enhance the export of manpower and welfare of Overseas Pakistanis abroad. In order to achieve the objective, role of CWAs is vital and needs to be more strengthened through proper monitoring and regular performance evaluation. He further introduced the two selected CWAs to the Committee namely Syeda Shafaq Hashmi, CWA, Milan, Italy and Mr. Waheed Ullah Khan, CWA, Doha, Qatar.

5. Representative from Ministry of Interior briefed the Committee that Under Section 14(1) of Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951, if a person is a citizen of Pakistan under the provision of this Act, and is at the same time a citizen or national of another country, he shall, unless he makes a declaration according to the laws of the country renouncing his status as citizen or national thereof, ceases to be a citizen of Pakistan. Exception has been as per subsection 3 of section 14 of Pakistan Citizenship Act 1951. He also added that Government of Pakistan has notified 12 European countries with which Pakistan has dual nationality arrangements namely, France, Italy, Belgium, Iceland, Finland, Switzerland, Netherland, Sweden, Ireland, Denmark, Germany and Norway. Moreover, dual nationality arrangements with following European countries are under process namely Portugal, Czech Republic and Luxemburg.

6. Representative from National Vocation & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) briefed the Committee that NAVTTTC is the apex Public Sector Organization presently working under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, responsible for policy making, standardization, regulation, coordination & International collaboration in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector of Pakistan. The Commission is also responsible for formulation and execution of nationwide youth skill training programs and at federal level and is spearheading the implementation of the government’s reforms agenda in this sector, in closed collaboration with the provincial Technical Education and Vocation Training Authorities (TVETAs), its regional offices as well as numerous other public and private sector national and international organization and development agencies. He further said that Pakistani

Training Courses are acceptable in Gulf countries where more than 90% of Pakistani Skilled Youth proceed for employment. For European and other western countries NAVTTC has initiated the process of mutual recognition of qualifications with number of countries such as Germany, Australia, UK, New Zealand, Finland and Singapore.

7. The Committee was not satisfied with the briefing by the Chairman and Executive Director (NAVTTC) and also inquired about the yearly budget amounting to Rs. 9.8 billion and non utilization / overlap of some part from the budget grant. The Committee directed that the next meeting will be held in NAVTTC office for further clarification and detailed briefing about the department.

8. The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, briefed the Committee regarding the Inquiry of EOBI for non-registration of Mines Workers in Balochistan. The inquiry Committee hold its meeting at EOBI's Head Office Karachi and also requested other stakeholders to provide the data of the Mines worker / employers. While its visit to the Regional Office of EOBI at Quetta which was scheduled for 15 to 17th March, 2021 was postponed due to medical emergency (Covid-19) of the Chairperson of the Committee.

9. In this connection, the Committee directed that a detailed inquiry Report should be submitted to the Committee within 30 days without any delay.

10. The meeting was attended by Mr. Shahid Ahmad, Mr. Sajid Khan, Haji Imtiaz Ahmed Choudhary, Mr. Atta Ullah, Ms. Sobia Kamal Khan, Ms. Tashfeen Safdar, Syed Javed Husnain, Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi, Syed Abrar Ali Shah, Dr. Mahreen RazzaqBhutto and Mr. Muhammad Jamal Ud DinMNAs. The meeting was also attended by the senior officers of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, OPF, M/o Interior, M/o Law & Justice and EOBI.

(SYED HASEEN RAZA ZAIDI)
Deputy Secretary/Secretary Committee