

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”**

to be asked at a sitting of the National Assembly to be held on

Monday, the 21st November, 2016

20. ***Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak:**
(Deferred during 35th Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistan is facing a serious trade deficit during the current financial year; if so, the percentage of said deficit for the last three years; and*
- (b) *the causes of the said deficit?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) In the financial year 2015-16, Pakistan recorded trade deficit of USD 23.96 billion as compared to USD 22.1 billion during the last financial year, reflecting an increase of 8.42%. Figures indicating the deficit over the last three years are indicated below:

TRADE BALANCE OF THE LAST THREE YEARS				
USD Billion: Source PIS				
Year	Export	Import	Balance	% Change
FY 2014	25.13	45.07	-19.94	-2.68
FY 2015	23.89	45.98	-22.1	10.83
FY 2016	20.8	44.77	-23.96	8.42

- (b) The factors contributing to the trade deficit are as under:

Imports

Pakistan's imports have grown by nearly 6% mainly owing to the following reasons:

1. The demand of many imported items is inelastic *e.g.* petroleum products, food items and machinery.
2. Due to the increase in development activity in the country especially CPEC the import of machinery and equipment has increased.
3. Due to the shortfall in cotton production in the country, larger quantities of raw cotton are being imported from abroad to meet the demand of the textile industry.

Exports

The trade balance has also been affected due to decline in Pakistan's exports for the following reasons:

1. Economic slowdown in the global market
2. Global commodity crisis
3. Currency devaluation by competitors
4. Pakistan's low position in global competitiveness index.

39. ***Ms. Shamas Un Nisa:**
(Deferred during 36th Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the total number of persons/employees/officers posted in Pakistan Embassies/ Missions in Dubai, Bahrain, Abu-Dhabi, Qatar, Kuwait, London, France, USA and Germany during the tenure of the present Government alongwith the province-wise break-up thereof?

Minister for Foreign Affairs: The requisite reply is as under:

S. No.	Name of Mission	Punjab/ ICT	Sindh (R)	Sindh (U)	KPK/ FATA	Balochistan	GB	AJK	Total
1.	Berlin (Germany)	14	01	02	09	02	-	02	30
2.	Frankfurt (Germany)	11	02	01	02	-	-	-	16
3.	Bahrain	06	02	01	02	-	01	-	12
4.	Doha (Qatar)	15	-	02	02	01	04	01	25
5.	Paris (France)	20	-	02	08	-	-	02	32
6.	Kuwait	22	05	04	10	02	-	-	43
7.	London (UK)	51	04	07	08	01	01	04	76
8.	Abu Dhabi (UAE)	34	04	04	11	02	-	03	58
9.	Dubai (UAE)	22	01	05	06	01	-	-	35
10.	Washington (USA)	39	04	05	04	-	01	03	56
11.	New York (UN)	15	01	-	02	01	-	01	20
12.	New York (CG)	13	02	-	02	01			18
13.	Houston (USA)	02	01	01	02	-	-	-	06
14.	Los Angeles (USA)	04	01	01	02	-	-	-	08
15.	Chicago (USA)	06	-	-	02	01	-	-	09

The strength of the Missions given above is the approved strength as of October 2016. Actual strength may be lower in some cases.

50. ***Ms. Khalida Mansoor:**
(Deferred during 36th Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.189 replied on 05-09-2016 and to state whether barbed wires have been installed and gate has been constructed on Pak-Iran borders?

Transferred to Interior Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

52. ***Ms. Aisha Syed:**
(Deferred during 36th Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to seal 2600 kilometers Pak-Afghan Road; if so, the date of implementation thereof?

Transferred to Interior Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

57. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**
(Deferred during 36th Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.37 replied on 05-09-2016 and to state the names of countries other than China from which duty free import of items are allowed at present alongwith the names of items thereof?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): Pakistan has provided duty free access on various items under Free Trade Agreements concluded by it. The details are as follows:—

- Under Pakistan — Malaysia FTA, Pakistan has allowed 2958 tariff lines at HS-08 to be imported at zero duty.
- Under South Asian FTA, there are 16 tariff lines at HS-08 which can be imported at zero duty.
- Under Pak-Sri Lanka FTA, 206 tariff lines can be imported at duty free tariff.

Note: Product description of duty free importable products is annexed to the question (Annex-I).

The reply of Q.No.37 is at Annex-II.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

1. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**

Will the Minister for Textile Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) *the volume of cotton produced during the current year; and*
- (b) *whether said production is enough to fulfill the export targets of the Textile Industry?*

Minister for Textile Industry: (a) According to the first and second Cotton Crop Assessment Committee Meeting held on 06-9-2016 and 06-10-2016, the production of cotton in 2016-17 is estimated at 11.272 million bales and 11.039 million bales respectively as compared to much lower production recorded at 9.917 million bales in 2015-16.

(b) There are no any targets for exports of cotton, however less than 02 million bales of cotton are imported every year to meet the requirement of extra long staple of local textile industry.

2. ***Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto:**

Will the Minister for State and Frontier Regions be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of development projects launched in the Frontier Regions of Dera Ismail Khan, Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Kohat and Peshawar during the last five years;*
- (b) *the total funds allocated for the said projects during the said period;*
- (c) *the names of contractors to whom contracts awarded therefor during the said period alongwith the names of executing agencies thereof;*
- (d) *the sources of funds of the said projects; and*
- (e) *the present status of the said projects separately?*

Minister for States and Frontier Regions [Lt. General (Retd.) Abdul Qadir Baloch]: (a) Scheme-wise list of FATA ADP schemes of the Frontier Regions Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, Lakki Marwat and D.I.Khan during the last five years is attached herewith at **Annex-I**, as desired.

(b) Total Rs. 4934.466 million was allocated to the said schemes during the last five years. Year-wise break-up of allocation of these schemes is as under:

S.No.	Year	ADP Allocation (Rs. in million)
1.	2011-12	584.628
2.	2012-13	943.016
3.	2013-14	1320.971
4.	2014-15	818.651
5.	2015-16	1267.200
Total:		4934.466

(c) Requisite detail is being provided from the Field Formations of line Departments (FATA), which will take time. All the concerned offices have been directed to expedite information. As & when received, the same will be sent duly consolidated.

(d) The sources of fund of these schemes is from Government of Pakistan through the FATA ADP as a one line budget in the Federal PSDP.

(e) As stated above at S.No.c, the executing agencies have been requested to expedite.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

3. ***Mr. Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impacts of Brexit on Pakistani community in UK and European countries;*
- (b) the possible impacts of Brexit on Pakistan; and*
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to protect Pakistani community in UK and European countries from adverse impacts of Brexit?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) **Whether the Government has assessed the impacts of Brexit on Pakistani community in UK and European countries**

Prime Minister Theresa May has confirmed that the Brexit referendum results would be respected and the UK would definitely disengage from the European Union. This is, however, an extremely complex issue which is still being examined by the UK and the EU. As of now the UK Prime Minister has announced that the UK would start negotiations with the EU for its withdrawal in March 2017 and these negotiations could take as long as two years.

During this two-year period the UK and the rest of the EU member states will hammer out the terms of the exit and the framework of their new relationship. It is perhaps too early to say that how the final arrangement will look like. Our relevant Ministries and Missions in Europe are closely following the developments and making their assessments about the possible impact of Brexit on the Pakistani community.

Our initial assessment is that Brexit will not impact our community significantly. There will be some challenges as well as opportunities. These include the following:

- Currently, a certain trend of right wing populism and xenophobia is evident in Europe due to migration influx, economic slowdown in Europe and increase in unemployment. Brexit may exacerbate the trend.
- The demand for skilled manpower outside the domain of EU could create opportunities for Pakistani professionals.
- Britain's stance on immigration and laws to curb migration should not create problems for the Pakistani community, but those staying illegally in the UK are likely to come under pressure to be sent back.
- Decline in value of Sterling Pound could result in a fall in the value of remittances to Pakistan from the UK.

(b) The possible impact of Brexit on Pakistan

- Pakistan enjoys close and friendly relations with the UK. Politically, Brexit is unlikely to have any major impact on our bilateral relations with the UK, the EU and its member states. With the UK, it may in fact witness a boost through the bilateral and Commonwealth tracks.
- Bilateral trade with the UK could increase in the event of a favourable preferential trade agreement between the two countries.
- With Britain's exit from the EU, Pakistan will however, lose a close friend and supporting voice in the EU, particularly on economic

matters such as GSP plus. Pakistani exporters aiming for the EU market will have to find another first port of entry after the UK exits the Union. The way forward is to negotiate a preferential trade agreement with the UK and enhance competitiveness of our exports, through diversification and value addition. Our Commerce Ministry is already focused on this issue.

(c) The measures taken by the Government to protect Pakistani community in UK and European countries from adverse impacts of Brexit

- Our Missions in Europe maintain a close and active contact with the Pakistani community through extensive outreach programs aimed at keeping both sides abreast of the challenges and opportunities.
- Our Missions always emphasize the importance of education for the immigrant communities and the need to learn about the local laws as well as social and economic integration.
- At the same time, our Missions also interact with host governments, parliaments, media and decision makers to safeguard interests of Pakistan and Pakistani community.
- The Pakistani community in the UK and European countries is engaged on a regular basis to address issues relating to trade and commerce especially with regard to Pakistan.

4. *Ms. Khalida Mansoor:

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government for boosting trade ties with France?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): France is the member of Single Market of European Union (EU). Pakistan is the beneficiary of GSP plus in the Single Market of European Union since 1st January 2014. As a consequence of GSP plus, exports of Pakistan to France increased from 694.55 million Euro in 2014 to 768.37 million Euro in 2015. This represented an increase of 10.7 percent in exports of Pakistan to France. However, the same export increase was not reflected in US Dollar term. The reason was the depreciation of Euro *vis-a-vis* US Dollar in the aftermath of sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone. Meanwhile, the imports of Pakistan from France increased from 433.68 million Euro in 2014 to 658.67 million Euro in 2015.

Pakistan-France trade statistics for 2013-2015 are given below (in Euro million)

	2013	2014	2015
Export	607.39	694.55	768.37
Import	388.89	433.68	658.67
Total Trade	996.28	1128.23	1427.04
Trade Balance	+218.5	+260.87	109.7

2. France was the seventh major export destination for Pakistani exports in the Single Market of European Union in 2015-16. The major items of exports to France include made-up articles of textile materials, articles of apparel and clothing, knitwear, articles and apparel other than textile materials, hosiery, baby carriages sports goods etc.

3. Increase in exports of Pakistan to France is a consequence of aggressive export marketing strategy of Government of Pakistan. Ministry of Commerce through its trade promotion organization *viz.* TDAP regularly participates in the international exhibition. The details of exhibitions participated by TDAP in France during 2014-15 is given below

Sr. No	Name of Event	Event Date	Product Sector	No. of Exhibitors
1	Tex world, Paris	Sept 2014	Textile and its product	18 stands
2	Expo Protection, Paris	Sept 2014	Safety Equipments	8 stands
3	SIAL	Oct 2014	Food Items	23 stands
4	Tex world Paris	Feb 2015	Textile and its products	08 stands

4. Pak-France Business Council, which is established in the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), also actively promotes and strengthen bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and France. Through this Business Council, business communities of the two countries regularly exchange the useful market intelligence. To build broad based, substantive and long-term relations with France, FPCCI has also proposed to the French Side through diplomatic channels for the creation of Pakistan-France Joint Business Council.

5. ***Ms. Aisha Syed:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that a number of un-employed persons are residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at present; if so, the steps taken by the present Government to provide employment opportunities to said Pakistanis in the said country; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that a number of un-registered Pakistanis are living in the said country at present; if so, the steps taken by the present Government for the registration of said Pakistanis?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) Saudi Arabia is hosting the biggest expatriate Pakistan community (around 2.6 million) in the world. They are contributing one third of the total remittances to Pakistan. Majority of our workers are employed in blue collar jobs. Others include doctors, engineers, bankers, project managers, lecturers, financial managers and IT professionals. Majority of our workers hail from KPK.

Out of 2.6 million Pakistanis, 84% are gainfully employed while 16% are dependents. Recently around 7000 Pakistani workers became unemployed due to financial problems of some companies in the Kingdom. However, we are helping laid off workers from these companies to transfer their sponsorship to other companies.

(b) Saudi Arabia is a huge country of 2.24 million square kms. More than 2.6 million Pakistanis are scattered across the Kingdom. 84% are on work visas and 16% dependent. All those entering the Kingdom are registered. No one knows the number of illegal Pakistanis in the Kingdom. A large number of our nationals enter Saudi Arabia on Umra and Azad visas and do not return within the validity of the visas. They seek jobs and stay in the Kingdom as long as they can avoid arrest.

6. ***Ms. Shakila Luqman:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of countries declared favorite for the trade with Pakistan at present; and*
- (b) *the benefits accrued therefrom during the year 2015-16?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) Pakistan being member of WTO has extended Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to all WTO member countries except India and Israel.

(b) The extension of MFN as member of WTO is a reciprocal measure therefore, the other 163 WTO members have extended MFN status to Pakistan. In the case MFN treatment Pakistan enjoys non-discriminatory market access to these countries. In 2015-16 Pakistan's overall trade was US\$ 62.324 billion out of which Pakistan's exports are US\$ 21.98 billion and imports were worth US\$ 40.34 billion. In addition to the tangible benefits of trade there is the intangible dimension of MFN status due to membership in the WTO. Pakistan has remained in the forefront of multilateral trade negotiations by virtue of belonging to the WTO. The Commerce Minister has been invited to select gathering of WTO members in 2015 and 2016.

7. ***Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total expenditure incurred on Pakistan Missions abroad during the last four years alongwith the total number of employees/persons working in each of the said Missions; and*
- (b) *the names of Missions abroad where employees/persons sent by the present Government?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: The response of above question is placed at **Annex-A**.

Annexure-AMINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ISLAMABAD

EXPENDITURE DURING THE LAST FOUR YEAR UNDER DEMAND NO. 46 (MISSION ABROAD)

S.No	NAME OF MISSION	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	EMPLOYEES SENT BY THE GOVERNMENT	TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES/ PERSONNEL WORKING IN THE MISSION
1	ABUDHABI	127,543,193	138,295,905	141,121,451	159,864,037	14	30
2	ABUJA	51,203,490	63,876,450	63,023,229	53,798,177	9	12
3	ADDIS ABABA	42,839,403	41,499,609	45,499,777	53,799,798	6	7
4	ALGIERS	65,849,456	59,115,530	53,236,645	61,233,569	7	11
5	ALMATY	53,083,912	53,930,583	62,088,497	64,223,673	6	13
6	AMMAN	65,694,652	75,093,346	73,674,817	80,650,931	9	13
7	ANKARA	88,173,859	84,605,387	87,470,596	97,734,363	14	21
8	ASHGABAT	40,790,358	38,659,481	30,323,975	35,078,643	6	10
9	ATHENS	74,896,845	85,974,274	76,536,698	75,432,521	7	10
10	BAGHDAD	73,801,889	72,185,299	80,232,111	63,696,241	5	11
11	BAHRAIN	59,579,229	58,336,983	47,612,478	61,602,160	8	13
12	BARCELONA	61,463,254	73,131,564	56,527,080	59,183,678	5	8
13	BAKU	48,859,243	53,660,698	48,765,386	51,696,430	7	14
14	BANGKOK	104,950,048	81,816,726	89,488,783	88,116,740	7	17
15	BEIJING	253,580,437	170,897,397	185,308,971	202,501,922	26	46
16	BEIRUT	61,195,358	53,433,147	48,977,342	62,321,034	5	9
17	BELGRADE	41,439,511	53,262,283	46,007,607	55,298,516	6	9
18	BERLIN	167,090,053	191,814,193	176,437,667	196,540,184	15	28
19	BERNE	85,266,201	88,065,343	89,668,973	111,314,738	7	10
20	BIRMINGHAM	43,121,784	52,982,080	67,549,938	48,394,476	5	9
21	BISHKEK	26,927,322	28,214,998	22,295,121	33,742,358	4	8
22	BRADFORD	44,057,507	41,484,795	41,824,622	38,193,648	5	8
23	BRAZILIA	60,987,218	60,794,726	68,173,541	88,864,367	6	9

24	BRUNEI	42,087,502	46,383,312	48,255,772	60,540,455	5	9
25	BRUSSELS	147,056,913	200,775,194	163,517,355	206,129,920	13	23
26	BUCHAREST	66,679,560	74,647,013	66,785,487	53,502,090	7	9
27	BUDAPEST	59,358,421	57,723,561	48,289,147	61,136,998	6	10
28	BUENOS AIRES	48,886,329	57,506,894	50,217,121	69,272,237	3	8
29	CAIRO	73,188,581	86,103,935	89,514,361	98,887,305	11	22
30	CHILE (Closed)	50,368,580	44,184,038	90,770	-	-	-
31	CANBERRA	110,865,683	94,223,018	99,813,682	111,582,283	10	11
32	CHICAGO	59,873,316	66,666,523	64,938,528	82,111,745	6	8
33	COLOMBO	111,028,980	123,745,606	104,738,993	125,993,783	11	29
34	COPENHAGEN	69,401,513	80,574,474	79,379,505	90,058,860	7	11
35	CHENGDU	32,294,069	27,793,849	60,474,597	67,678,607	4	9
36	DARUSSALAM	63,098,515	55,600,338	47,865,647	50,953,315	4	7
37	DAKAR	42,331,699	32,913,476	42,235,989	51,071,325	5	8
38	DAMASCUS	64,349,011	61,367,152	69,025,455	73,166,142	8	16
39	DHAKA	156,029,080	166,764,828	178,780,776	192,629,675	13	41
40	DOHA	124,757,580	129,349,649	137,988,874	145,818,483	12	24
41	DUBAI	158,078,730	186,835,469	197,396,636	195,199,741	10	41
42	DUBLIN	98,749,765	83,668,844	64,120,195	65,625,106	6	10
43	DUSHAMBE	75,493,514	81,784,420	75,197,077	89,245,521	7	14
44	FRANKFURT	71,939,210	73,208,692	85,419,583	60,665,927	8	11
45	GENEVA	303,289,832	362,385,132	340,849,764	366,466,978	16	29
46	GLASGOW	37,089,292	32,521,224	34,499,858	24,630,305	3	5
47	GUANGZHOU	49,478,505	60,192,780	54,312,982	73,212,252	4	6
48	HANOI	45,522,841	48,197,411	59,080,576	55,093,917	4	9
49	HARARE	35,016,549	40,437,548	45,034,416	50,459,296	6	12
50	HAVANA	67,345,337	65,356,845	56,653,794	84,600,408	6	9
51	HERAT	63,000,375	75,633,506	75,751,894	79,487,183	11	20
52	HONG KONG	35,655,337	31,421,182	26,326,319	49,228,235	4	5
53	HOUSTON	54,786,567	70,652,217	65,861,742	67,945,981	5	6
54	ISTANBUL	27,976,061	29,331,495	20,930,333	26,133,203	3	4
55	JAKARTA	75,076,268	71,434,607	62,490,956	84,652,862	10	17
56	JALALABAD	76,612,133	82,151,610	74,483,086	99,295,292	12	25
57	JEDDAH	190,343,183	203,678,966	212,934,474	238,312,438	24	57

58	KABUL	194,894,839	223,194,486	245,798,966	233,090,321	43	60
59	KANDHAR	81,328,297	86,961,282	83,895,643	103,380,754	12	27
60	KATHMANDU	110,065,620	113,281,062	124,478,662	138,090,079	10	34
61	KHARTOUM	42,811,660	54,506,658	49,311,189	62,001,558	7	11
62	KIEV	53,051,115	62,674,034	64,790,732	67,926,765	5	9
63	KUALA LUMPUR	100,493,286	109,946,554	109,231,659	108,897,015	11	23
64	KUWAIT	74,097,797	74,552,708	90,532,032	106,879,001	10	21
65	LISBON	55,716,418	69,562,329	62,861,775	61,000,745	4	9
66	LONDON	457,288,432	405,099,443	399,292,942	452,386,580	31	63
67	LOS ANGELES	85,735,703	90,070,493	115,522,121	108,417,762	6	13
68	MADRID	95,302,167	114,344,175	101,456,661	119,033,918	7	12
69	MALE (MALDIVES)	30,122,821	52,015,779	33,529,573	35,420,503	5	7
70	MANCHESTER	34,597,812	44,348,346	37,626,497	38,300,336	5	11
71	MANILA	48,336,354	163,350,689	55,339,807	56,297,060	5	10
72	MAZAR-E-SHARIF	65,910,874	68,811,502	66,925,445	74,832,794	10	20
73	MESHAD	41,727,224	42,975,101	43,471,268	56,831,058	5	16
74	MEXICO	46,792,978	48,117,562	58,149,828	57,349,381	5	10
75	MILAN	50,029,269	60,034,604	64,142,390	51,228,165	3	6
76	MONTREAL	7,898,178	6,612,655	6,276,604	7,098,648	-	1
77	MOSCOW	204,345,461	214,253,047	199,059,997	200,414,167	11	24
78	MUSCAT	103,865,112	107,040,569	116,981,862	113,116,457	-	23
79	NAIROBI	43,859,318	55,977,996	64,234,006	64,683,627	7	16
80	NEW DELHI	337,513,335	357,442,831	378,376,077	411,631,042	58	98
82	NEW YORK (CG)	145,877,923	157,062,434	159,315,074	167,790,853	7	22
83	NEW YORK (UN)	425,567,090	416,468,493	375,833,273	409,149,153	23	36
84	NIAMEY	25,787,006	26,876,658	30,270,325	36,880,498	4	7
85	OSLO	76,709,865	78,241,281	76,092,800	79,784,577	7	10
86	OTTAWA	100,008,264	96,270,237	92,013,665	101,737,795	11	16
87	PARIS	166,388,167	171,495,060	176,045,819	164,487,280	10	25
88	PHNOM PENH	34,729,380	41,491,036	50,148,503	52,815,282	4	9
89	PORT LOUIS	32,570,878	30,630,831	33,346,881	40,047,393	3	9
90	PRETORIA	101,259,167	108,585,985	103,455,362	112,272,436	9	19
91	PRAGUE	62,227,949	62,705,579	63,459,699	61,911,997	7	11
92	PYONG YANG	30,346,320	38,932,454	40,030,866	38,903,443	4	9

93	RABAT	34,296,278	36,417,431	58,759,805	51,294,932	6	10
94	RIYADH	114,359,072	99,947,615	113,176,799	136,871,276	19	29
95	ROME	114,386,344	136,207,252	134,074,787	132,440,270	12	19
96	SANA'A (Temporary Closed)	46,720,885	43,088,445	35,301,503	347,443	-	11
97	SARAJEVO	57,209,370	57,916,510	165,318,310	74,540,276	6	11
98	SEOUL	76,941,250	86,860,001	78,622,403	77,997,415	7	12
99	SHANGAI	18,417,492	20,995,281	23,370,907	34,926,313	2	2
100	SINGAPORE	101,086,738	120,960,458	123,809,152	123,634,944	7	14
101	STOCKHOLM	86,267,163	130,475,573	97,742,155	84,102,990	7	10
102	SOFIA	50,313,777	71,552,970	65,037,450	56,350,548	5	7
103	SYDNEY	23,747,756	21,012,769	23,022,458	23,293,566	2	2
104	TASHKENT	75,254,531	76,420,659	58,923,226	83,741,313	6	17
105	TEHRAN	108,832,090	120,898,644	116,654,835	145,002,459	17	34
106	THE HAGUE	100,361,224	107,026,781	90,525,921	97,172,075	8	14
107	TOKYO	137,363,469	106,309,862	112,409,889	116,760,204	13	17
108	TORONTO	87,118,555	99,266,097	83,777,166	66,568,527	6	14
109	TRIPOLI	50,834,384	57,241,038	60,551,771	72,727,264	8	20
110	TUNIS	47,660,271	40,566,891	57,204,059	64,415,417	7	10
111	VANCOUVER	55,896,665	57,473,956	57,205,929	49,784,372	4	7
112	VIENNA	117,121,207	138,037,985	129,841,321	147,075,226	10	19
113	WARSAW	61,861,336	68,507,877	65,258,649	68,949,958	6	11
114	WASHINGTON	495,296,322	532,415,072	487,856,645	536,146,631	22	54
115	WELLINGTON	71,713,030	71,516,427	75,618,612	73,305,108	5	9
116	YANGOON	47,877,850	41,079,843	43,702,586	46,760,703	5	12
117	ZAHIDAN	35,329,554	45,484,376	55,568,670	44,545,405	6	18
118	PAREP MINISK AUDIT & ACCOUNT OFFICES	-	-	-	79,483,089	4	9
119	JEDDAH	18,852,559	16,926,274	21,039,979	16,638,728	-	-
120	LONDON	62,296,695	59,655,930	59,004,795	61,294,488	-	10
121	WASHINGTON	53,047,372	63,155,937	63,584,529	56,406,315	-	7
122	NEW YORK	-	8,191,602	13,363,041	14,677,938	-	1
	GRAND TOTAL	10,447,832,371	11,115,689,114	10,946,706,324	11,725,413,708	-	1,962

8. ***Ms. Belum Hasnain:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total quantity of wheat exported during the year 2015-16 till date alongwith the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and*
- (b) *the names of the countries to whom the said wheat was exported during the said period?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) As per data received from Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), a total of **450 MT** of wheat worth **US\$ 158,000** was exported from Pakistan during the year 2015-16. In the first two months of current FY 2016-17 (July-August), a total of **229 MT** of wheat has been exported from Pakistan worth **US\$ 77,000**. Besides, **623,289 MT** of wheat flour worth **US\$ 198 million** was exported in the year 2015-16.

(b) The name of countries to whom wheat was exported in the year 2015-16, are as under:

Country	Quantity (MT)
Afghanistan	50
Malaysia	400

Source: PBS

The names of countries to whom wheat flour was exported in the year 2015-16, are as under:

Country	Quantity (MT)
Afghanistan	623,190
Tanzania	618
Kenya	554
Saudi Arabia	478
United Arab Emirates	277
Sri Lanka	180
India	120
Yemen	113
Qatar	95
Hong Kong	94

Australia	82
South Africa	65
Norway	64
Malaysia	51
South Korea	39
Denmark	36
Mozambique	36
Oman	35
Sweden	34
France	29
Japan	29
Lebanon	29
United States of America	15
New Zealand	10
Netherlands	8
United Kingdom	6
Congo	2
Total	626,289

Source:PBS

9. ***Dr. Fouzia Hameed:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.58 replied on 05-09-2016 and to state:

- (a) *the nature of issues relating to the economic, cultural and administrative fields raised by the provinces in the Ministry during the tenure of the present Government; and*
- (b) *the steps taken by the Government to solve the said issues?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) The nature of issues referred to the Inter Provincial Coordination Committee (IPCC), during the tenure of present Government, is as under:—

- Power Generation Policy
- Oil & Gas Matters
- Tax & Excise Duty issues

- Reciprocal application of domestic Tariff to streetlights of Local Bodies and SCARP tariff on the drinking water supply tube wells of Local Bodies & PHE Department
- Grievances concerning exorbitant Hajj Charges, inadequate arrangements and role of Hajj Tour Operators in Balochistan
- Financial crunch faced by the Population Welfare Programme (s) in Balochistan
- Allocation of grant-in-aid 2013-14 & 2014-15 in favour of Public Sector Universities (PSUs) in Balochistan
- Non-payment of interest amount by Pakistan Steel Mills, Karachi-Reference PAC Directive on Para 43, 44, Page-77 of Audit Report for the year 2006-07

(b) To resolve the above issues concerning various Ministries/Divisions/Departments of the Federal/Provincial Governments and as per IPCC' s mandate, this Ministry convened three (03) meetings of IPCC and two of its Sub-Committees, wherein, directions on the above issues were conveyed to relevant stake-holders. Moreover, this Ministry is also organizing next meeting of IPCC for which agenda items have been sought from the provinces (**Annex-I**). Therefore, this Ministry is actively coordinating to resolve the issues relating to the economic, cultural and administrative fields raised by the provinces.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

10. ***Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Pakistani Ambassadors and their designated staff are available on daily basis in Embassies to meet Overseas Pakistanis in order to resolve their problems?

Minister for Foreign Affairs: All Pakistan Missions abroad have Community Welfare Attaches or designated focal persons to resolve problems relating to Overseas Pakistanis. The names and contact details of these designated focal persons are prominently displayed within the premises of the respective Missions and also displayed on the websites of the respective Missions. A

comprehensive list is also displayed on the Ministry's official website *i.e.* www.mofa.gov.pk. in addition to these designated focal persons, all Heads of Missions have weekly meetings to interact with members of Pakistani community to receive their complaints and promptly resolve their problems.

11. ***Mrs. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the year-wise total number of Pakistanis arrested in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on various charges since 01-01-2013?

Minister for Foreign Affairs: The year wise detail is as under:

Year	Riyadh	Jeddah	Total
2013	925	1001	1926
2014	809	700	1509
2015	772	1621	2393
2016	1106	728	1834
Total	3612	4050	7662

12. ***Begum Tahira Bukhari:**

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 1.6 Million Afghan Refugees residing in Pakistan at present?

Minister for States and Frontier Regions [Lt. Gen (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch]: The total number of Afghan Refugees holding Proof of Registration Cards is 1.47 million. Additionally there are approximately 0.7 million un-documented Afghan Nationals in Pakistan.

However, their repatriation is going on in full swing and 264,000 registered Afghan Refugees have been repatriated upto 17th October, 2016 and approximately 200,000 un-documented Afghan Nationals have also returned to their country so far.

13. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to enhance trade relations with Zimbabwe?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): In order to enhance trade with African countries including Zimbabwe, Ministry of Commerce, through Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), has been focusing on promotional activities to increase the volume of bilateral trade, which is presently far below its potential.

TDAP has already been participating in Zimbabwe International Trade Fair since 2015. However, participation in the fair during 2016 was dropped due to poor response from Pakistani companies.

3. Furthermore, TDAP has included 15 international exhibitions for participation in the African continent during financial year 2016-2017. These include;—

- i. 24th Edition of Inter-build Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa, August-2016.
- ii. Pro Beauty South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa, August-2016
- iii. Medic East Africa Exhibition & Congress, Nairobi, Kenya, September-2016.
- iv. International Exhibition of Textile Equipment, Tunis, Tunisia, October-2016.
- v. Lagos International Trade Fair, Lagos, Nigeria, November-2016.
- vi. 19th AfricaCom, Cap Town, South Africa, November-2016.
- vii. Medical Expo, Casablanca, Morocco, March-2017.
- viii. Morocco Home, Casablanca, Morocco, April-2017.
- ix. Food Africa, Cairo, Egypt, May-2017.
- x. 20th Auto Expo, Nairobi, Kenya, May-2017.
- xi. Automechanika, Johannesburg, South Africa, May-2017.
- xii. Africa Health Expo, Johannesburg, South Africa, June-2017.

- xiii. SAITEX-2017 and Africa Big 7, Johannesburg, South Africa, June-2017.
- xiv. 41 Dar-es-Salaam International Trade Fair, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, June-2017.
- xv. 34th Luanda International Trade Fair, Luanda, Angola, July-2017.

14. ***Ms. Musarat Rafique Mahesar:**

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state the prescribed criteria to allocate budget for the Federally Administered Tribal Areas at present?

Minister for States and Frontier Regions [Lt. Gen (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch]: The question is related to Planning, Development & Reforms Division, Islamabad, as the allocation/budget is made by them. Therefore PD&R Division is in a better position to reply. Infurtherace to above. FATA has highest population *i.e.* 46% amongst Special areas. However, it got only 2.198 billion (approx.:) in the PSDP allocation 2015-16 against Rs.24.04 billion for GB and Rs.2.780 billion for AJK. This can easily be assessed from the comparison of population and PSDP major sectors allocation of Special Areas, (2015-16):

(Rs.in million)

Sector	Share in PSDP in addition to Block Allocation		
	GB	AJK	FATA
Communication	1200.00	300.00	0.00
Higher Education	250.00	235.00	300.00
Industries & Production	0.00	16.50	0.00
Information & Broadcasting	13.65	91.01	0.00
Inter Provincial Coordination	22.55	0.00	0.00
Interior Division	109.44	0.00	50.00
Narcotics Control Division	0.00	0.00	140.00
National Health Services	449.68	637.56	108.32
Water & Power	22000.00	1500.00	1600.00
Grand Total	24045.321	2780.076	2198.32
%age share:	82.85	9.58	7.57

	GB	AJK	FATA
Population in %age term	12	42	46
Total No of projects in PSDP 2015-16	23	22	12

In the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) survey, the position of FATA in poverty is highest (73.7%) in the Country (**Annex-I**). Moreover, after the Military operation, it deserves more funding to address the development/rehabilitation issues. The development budget of FATA ADP is one line in the Federal PSDP. This budget is further distributed amongst 7 Agencies and 6 FRs as per following formula approved by the competent authority:—

- 65% Population
- 25% Area
- 10% Development lag infrastructure

In the year 2016-17, the Federal Government allocated Rs. 20587.00 million (Local component) in the Federal PSDP 2016-17.

Annex-I

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY REPORT OF PLANNING COMMISSION MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX-MPI (BY REGIONS)

Area	Poverty (in %age)
Pakistan	38.8%
Punjab	31.4%
Sindh	43.1%
KP	49.2%
Baluchistan	71.2%
AJK	24.9%
GB	43.2%
FATA	73.7%

The report states that:

“Amongst other regions, FATA is experiencing high level of multidimensional poverty”.

15. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the trade relations with the United States of America?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): United States of America (USA) is the largest export destination for Pakistani goods. Total exports for the year 2015-2016 were \$US 3.5 billion whereas bilateral trade for the same period was \$US 5.3 billion.

Steps taken by the Government to enhance trade relations are as follows;

1. **Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA):**

On 25th June, 2003 Pakistan and USA signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). Under this Agreement US and Pakistan meet and discuss issues of mutual interest with the objective of improving cooperation and enhancing opportunities for trade and investment. The Agreement has also constituted a council comprising of representatives of both countries co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce, Government of Pakistan and Trade Representative of the US government (USTR). Objectives of TIFA Council are to monitor trade and investment relations, identify opportunities for expanding trade and hold consultations and negotiations on issues related to both sides. 8 TIFA Council Meetings have been held so far. Brief on TIFA Council Meetings is attached at **Annex A**.

8th TIFA Council Meetings was recently convened on 18th Oct, 2016 at Islamabad. The main areas of discussion included market access issues, tax policy matters, intellectual property rights issues, dispute resolution mechanism, cyber crimes law in Pakistan, elimination of SRO culture, regulations related to import of beef & beef products, Mangoes Irradiation issues, cooperation by both sides in Readymade Garments Sector etc. Additionally, both sides also discussed cooperation in agricultural technology, and impact of travel advisory on trade.

Following decisions were taken during the 8th TIFA Council Meeting

1. Agreed to have improved outreach of the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program to Pakistani exporters.

2. To have Joint high-level trade agricultural delegation from Pakistan to the United States in 2017.
3. US side agreed to provide an additional phyto-sanitary irradiation facility in northeastern United States for Pakistani mango imports. This will greatly benefit Pakistani mango exporters.
4. US side committed to facilitate over 20 additional Pakistani delegations to U.S. trade shows.
5. Improved engagement of Government of Pakistan with foreign pharmaceutical firms.
6. Creating awareness of the process of bidding on US Department of Defense.
7. The two sides finalized the 2016-2017 work plan of the 5-year Augmented Joint Action Plan.
8. Pakistan renewed its request for better U.S. market access for its apparel industry.

Joint Statement issued by two sides at the conclusion of 8th TIFA Council Meeting is attached as **Annex-B**.

2. **Joint Action Plan**

President Obama and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, during their October 23rd, 2013 meeting in Washington, emphasized the importance of expanding trade and investment flows between the United States and Pakistan. At the conclusion of the meeting, the two leaders issued a Joint Statement including instructions that senior officials should develop a joint action plan to expand bilateral trade and investment over the next five years to be monitored under TIFA.

3. **Business Opportunities Conference**

In order to identify trade and investment opportunities between Pakistan and US, Business Opportunities Conferences are periodically organized. So far, four business opportunities conferences have been held. During the 8th TIFA Council meeting both sides discussed the schedule of the 5th Business Opportunities conference in 2017.

US Generalized System of Preference:

Pakistan is a beneficiary of the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, which provides duty free access to over 3,500 products. Sectors covered under the GSP include various manufactured items & inputs Jewelry, various agricultural products Chemicals, Minerals, Marble and Carpets.

4. GSP Outreach Seminars

It was observed that out of the 3500 lines offered under the US GSP Program, Pakistani exporters were only utilizing 1500. Holding of Seminars to create awareness amongst the exporters to take full benefit of the US GSP is an ongoing activity with the joint collaboration of Ministry of Commerce and US Government. One such seminar was also arranged on the 20th of October 2016, soon after the TIFA Council meeting. Possible sectors with potential of trade enhancement were discussed. Presentations by the officers of Ministry of Commerce and United States side were made. Members from different Chambers and Associations attended the Seminar.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

16. *Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan:

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the attendance of teachers in schools of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA);*
- (b) whether it is a fact that a large number of teachers are receiving their salaries without performing their duties;*
- (c) if the answer to part (b) above is in the affirmative, the action taken by the present Government against those teachers; and*
- (d) the time by which attendance system will be made transparent in schools of FATA?*

Minister for States and Frontier Regions [Lt. General (Retd.) Abdul Qadir Baloch]: (a) Efforts are being made by the Directorate of Education FATA to make the attendance system transparent in the schools of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas but due to the peculiar Law & Order situation in FATA it will take some time to implement fully.

(b) No teacher is receiving salary without performing his/her duty. The Directorate of Education FATA has a sound Monitoring system at Directorate and Agency level, which pays periodical and surprise visits to schools in FATA. Teachers performing their duties regularly. Moreover, Agency Education Officers initiate disciplinary action against teachers who willfully remain absent from duty.

(c) N.A.

(d) Efforts are being made for transparency in attendance in the schools of FATA. Time frame is subject to normalization of the situation.

17. ***Mr. Jamshed Ahmad Dasti:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) *whether or not the description of HS code 29225000 in Tariff Schedule of WTO Accession of China and Pakistan China Free Trade Agreement has been correctly reflected in the relevant SROs issued for the benefits of traders; and*

(b) *whether the above definition is also uniformity or harmony with other international classifications?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) In terms of product classification issued by the World Customs Organization description of HS Code 29225000 is Amino-Alcohol, Acid Phenols, Amino-Compounds with Oxygen Function, nes. This description has been rightly reflected in the Schedule of Concessions submitted by China while acceding to the WTO. However, in the Offer List of Pakistan notified under SRO 659(1)/2007, dated 30th June, 2007, the product description for the said HS Code has inadvertently been replicated with that of HS Code 29224910, that is, Alanin. The Ministry of Commerce is grateful to the Honourable Member for pointing out the anomaly and is taking necessary remedial steps to rectify the same.

(b) As pointed out that this is an anomaly, therefore, the said description is not in Uniformity on conformity with international classifications.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

18. ***Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai:**

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state:

(a) whether any treaty signed between Pakistan and Afghanistan regarding persons arrested/apprehended on crossing borders without documents during the tenure of the present Government; and

(b) the present status of Afghan Refugees living in Pakistan?

Minister for States and Frontier Regions [Lt. General (Retd.) Abdul Qadir Baloch]: (a) Do not pertain to Ministry of States and Frontier Regions.

(b) At present, there are 1.371 million registered Afghan refugees and estimated 0.7 million un-documented Afghans living in Pakistan.

The Tripartite Agreement guides and regulates the voluntary repatriation of registered Afghan refugees signed between Governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan and UNHCR in 2003.

The Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on 9th September, 2016 approved the extension of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards and Tripartite Agreement in respect of registered Afghan refugees till 31st March, 2017.

19. ***Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Pakistanis imprisoned in Japan at present; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) There are 09 Pakistani prisoners in the jails of Japan (Tokyo).

(b) Steps being taken by the Government of Pakistan:

- (i) The Pakistan Mission in Tokyo maintains close liaison with all the nine Pakistani prisoners in Japan and extends Consular services. Six (06) prisoners have refused to divulge their information to the Embassy.
- (ii) Upon the request of inmates, missions have also taken up the case to transfer all Pakistani prisoners in one prison facility near Tokyo to economize the government expenditure and to increase the frequency of visits.
- (iii) Regular meetings have been held with Prison Service Division, Ministry of Justice to press for prisoners' rights including prayers and other religious obligations, which have been resolved satisfactorily, in addition to reiterate the request for transfer of all prisoners in one prison.
- (iv) The Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan during his meeting at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has raised the matter of Pakistani prisoners' welfare. Any issue pertaining to the welfare of the Pakistani prisoners is regularly raised with concerned departments, as and when required.
- (v) The Mission on the request of one of the prisoners approached the Ministry of Interior, Islamabad to address the possibility of Transfer of Prisoners Agreement (No response was received).
- (vi) The Mission will continue to explore all legal possible avenues to address the legitimate requests of the Pakistani prisoners during their sentence terms, including prison visits.

20. ***Ms. Musarat Rafique Mahesar:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Government is providing incentives including financial assistance to Sportspersons for participating in the national and international sports events;*

- (b) *if so, the year-wise total number of Sportspersons benefited therefrom during the last five years alongwith details thereof; and*
- (c) *the steps taken by the present Government to promote sports in the country?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) Yes it is fact that the Government has been providing incentives like preference in jobs and one step promotion to the athletes who won medal in mega sports events and also cash incentives on winning medals in mega sports events as per cash award policy approved by the Government. A copy of the cash award policy is attached at **Annexure-I**.

(b) The Government has paid cash incentive to the sportspersons on winning medals in the mega sports events the detail of which is enclosed at **Annexure-II**.

(c) The present Government is keen for the overall promotion of sports in the country and is providing all possible financial assistance within its limited resources through Pakistan Sports Board to affiliated National Sports Federations which are promoting their respective sports. Pakistani athletes are being provided opportunities to grow on effective competitors in the world of sports to win laurels for Pakistan and make positive image of the country at international level.

PSB organizes training camps of the players selected by the federation for participation in the mega sports events. The expenses like boarding, lodging and pocket expenses are borne by the Board.

PSB has organized National Training Camps for preparation of Pakistan Sports teams for participation in the following international events since 2013 to 2016:—

- (i) 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Art Games in Incheon City, Korea from 29th June to 6th July 2013.
- (ii) 2nd Asian Youth Games, Nanjing, China from 16-24 August 2013.
- (iii) XX Commonwealth Games to be held at Glasgow, Scotland from 24th July to 3rd August 2014.

- (iv) XVII Asian Games to be held at Incheon, South Korea from 19th September to 4th October 2014.
- (v) 12th South Asian Games at Guwahati & Shillong (India) from 5-16 February, 2016.
- (vi) 5th Asian Beach Games at Danang (Vietnam) from 24th September to 3rd October 2016.
- (vii) PSB arranges administrative and financial assistance to the National Sports Federations for their individual participation in internationally organized tournaments/championships organized at home and abroad.

PSB also borne expenses on participation of National teams in all of the mega events. In addition PSB provides the Uniform to the participating teams alongwith expenses of boarding and lodging.

The PSB kept on monitoring the performance of National Sports Federations by evaluating their activities and performance at International level. Also Annual grants to National Sports

Federations are released on submission of their audited reports. The Federations those failed to submit the audited reports of the previous year are not funded.

The National Sports Federations submit their participation reports in international events to PSB. After examination of the report, PSB issues instructions to the Federations for necessary improvement and appreciation on good performance.

Organized special sports events like Prime Minister's Sports Festival, 2012 and Pakistan Inter-Board Sports in 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016 for promotion of sports at grass root level.

PSB has organized the Inter-Provincial Sports Tournaments regularly. These tournaments are organized in rotation in various Provinces of the country including AJK, Northern Area, FATA and Islamabad. These include both boys and girls competitions and are attracting greater participation, at grass root level.

PSB has organized Quaid-E-Azam Inter-Provincial Games 2016 at Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad from 23rd to 26th April 2016. These games helped in promoting the sports and talent hunting at grass root level. The talented athletes are being groomed to national level.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

21. ***Sheikh Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to settle disputes of Pakistani workers in Saudi Arabia; and*
- (b) whether any special mechanism evolved to control the growing issues/disputes of the said workers; if so, the details thereof?*

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi): (a) Following steps are being taken by the Government to settle disputes of Pakistani workers in Saudi Arabia:

- ✱ High level delegation headed by the Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development alongwith Managing Director, OPF visited Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and met with concerned Saudi authorities *i.e.* Minister of Labour, Minister of Health and Senior officials of Labour Ministry. The delegation also held meetings with the management of the concerned companies and discussed issues of Pakistani workers.
- ✱ The delegation alongwith the concerned officials of the Embassy visited the camps where the Pakistani workers were staying to get first hand information about their problems.
- ✱ The Pakistan Embassy immediately renewed expired passports of the affected workers of the companies free of charge by sending teams to the camps.

- ✱ The workers, who were changing jobs to other companies, were facilitated to complete required formalities.
- ✱ Embassy of Pakistan established legal cell. Subsequently, power of attorney of 2000 workers were arranged to file their cases.
- ✱ Financial dues of all workers were reconciled with the help of companies' management.
- ✱ In two court cases, court decided in favour of workers. Subsequent to that decision, assets of the companies will be attached to pay the dues.
- ✱ The families of workers in Pakistan were paid Rs. 50,000/- to meet their immediate needs. So far 5688 families have been paid.
- ✱ The workers, who were stranded due to expired iqama or passports, were facilitated for exit. On arrival in Pakistan, these workers were provided fare or transport up to their homes by OPF.
- ✱ One window desk was established in OPF for re-integration and re-hiring of returning Pakistani workers. These workers have preferred to re-unite with their families in Pakistan as they have arrived after a long period.
- ✱ At Airports, staff of OPF provided support and guidance to returning Overseas Pakistani workers.
- ✱ The basic facilities like food, water, air conditioning etc. are being provided to Overseas Pakistanis in all camps in Saudi Arabia.

(b) Yes. The Pak-Embassy at Riyadh is in constant touch with the Ministry of Labour of Saudi Arabia which is the regulating and implementing authority in such issues. The Embassy has developed a guideline in Urdu namely, "useful instructions for those immigrating to KSA for work". The booklet guides the reader about legal requirement of work in KSA, difficulties in case "Haroob" is declared, problems in "Azad Visa" and during Umrah/ Hajj visit, etc.

22. ***Mr. Sufyan Yousuf:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the steps taken by the present Government to increase export of animal hides; and*
- (b) *the export volume of animal hides at present?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) The leather sector export promotion strategy of the government focuses on promotion of export of value added leather products instead of raw materials. In order to ensure the availability of raw materials to the value added sector, the export of live animals is banned and the export of raw and wet blue hides/ skins is subject to a regulatory duty of 20% (Annex-A). The following measures have been taken by the Government to enhance exports of the leather sector:

- (i) To promote, develop and facilitate the leather sector of Pakistan, the Leather Export Promotion Council of Pakistan (LEPC) is being established.
- (ii) Leather garments being a value added sector, has been accorded priority in Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2015-18. To improve product design and encourage innovation in export of leather garments, a matching grant upto a maximum of Rs. 5 (five) million has been announced for specified plant and machinery, or specified items.
- (iii) To reduce the cost of doing business and to increase the Sector's competitiveness, draw-back of local taxes and levies will be given to exporters on free on board (FOB) values of their enhanced exports if increased by 10% and beyond (over last year's exports) at the rate of 4% on the increase.
- (iv) To promote and secure market share for leather and leather products of Pakistan, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is undertaking various export promotional activities through trade exhibitions and delegations. In the fiscal year 2015- 16, TDAP will participate in 12 international trade exhibitions related to leather sector. Besides, six fairs are allocated to Pakistan Tanners Association

(PTA) and Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PLGMEA) to promote leather exports. The total number of international exhibitions participated by TDAP over the last three financial years (region-wise) is as under:—

International exhibitions participated by TDAP for leather, and leather products			
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Europe	8	8	8
Asia (other than China)	-	3	3
China	4	4	4
America	3	3	3
Total:	15	18	18

(b) The export volume of animal hides is attached as Annex-B.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
REVENUE DIVISION
CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

Islamabad, the 27th September 2005.

NOTIFICATION
(CUSTOMS)

S.R.O. 1011(I)/2005.– In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Customs Act, 1969 (IV of 1969), the Federal Government of Pakistan is pleased to direct that a regulatory duty at the rate of twenty per cent ad valorem shall be levied on export of raw and wet blue hides and skins subject to the following conditions, namely:-

- (i) the value for determination of duty shall be the customs value of exported goods as defined under section 25 of the Customs Act, 1969; and
 - (ii) exports pertaining to the letters of credit received upto the effective date of this notification shall be exempt from this duty.
2. This notification shall be effect from the 1st September, 2005.

[C.No.5(40)EP/2002

(SHAHID AHMAD)
Additional Secretary

Annex-B

Detail (Export)

Thousand RS

HS Code	Commodity by Country	Unit / Export in Kgs	2015-16 (July-June)		2014-15 (July-June)	
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
41012000	W.HID&SKIN BOV.WT8-10KG.UN.SPL	KG	7120	2749	9600	1682
41015010	HIDES BUFFALO WT>16 KG	KG	147359	43058	--	--
41015020	HIDES COWS WT>16 KG	KG	46412	25015	1800	274
41015090	OTH WHOLE HIDES/SKIN WT>16 KG	KG	17000	6904	177248	49441
41021020	SHEEP SKIN WITH WOOL,RAW FR/DR	KG	--	--	989	1081
41022900	OTH RAW SK SHEP/LAM W/OUT WOOL	KG	--	--	522	111
41039010	OTH GOAT SKINS, RAW	KG	7760	2587	--	--
	Total	KG	225651	80313	190159	52589
		Export in Square Meters				
41041100	HIDE/SKIN FULL GRAIN UNSPLIT	SQM	16471	21842	18583	29471
41041900	OTH HIDE,SKIN WET STATE	SQM	36202	48773	103768	149580
41044100	HIDE,SKIN FULL GRAIN DRY STATE	SQM	189879	270835	1395	1144
41044900	OTHER HIDES DRY STATE(CRUST)	SQM	879985	1333178	602535	1031702
41051000	WET BLUE LAMB,SHEEP SKIN	SQM	1380	2031	10735	19788
41053000	SHEEP/LAMB SKIN NO WOOL CRUST	SQM	22959	41698	83625	148056
41062100	GOAT/KID SKIN WET BLUE	SQM	3814	5752	--	--
41062200	GOAT/KID SKIN CRUST	SQM	79040	203792	60185	116186
41069100	OTH WET BLUE SKINS	SQM	4106	12319	--	--
41069200	OTH SKINS DRY STATE CRUST	SQM	11280	19793	--	--
41071100	WHOLE HIDE SKIN FULL GRAIN BOV	SQM	3745	10046	769	2116
41071200	WHOLE HIDE/SKIN GRAIN SPLIT BV	SQM	5557720	11848556	5675506	11519581
41071900	OTH WHOLE HIDE/SKIN BOV ANIMAL	SQM	571753	1593602	2222240	5663389
41079100	OTH HIDE INCL SIDES FULL GRAIN	SQM	47121	108010	3	5
41079200	OTH HIDE INCL SIDE GRAIN SPLIT	SQM	2740136	5669366	3679209	7005074
	Total	SQM	10165591	21189593	12458553	25686092

Source Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

23. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Haram food items are being imported in the country at present;*
- (b) *if so, the action taken by the Government to curb such practice?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) There is complete ban on import of *haram* food under Sr. No. 4, Appendix-A read with Sr. No. 13, Part II, Appendix-B of Import Policy Order, 2016.

(b) Federal Board of Revenue being custodian of borders against illegal trade has informed that these restrictions are strictly enforced by Customs. Hence, no *haram* food items are being imported to the country.

24. ***Mr. Sufyan Yousuf:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the steps taken by the present Government to increase bilateral trade through SAARC forum; and*
- (b) *the targets achieved therefrom during the last three years?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) The Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) was signed during the 12th SAARC Summit held at Islamabad on 6th January, 2004. The Tariff Liberalization Program under SAFTA has been fully implemented by all the member countries. Following steps have been taken/are being taken to implement SAFTA in its true letter and spirit to enhance bilateral/regional trade:

- ✱ Pakistan has fully implemented its Tariff Liberalization Program since 2014. The maximum tariff maintained by Pakistan on more than 90% tariff lines is 0-5%.

- ✱ Pakistan is in process of consulting its stakeholders for preparing a separate shorter sensitive list for the Least Developed Countries of SAARC.
- ✱ All member countries are in the process of further reducing their respective sensitive lists by 20%.
- ✱ Pakistan was to hold South Asia Business Leaders Conclave before the SAARC Summit which would have provided an opportunity to all the leading business communities of South Asia to come together for the benefit of regional commerce. Unfortunately, due to postponement of SAARC Summit, the holding of the event has also been delayed.

(b) Pakistan's trade with SAARC countries during the last three years show that Pakistan has been able to maintain steady level of exports to the SAARC region:—

Million US\$

	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
SAARC	3246.14	2527.22	3295.82	2148.90	2,690.234	2,318.490
Afghanistan	1870.52	359.18	1962.30	322.75	1,437.83	410.04
Bangladesh	698.20	55.86	697.56	62.21	693.20	50.68
Bhutan	0.00	0.00		2.79	0.00	0.09
India	408.37	2049.38	358.29	1699.60	303.74	1,782.49
Maldives	8.44	0.02	8.57	2.95	7.42	0.02
Nepal	0.65	0.74	2.17	0.76	0.93	0.56
Sri Lanka	259.98	62.03	266.94	57.82	247.11	74.60

Pakistan's Major imports/exports to SAARC region are annexed.

Pakistan's exports to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

S.NO.	Product label	Pakistan's exports to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)		
		Value in 2013	Value in 2014	Value in 2015
1	Woven fabrics of cotton, containing \geq 85% cotton by weight and weighing $>$ 200 g/m ²	429.039	379.518	412.753
2	Wheat or meslin flour	199.071	192.951	321.242
3	Cement, incl. cement clinkers, whether or not coloured	355.078	320.525	221.586
4	Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form	222.244	198.892	213.355
5	Rice	159.582	133.619	153.457
6	Cotton yarn other than sewing thread, containing \geq 85% cotton by weight (excluding that put ...	117.817	126.646	111.444
7	Potatoes, fresh or chilled	90.465	40.248	84.771
8	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried	75.911	80.066	76.63
9	Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens, fresh or dried	74.995	65.458	68.98
10	Woven fabrics of cotton, containing \geq 85% cotton by weight and weighing \leq 200 g/m ²	54.595	53.758	60.863

Pakistan's imports from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

	Product label	Pakistan's imports from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)		
		Value in 2013	Value in 2014	Value in 2015
	All products	2303.171	2621.597	2198.332
1	Cotton, neither carded nor combed	421.718	351.581	356.658
2	Tomatoes, fresh or chilled	131.935	125.731	90.38
3	Grapes, fresh or dried	16.895	49.102	87.557
4	Polymers of propylene or of other olefins, in primary forms	91.428	116.318	86.276
5	Synthetic organic colouring matter, whether or not chemically defined; preparations based on ...	47.969	78.467	81.706
6	Dried leguminous vegetables, shelled, whether or not skinned or split	70.621	62.561	69.425
7	Oilcake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting ...	291.433	193.65	68.704
8	Cotton yarn other than sewing thread, containing \geq 85% cotton by weight (excluding that put ...	112.742	96.709	65.589
9	Coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal	55.686	88.508	63.796
10	Vessels and other floating structures for breaking up	14.628	66.191	53.325

25. ***Dr. Fehmida Mirza:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry/Foreign Affairs Division to prepare subject-wise list of titles of all laws and rules made thereunder with reference to business allocated to the said Ministry/ Division and its attached departments under the Rules of Business, 1973;*
- (b) the subject-wise list of titles of said laws/rules;*
- (c) whether it is a fact that the steps have been taken by the said Division to consolidate and amend the said laws and rules to keep pace with changes in the society; if so, the details; if not, reasons thereof;*
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the steps have been taken by the said Division to determine the anomalies, inconsistencies and difficulties in the administration and implementation of said laws and rules; and*
- (e) the names of officers/branches appointed/designated therefor?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) Ministry of Foreign Affairs in consultation with the stakeholders has revised the Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1976 to make it consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982. A new legislation entitled the Territorial Sea and Maritime Zones Bill 2016 has been drafted and is ready for transmission to Law and Justice Division.

(b) The administrative aspects of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are primarily governed by the Pakistan Foreign Service Rules 1962. A consolidated case for revision/amendments in these Rules had been forwarded to the Finance Division for concurrence in July 2015 Response from their end is, however, still awaited. The Subject wise list of titles of said laws/rules are as under:

- (i) Geneva Convention Implementing Act, 1936;
- (ii) Diplomatic and Consular Officers (Oath and Fees) Act, 1948;

- (iii) United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1948.
- (iv) United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1948.
- (v) United Nations (Declaration of Death of Missing Persons) Act, 1956.
- (vi) Diplomatic Immunities (Commonwealth Countries Representatives), Act, 1957.
- (vii) Diplomatic Immunities (Conferences with Commonwealth Countries) Act, 1963.
- (viii) Diplomatic and Consular Privileges Act, 1972.
- (ix) Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (Administration) Ordinance, 1980.
- (x) Export Control on Goods, Technologies, Material and Equipment related to Nuclear and Biological Weapons and their Delivery Systems Act-2004 dated 25 September 2004.
- (xi) Establishment of Strategic Export Control Division (SECDIV) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, S.R.O. 449(I)/2009 dated 28 May 2009.
- (xii) Export Control (Licensing and Enforcement) Rules-2009, S.R.O. 450(I)/2009 dated 29 May 2009.
- (xiii) Oversight Board of Export Control Act No. V of 2004, S.R.O. 693(I)/2007 dated 11 July 2007.
- (xiv) Internal Compliance Programme (ICP) Guidelines, S.R.O. No. 2(24)/2013-SECDIV-(P) dated 3 October 2014.
- (xv) Control Lists of Goods, Technologies, Material and Equipment related to Nuclear and Biological weapons and their Delivery Systems, S.R.O. 276(I)/2015 dated 28 March 2015.
- (xvi) Policy Guidelines on Strategic Export Controls, S.R.O. 442(I)/2016 dated 11 May 2016.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also constituted a Committee to review the laws relating to Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is headed by Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific) as its Chairman and Chief of Protocol or his representative, Legal Adviser or his representative and Director General (UN) as its members. The meetings of the Committee are held regularly to review these laws. The Committee has also informed the cabinet sub-committee formed for revision of laws. In addition to regular review, new rules/procedures are also developed that are necessitated by evolving national and international environment. Special guidelines are also notified to facilitate and reinforce implementation of laws and rules.

(e) Following officers are appointed/designated thereof:

Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific)	Chairman
Chief of Protocol or his representative	Member
Legal Adviser or his representative	Member
Director General (UN)	Member

26. ***Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan:**

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state:

- (a) *the steps taken by the Ministry to promote education in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) during the last five years;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that the corruption cases have been registered in the FATA Secretariat regarding the educational projects; if so, the steps taken against the responsables thereof; and*
- (c) *the total number of teachers are being received their salaries without their duties in FATA at present?*

Minister for States and Frontier Regions [Lt. General (Retd.) Abdul Qadir Baloch]: (a) The following steps have been taken by the Directorate of Education FATA for promotion of education in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas during the last five years.

- i. Provision of Free Text Books.
- ii. Provision of inland scholarships.

- iii. Provision of Scholarship for Promotion of Girls Education.
- iv. Appointment of Teachers through NTS.
- v. Centralized Examination of 5th & 8th Classes in FATA.
- vi. Enrolment Campaigns.
- vii. Open choice of admission.
- viii. Public Private Partnership through FATA Education Foundation.
- ix. Strengthening of Deeni Madaris.

(b) No corruption cases have been registered regarding Education Projects in FATA Secretariat.

(c) No teacher has received salary without performing his/ her duty in FATA. At present Sound Monitoring System is in place in Directorate of Education FATA and FATA Secretariat. Therefore, teachers perform their duties regularly. Moreover, Agency Education Officers initiate disciplinary action against the teachers who willfully remain absent from duty.

27. ***Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total number of Pakistani prisoners in Qatar at present; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) The total number of Pakistani Prisoners in Qatar at present is fifty five (55).

(b) Majority of the cases relate to narcotics which is considered a heinous crime in the State of Qatar and the Gulf region. The Government of Qatar is very strict in such cases. Pakistani Embassy in Doha, Qatar regularly undertakes consular visits to the central jail and inmates are interviewed about the conditions of the jail. The Embassy, in accordance with the laid down policy, extends all possible legal assistance to the prisoners which include translation and provision of defence lawyers. The variation in the sentence depends upon the condition and context of crime and its effect thereof. Pakistan Embassy in Doha, is constantly in touch with the prisoners and their needs are constantly monitored and met through the funds available along with necessary

recommendations to the Qatari authorities to treat the inmates with respect and dignity and make sure that all their legitimate demands are met under the law. Thirteen prisoners are about to complete their sentence in a couple of months reducing the total number to 42. At present, there are 115,000 Pakistani nationals residing / working in Qatar. Furthermore, the mission will avail the facility of Emiri Pardon to be given on 18th of December which is the national day of Qatar and is hopeful that reduction in sentences as well as total release cases will be considered favorably by the Government of Qatar.

28. ***Dr. Fehmida Mirza:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) *the steps taken by Ministry/ Inter-Provincial Coordination Division to prepare subject-wise list of titles of all laws and rules made thereunder with reference to business allocated to the said Ministry/ Division and its attached departments under the Rules of Business, 1973;*
- (b) *the subject-wise list of titles of said laws/rules;*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that the steps have been taken by the said Division to consolidate and amend the said laws and rules to keep pace with changes in the society; if so, the details; if not, reasons thereof;*
- (d) *whether it is also a fact that the steps have been taken by the said Division to determine the anomalies, inconsistencies and difficulties in the administration and implementation of said laws and rules; and*
- (e) *the names of officers/branches appointed/designated therefor?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): As per assigned business under Rules of Business, 1973, the following functions/entities are working under the administrative control of Ministry of IPC and the following rules and regulations are made thereunder by following functions/entities as detail given below:

(a) (1) **Inter Board Committee of Chairman (IBCC)**

A “Summary for the Cabinet” including a Bill on “**Approval of Bill to Provide for the Establishment of the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC)**” was referred to the Cabinet Division on 12-09-2014 and it was required to be placed before the Cabinet in its meeting scheduled on 26-01-2016. However, the Bill/Agenda item was withdrawn by IPC Division taking plea that sufficient time has been lapsed when Ministry of IPC had submitted the Bill and certain developments have been observed which are required to be incorporated for consolidation of Bill.

The Bill on the above subject has now been revised / amended and same is in process; which will be placed before the Parliament in due course of time.

(2) **Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (PVMC)**

PVMC act 1996 was promulgated by the Parliament on 06th March, 1996 and subsequently *vide* S.R.O No. 550(1)/2016 dated 14th June, 2016 under the provisions of section 9(2) of PVMC Act, the first schedule (section 9) was amended through above referred gazette of Pakistan (**Annex-I**)

(3) **Pakistan Sports Board (PSB)**

There is only one enactment relating to the subject of Sports *viz* Sports (Development & Control) Ordinance, 1962.

(b) (1) **Inter Board Committee of Chairman (IBCC)**

As in (a) above.

(2) **Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (PVMC)**

PVMC *vide* S.R.O 127 (KE)/2012 dated 20th December, 2012 made the amendments in PVMC Regulations, 2000 (**Annex-II**).

(3) **Pakistan Sports Board (PSB)**

- (i) Sports (Development & Control) Ordinance, 1962.
- (ii) Pakistan Sports Board Rules, 1981
- (iii) Pakistan Sports Board Service Rules, 2000

(c) (1) **Inter Board Committee of Chairman (IBCC)**

Yes, this Division has actively working to consolidate and amend the said laws/rules to keep pace with changes in the society.

(2) **Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (PVMC)**

PVMC *vide* S.R.0 687(1)/2015 amended its Regulations *i.e.* PVMC (Accreditation & Equivalence) Regulations, 2015 (**Annex-III**).

(3) **Pakistan Sports Board (PSB)**

Sports (Development & Control) Ordinance, 1962 is a comprehensive enactment and requires no amendment. However, rules framed under the provisions of the said Ordinance are amended from time to time keeping in view the requirement of the situation.

(d) (1) **Inter Board Committee of Chairman (IBCC)**

Yes, steps have been taken as mentioned in (a) above.

(2) **Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (PVMC)**

Yes, steps have been taken as mentioned in (a, b & c) above.

(3) **Pakistan Sports Board (PSB)**

Yes, steps are taken from time to time to determine the anomalies, inconsistencies and difficulties in the administration of the rules framed under the Ordinance and amendments are made accordingly.

(e) (1) **Inter Board Committee of Chairman (IBCC)**

Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai, Secretary (IBCC)

(2) **Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (PVMC)**

Dr. Muhammad Arshad, President (PVMC)

(3) **Pakistan Sports Board (PSB)**

Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Nawaz Ganjera, Director General (PSB)

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

29. ***Ms. Belum Hasnain:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the name of the country from where maximum imports are being made at present?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): Following are the top ten countries from where maximum imports are being made at present:

Value US \$ Million		
S. No.	Country	2015-16
1.	China	12,105.3
2.	United Arab Emirates	5,493.5
3.	Saudi Arabia	2,275.8
4.	Indonesia	2,136.3
5.	Japan	1,825.6
6.	India	1,782.5
7.	U.S.A	1,777.6
8.	Kuwait	1,337.9
9.	Germany	936.2
10.	Malaysia	925.4

Source:— Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

30. ***Ms. Khalida Mansoor:**

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.71 replied on 15-04-2016 and to state:

- (a) *the total number of Pakistani labourers working in Saudi Arabia at present; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government for their welfare?*

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi): (a) At present, there are 2.5 million Pakistanis, working in Saudi Arabia.

(b) Welfare Facilities for overseas Pakistanis

- o Provision of Financial Assistance to the destitute families of overseas Pakistanis in the event of death or disability of overseas Pakistanis.
- o Overseas Pakistanis who expire while working abroad for recovery of their dues/ legitimate claims to facilitate the families of deceased.
- o Eye treatment of overseas Pakistanis and their dependents on subsidized rates at OPF Eye Hospitals at Mirpur (AJ&K) & Yarokoso, D.G Khan.
- o Facility of free Ambulance Service from Airport to native town/ village of deceased/disabled overseas Pakistanis
- o Establishment of Complaint Cell in OPF to redress the grievances of overseas Pakistanis. The office of Member Inspection Team (MIT) established in various Provincial High Courts for review of difficulties being faced by overseas Pakistanis.
- o Foreign Exchange Remittance Card (FERC) scheme for overseas Pakistanis.
- o OPF has established One Window Facilitation Desk (OWFD) at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, Multan, Sialkot, and Faisalabad Airports for providing assistance to overseas Pakistanis.
- o OPF NADRA Swift Centre at OPF Head Office, Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD:
The 17th November, 2016.

ABDUL JABBAR ALI,
Secretary.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”**For Monday, the 21st November, 2016**

46. **Ms. Sajida Begum:**
(Deferred During 34th Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the State Guest House (SGH) is being constructed in Islamabad; and*
- (b) *the time by which the construction work of the said SGH will be started and completed?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) There is a proposal for construction of a State Guest House and International Conference Center in Islamabad to cater for visiting foreign Heads of State/Government. The selection of suitable site and other technical aspects are still under process.

(b) The construction work would start once a detailed project has been prepared and approved.

6. **Mr. Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi:**
(Deferred During 36th Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names, dates of birth, date of appointments and retirements, qualifications and designations at the time of appointments, qualifications achieved during services, dates of last promotions, present designations and stations of postings of all the Executive Directors and Officers including FLMI Trainees, Actuarial*

Trainees, Management Trainees, Trainee Executives, were working in the State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) as on 31-12-2015; and

- (b) *the contractual and deputationists officers were working in the SLIC on the said date?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a)

- * The names, dates of birth, date of appointments and retirements, qualifications and designations at the time of appointments, qualifications achieved during services, dates of last promotions, present designations and stations of postings of all the Executive Directors and Officers including FLMI Trainees, Actuarial Trainees, Management Trainees, Trainees Executives, who were working in the State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) as on 31-12-2015 are at **Annex-A**.
- (b) * The deputationists officers working in the SLIC as on 31-12-2015 are at **Annex-B**.
- * The information in respect of contractual officers working in the Corporation as on 31-12-2015 may be treated as NIL.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

1. **Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the names of goods being imported from India at present?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): Pakistan's major commodities of import from India are as follows.

		US\$000	
Country / Commodity		2015-16	2014-15
S.No.	India ¹	1,779,602	1,699,654
1.	RAW COTTON	406,646	80,684
2.	CHEMICAL ELEMENT AND COMPOUNDS	189,690	223,676

	Country / Commodity	2015-16	2014-15
3.	VEGETABLES & VEGET.PREP INCL.PULSE	179,484	219,680
4.	CHEMICAL MATERIAL AND PRODUCT	172,936	197,157
5.	DYEING TANNING AND COLORING MATER	88,488	90,774
6.	COTTON YARN	78,010	68,449
7.	SHIP & BOAT INCL. SHIPS BREAKING	76,716	86,307
8.	MACHINERY (ALL SORTS) & ITS PART	72,338	80,508
9.	MEDICAL & PHARMACETICAL PRODUCTS	48,555	67,618
10.	SYNTHETIC FABRICS	47,900	34,105

The Commodity wise details of all products is annexed.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

2. **Ms. Suraiya Jatoi:**

Will the Minister for Textile Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Pakistan's cotton crop being sown under the Bt cotton seed; and

(b) the steps taken by the present Government to certify the said seed?

Minister for Textile Industry: (a) The percentage of Cotton crop during 2016-17 sown under Bt cotton seed is as under:

* Punjab 91.16%

* Sindh 85.67%

(b) Steps taken by Government to certify B.T. Seed

- Cotton Seed availability improved from 4630 MT in 2012-13 to 34555 MT in 2014-15 which was 86% of the total seed requirement of the country *i.e.* 40,000 MT. During 2015-16, a quantity of 29364 MT BT cotton seed has been made available which is 73.50% of the total seed requirement.
- 16 new Bt cotton varieties recommended and approved by Provincial Seed Council and National Bio-Safety Committee have entered the seed production cycle during the current sowing year. A total of 43 Bt cotton varieties have been approved so far.
- Two leading Bt. Cotton varieties of Punjab province *i.e.* FH-142 and MNH-886 also got approval from Sindh Seed Council for Cultivation in Sindh Province to support seed production activities in Sindh.
- For the promotion of the local seed industry and to attract investment in the modern variety development program and research, the Plant Breeder's Rights Bill, 2016 has been passed by the National Assembly and at present in the Senate of Pakistan. Passage of PBR's would modernize variety development and revive the seed sector.
- Seed (Amendment) Act, 2015 has already been promulgated in the country *w.e.f.* 29th July 2015 as well as the Seed Rules for the implementation of these amendments in Seed Act have been formulated to create enabling environment for stakeholders of the seed industry of Pakistan.

3. **Ms. Suraiya Jatoi:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of items placed on the negative list for trade with India at present; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the number of items on the said list?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) Pakistan shifted from positive list of 1963 items for India to a negative list of 1209 items in March, 2012. Details of the items on the negative list are placed at Annex-I.

Apart from the items on the negative list, all other items are tradable between Pakistan and India.

(b) Cabinet in its meeting held on 28th February, 2012 approved phasing out of negative list subject to further progress regarding provision of level playing field for Pakistan's exports to Indian market (Annex-II). However, due to suspension of composite dialogue, negotiation with India on trade normalization and phasing out of negative list got stalled.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

4. **Dr. Fehmida Mirza:**

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry/Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Division to prepare subject-wise list of titles of all laws and rules made thereunder with reference to business allocated to the said Ministry/Division and its attached departments under the Rules of Business, 1973;*
- (b) the subject-wise list of titles of said laws/rules;*
- (c) whether it is a fact that the steps have been taken by the said Division to consolidate and amend the said laws and rules to keep pace with changes in the society; if so, the details; if not, reasons thereof;*
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the steps have been taken by said Division to determine the anomalies, inconsistencies and difficulties in the administration and implementation of said laws and rules; and*
- (e) the names of officers/branches appointed/designated therefor?*

Reply not received.

5. **Dr. Fehmida Mirza:**

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state:

- (a) *the steps taken by the Ministry/States and Frontier Regions Division to prepare subject-wise list of titles of all laws and rules made thereunder with reference to business allocated to the said Ministry/Division and its attached departments under the Rules of Business, 1973;*
- (b) *the subject-wise list of titles of said laws/rules;*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that the steps have been taken by the said Division to consolidate and amend the said laws and rules to keep pace with changes in the society; if so, the details; if not, reasons thereof;*
- (d) *whether it is also a fact that the steps have been taken by the said Division to determine the anomalies, inconsistencies and difficulties in the administration and implementation of said laws and rules; and*
- (e) *the names of officers/branches appointed/designated therefor?*

Reply not received.

6. **Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of countries from where Desi Ghee is being imported in the country at present; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that the said Ghee is Halal and Pure for human health?*

Transferred to Science and Technology Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

7. **Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the impacts on trade occurred due to unavoidable circumstances of Pakistan and India during the tenure of the present Government; and*

(b) *the steps being taken by the Government in this regard during the said period?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) The 7th Round of Pakistan India talks for trade normalization was held in September, 2012 after which the dialogue process has been suspended due to unconducive political atmosphere.

During the visit of Minister for Commerce to South Asia to attend the SAARC Business Leaders Conclave held from 16-18 January, 2014, both sides reiterated their desire to expedite the trade normalization process on reciprocal basis. After that no meeting has been held so far because of the deteriorating relations between the two nations. Due to low level G2G interaction and tense situation on the borders, bilateral trade has decreased from US\$ 2457.747 to 2083.18 million over the last two years. The bilateral trade figures for last few years are as follows:

Million US\$

Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Balance
2011-12	338.517	1507.328	1845.845	(-) 1168.811
2012-13	327.496	1809.867	2137.363	(-) 1482.371
2013-14	408.365	2049.382	2457.747	(-) 1641.017
2014-15	358.082	1,699.65	2057.736	(-) 1,341.572
2015-16	303.58	1779.60	2083.18	(-)1476.02

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

(b) The future of Pakistan India trade relation depends upon the resumption of the Comprehensive Dialogue Process which is suspended due to the tense political environment between the two nations.

8. **Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the steps being taken by the Government to improve relations with its neighbour countries on the basis of equality; and*
- (b) *the reasons of postponement of the recent SAARC Conference?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) The Government of Pakistan is taking several steps to develop friendly relations with the countries of South Asia based on equality and forward looking approach. Some of these steps include:

i. **Special Assistance Programme for South Asia (SAPSA)**

An amount of Rs. 50 Million is allocated by Pakistan every year for Special Assistance Programme for South Asian countries (SAPSA) to create goodwill and improve bilateral relations with South Asian countries (excluding India).

ii. **People to People contact**

As part of our initiative to strengthen the people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and South Asian countries, the visits of representatives from all walks of life of these countries to Pakistan are organized. So far, three (3) delegations from Bangladesh, two (2) from Sri Lanka and one (1) from Bhutan comprising Monks, representatives from bureaucracy, civil society, major newspapers, TV channels and think tanks and students have visited Pakistan in 2016.

iii. **Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP)**

Pakistan offers 54 scholarships annually to the students from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka in the fields of medicine, engineering, pharmacy and dentistry under PTAP. Under PTAP, 6 seats are offered to the students of Bangladesh, 2 seats for Bhutan, 3 seats for Maldives, 18 for Sri Lanka and 25 for Nepal.

(b) The 19th SAARC Summit was to be held at Islamabad on 9-10 November 2016. The Prime Minister of Pakistan was looking forward to welcoming the SAARC leaders at the Summit. India informed Nepal, in its capacity as SAARC chair that it would not participate in the upcoming Summit. Following this, some other countries in the region also informed of their inability to participate in the 19th SAARC Summit.

As laid down in the SAARC Charter, all Member States have to be represented at the level of HoS/HoG for the holding of the Summit. Hence, as the required quorum for the hosting of Summit was not complete the Summit was postponed.

Relations with Iran

Pakistan and Iran have always enjoyed excellent bilateral relations. Our bilateral ties embarked on an upwards trajectory after the visit of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Iran in May 2014 and the visit of President of Iran in March 2016. During the past few years, various high-level bilateral visits have taken place between the two countries which were aimed at further strengthening our relations with Iran, including the following:

Pakistan Side:

- Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited Iran in May 2014 and January 2016.
- Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Federal Minister for Petroleum & Natural Resources, visited Iran twice *i.e.* in December 2013 and in October 2014.
- Chairman Senate Mr. Nayyar Hussain Bukhari and Deputy Speaker National Assembly Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi visited Tehran to attend 9th session of the Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries (PUIC) conference in Tehran in February 2014.
- Minister for Commerce Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan visited Tehran on 21-22 April 2015 for the 7th Meeting of the Joint Trade Committee.

Iranian side:

- President Rouhani visited Pakistan in March 2016.
- The Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Muhammad Javad Zarif visited Islamabad on 8-9 April 2015, 13 August 2015, and 8-9 December 2015 (for the HoA Ministerial Meeting).
- The Secretary of the National Security Council of Iran, Mr. Ali Shamkhani, visited Islamabad on 28-29 October 2015.
- Mr. Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, Interior Minister of Iran visited Pakistan in May 2014.
- Mr. Ali Tayyebnia, the Iranian Finance Minister, visited Pakistan for a meeting of Joint Economic Commission (JEC) in December 2014.
- The Speaker of the Iranian Majlis, Dr. Ali Larijani, visited Pakistan in December 2014.
- Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, Mr. Ibrahim Rahimpour, visited Pakistan in October 2014 for the 8th round of Bilateral Political Consultations.

During those visits, numerous Agreements/MoUs and other instruments to increase bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Iran in diverse fields have been signed.

Relations with Afghanistan

Building close cooperative relations with Afghanistan is a high priority for Pakistan and is a vital component of our policy of “peaceful neighborhood”. The Government has remained constructively engaged with Afghan leadership to build mutual trust and understanding with Afghanistan. Accordingly, Pakistan continues its efforts for forging friendly and good neighborly relations with Afghanistan on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. The key principles of our policy include “non-interference” in the internal matters of other countries and not to allow the use of our soil against other countries.

Relations with China

Pakistan and China enjoy brotherly relations. Over time, our friendship has matured into an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership. Both countries enjoy close cooperation and share unanimity of views on important world issues. This relationship has been further strengthened after initiation of CPEC between the two countries.

The two countries support each other at all regional and international forums. In regional context, China and Pakistan are both members of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) on Afghanistan. Both countries hold regular Strategic Dialogue at the level of Foreign Secretary/Vice Minister.

ISLAMABAD:
The 17th November, 2016.

ABDUL JABBAR ALI,
Secretary.