

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Thursday, the 25th January, 2018

33. ***Shazia Marri:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the share of the rural economy in the Gross Domestic Product of Pakistan at present; and*
- (b) *the steps taken by the Government during the last four years to bring rural economy at par with the urban economy of the country?*

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): (a) The Gross Development Product (GDP) is estimated by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on national basis and there is no breakdown in terms of rural and urban area.

Agriculture sector which has the mainstay in rural development, its share in GDP is 19.5 percent as per estimation of 2016/17.

(b) **The government has taken various steps to bring rural economy at par with urban economy.**

- * The government is implementing a Kissan Package with a total financial outlay of Rs. 341 billion.
- * Direct support to rice and cotton farmers, reduced taxes on agriculture machinery from 4.5 percent to 9 percent.

- Reduced Sales Tax on cold chain machinery from 17 percent to 7 percent.
- A. tax holiday for agriculture delivery chain for three years.
- Provision of mark-up free loans to the farmers for solar tube wells.
- Reduced sales tax on pesticides and seed,
- Reduced mark-up for agricultural loans.
- Subsidized crop insurance and increased volume of Agricultural credit disbursement to Rs. 1001 billion from Rs. 336.2 billion in 2012-13.
- Planning, Development and Reform has initiated a number of projects during the last four years.

@171. ***Dr. Shazia Sobia:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

Will the Minister for Statistics be pleased to state the reasons behind the high prices of consumer goods of daily use despite of steep fall in inflation as claimed by the Government?

Minister for Statistics (Mr. Kamran Michael): ■ Since no specific consumer goods have been mentioned in the question by the honorable Member, it is hard to ascertain the level at which their prices have moved against the combined basket representing the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is used to measure inflation rate in the country. Having said that, it is important to mention here that the general inflation level in the country exhibited mixed response during the last couple of years, *i.e.* it decreased from 4.56% to 2.86% during the year 2015-16, then rose to 4.15% during 2016-17 and again demonstrated decreasing trend during the first five months of the current financial year.

■ The General and Core inflation rates as well as inflation for Food and Non-Food items for the years 2014-15 to 2017-18 are shown in the below table. Further details are provided in the annexure.

Period	Inflation Rates (%)	Food Inflation (%)	Non-Food Inflation (%)	Core* Inflation (%)
2014-15	4.56	3.52	5.31	6.58
2015-16	2.86	2.10	3.41	4.17
2016-17	4.15	3.82	4.38	5.18
2017-18 (Jul.-Nov.)	3.59	1.64	4.99	5.47

* Core Inflation excludes food items and energy products.

Annexure

Inflationary Trends - Year on Year [Base Year 2007-08]

Period: FY 2014-15 to FY 2017-18

Period	INFLATION [YoY] (%)			
	General	Food	Non food	Core*
2014-2015				
Jul-14	7.88	7.02	8.51	8.25
Aug-14	6.99	5.55	8.07	7.86
Sep-14	7.68	7.19	8.04	8.06
Oct-14	5.82	5.23	6.28	7.79
Nov-14	3.96	2.10	5.36	6.88
Dec-14	4.30	3.41	4.94	6.74
Jan-15	3.88	2.98	4.52	6.42
Feb-15	3.24	2.12	4.04	6.17
Mar-15	2.49	0.53	3.91	5.94
Apr-15	2.11	-0.03	3.66	5.40
May-15	3.16	3.01	3.26	4.86
Jun-15	3.16	3.16	3.16	4.61
2014-15	4.56	3.52	5.31	6.58

Period	INFLATION [YoY] (%)			
	General	Food	Non food	Core*
2016-2017				
Jul-16	4.12	4.71	3.70	4.54
Aug-16	3.56	3.39	3.69	4.64
Sep-16	3.86	3.99	3.80	4.81
Oct-16	4.21	4.37	4.09	5.15
Nov-16	3.81	3.34	4.15	5.29
Dec-16	3.70	3.03	4.16	5.21
Jan-17	3.66	2.64	4.37	5.40
Feb-17	4.22	3.67	4.59	5.32
Mar-17	4.94	5.05	4.87	5.27
Apr-17	4.78	4.37	5.06	5.51
May-17	5.02	4.94	5.08	5.53
Jun-17	3.93	2.37	5.04	5.53
2016-17	4.15	3.82	4.38	5.18

2015-2016				
Jul-15	1.87	0.60	2.81	4.14
Aug-15	1.79	0.36	2.83	4.05
Sep-15	1.32	-0.11	2.37	3.41
Oct-15	1.61	0.50	2.41	3.36
Nov-15	2.73	2.16	3.15	3.98
Dec-15	3.19	2.66	3.55	4.08
Jan-16	3.32	2.52	3.88	4.27
Feb-16	4.02	3.72	4.24	4.54
Mar-16	3.94	3.73	4.08	4.66
Apr-16	4.17	4.73	3.79	4.38
May-16	3.17	2.09	3.94	4.56
Jun-16	3.19	2.28	3.84	4.55
2015-16	2.86	2.10	3.41	4.17

2017-2018				
Jul-17	2.91	-0.09	5.07	5.63
Aug-17	3.41	1.25	4.96	5.53
Sep-17	3.86	2.41	4.89	5.40
Oct-17	3.80	2.22	4.93	5.35
Nov-17	3.97	2.39	5.09	5.46
2017-18 (Jul-Nov)	3.59	1.64	4.99	5.47

*Core Inflation excludes food items, energy products.

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan.

190. ***Ms. Mussarrat Ahmadzeb:**

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform be pleased to state:

- (a) *the impacts of income that will be generated from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects on the National Finance Commission Award distribution among provinces; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that China will acquire hundreds of acres of agricultural land in Pakistan under the CPEC; if so, the details thereof?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): (a) NFC Award is distributed according to set criteria. Any increase in income generated by CPEC projects will come into Federal Consolidated Fund for further distribution between Federation and Provinces. Therefore, the impact of income generated by CPEC projects will have positive impact on the income of provinces through NFC Award.

- (b) No such proposal is under consideration.

191. ***Ms. Asyia Naz Tanoli:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total number of religious organizations in the country at present;*
- (b) *the criteria adopted to declare an organization defunct amongst the said; and*
- (c) *the name of authority who declares such organizations defunct?*

Referred to the Cabinet Division for allocation of subject.

192. ***Ms. Shamas Un Nisa:**

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform be pleased to state:

- (a) *the location-wise total number of economic zones to be established under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC);*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that industrial parks and economic zones will be established in second phase of the CPEC projects; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (c) *whether it is also a fact that only Chinese will be allowed to establish said parks and zones; if so, the justifications thereof?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): (a) The following 09 sites have been identified by the provinces/regions for establishments of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC:

Province/ Region	SEZs
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)	Rashakai Economic Zone , M-1, Nowshera
Balochistan	Bostan Industrial Zone, District Pishin
Sindh	China Special Economic Zone – Dhabeji, District Thatta)
Punjab	Allama Iqbal Industrial City (M3), Faisalabad
Gilgit-Baltistan	Moqpondass SEZ, Gilgit
Federal Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT Model Industrial Zone, Islamabad • Development of Industrial Park on Pakistan Steel Mills Land at Port Qasim near Karachi
AJK	Special Economic Zone at Mirpur,AJK
FATA	Mohmand Marble City

(b) In the early harvest phase of CPEC, Government of Pakistan had focused on development of energy and modern transport infrastructure sectors; the key bottlenecks to Pakistan economy. With energy and infrastructure projects nearing completion, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has now entered into the phase of industrial development by setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) that would open new era of trade and industrialization in Pakistan.

(c) The SEZs under CPEC are open for all investors *i.e.* Local, Chinese and others.

193. ***Mr. Junaid Akbar:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) is running in loss since June, 2013; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the total number of appointments made in the ZTBL on ad-hoc basis during the said period alongwith the reasons thereof?*

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): (a) No. As per audited financial Statements/ accounts, ZTBL has earned before tax profits as mentioned below:-

- (i) June 2013, Rs. 2.8 billion.
- (ii) December 2014, Rs. 8.3 billion.
- (iii) December 2015, Rs. 8.4 billion.
- (iv) December 2016, Rs. 6.5 billion.

Annual Accounts for year 2017 are still in the process of audit by a Chartered Accountant Firm.

(b) During the years 2013 to 2016 no appointment on Adhoc basis was made in the ZTBL.

194. ***Ms. Belum Hasnain:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total number of tax/income tax defaulters during the last two years;*
- (b) *the total amount recovered/collected from the same;*
- (c) *the authority who keeps the record of said defaulters; and*
- (d) *the medium/mechanism through which the Parliamentarians can check the relevant details of these persons?*

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): (a) The number of tax defaulters where action has been taken by FBR and tax has been charged, during the last two years with tax-wise detail is as under:

Type of Tax	No of tax defaulters	
	2015-16	2016-17
Income Tax	39302	45559
Sales Tax	5822	8482
FED	49	15

(b)

Type of Tax	Amount recovered / collected (Rs. in Millions)	
	2015-16	2016-17
Income Tax	87,838.148	92,655.03
Sales Tax	22,790.57	17,435.28
FED	88.692	4.799

(c) Commissioner Inland Revenue, IP Division of each Field Unit is custodian/ keeper of the record.

(d) Sub-section (2) of Section 216 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, an over-riding section places a bar on disclosure of information pertaining to the record of taxpayers to any person except to the authorities mentioned in sub-section (3) of Section 216 for the specified purposes only. All particulars contained in any record of any assessment proceedings or any proceedings relating to the recovery of a demand are confidential. Copy of Section 216 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 is **annexed** for detailed reading. In view of above, there is no prescribed procedure thereof.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

195. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a foreigner was appointed as the Head of the Pakistan Stock Exchange; if so, the justification thereof; and*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that said Head has been removed therefrom under pressure of a foreign country?*

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): (a) Mr. Richard Morin, a Canadian National has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX) by its board after going through requisite appointment process.

The appointment of Mr. Morin as CEO of PSX has been finalized after a very thorough and rigorous process for selection of the most suitable candidate for this key position in an institution of national significance.

The process included advertisement for the position, review and short-listing of applications received from both local and foreign candidates. Then interviews of the short listed candidates were conducted by PSX and representatives of the Chinese exchanges as the Anchor investors forming part of the Consortium.

(b) No. Appointment of Mr. Richard Morin as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX) has not been made under pressure of any foreign country.

196. ***Dr. Fouzia Hameed:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to address the issues of discrimination relating to perks and privileges admissible to the employees of various departments of the Government presently working in same pay scales; and*
- (b) *whether there is also any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide equal facilities and privileges to the said employees?*

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): (a) The perks and privileges have been allowed to facilitate/ compensate the Government employees keeping in view nature of their job/ burden of work/ sensitivity of work etc. which varies in different departments, therefore. difference in perks and privileges up to some extent are justified.

However, if the difference in pay allowances, perks and privileges are realized to be discriminative, then, a Pay and Pension Commission/ Committee is constituted to examine/ study the issue and recommend steps to improve the overall level of pay, allowances, pension, perks and privileges. Last Pay and Pension Commission was constituted in 2009. The Commission submitted its recommendations to Govt. in March 2010. Present Government has revised the pay scales 3 times and allowances of all Federal Government employees which has raised the purchasing power of Government servants

(b) As Above.

197. ***Sheikh Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) *the year-wise loans gained from domestic and international sources during the last five years till date alongwith the purposes thereof; and*

(b) *whether these loans were utilized for their actual purposes?*

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): (a) The net domestic debt obtained since 2012-13 till end November 2017 are as follows:

Fiscal Years	Increase In Net Domestic Debt Stock
	(Rs. In billion)
2012-13	1,855
2013-14	865
2014-15	1,254
2015-16	969
2016-17	1,308
Jul-Nov., 2017	738

The external loans taken, repayments made and net external loans obtained since 2012-13 till end November 2017 are as follow:

Fiscal Years	Loans taken	Repayments	Net Borrowing
	(US\$ In million)		
2012-13	2,529	4,763	(2,233)
2013-14	7,945	5,186	2,758
2014-15	7,439	3,459	3,979
2015-16	8,679	3,204	5,476
2016-17	10,455	5,123	6,332
Jul.-Nov., 2017	2,760	1,809	951

Domestic debt is primarily obtained for budgetary Support that includes infrastructure and development needs of the country. External borrowing is necessitated to retire debt, finance essential imports, build external buffers and shore up external reserves to maintain external account sustainability in a global context. The main objective of the external borrowing is to supplement the domestic resources required to accelerate the pace of economic development and also make positive contribution towards developing the country's infrastructure base.

(b) The amount raised through domestic and foreign loans are utilized as per requirements of the government for meeting current and development expenditure. Therefore, these loans were utilized as per the envisaged purposes.

198. ***Mr. Abdul Qahar Khan Wadan:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state the steps taken to control the smuggling from Afghanistan since June, 2013?

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): The steps taken are as under:—

1. Readjustment of posts: to effectively guard all the routes.
2. Enforcement of Roving Checking Mechanism along all the inter/ intra-Agency routes.
3. Execution of Organized intelligence Based Anti Smuggling Operations.
4. Enhance patrolling between the posts,
5. Surprise / Roving nakkas on frequented / un-frequented routes to strictly check cross border movement by unwanted elements / stop smuggling.
6. Further efforts are also in hand to block smuggling routes through additional deployment of troops and fencing along Pak-Afghan border.
7. Zero Tolerance on border posts through strict checking.
8. Establishment of temporary posts in rear areas.

199. ***Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government during the last four years for the protection of journalists; and*
- (b) the total number of journalists killed/injured in the country during the said period?*

Reply not received.

200. ***Ms. Saman Sultana Jaffri:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state the total number of sectarian/faith related incidents against whom responsibility claimed by banned organizations since June, 2013?

Reply not received.

201. ***Sahibzada Tariq Ullah:**

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of countries which support Pakistan in respect of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor; and*
- (b) the efforts made in this regard?*

Transferred to Foreign Affairs Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

202. ***Mrs. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister for Narcotics Control be pleased to state the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control the growing use of drugs in the educational institutes of the country?

Minister for Narcotics Control [Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Salahuddin Tirmizi]: (a) Number of steps have been taken by Anti Narcotics Force (ANF)

in order to control drugs in the educational institutions of the country. Details are attached at **Annex-A**.

(b) Awareness activities carried out by the Ministry of Narcotics Control (MNC) against drug abuse at **Annex-B**.

(c) Number of drug demand reduction activities has also been carried by the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) for which details are attached at **Annex-C**.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

203. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the International standard of export to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio prevalent in the world at present; and

(b) the year-wise Pakistan's export to GDP ratio during the last five years?

Transferred to Commerce Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

204. ***Ms. Musarat Rafique Mahesar:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state the names of countries to whom Pakistan permits visa free entry and vice versa at present?

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): At present Pakistan has Visa Abolition Agreements with 46 countries. Details are given at **Annex-I**.

Annex-I**LIST OF COUNTRIES WITH WHOM PAKISAN HAS VISA
ABOLITION AGREEMENTS****(Diplomatic Passport holders)**

S.No.	NAME OF COUNTRY	PERIOD FOR WHICH VISA IS NOT REQUIRED	REMARKS
1	Belgium	Three months	Diplomatic Passport Holders
2	Brazil	Three months	-do-
3	Egypt	One month	-do-
4	Germany	Three months	-do-
5	Hellenic Republic (Greece)	Three months	-do-
6	Luxemburg	Three months	-do-
7	Netherlands	Three months	-do-
8	Philippine	Three Months	-do-
9	Tajikistan	Three months	-do-
10	Thailand	One month	-do-
(Diplomatic and Official Passport holders)			
1	Algeria	Three Months	Diplomatic & Official Passport Holders
2	Argentina	Three Months	-do-
3	Austria	Three Months	-do-
4	Azerbaijan	One Month	-do-
5	Bahrain	Three Months	Diplomatic & Special Passports (For Bahrain only) Diplomatic & Official Passports (For Pakistan only)
6	Brunei Dar-us-Salam	14 days	Diplomatic & Official Passport Holders
7	China	One Month	-do-
	Hong Kong	14 days	-do-
8	Czech	Three Months	-do-
9	Denmark	Three Months	-do-
10	Finland	Three Months	-do-
11	Indonesia	One month	-do-
12	Iran	Three Months	-do-
13	Jordan	Three Months	-do-
14	Kazakhstan	One Month	-do-
15	Kyrgyz Republic	One Month	-do-
16	Kuwait	Three Months	-do-
17	Lao PDR	Three Months	-do-
18	Libya	One Month	-do-
19	Malta	Thirty Days	-do-
20	Mexico	Three Months	-do-
21	Morocco	Three Months	-do-
22	Norway	Three Months	-do-
23	Romania	One Month	-do-
24	Russian Federation	Three Months	-do-
25	Serbia	One Month	-do-
26	South Korea	Three Months	-do-
27	Sri Lanka	One month	-do-
28	Tunisia	Three Months	-do-
29	Turkey	Three Months	-do-
30	Vietnam	Three Months	-do-
31	Yemen	Three Months	-do-
(All Nationals)			
1	Maldives	Three months	All nationals of the country
2	Nepal	One month	-do-
3	Tonga	Un-specified period	-do-
4	Trinidad & Tobago	Un-specified period	-do-
5	Western Samoa	One month	-do-
Total			46 countries

205. ***Ms. Sabiha Nazir:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to eliminate complete child labour from workshops, small road side hotels and houses in Islamabad?

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal):

- The ICT Administration is codifying following four new labour laws with the help of I.L.O, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development and Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan:—
 1. “Employment and Services Condition Act”
 2. “Occupational Safety & Health Act”
 3. “Trade Union Registration & Industrial Relations Act”
 4. “Workers Social Security, Welfare & Compensation Act”.
- Draft of two laws *i.e.* (i) Employment & Services Conditions Act and (ii) Occupational safety & Health Act have been approved in the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development and same are under consideration with Ministry of Interior for onwards submission to the National Assembly for legislation.
- A separate court has also been constituted in ICT Administration for Speedy trial of labour challan.
- A Vigilance Committee is working under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner, ICT, Islamabad to protect the child labour on brick kilns.
- Four teams, *i.e.* One Labour Officer and Three Labour Inspectors of Labour Welfare Department, ICT, Islamabad are constituted for inspection under various labour laws including child labour. They regularly visit their respective areas and prompt action is taken against the violators.

- The existing law does not cover the domestic worker. Therefore, ICT Administration cannot inspect the children working in the houses. However, four separate bills have been placed before the Parliament on Child Protection & Domestic Workers.

206. ***Ms. Aliya Kamran:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that there are a number of cafes and sheesha centres in Islamabad which are providing sheesha to the youth;*
- whether it is also a fact that said cafes and sheesha centres are being run with the blessing of concerned SHOs;*
- the total number of sheesha centres on which raids have been carried out during the last three months alongwith the details of fine imposed and actions taken against them separately; and*
- whether there is any proposal under consideration to issue instructions for cancellation of allotment of such cafes and sheesha centres?*

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): (a) It is submitted that as per reports of all Police Stations of Islamabad, at present no Sheesha Huqqa Cafes/Centres is working within the Federal Capital Islamabad. Hence the report may be treated as Nil.

Sheesha was being served at some Cafe's of Islamabad but after receipt of complaints from general public raids were conducted by the concerned Assistant Commissioner, and Police and at the moment Sheesha is not being served in any cafe of Islamabad.

(b) N/A

(c) Enforcement Teams conducted raid at 14 Sheesha (Huqqa) Bars in different Sub Division of ICT during the last three months and fine amounting to Rs.2,17000/- was imposed on violators. Six (6) cases are under trial, detail is attached as Annex-A.

Further enforcement teams conducted raids against Sheesha (Huqqa) Bars / violators of tobacco control laws and fined as part of efforts to control indoor and underage smoking. In years 2015 — 17, these teams collectively imposed fine amounts to Rs. 2,914,000/- on violators.

Many Sheesha (Huqqa) Bars closed their business after successful enforcement of ICT Administration.

(d) CDA related question.

207. ***Sahibzada Tariq Ullah:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state whether it is a fact that substandard food is being served in some hotels in Islamabad; if so, the actions taken by the concerned department against such hotels since June, 2013?

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): Some hotels in ICT were found involved in selling of substandard food items alongwith unhygienic kitchen/ premises the ICT. However the Inspection of substandard Food in hotels of Islamabad is carried out by the inspection teams of ICT under Pure Food Ordinance 1960. The ICT Administration continued inspections of hotels/ Food outlets through checking teams consisting of officials/ officers of Health Department, Food Department and Live stock Department ICT under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners in their area of jurisdiction. The detail of inspection carried out by the above said Inspection Teams and action taken in this regard, since 2013 to December, 2017 is as under:—

(i) No. of inspection of hotels /restaurants	4725
(ii) Sample taken	288
(iii) Challan submitted in the Courts	780
(iv) Unhygienic/filthy utensil Confiscated/destroyed	4950
(v) Hotels completely sealed due to unhygienic food	160
(vi) FIR Lodged against hotels	58

(vii) Persons arrested and sent to judicial lock up	07
(viii) Fine imposed by the Courts and Food Department Islamabad.	Rs. 82,34,000/-

208. ***Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Zonal Inspection and Accounts Office (ZIAO) has not been established by the National Savings in Balochistan so far;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that ZIAO, Karachi is looking after the affairs of said province; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (c) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to establish a ZIAO in the said province; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): (a) The Audit and Inspection work of National Savings Centres situated in Baluchistan province is being monitored by ZIAO, National Savings, Karachi with the assistance of Sub-ZIAO, National Savings, Quetta.

(b) Zonal Inspection and Accounts Office, Karachi is looking after the affairs of Baluchistan Province. It is added that there are twelve (12) Regional Directorates of National Savings throughout Pakistan. Regional Directorate of Quetta is the only Region in Baluchistan which covers only fifteen (15) National Savings Centres (NSCs) situated in the province. The audit and inspection responsibility of these twelve (12) Regions has been assigned to seven (07) Zonal Inspection and Accounts Offices. Except ZIAO Islamabad and ZIAO, Lahore, the other 05 ZIAOs have to monitor / look after the affairs of two Regional Directorates each.

(c) At present there is no proposal under consideration to establish a ZIAO in the said province as there are only 15 NSCs in the Region / province and these 15 NSCs can be managed by the Sub-ZIAO, Quetta which is under the

control of ZIAO, Karachi. In case of any expansion in the net work of NSCs in the province, the establishment of an independent ZIAO in the province would be considered.

209. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

(a) *the number of employees working in Islamabad Police at present; and*

(b) *whether said employees are according to the needs?*

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): (a) At present, there are 10737 officers/officials are working in Islamabad Police.

(b) All divisions/units of Islamabad Capital Territory Police in general and the following in particular are facing an acute shortage of manpower either due to deaths/retirements etc of officers / officials or due to establishment of following new Units / Police Stations in ICT without creation / sanction of required strength:-

- Safe City Islamabad Project
 - Parliament House/Lodges
 - Islamabad High Court, Islamabad
 - Federal Judicial Complex
 - Federal Judicial Academy
 - Police Stations Golra, Lohi Bher, Khanna, Karachi Company, Noon, Shams Colony, Ramna, Shahzad Town, Koral, Nilore
 - Prosecution Branch
- The concerned quarters have been approached for creation of new posts for various Police Stations/Units of ICT Police to overcome the shortage of strength.

- Moreover, 03 cases alongwith draft advertisements for filling up vacant posts of ICT Police (**meant for direct recruitment quota**) have already been taken up and are under process.

Furthermore, Anti-Riot Force (ARF) comprising of 2388 officers/officials is being raised in ICT Police. The case for sanction of 1253 posts in 1st Phase during CFY 2017-18 and 1135 in 2nd Phase during CFY 2018-19 is under process.

210. ***Ms. Shamas Un Nisa:**

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that unemployment is increasing in the country; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the steps taken by the Government to create employment opportunities for youth since June, 2013?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal):

(a) No, it's not true that -unemployment is increasing in the country. In fact employment situation in the country has improved under the present government. Unemployment rate of 6.24% in 2012-13 has decreased to 5.94% in 2014-15 as per the latest Labour Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). No LFS has been conducted by PBS in 2015-16 and 2016-17 due to PBS's engagement in National Population Census. Apparently unemployment depicts a declining trend, as GDP is gradually increasing and there is zero electricity load shedding for industries since 2013.

(b) Steps being taken by the Government to control unemployment and to create employment opportunities for youth since June, 2013 are as follows:

Direct measures to promote employment

- Prime Minister's Youth. Business Loan Scheme
- Interest Free Loan Scheme

- Overseas employment facilities for technical/ skilled and unskilled youth labour force
- Employment generation in CPEC Proects
- Macro-economic stability and larger Public _ Sector Development Program (PSDP) for employment generation

Imparting technical/vocational training in employable skills

- Prime Minister’s Youth Training Scheme (NIP)
- Prime Minister’s Hunermend Pakistan Program
- Prime Minister’s Youth Skill Development Program (Phase-I, II, III)
- Skills - Development through National Training Bureau (NTB).
- National Incubation Centre (NIC) through Public Private Partnership.

211. ***Mr. Junaid Akbar:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether the presence of concrete blocks at police check-points is the evidence of failure of the Government to overcome the issue of terrorism in Islamabad; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the time by which all the concrete blocks will be removed therefrom?*

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): (a) It is incorrect, jersey barriers/concrete blocks were placed at various Police check points within Islamabad due to following reasons:—

- To provide security & protection to the lives and property of citizens.
- To ensure the safety of key installations.

- For security and protection of the foreign diplomats residing in various sectors as well as Diplomatic Enclave.
- To ensure security of lives and property of officers/officials of Law Enforcing Agencies including their officers.
- To restrict / minimize free access of criminals to important places.
- To check suspicious individuals and vehicles to prevent act of terrorism

Due to this strategy terrorism was significantly minimized as during the current and previous year no terrorist incident took place within ICT.

(b) These jersey barriers / concrete blocks will be removed as soon as the law and order situation become more normalized within Federal Capital Islamabad.

212. ***Ms. Shakila Luqman:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to ply new air conditioned busses in Islamabad as public transport; if so, the time by which it will be implemented?

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): ICT Administration exercises regulatory and supervisory role on public transport in Islamabad. Government is examining proposals for plying air conditioned buses in ICT for public after completion of feasibility studies, final decisions will be made.

213. ***Ms. Aasiya Nasir:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether the registration process of the National Database and Registration Authority is complicated for Minorities; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the measures being taken by the Government to address this issue?*

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): (a) No discrimination is made in registration and issuance of CNICs to any Pakistani national on the basis of religion, Sect. caste and ethnicity.

(b) Nil

214. ***Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqub:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state the details of the aid received from the United States of America since June, 2013?

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): The USA has provided US\$ **495.41** million grant assistance (not loan) since June, 2013 through United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement-Pakistan (INL-P). Supplementary details are at **Annex-A**

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library).

215. ***Dr. Shazia Sobia:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiatives/steps taken by the Government to impose ban on issuance of licenses of automatic weapons in the country; and*
- (b) the objectives which prompted the Government for such initiatives?*

Minister for Interior (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal): (a)

1. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 5-12-2017 has suspended all the arms licenses of automatic weapons within prohibited category, directing such licensees to
 - i. Get their Prohibited (Automatic) weapons converted into Non-Prohibited/semi-automatic weapons from licensed arms dealers/armourers before 31-01-2018 and get new licenses in lieu of suspended Prohibited (Automatic) weapon licenses or

deposit the said weapon back to Government at the rate of Rs. 50,000/- for Prohibited/Automatic rifle and Rs. 20,000/- for automatic hand-gun/pistol.

- ii. The ban on issuance of Non-Prohibited Bore Arms Licenses has also been lifted.
2. In pursuance of the above Cabinet decision, Ministry of Interior has taken the following steps:
- i. Issued a notification dated 26-12-2017 conveying the Cabinet decisions.
 - ii. To make public aware, advertisements in the press is given on every Sunday.
 - iii. All the Chief Secretaries/Home Secretaries of provinces/ AJK/G.B/FATA have also been requested to direct the DC/ DM/DPO/PA to ensure compliance of the Cabinet decision.
 - iv. Finance Division has been requested to allocate necessary funds.

(b) Prime Minister in his very first speech on the floor of National Assembly announced:

“There is not a single country in the world which allows the licencing of automatic rifles for citizens. If you go outside parliament right now, you will see a private militia, he further added “action will be taken against them if my cabinet allows for it. The Federal government will seize all automatic weapons, compensating people in return”.

In the light of PM’s vision and Cabinet decision, Ministry of Interior has suspended all the arms licenses of automatic weapon within prohibited category for further cancellation as per above mentioned procedure.

216. ***Ms. Aisha Syed:**

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of development projects launched under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Balochistan; and*
- (b) *the benefits to be achieved by the local population therefrom?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal):

(a) List of the CPEC projects in Balochistan is at Annex-I.

(b) CPEC is a project of inclusive development in Pakistan. It will open new avenues of opportunities for the people of Balochistan in general, and Gwadar, in particular. This development project would subsequently contribute to the development of the whole province and address various economic and social problems of Balochistan.

Gwadar port will become gateway port for Pakistan and the region and a world-class maritime hub. Development of Gwadar Port under CPEC will stimulate economic growth of Pakistan, particularly Balochistan utilizing the available resources of the country and also providing an outlet for land locked Central Asian Countries, western China and other countries of the region through transit trade and offering transshipment facilities.

The development of both Gwadar City and Port will provide important contributions to the socio-economic development of Gwadar district and the province of Balochistan. The projects in Gwadar would boost business and employment opportunities for thousands of local youth besides ensuring modern education and health facilities.

The construction of the western route of CPEC will give a boost to economic activities in far flung areas of Balochistan. Thus would help in emergence of new urban and economic centers. The linking up would help in opening new markets and trade opportunities besides reducing travel time.

The industrial zone in Bostan would enable to attract investment in mineral and agriculture sectors, boosting the overall economic status of the province. SEZ would help in creation of thousands of jobs for local population.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library).

217. ***Ms. Sajida Begum:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether rupees 60 millions are being provided by the World Bank to Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation for Pir Wadhai General Bus Stand;*
- (b) *if so, the terms and conditions thereof?*

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): (a) World Bank is not providing any funding for the Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation for Pir Wadhai General Bus Stand.

(b) NA.

218. ***Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir:**

Will the Minister for Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is being privatized; if so, the time by which it will be privatized; and*
- (b) *the steps to be taken by the Government to make it transparent?*

Minister for Privatization (Mr. Daniyal Aziz): (a) PIAC has been incurring financial losses since 2005, resulting in accumulated losses of ~ Rs.328 billions (un-audited), as on March 31, 2017. And to ensure that it continues to operate and sustain as a viable business entity in the long-term, PIAC has been highly dependent on Government of Pakistan (GoP) for provision of financial support in various forms, including government guarantees and bailout packages. PIAC has been focusing on developing a long-term business plan with the objective to turn around the airline by curtailing losses and bringing in operational efficiencies, however, no plan has yet been approved by the Cabinet due to observations/short comings.

In this regard, pursuant to decision of the Cabinet Committee on

Privatisation (CCoP), dated October 03, 2013, Privatisation Commission (PC) appointed consortium of M/s Dubai Islamic Bank, IATA Consulting, Deloitte, HaidermotaBNR, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Abacus Consulting, APCO, and Prestige for the restructuring of PIAC leading to strategic private sector investment.

The Financial Advisory Consortium (FAC) conducted the Due Diligence of PIAC, and recommended conversion of PIAC, a statutory corporation functioning under PIAC Act 1956, into a public limited company, registered under the then Companies Ordinance, 1984.

After the due legislative process (Dec 2015 - Apr 2016), the Joint Session of the Parliament unanimously passed the PIAC (Conversion) Act, 2016, whereby the PIAC stands converted into a public limited company, namely Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited

(PIACL). It may be appreciated that Clause 4 (Powers to pass orders for the transfer of assets), Clause 5 (Guarantees to remain in force), Clause 6 (Waiver from taxes, duties, fee etc.), Clause 8 (No gain or loss) and Clause 10 (Removal of transitional difficulties) were made part of the PIAC (Conversion) Act to facilitate the conversion of PIAC into a public limited company and the envisaged segregation of core and non-core business segments of PIACL during stipulated time period of two (02) years, defined as 'Validity Period'. The said Validity Period will expire in April 2018. It may also be appreciated that pursuant to sub-section 5 of Section 4 of the Act, valuation of assets of PIACL, and its subsidiaries carrying on air transport business, is to be undertaken prior to transfer of any shares to third party. However, one of the provisions of the approved Act restricts the Federal Government from transferring management control of airline business of PIACL and retaining at least 51% shares in the entity.

Subsequently, the CCoP, on July 14, 2016, directed PC to continue to proceed and finalize the segregation of core and non-core business segments of PIACL, in consultation with, and assistance of, the Aviation Division and PIACL. Accordingly, a Restructuring and Implementation Plan, outlining segregation of core and non-core businesses of PIACL and corresponding corporate and financial restructuring, was drafted and is under consideration.

(b) To ensure transparency, the PIACL Transaction, like other entities included in privatisation program, is supervised by the Cabinet Committee on

Privatisation (CCoP) and the Privatisation Commission Board, alongwith assistance/cooperation from Aviation Division, Finance Division, Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Civil Aviation Authority and PIACL. Furthermore, following forums are also taken on board at various stages, during the process:

1. *National Accountability Bureau (NAB)*
2. *Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA)*
3. *State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)*
4. *Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP)*
5. *Media (at bidding stage)*

219. ***Ms. Saman Sultana Jaffri:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that a number of companies working in public interest are not being given female representation in their Boards of Directors as prescribed by the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP);*
- (b) *if the answer to part (a) above is in the affirmative, whether the SECP has taken notice thereon; if so, the details thereof; if not, the steps being taken in this regard?*

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan): (a) The SECP has notified “The Listed Companies (Code of Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2017” which are effective from January 01, 2018. The said Regulations require all listed companies to have one female director on the board when the board is next reconstituted or within the next one year from the effective date of these Regulations, whichever is later.

The SECP has further drafted the Directors (Powers and Duties) Regulations, 2018 which are at draft stage and likely to be finalized shortly, in the above draft regulations, it has been suggested that the directors of a public interest company shall have at least one female director on its board in terms of section 154 of the Act.

(b) As the requirement for female representation under the Regulations for public listed companies is period marked till at least one year after effective date which falls in January 2019, therefore listed companies will be asked to provide the implementation status after the specified timeframe.

ISLAMABAD:
The 24th January, 2018

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Thursday, the 25th January, 2018

34. **Mr. Ramesh Lal:**

(Deferred during 29th Session)

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state the names and father names of those persons to whom licences of bear and wine have been issued since 01-01-2013 alongwith the details thereof?

Reply not received.

41. **Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

(Deferred during 39th Session)

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some seminaries/ madrassas in the country are receiving financial and other support like training of clerics, teachers and curriculum development from some foreign Islamic countries, if so, the details thereof?

Reply not received.

44. **Mr. Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi:**

(Deferred during 40th Session)

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that excessive encroachments have been made on Rawat Bazar and adjacent road leading to Kallar Syedan, Rawat which comes under the administrative control of the Capital Administration;*

- (b) *if so, the steps are being taken by authorities concerned to remove said encroachments?*

Reply not received.

48. **Dr. Fehmida Mirza:**
(Deferred during 40th Session)

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- (a) *the steps taken by the Interior Division to prepare subject-wise list of titles of all Laws and Rules made thereunder with reference to business allocated to the said 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, the 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.

37. **Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**
(Deferred during 45th Session)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistanis have to face difficulties as a result of un-necessary delay by the staff posted at*

Pakistan Iran Border at Taftan resultantly remained stranded for several days in Iran; if so, whether the Government intends to impart further trainings to concerned staff thereof; and

- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government of Pakistan to address the difficulties of Pakistanis being faced on their way back from Iran?*

Reply not received.

57. **Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total number of officers of BPS-20 of the Government and Constitution Bodies who have been drawing salary from the Accountant General of Pakistan Revenue (AGPR), Islamabad since November, 2017 alongwith the details thereof separately;*
- (b) *the date-wise notifications of promotion of said officers received by the AGPR;*
- (c) *the date-wise pay slips issued to said officers by the AGPR;*
- (d) *the details of officers out of them to whom pay slips have not been issued by the AGPR separately so far alongwith the responsables thereof;*
- (e) *whether any action has been taken against responsible; if not, the reasons thereof;*
- (f) *the steps taken to avoid delay in such cases in future; and*
- (g) *the prescribed formula for issuing pay slip to an officer of BPS-20 at present?*

Reply not received.

58. **Ms. Nighat Parveen Mir:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Islamabad Police releases persons arrested from Sheesha Centres after imposing fine;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the released persons has opened Sheesha Centres again;*
- (c) if the answers to the part (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, the reasons for not taking legal action against the said persons;*
- (d) the steps being taken for permanent closure of the Cafes and Sheesha Centres in Islamabad which started providing Sheesha again after imposition of fine; and*
- (e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to make new legislation in this regard; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Reply not received.

59. **Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state:

- (a) the location-wise total number of defective tube wells in Islamabad at present;*
- (b) the time by which these will be repaired;*
- (c) the total expenditures to be incurred thereon alongwith the details thereof;*
- (d) whether these tube wells have become defective before completion of its tenure; if so, the action taken against the contractors of those tube-wells which got out of order before the stipulated period; and*

- (e) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to recover the amount of defective tube wells from the concerned contractor; if so, when it will be implemented; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Reply not received.

60. **Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan:**

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.61 replied on 08-12-2017 and to state:

- (a) *the total number of meetings held for launching E-Ticketing system/E-Challan system in the Islamabad Capital Territory alongwith the details thereof separately;*
- (b) *the names of officers who attended these meetings alongwith the details thereof; and*
- (c) *the stage of the process at present alongwith the details thereof?*

Reply not received.

ISLAMABAD:
The 24th January, 2018.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.