

- (b) *the causes of decline in the export of the country at present;*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that Pakistan lacks in product and market diversification due to which Pakistan accesses low end markets and fetches low prices for its products;*
- (d) *if so, the roadmap of the Government to address structural weaknesses of the export sector and to synchronize the export products to market diversification?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) Following are few structural weaknesses of export sector of Pakistan:—

- i. High cost of doing business;
- ii. High tariffs on the imported raw materials;
- iii. Lack of market diversification;
- iv. Lack of product diversification;and
- v. Low Productivity

(b) The exports of the country are increasing at present.

- i. In FY 2018, the exports registered positive growth of 13.7% from USD 20.4 billion to USD 23.2 billion.
- ii. In the current financial year (July-September 2018-19), the exports have registered positive growth of 4.56% from USD 5.16 billion to USD 5.36 billion.

(c) Yes, it is a fact that Pakistan lacks in product and market diversification as a result of which it accesses low-end markets and fetches low prices for its products.

- i. The traditional export products comprises more than 70% share of the total exports. In FY 2018, textile group exports share has been 58.3%, whereas Food group share is 20.7%.
- ii. Pakistan's export destinations are mainly five export countries or regions. In the FY 2018, the share of Pakistan exports to USA,

China, Afghanistan and United Kingdom has been 16%, 8%, 7% and 6%, respectively. The share of European Union has been is the 27.3% in FY 2018 in total exports.

- iii. It is fact that Pakistan is fetching lower prices, however, the reason for the lower prices are:
- Lack of value addition
 - Low diversification
 - Uncompetitive production methods
 - Inadequate of branding and certifications

(d) Initiatives:

To overcome the above mentioned challenges, following initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Commerce to address structural weaknesses of the export sector and to synchronize the export products for market and product diversifications:

- i. The tariff on gas to the industry in Punjab has been equalized with the rest of provinces, *i.e.* Rs. 1400 per unit to Rs. 600 per unit. The measure will revive the industries that were closed due to high cost of production.
- ii. Regulatory duties on 46 tariff lines of cotton yarn have been reduced from 10% to 5% for the value added textile sector.
- iii. The customs duty on 185 items have been reduced on items useable as raw materials / inputs for enhancing exports in FY 2018.
- iv. The Export Enhancement Package of PKR 180 billion was made available for exporting business community for 18 months for the period from 16th January, 2017 to 30th June, 2018 with the following allocation for the first year of the scheme:
 - An amount of PKR 107.5 billion has been allocated to textiles sector (PKR 87.5 billion for Draw Backs and PKR 20 billion for withdrawal of duties/taxes on import of cotton and machinery)

- An amount of PKR 12.5 billion is the annual allocation for draw backs on export of non-textiles (other value added sectors).
- v. In order to provide long term policy to support and encourage non-traditional exports of the country, the Export Enhancement Package has been extended *vide* SRO 711 (I)/2018 dated 8-6-2018 for the period of three years, *i.e.* from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2021. Under this package, new export sectors such as Transport equipment, Auto-parts & accessories, Machinery incl. electrical machinery, Furniture, Stationery, Fruits & Vegetables, Meat and meat preparation including poultry were included. The Package is operating under the similar conditions of previous Export Package. The support through drawback of local taxes and levies will promote product diversification and enhance competitiveness of the exports.
 - vi. Commerce Division has revitalized Pakistan Horticulture Export Development Company to enhance exports of horticulture sector.
 - vii. To improve Trade Development Authority of Pakistan's participation in the international exhibitions and delegations, the quality of Pakistan's pavilions has been improved.
 - viii. Emerging Pakistan campaign has been launched to promote Pakistan's exports as a brand and portray positive image of Pakistan in the international market.
 - ix. To further enhanced the market access, the Government has taken following initiatives:
 - Look Africa Policy initiative to promote exports to non-traditional markets in the African Region.
 - 02% draw back on exports of eligible products to non-traditional market.
 - FTA negotiations are underway with Thailand and Turkey.
 - Pak-China FTA Phase—II negotiations are in progress, wherein, preferable market access is being sought for Pakistan

- Under Pak-Indonesia PTA, Indonesia has agreed to allow import of Kinnow and mangoes from Pakistan. They have further agreed to reduce duty to zero on two textile products included in existing PTA and are considering granting unilateral market access on 20 items of Pakistan's export interest.

Roadmap:

The following medium to long term policy measures for the structural reform of the export sector will be introduced in the current financial year:

- i. **Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2018-23:** Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2018-23 will cover the policy interventions aimed at creating competitiveness, tariff reform, investment in export-oriented production, integration into global value chains, enhanced market access, institutional strengthening and improvement in export eco system etc.
- ii. **Trade Related Investment Policy Framework:** To channelize investment into export-oriented production and competitive import substitution. The five-year policy will identify the priority sectors with a comprehensive package of incentives for investment in the export oriented sectors.
- iii. **National Tariff Policy:** Ministry of Commerce is finalizing National Tariff Policy, which make the tariff structure to reflect trade policy priorities, improving competitiveness through duty-free access to imported raw materials and encouraging value addition through the principle of cascading of tariffs and removing anomalies in the tariff structure. The policy will aim to encourage value added exports of the country.

90. ***Ms.Shahida Rehmani:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to attain success and positive results in the sports including Cricket, Hockey, Football and Squash?

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):

In pursuance of Sports (Development & Control) Ordinance, 1962, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) have been established as autonomous bodies. The Cricket is sole responsibility of PCB; however, other games are being looked after by the PSB.

The Federal Government through Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) is providing financial assistance to the affiliated National Sports Federations in the shape of annual grants for holding the national championships and to meet their day-to-day requirements. The special grant for participation in international competitions at home and abroad.

Recently, the Prime Minister of Pakistan has constituted a Task Force under Mr. Ehsan Mani, Chairman, PCB for recommendations to uplift Cricket and other Sports. The sports is a devolved subject however Government of Pakistan with consultation of provincial ministers is formulating a sports policy to uplift the games.

The Government of Pakistan does not extend any financial assistance to PCB, however, as per their constitution, the Government issue policy directives from time to time and intervene for betterment of the games.

91. ***Syed Javed Husnain:**

(Transferred from 3rd Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons of negotiations dead lock between India and Pakistan for the resolution of conflicts; and*
- (b) the issues between Pakistan and India which are subjudice in International Courts and Institutions alongwith their present status?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) In line with Quaid's vision of a peaceful neighborhood, Pakistan wishes to have good relations with all its neighbors, including India. In his maiden speech, the Prime Minister Khan underscored his intentions of taking two steps towards peace if India takes one. Responding to PM Modi's letter in which he had underlined the need for 'constructive engagement' the

PM emphasized Pakistan's desire for peaceful relations with all countries including India and proposed a way forward to resume the dialogue process.

Regrettably, India cancelled the meeting of the two Foreign Ministers to be held in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, less than 24 hours after agreeing to it on baseless pretexts i.e the issuance of stamps and killing of a Border Security Force soldier on the Working Boundary. Firstly, the alleged killing of BSF soldier took place two days prior to the Indian announcement of its agreement to hold the bilateral meeting. Pakistan offered joint search and investigation into the matter, which was declined by India. Secondly, the postage stamps mentioned in the Indian statement were issued in July 2018. In line with Pakistan's consistent public policy the stamps highlight the gross and systematic human rights violations in IoK which have also been extensively documented in a comprehensive report issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as late as June 2018.

Indian cancellation of the meeting on baseless grounds has wasted yet another opportunity for both countries to resolve their outstanding issues and for the region to embark on a path of peace and development.

(b) The case of Commander Jadhav is subjudice in the ICJ. The legal strategy is led by the Attorney General. Commander Kulbushan Jhadev alias Hussain Mubarak Patel, serving officer of the Indian Navy, working with Indian Intelligence Agency/ RAW was apprehended on March 3, 2016 from Balochistan. He was sentenced to death by the Field General Court Martial on charges of espionage. Subsequently India took the case of not being given consular access to Commander Jadhav to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The court, after the Oral Hearing, granted provisional measures halting the execution of Commander Jhadev pending a final judgment of the Court. Two rounds of written submissions have been held. Both sides have submitted rejoinders and counter rejoinders in the ICJ. The formal hearing is scheduled for 18 February 2019.

92. ***Ms.Shagufta Jumani:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to highlight Kashmir issue on International Forums?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): Pakistan highlights the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at every available international forum.

In his speech at the UN General Assembly, the Foreign Minister especially focused on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, highlighting Indian atrocities in IoK and stressing the importance of a solution to the problem for durable peace in South Asia.

Pakistan is aggressively highlighting the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Jammu and Kashmir and is calling for early institution of a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) under UN auspices to investigate and fix responsibility. This is in line with our earlier calls for an independent Fact-Finding mission to look into the human rights violations in IoK at all forums, including the UNSG. We will welcome the Commission to Azad Jammu & Kashmir and to put pressure on India to do the same.

Pakistan also raises the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at the OIC forum on every available opportunity. The OIC supports the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination, as enshrined in the UN Security Council Resolutions. Most recently the meeting of the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was held on the sidelines of the 73rd UNGA session in New York on 26th September 2018. The Contact Group reiterated OIC's continued support to the people of IoK in their just struggle for realization of their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

On our invitation, the former Senator of Australia and human rights activist, Ms. Lee Rhiannon visited Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir from 30th August-5th September, 2018. The visit aimed to highlight the contrast between the human rights situation in AJ&K and IoK and rebut the baseless Indian propaganda to draw equivalence between IoK and AJ&K.

The visit of the delegation of All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir (APPKG), which comprised British MPs, to Pakistan and AJK from 18th September to 20th September, 2018 was arranged. The delegation met IoK Refugees in Muzaffarabad and visited the LoC and was comprehensively briefed on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and the Indian intransigence hindering its resolution despite more than 7 decades.

93. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**
(Transferred from 3rd Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the year-wise value in rupees of trade made between Pakistan and Iran during the last five financial years?

Minister for Commerce: The volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Iran with year-wise breakup during the last five years is given as under:

Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade with Iran

Rs. in Million

Years/ (Exchange rate 1\$=PKR)	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2013-14 (102.85)	5417.09	17740.11	23157.20	-12323.03
2014-15 101.29	2969.38	24245.71	27215.09	-21276.32
2015-16 (104.23)	3987.28	21455.53	25442.81	-17468.24
2016-17 (104.70)	2793.13	29795.88	32589.01	-27002.74
2017-18 (109.84)	2510.43	40555.96	43066.39	-38045.53

Source: FBR

Pakistan exports have been adversely affected by high tariffs and NTBs by Iran, US sanctions on Iran & absence of banking channels.

Details of Pakistan's top exports and imports to Iran are given at **Annex-I** and **Annex-II** respectively.

Annex-I**Pakistan's Top 10 Exports to Iran**

Pakistan's Top 10 Exports to Iran (Million Rs.)				
S. No.	HS 6 Codes	HS 6 Description	2017-18	2016-17
1	481159	Paper and paperboard, surface-colored, surface-decorated	1793.687	1830.156
2	100630	Rice, semi-milled or wholly milled, whether or not	193.3184	329.805
3	392350	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures of plastics	102.1512	71.196
4	392010	Film and sheet etc., non cellular etc., of polymers	95.5608	107.841
5	630629	Tents, of other textile materials	68.1008	-
6	890190	Cargo vessels nes & other vessels for the transport of both	59.3136	28.269
7	901890	Instruments and appliances used in medical or veterinary	53.8216	88.995
8	491110	Trade advertising material, commercial catalogue and the	38.444	2.094
9	050790	Whale bone, horns etc. unworked or simply prepared,	23.0664	-
10	120740	Senamum seeds, whether or not broken	21.968	-

Source: FBR**Annex-II****Pakistan's Top 10 Imports from Iran**

Pakistan's Top 10 Imports from Iran (Million Rs.)				
S. No.	HS Codes	HS 6 Description	2017-18	2016-17
1	271119	Petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons nes	9048.619	2816.43
2	271012	Light petroleum oils and preparations	5875.342	3242.559

S. No.	HS Codes	HS 6 Description	2017-18	2016-17
3	271320	Petroleum bitumen	4352.959	1260.588
4	271600	Electrical energy	3387.466	13698.95
5	271019	Other petroleum oils and preparations	2862.43	435.552
6	080410	Dates, fresh or dried	946.8208	259.656
7	080810	Apples, fresh	920.4592	453.351
8	690890	Tiles, cubes and sim nes, glazed ceramics	828.1936	934.971
9	252329	Portland cement nes	722.7472	407.283
10	410221	Sheep or lamb skins, pickled, without wool on	519.5432	138.204

Source: FBR

94. ***Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir:**
(Transferred from 3rd Session)

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

- (a) *the procedure adopted by the Government for replacing the Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB);*
- (b) *the number of Chairmen of PCB appointed since 2008;*
- (c) *the procedure adopted by the Government for their appointments, privileges and tenures alongwith the details thereof; and*
- (d) *the educational qualification and experience of the incumbent Chairman?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):

(a) The Chairman, PCB is elected by the members of the Board of Governors by majority for a period of three years as provided under Article 6 &7 of the Constitution (**Annex-I**).

(b) List of PCB Chairmen since 2008 till date with their respective tenures is given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name	Tenure
1.	Muhammad Ijaz Butt	2008-2011
2.	Ch. Zaka Ashraf	2011-2013
3.	Najam Aziz Sethi	2013-2014
4.	Shaharyar M. Khan	2014-2017
5.	Najam Aziz Sethi	2017-2018
6.	Ehsan Mani	2018-till date

(c) PCB is self financed autonomous entity competent to manage its affairs. Chairman PCB is an elected position and not an appointed one. However, the tenure is of 03 years.

(d) The required qualification for Chairman, PCB is a Bachelor's degree as provided under Article 7(5) of Constitution of PCB.

Mr. Ehsan Mani the Chairman PCB was certified to practice as Chartered Accountant in 1974 from Institute of Chartered Accountant in England and Wales. He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (England & Wales) having qualified in 1970. He is a past Chairman and President of the International Cricket Council 2003-06. He chaired the ICC Finance Committee (1996-2002) and led in the commercialisation of ICC Events by raising over \$2bn from the sale of the ICC media and sponsorship rights between 2000-2007. He represented PCB at the ICC between 1989 and 1996.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

95. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali**
(Transferred from 3rd Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistanis are facing various problems in Saudi Arabia at present;*

- (b) *whether it is also a fact that most of Pakistani workers are stranded in said country due to non payment by their employers;*
- (c) *if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) Saudi Arabia is home to around 2.6 million Pakistani expats. Pakistanis employed in the Kingdom on proper work visas do not face problems pertaining to their work permits (Iqamas), outstanding dues etc. Only those who overstay or get involved in illegal activities or have travelled to GCC countries on Azad visa face problems. In some cases, Pakistanis going on “*Hajj and Umrah Visas*” to Saudi Arabia overstay and thus become liable for deportation by the Saudi authorities.

Moreover, Saudi Arabia is an oil-based economy and more than 70% of its budget is financed through oil. Due to factors like slump in oil prices and political tensions in the region, several development projects have either been shelved or curtailed by the Saudi government. Increase in Iqama fees, introduction of dependent levy, VAT, increase in prices of POL and electricity have increased the cost of living exponentially for residents in KSA. The implementation of Saudization policy has prevented expats from entering many professions and enhancing employment opportunities for Saudi Nationals. These issues are being faced by all expats of other countries as well.

There are around 3,000 Pakistani nationals detained in Saudi prisons. Majority of our nationals are unfortunately detained on drug related charges. Following are the crimes/charges against the imprisoned Pakistan nationals:

i.	Drugs smuggling	45%
ii.	Theft	15%
iii.	Forgery	12%
iv.	Immoral crimes	8%
v.	Murder	3%
vi.	Brawl/fighting	2%
vii.	Miscellaneous	15%

(b) Our Missions in Riyadh and Jeddah have been actively pursuing all the cases of non-payment of dues with the employment companies. During

August 2016-May 2017 some construction sector companies *i.e.* Saudi Oger, Saad construction and some other companies defaulted due to economic slump and failed to pay wages to workers from various countries including 9,360 Pakistani workers. The workers were stuck up without salaries and expired Iqamas. Government of Pakistan through our missions played proactive role and ensured provision of necessities like food and medical treatment to affected workers in various camps of defaulting companies. Several meetings were held with Ministries concerned as well as management of the companies. The missions facilitated the final exit and free tickets of **4,810** workers. Coordination with different companies was done to relocate the workers and more than **4,548** were facilitated in transferring to new employers within the Kingdom.

(c) In addition to this, with efforts of our Missions, Saudi Government took following steps:

- Engaged legal advisors to plead the worker's cases in labor courts for their outstanding dues.
- Got them transferred to other companies or sponsors without fees on Iqama renewal/ transfer.
- Arranged final exit of those willing to come back.

96. ***Ms. Aliya Kamran:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

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

- (a) *the year-wise percentage of increase made in the students fund collected from the students of OPF Girls College, F-8, Islamabad during the last five years alongwith the details thereof;*
- (b) *the purpose for which fund has been utilized alongwith the details thereof;*
- (c) *the year-wise amount deposited in the said fund during the last five years alongwith details thereof; and*

- (d) *the heads on which expenditures were incurred from the said students fund during the last five years alongwith the details thereof?*

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development: (a) No increase was made in Student Fund since 2008 to 2016. In 2008, the annual student fund for class Nursery to V was Rs. 300/- per month & for class VI to XII, 0 & A Level was Rs. 500/- per month.

The detail of year-wise percentage increase made in student fund is as under:

Academic Year	Class — Wise	Percentage Increase
2008 to 2016	No increase made during this period.	
2017	Play Group to V	33.34 % <i>i.e.</i> Rs. 100/-)
	VI to X	20% <i>(i.e.</i> Rs. 100/-)
	XI to XIV	30% <i>(i.e.</i> Rs. 150/-)
2018	All Classes	5 % <i>(i.e.</i> Rs. 20/- for Play Group to V & Rs. 35/ for XI to XIV)

(b) The said fund is utilized for providing better infrastructure and environment to the students including sports activities, functions and celebrations, etc.

- (c) The detail of year-wise amount collected in student fund is as under:

Financial Year	Amount Collected
2012-13	22,243,530/-
2013-14	23,654,900/-

Financial Year	Amount Collected
2014-15	21,099,250/-
2015-16	20,910,100/-
2016-17	22,250,851/-
2017-18	25,441,013/-
2018-19	8,580,278/-
Total	144,179,922/-

(d) The following expenditures are made from the said fund:

- Gifts & Shields
- Function & Celebrations
- Sports Activities
- Lab Consumable
- Repair & Maintenance (Building Furniture, etc.) • Light & Heat
- Publicity & Advertisement
- Garden Expenses
- Printing of Stationary Expense

The details of expenditure incurred in above mentioned heads since 2012 till date are as under:

Sr. No.	Head	Amount in Rs.
i.	Gifts & Shields	4,93,000/-
ii.	Function & Celebrations	17,45,913/-
iii.	Sports Activities	473,000/-
iv.	Lab Consumable	21,35,000/-
v.	Repair & Maintenance (Building Furniture, etc.)	1,58,70,207/-
vi.	Light & Heat	4,85,50,113/-
vii.	Publicity & Advertisement	29,88,116/-
viii.	Garden Expense	11,94,310/-
ix.	Printing of Stationary Expense	1,45,07,001/-

97. ***Mr. Faiz Ullah:**
(Transferred from 3rd Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of countries with whom Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has been signed and the names of countries who have the status of Most Favourite Nation;*
- (b) the data and figures of trade before and after the said agreements alongwith details thereof; and*
- (c) the details of benefits accrued and losses caused to economy of Pakistan through these agreements with special reference to the trade balance?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) Pakistan has so far signed the following bilateral and multilateral FTAs:

- i. China Pakistan FTA (CPFTA)
- ii. Malaysia Pakistan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA)
- iii. Pakistan Sri Lanka FTA (PSFTA)
- iv. South Asian Free Trade Area

Being member of WTO, grant of MFN status to all other members of WTO is mandatory. However, Pakistan has not yet granted MFN status to India and Israel.

(b) Comparison of the year FTA signed in and FY 2017-18 is given below;

(c) In general following benefits have been accrued to Pakistan from these FTAs:

- * Increase in bilateral trade with the FTA partners.
- * Improvement in quality and competitiveness.
- * Availability of cheap raw materials for finished/value added goods.
- * Import of cheaper machinery and other machinery related goods for manufacturing value added goods.
- * Elimination of behind the border barriers to trade that impede
- * Expansion of markets through flow of goods and services.
- * Promotion of investments.
- * Transfer of technology.
- * Enhanced cooperation in intellectual property rights, e-commerce and government procurement.
- * Mutual Recognition Agreements for addressing sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.
- * Better allocation of resources.

The fall backs of FTAs include;

- * Non- diversification of secondary industries.
- * Trade deficit with China and Malaysia.

98. ***Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistani illegal immigrants in foreign countries have been facing severe crisis/difficulties and most of them have died while trying to enter in the European countries through Greece;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that some young men who wish to return to Pakistan are not deported by the International Organization*

for Migration (IOM) on the plea that they are underage under EU laws;

- (c) *if so, the steps being taken by the Government to address the said predicament of Pakistanis?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) Ministry of Foreign Affairs accords top priority to the welfare of Pakistani nationals abroad. Accordingly, all possible efforts are undertaken to address the issues of our nationals specifically those in distress.

Pakistan continues to remain under the spotlight for human trafficking and migrant smuggling through sea and land routes. In keeping with this enhanced global attention on the issue, UNODC has recently launched its first Global Study on the Smuggling of Migrants in June 2018 in Vienna. According to the Study, in 2016 alone, a minimum of 2.5 million migrant were smuggled globally along different routes, generating USD 5.5-7 billion in criminal proceeds. Among others, globally South Asia is one of the main areas of origin; Afghanistan has been cited as one of the significant countries of origin.

Commenting on different land routes used by smugglers in our regional context, the Study notes that the most popular one is from Afghanistan to Pakistan/Iran-Turkey and then onwards to Europe through the “East Mediterranean route” (i.e. Turkey-Greece). In this regard, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta are identified as “transit cities”. The study also underlines that in addition to Afghan refugees/nationals, many Pakistani nationals also use this land route. Therefore, the number of Pakistani irregular migrants apprehended in Turkey has steadily increased over time with approximately 30,000 in 2018 alone.

The UNODC Study also contains multiple references to Pakistan as a transit country for illegal migrants from other South Asian countries, notably from Afghanistan, Iran and Bangladesh, heading towards Australia or one of the GCC countries. In this regard, the Study highlights that document fraud is commonly used by smugglers operating these routes from Pakistan.

Pakistani illegal migrants face numerous problems, both before and during the course of their travel as well as on their arrival at destination. They are at risk of fraud and exploitation at hands of the smugglers along with potential dangers to their personal health and safety. On the other hand, due to their

illegal status, they face challenges of socio-economic integration in their destination societies. More than often, they are apprehended and detained in inhumane conditions for subsequent deportation. This creates serious image problem for Pakistan at the diplomatic level. Therefore, it is no surprise that the issue of illegal immigration has emerged as a potential irritant in our bilateral relations with friendly countries.

In order to check the tide of illegal immigrants from Pakistan, the Parliament has passed an Act namely 'Prevention of Migrants Act 2018' in May, 2018.

Majority of Pakistani detainees in camps do not want to return to Pakistan. They have applied for asylum. Although whoever wishes to return to Pakistan, a system is already in place.

Mainly there are three categories of illegal Pakistanis who are returning to Pakistan as under:

Pakistanis who are unwanted and local government wish to deport/ deporting them forcefully under the EURA arrangement that Pakistan signed in 2012.

(b) Pakistanis who wish to return voluntarily under the EURA arrangement. International Organization for Migration (IOM) gives them one way air ticket and Eros 500 in cash on departure (Interestingly there are many who availed this option but subsequently returned again illegally).

Pakistanis who are frustrated all around and have no document and wish to return on their own arrangement. This is the most frustrated category. They complain bitterly and at time turn violent.

(c) Legal assistance, as permissible under the rules, is provided to destitute Pakistani prisoners/detainees. Pakistan Community Welfare and Education Fund (PCW&EF), being administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is utilized to extend legal assistance to Pakistanis detained abroad, including payment of lawyers' fees, fines and cost of repatriation of destitute Pakistani prisoners.

An Inter Ministerial Commission (IMC) with representation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior and Ministry

of OP&HRD, has been established by the government to consider the cases of destitute Pakistani prisoners for legal and financial assistance. In addition, Policy on Consular Assistance for Overseas Pakistanis which defines the parameters for provision of financial and legal assistance to detained/imprisoned Pakistanis is under submission for approval of the Cabinet.

99. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state the total number of registered Afghan Refugees in the country at present?

Minister for States and Frontier Regions: At present, there are 1.395 million registered Afghans (POR card holders) living in Pakistan. The detail is attached at Annex-A.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

100. ***Mr. Saad Waseem:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the roadmap of the Government to attract/invite investments in export industry of Pakistan?

Transferred to Prime Minister's Office for answer on Next Rota Day.

101. ***Mr. Faiz Ullah:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the challenges faced by Pakistan in improving relations with neighbourig countries?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): It is the stated policy of this Government to have best of relations with all neighbours including India. This message was conveyed in the maiden address of Prime Minister Imran Khan to the nation. In line with our policy of peaceful neighbourhood, Pakistan will take all necessary steps

to engage with India to resolve all outstanding issues including Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Imran Khan in his first address to the nation underscored his commitment to work for good relations with Afghanistan. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, in his capacity as Foreign Minister, undertook his first official visit to Kabul. This was in September 2018. During the visit, he met President Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah and held extensive discussions with his counterpart Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani.

Pakistan is committed to working with Afghanistan for peace through an Afghan led and Afghan owned process of reconciliation. The recently held parliamentary elections there are an important milestone in consolidation of the democratic process in that country. We hope that these elections together with the Presidential Elections next year will lay the groundwork for substantive progress on peace and reconciliation.

India

With regard to relations with India, while addressing the nation, the Prime Minister stated that Pakistan would take two steps forward if India took one step towards friendship. It is regrettable that the scheduled meeting between the two Foreign Ministers planned on the sidelines of UN General Assembly was cancelled by the Indian side within 48 hours of confirmation. This was due to internal political reasons. It is clear that with State elections followed by Parliamentary elections next year, electoral considerations are driving the Indian government's belligerence. Under the circumstances, we can only await India's review of its policy of confrontation.

Nepal

We had a VVIP visit to Nepal in March this year. The Nepalese Chief of Army Staff also visited Pakistan in May. This helped in underscoring commitment of the two governments to strengthen bilateral relations. We will continue to work with our Nepalese brethren to further strengthen this relationship.

Maldives

Pakistan has excellent relations with Maldives. We have always support the people and government of Maldives and will continue to do so.

Bangladesh

Pakistan is committed to having good relations with Bangladesh and especially with the people of Bangladesh with whom we share the history of our common struggle for independence. There is considerable goodwill for Pakistan among the people of Bangladesh. We will continue to work on this.

Iran

Iran is an important neighbor with whom we share a long border. We have had significant high level interactions with Iran including VVIP meetings on the sidelines of International Conferences as well as two recent visits by the Foreign Minister of Iran. We are committed to working with Iran to strengthen political relations and enhance bilateral trade.

China

Pakistan's time tested relations with China has been consolidated into "All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership". The government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf highly values this partnership. The visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China will further consolidate this relationship in political, economic, trade, defence, cultural and energy domains. In partnership with China, the government remains fully committed to realizing the full potential of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

102. ***Ms. Uzma Riaz:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of agreements signed between Pakistan and Russia during the last three years indicating subject/description thereof;*
- (b) *the volume of trade between both the countries at present and the steps being taken by the Government to improve the said volume?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) Pakistan has signed no Agreement in the area of Trade with Russia during the last three years.

(b) The total bilateral Trade between Pakistan and Russia stood at 478.03 Million USD in year 2017-18 with a trade balance of -184.20 Million USD. The exports of Pakistan to Russia during this period were recorded to be 146.92 Million USD; whereas, the imports from Russia to Pakistan were recorded to be 331.12 Million USD. **(Details are at Annex-I)**

Following steps have been taken to improve the bilateral trade.

- Joint Working Group (JWG) on trade and Investment: First meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade and Investment took place in November 2017. During the meeting issues of market access and cooperation in the field of custom related matters, trade in agriculture products and cooperation between business circles of Pakistan and Russia were discussed. The second meeting of JWG on Trade & investment is likely to be held during the 6th session of Inter-Governmental Commission. between Russian and Pakistan likely to be held soon.
- Pakistani exporters participate in some very important exhibitions held in Russia. These exhibitions include:
 - World Food Moscow (food items);
 - Heimtextile (textiles);
 - Dental Expo;
 - Intercharm;
 - Sports Exhibition.
- A group of City Government delegation comprising businessmen from St. Petersburg visited Karachi in April 2018 and BOI coordinated their meetings with respective counterparts.
- Trade Wing (Russia) organized visit of the FPCCI delegation to Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in May, 2018 and also organized meeting of the delegation with Federal Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Russian Federation and with other chambers as well.
- A delegation of “Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers Exporters Association” (PSGMEA) visited Russia in September, 2018 and their B2B meetings were arranged with relevant counterparts.

- TDAP sponsored 13 members delegation of Russian importers to Expo Pakistan 2015.
- In TEXPO, 2016 TDAP invited 08 businessmen from Russia.
- TDAP also invited 14 Russian businessmen in EXPO Pakistan, 2017.
- Trade Wing organized made in Pakistan football campaign coinciding with FIFA World Cup in Russia and also organized mango campaign.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

103. ***Ms. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**
(Transferred from 3rd Session)

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

- (a) the details and reasons for poor performance by Pakistanis in the Asian games where Pakistan achieved 34th position with only three bronze medals; and*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the performance of the players of various games?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):

(a) The details and reasons are as under:—

Though the performance of Pakistan was not upto expectations however, Pakistan won four bronze medals and secured 34th position out of 45 countries in 18th Asian Games.

After 18th Constitutional amendment, the sport is a provincial subject. Sports Associations and Federations are primarily responsible for promotion of Sports and participation in international events. Role of the Federal Government in matter is facilitation & coordination. Provincial governments provide necessary support & patronage to these Sports Entities. At provincial level various Associations are responsible for improvement of games and preparation of players. At National level similarly National Federations are performing such functions.

The selection of players / athletes and training has often been not up to mark. Besides these issues at Sports Federations level, the Financial and Technical capacity of Sports Board also needs attention.

(b) The present Government is taking keen interest for the overall promotion of sports preferably youth in the country and is committed to all possible financial assistance within its limited resources. Recently, the Prime Minister of Pakistan has constituted a Task Force under Mr. Ehsan Mani, Chairman, PCB for recommendations to uplift Cricket and other Sports. The sports is a devolved subject however Government of Pakistan with consultation of provincial ministers is formulating a sports policy to uplift the games. Pakistani athletes are being provided opportunities to grow as effective competitors in the world of sports to win laurels for Pakistan and make positive image of the country at International level.

PSB organized National Training Camps for preparation of Pakistan Sports teams for participation in the following international events:

- i. 4th Islamic Solidarity Games held at Baku, Azerbaijan from 12-22 May, 2017.
- ii. 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games held at Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) from 17-27 Sept., 2017.
- iii. 21st Commonwealth Games, held at Gold Cost (Australia) from 4th to 15th April, 2018.
- iv. 18th Asian Games held at Jakarta/Palembang (Indonesia) from 18th August to 2nd Sept., 2018.
- v. 3rd Summer Youth Olympic Games at Buenos Aires (Argentina) from 6-18 October, 2018

Services of Iranian Volleyball and Korean Taekwondo Coaches have been hired for training of their athletes to improve the performance of National players at International level. PSB is also in process of arranging foreign coaches for some other sports disciplines for grooming their players. PSB will arrange foreign training-cum-competitions tours where necessary on recommendation of the federations concerned.

104. ***Mr. Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan:**
(Transferred from 3rd Session)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that audit reports of Pakistan Super League on season one and two reflect several violations on different counts;*
- (b) *if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) *the steps taken by the Government to fix such violations and to hold the persons accountable thereof?*

Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):

The audit regarding PSL-1 and PSL-2 is still under process. The queries will be addressed after the finalization of the report. The audit report is still not received by Pakistan Cricket Board from the office of Auditor General of Pakistan.

- (b) The details will be provided when the audit report is received by PCB.
- (c) N.A.

105. ***Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**
(Transferred from 3rd Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to achieve balance between imports and exports of Pakistan?

Minister for Commerce: Pakistan's trade deficit stands at US\$ 37.7 billion for the year 2017-18. Following measures have been taken by the Government to control widening trade deficit:

Exports enhancing measures

- Commerce Division vide SRO 711(I)/2018 announced local taxes and levies drawback (non-textile) order under which export shipments made during the period Pt July, 2018 till 30th June, 2021

shall be entitled to claim drawback at the rate of 3-4%. Under the same order an additional 2% drawback is allowed if the exports are made to non-traditional markets relating to Africa, non-EU countries, Commonwealth of Independent States and Oceania.

- Negotiated 2nd Phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) with a focus to secure immediate market access in its priority lines of exports interest and restore MoP eroded due to subsequent FTAs of China with ASEAN and other countries.
- During the last review meeting of Pakistan — Indonesia Preferential Trade Agreement (PI-PTA), Indonesia has agreed to grant unilateral concessions on 20 tariff lines of Pakistan's export interest. MoC shall implement the decision as final notification is issued by the Indonesian side.
- MoC has initiated negotiations with important trade partners including Thailand, Turkey, Republic of Korea, Japan, Chile, Tunisia and Nigeria to secure better market access.
- To maintain access to the markets of the USA and the European Union (EU) on preferable terms, generalized system of preference (GSP) Program has been renewed with the USA till December 2020 and Generalized System Preference Plus (GSP+) programme has been renewed till the EU till 2023.
- Ministry has engaged with the MERCUSSOR region to explore the possibility of PTA in order to tap the region's huge market.
- To start negotiations on bilateral /multilateral trade agreements of market access, Pakistan has approached three African trading blocs *i.e.* South Africa Customs Union (SACU), Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) and East African Community (EAC).

Import curtailment measures

- To address the issue of low quality imports, the Import Policy Order has been amended, to incorporate safety and health requirements/ quality standards, proposed against different tariff lines, to ensure that quality and SPS standards are complied with on such imports *vide* SRO 1067 (I)/2017 dated 20th October 2017.

- To curtail the imports of luxury items and non-essential goods, regulatory duties have been levied by Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on the import of 570 items vide SRO 1265(I)/2018 dated 16th October, 2018.
- Ministry of Commerce is finalizing National Tariff Policy, which make the tariff structure to reflect trade policy. priorities, improving competitiveness through duty-free access to imported raw materials and encouraging value addition through the principle of cascading of tariffs and removing anomalies in the tariff structure. The policy will aim to encourage value added exports of the country.

106. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state whether the performance of Pakistan Cricket Team is deteriorating; if so, the reasons thereof?

Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):
Performance of Pakistan Cricket Team is not deteriorating, albeit the room for improvement and excellence.

Currently, Pakistan Cricket Team is ranked No.1 in T20 cricket, No.5 in the One Day cricket and No.7 in the Test Cricket.

107. ***Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to resolve Kashmir issue?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): Pakistan highlights the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at every available international forum.

In his speech at the UN General Assembly, the Foreign Minister especially focused on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, highlighting Indian atrocities in IoK and stressing the importance of a solution to the problem for durable peace in South Asia.

Pakistan is aggressively highlighting the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Jammu and Kashmir and is calling for early institution of a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) under UN auspices to investigate and fix responsibility. This is in line with our earlier calls for an independent Fact-Finding mission to look into the human rights violations in IoK at all forums, including the UNSG. We will welcome the Commission to Azad Jammu & Kashmir and to put pressure on India to do the same.

Pakistan also raises the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at the OIC forum on every available opportunity. The OIC supports the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self determination, as enshrined in the UN Security Council Resolutions. Most recently the meeting of the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was held on the sidelines of the 73rd UNGA session in New York on 26th September 2018. The Contact Group reiterated OIC's continued support to the people of IoK in their just struggle for realization of their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

On our invitation, the former Senator of Australia and human rights activist, Ms. Lee Rhiannon visited Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir from 30th August - 5th September, 2018. The visit aimed to highlight the contrast between the human rights situation in AJ&K and IoK and rebut the baseless Indian propaganda to draw equivalence between IoK and AJ&K.

The visit of the delegation of All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir (APPKG), which comprised British MPs, to Pakistan and AJK from 18th September to 20th September, 2018 was arranged. The delegation met IoK Refugees in Muzaffarabad and visited the LoC and was comprehensively briefed on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and the Indian intransigence hindering its resolution despite more than 7 decades.

108. ***Mrs. Shahida Akhtar Ali:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of aeroplanes used by the Prime Minister and Ministers for their visits of foreign countries; and*
- (b) *the expenditures in rupees incurred thereon?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) & (b) It may kindly be noticed that time duration of foreign visits by the Prime Minister and Ministers has not been mentioned in the starred question. The same may kindly be indicated enabling this Ministry to provide the details of foreign visits and expenditure incurred therein.

Two aircraft (Gulfstream) are held by the Government of Pakistan which are generally used by President and Prime Minister for domestic and International visits. Their seating capacity is 12.

109. ***Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *the item and year-wise volume of Government imports made under the Free Trade Agreements (FTA) during the last five years alongwith the details thereof; and*
- (b) *the percentage/share of value added items including textile items out of total exports of Pakistan during the said period?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) Pakistan has so far signed the following bilateral and multilateral FTAs:

- i. Pakistan Sri Lanka FTA (PSFTA) 2005
- ii. China Pakistan FTA (CPFTA) 2006
- iii. Malaysia Pakistan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) 2007
- iv. South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) 2004

Volume of Pakistan's import during the last five years under these agreements is as under;

(million US\$)

Pakistan imports during years 2013-18					
Countries	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Sri Lanka	61.93	57.79	74.60	102.34	67.31
China	7,772.42	10,172.73	12,105.33	14,133.92	15,745.38
Malaysia	1,799.94	961.28	931.53	937.70	1,203.18
SAFTA	2,690.21	2,179.30	2,323.49	2,101.43	2,427.46

Source: FBR

(b) The percentage share of value added items out of total exports for the same period is as under:

(million US\$)

Description	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total exports of Pakistan	25,351	24,354	21,482	20,227	23,211
Value added exports	13,865	13,610	12,422	12,007	13,692
percentage share	54.69 %	55.88%	57.82%	59.36%	58.98%

Source: FBR

110. ***Ms. Naz Baloch:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total quantity of wheat sent to Afghanistan as a gesture/ symbol of friendship by the Government; and*
- (b) *the benefits to be accrued therefrom?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) & (b) Pakistan has gifted 40000 tons of wheat to the people of Afghanistan.

The announcement of the gift was made purely on humanitarian grounds and to assist, in a modest way, our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan who are facing a draught there.

2. As centuries old bonds among our people have been the real strength of our bilateral relations, we believe our two peoples have expectations from each other and look towards each other in the times of need. We are proud that our two peoples have been coming up to the expectations of each other. This small gesture of ours will go a long way to further cement the already robust relations among our two peoples. Pakistan stands ready to invest in forging strong people to people relations between our two countries.

111. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

(Transferred from 3rd Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistanis imprisoned in the jails abroad; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for their release?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) The total number of Pakistanis imprisoned in the jails of foreign countries is **10,811**.

(b) Destitute Pakistani prisoners/detainees. Pakistan Community Welfare and Education Fund (PCW&EF), being administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is utilized to extend legal assistance to Pakistanis detained abroad, including payment of lawyers' fees, fines and cost of repatriation of destitute Pakistani prisoners.

An Inter Ministerial Commission (IMC) with representation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of OP&HRD, has been established by the government to consider the cases of destitute Pakistani prisoners for legal and financial assistance. In addition, Policy on Consular Assistance for Overseas Pakistanis which defines the parameters for provision of financial and legal assistance to detained/imprisoned Pakistanis is under submission for approval of the Cabinet.

112. ***Ms. Uzma Riaz:**

(Transferred from 3rd Session)

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

- (a) *the names of the airports in Pakistan where the counters/facilitation desks have been established for Overseas Pakistanis;*
- (b) *the names and designations of the persons posted on the said counters/desks; and*
- (c) *the details of complaints received by the Government against the said persons during the last two years and the details of action being taken against them?*

Minister for Overseas Pakistanies and Human Resource Development: (a) Counters/facilitations desks have been established at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, Multan, Peshawar, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Turbat & Gwadar.

(b) Detail of persons deputed at the counters/desks at various international airports in Pakistan is at Annex-I.

(c) During the last two years, there is no written complaint lodged against the persons deputed at the counters/desks.

Annex-I

**STATEMENT SHOWING UPDATED LIST OF
OFFICIALS DEPUTED FOR DUTIES AT
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS OF PAKISTAN
(OPF COUNTERS/OWFD)**

ISLAMABAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ISLAMABAD

Sr. No.	NAME	DESIGNATION
1.	Mr. Mushtaq Fareed Awan	Deputy Director/ Incharge
2.	Mr. Muhammad Farman Rao	Deputy Director
3.	Mr. Kurram Sheeraz	Assistant Director
4.	Mr. Muhammad Munir Khan	Assistant Director
5.	Mr. Waseem Khan Lodhi	Welfare Officer
6.	Mr. Faiz Gadoon	Welfare Officer
7.	Mr. Abid Hussain	Clerk-cum-Typist
8.	Mr. Akram lone	Clerk-cum-Typist
9.	Mr. Abdul Rehman	Clerk-cum-Typist

10.	Mr. Usman-Ul-Haq	Office Assistant
11.	Mr. Mehmood All	Clerk-cum-Typist
12.	Mr. Imran Qamar	Clerk-cum-Typist

JINNAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KARACHI

1.	Mr. Manzoor Hussain Keerio	Addl. Director/Incharge
2.	Mr. Ghulam Siddique	Deputy Director
3.	Mr. Mazhar All	Assistant Director
4.	Mr. Muhammad All	Assistant Director
5.	M. Ahmad Khan	Welfare Officer
6.	Abdul Faheem Khan	Sub Engineer
7.	Mr. Masih ullah Shaikh	Welfare Assistant
8.	Mr. Pervez Masih	Welfare Assistant
9.	M. Raza Sheikh	Office Assistant
10.	Naveed Alam	Steno typist
11.	Mr. M. Waqar Khan	Clerk
12.	Mr. Imtiaz Ali Bhagat	Office Assistant
13.	Mr. Faizan Ahmed	Welfare Helper
14.	Mr. Muhammad Farhan	Welfare Helper

ALLAMA IQBAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, LAHORE

1.	Mr. Muhammad Adil	Assistant Director
2.	Mr. Irfan Ahmed	Welfare Clerk (Reliever)
3.	Mr. Rasheed Ahmed (Dogar)	Welfare Assistant
4.	Mr. Allah Ditta	Clerk
5.	Hafiz Tauqeer Abbas Kazmi	Office Assistant
6.	Mr. Muhammad Kamran	Office Assistant
7.	Mr. Tasawar Iqbal	Office Assistant

QUETTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, QUETTA

1.	Mr. Agha Muhammad	Office Assistant
2.	Mr. Jahangir Ahmed	Office Assistant
3.	Mr. Ahsan Ali	Office Assistant (Contract)
4.	Mr. Imran Ali	Office Assistant (Contract)
5.	Mr. Muhammad Javed	Office Assistant (Contract)

MULTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MULTAN

1.	Mrs. Zarqa Yahya	Deputy Director/Incharge
2.	Mr. Saeed Ahmed	Instructor
3.	Mr. Rana Ishfaq	Jr. Instructor
4.	Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Malik	Clerk
5.	Mr. Khalid Mehmood	Jr. Instructor
6.	Mr. Muhammad Tahir	Jr. Instructor
7.	Naeem Kalasra	Jr. Instructor
8.	M. Arif Bhatti	Jr. Instructor
9.	Masood Ahmad	Office Assistant
10.	Habib Akram	Office Assistant
11.	Syeda Wajiha Zahra	Office Assistant

BACHA KHAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PESHAWAR

1.	Mr. Gohar Aman Afridi	Assistant Director/Incharge
2.	Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Jan	Office Assistant
3.	Mr. Muhammad Younas Azeem	Clerk/Typist
4.	Mr. Raees Khan	Clerk/Typist
5.	Mr. M.Bilal	Welfare Helper

FAISALABAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FAISALABAD

1.	Mr. Arslan Malik	Office Assistant/ Incharge
2.	Miss. Riffat	Office Assistant
3.	Mr. Salman Salamat	Office Assistant
4.	Miss. Shazia Ishfaq	Office Assistant
5.	Mr. Muhammad Arshad	Office Assistant

SIALKOT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SIALKOT

1.	Mr. Khurram Ali	Assistant Director
2.	Mr. Sultan Zafar	Office Assistant
3.	Mr. Rizwan Hameed	Clerk
4.	Mr. Usman Saleem	Office Assistant

TURBAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TURBAT

1.	Mr. Barkat Ali Baloch	Instructor
2.	Mr. Masood Ahmed	Office Assistant (Contract)
3.	Mr. Khaleef	Office Assistant (Contract)

GWADAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, GWADAR

1.	Mr. Kashif Khan	Superintendent/Incharge
2.	Mr. Abdul Sattar	Accounts Assistant

113. ***Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government is planning to promote peaceful and friendly relations with its neighbouring countries?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): It is the stated policy of this Government to have best of relations with all neighbours including India. This message was conveyed in the maiden address of Prime Minister Imran Khan to the nation. In line with our policy of peaceful neighbourhood, Pakistan will take all necessary steps to engage with India to resolve all outstanding issues including Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Imran Khan in his first address to the nation underscored his commitment to work for good relations with Afghanistan. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, in his capacity as Foreign Minister, undertook his first official visit to Kabul. This was in September 2018. During the visit, he met President Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah and held extensive discussions with his counterpart Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani.

Pakistan is committed to working with Afghanistan for peace through an Afghan led and Afghan owned process of reconciliation. The recently held parliamentary elections there are an important milestone in consolidation of the democratic process in that country. We hope that these elections together with the Presidential Elections next year will lay the groundwork for substantive progress on peace and reconciliation.

India

With regard to relations with India, while addressing the nation, the Prime Minister stated that Pakistan would take two steps forward if India

took one step towards friendship. It is regrettable that the scheduled meeting between the two Foreign Ministers planned on the sidelines of UN General Assembly was cancelled by the Indian side within 48 hours of confirmation. This was due to internal political reasons. It is clear that with State elections followed by Parliamentary elections next year, electoral considerations are driving the Indian government's belligerence. Under the circumstances, we can only await India's review of its policy of confrontation.

Nepal

We had a VVIP visit to Nepal in March this year. The Nepalese Chief of Army Staff also visited Pakistan in May. This helped in underscoring commitment of the two governments to strengthen bilateral relations. We will continue to work with our Nepalese brethren to further strengthen this relationship.

Maldives

Pakistan has excellent relations with Maldives. We have always support the people and government of Maldives and will continue to do so.

Bangladesh

Pakistan is committed to having good relations with Bangladesh and especially with the people of Bangladesh with whom we share the history of our common struggle for independence. There is considerable goodwill for Pakistan among the people of Bangladesh. We will continue to work on this.

Iran

Iran is an important neighbor with whom we share a long border. We have had significant high level interactions with Iran including VVIP meetings on the sidelines of International Conferences as well as two recent visits by the Foreign Minister of Iran. We are committed to working with Iran to strengthen political relations and enhance bilateral trade.

China

Pakistan's time tested relations with China has been consolidated into "All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership". The government of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf highly values this partnership. The visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China will further consolidate this relationship in political, economic, trade, defence, cultural and energy domains. In partnership with China, the government remains fully committed to realizing the full potential of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

114. ***Mr. Ahmad Hussain Deharr:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of countries where non-cadre Ambassadors/High Commissioners have been appointed, since 1st January, 2013 till 31st May, 2018 alongwith the details thereof;*
- (b) *the qualification, experience and rules and regulations prescribed for the appointment of Ambassador/High Commissioner posted abroad;*
- (c) *the years for which persons belonging to non-cadres have been appointed; and*
- (d) *the number of said Ambassadors who have completed their tenure alongwith details thereof?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi):

(a) **Political/non-career Ambassadors appointed since 2013:**

Sr. No.	Mission	Ambassador	Domicile	Educational Qualification	Date of Posting
1.	Amman	Lt. Gen. (Retd) Ahsan Azhar Hayat	Punjab	Graduate of Command & Staff College and NDU	27-06-2013
2.	Kyiv	Maj. Gen. (R) Wajahat Ali Mufti	Punjab	Graduate of Army Staff College, Quetta & Graduate from NDU	05-07-2013

3.	Geneva (UN)	Zamir Akram	Sindh (U)	Masters degree in Int. Affairs & Int. Relations.	04-10-2013
4.	Ankara	Muhammad Haroon Shaukat	Punjab	M.A (English) Post Graduate diploma in Int. Relations, Paris	10-10-2013
5.	Tripoli	Lt. Gen. (Retd) Javed Zia	Sindh	M.A. (Political Science)	26-02-2014
6.	Brunei	Brig. (R) Muhammad Zareef Malik		B.A. (Honors)	11-05-2014
7.	Madrid	Rafat Mandi	Punjab	M.A. (History), B.A. (Hons)	17-06-2014
8.	Sarajevo	Lt. Gen. (Retd) Muhammad Yousaf	Punjab	M.A. (International Relations) and M.Sc. (War Studies)	03-07-2014
9.	Washington	Jalil Abbas Jilani	Punjab	Bachelor's Degree in Law, M.Sc. in Defence & Strategic Studies	02-02-2015
10.	Colombo	Maj Gen. (R) Syed Shakeel Hussain	Punjab	M.Sc. in Science and Warfare. Attended Foreign War College Course in USA	12-05-2015
11.	Abuja	Lt. Gen. (Retd) Agha Muhammad Umer Farooq	N/A	Masters in Strategic Studies & Masters in War Studies	26-05-2015
12.	Port Louis	Maj. Gen. (Retd) Raza Muhammad	N/A	M. Phil in International Relations	22-08-2015
13.	Amman	Lt. Gen. (Retd) Shafaat Ullah Shah	Punjab	Masters in Pol. Sc. & Masters in Str. Studies	10-09-2015
14.	Damascus	Air Marshal (Retd) Athar Hussain Bukhari	N/A	Graduation from NDU and National War College Washington USA	22-11-2015
15.	Kyiv	Maj Gen (R) Athar Abbas	N/A	Graduate of Command & Staff College and NDU	13-12-2015
16.	Bahrain	Javed Malik	Islamabad	Bachelors Degree in Business Management & Public Policy	29-01-2016
17.	Doha	Mr. Shahzad Ahmad	Sindh (U)	M. Phil.	26-03-2014

18.	Bandar Seri Begawan	Maj. General (R) Tariq Rashid Khan	Punjab	M.Sc Degree in War Studies	07-10-2016
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Current Ambassadors on Contract

Sr. No.	Mission	Ambassador	Domicile	Educational Qualification	Date of Posting
1.	Beijing (China)	Mr. Masood Khalid	Punjab	M.Sc	11-08-2010 04-01-2013 30-12-2015
2.	New York (UN)	Dr. Maleeha Lodhi	Punjab	Ph.D in Politics/BSc from London School of Economic & Politics	25-02-2015
3.	Havana (Cuba)	Mr. Kamran Shafi	Punjab	PMA Graduate	04-08-2015
4.	Ottawa (Canada)	Mr. Tariq Azim Khan	Islamabad	MBA	28-09-2015
5.	Rabat (Morocco)	Mr. Nadir Chaudhari	Punjab	B.A. (Econ. & Pol. Science), State University, Ohio, USA	23-10-2015
6.	Sarajevo (Bosnia)	Lt. General (Retd.) Saleem Nawaz	KPK	MSc.	08-12-2016
7.	Belgrade (Serbia)	Syed Adil Gillani	Sindh(U)	B.E. in Civil	18-03-2017
8.	Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)	Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham Bin Siddique	Punjab	M. Phil in Public Policy and Strategic Manag. from NDU	04-05-2017
9.	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	Maj Gen (R) Shahid Ahmad Hashmat	Punjab	PhD in IR	15-10-2017
10.	Amman (Jordan)	Maj General (Rtd) Junaid Rehmat	Sindh (U)	M.Sc Degree in War Studies	11-12-2017
11.	Male (Maldives)	Vice Admiral (Retd) Waseem Akram	Punjab	NDU Armed Forces War Course	23-01-2018
12.	Tripoli (Libya)	Maj. General (Retd) Sajid Iqbal	KPK	M.Sc in War Studies/M.Sc. (Defence & Strategic Studies) M.Sc (Art & Science of Warfare)	28-02-2018
13.	Damascus (Syria)	Air Marshal (Retd) Rashid Kamal	Islamabad (Punjab)	Masters in War Studies	21-03-2018

14.	Washington (USA)	Ali Jehangir Siddiqui	Sindh(U)	BA in Economics, New York	29-05-2018
15.	Moscow (Russia)	Qazi M. Khalilullah	Sindh	Masters in International Relations & Public Policy	15-06-2018
16.	Abuja (Nigeria)	Maj. General (R) Ahmad Kingravi	KPK	M.sc in War Studies	21-7-2018
17.	Doha (Qatar)	Air Marshal (R) Sohail Aman		Ambassador-designate	
18.	Kyiv (Ukraine)	Maj. Gen. (R) Zahid Mubashir Sheikh		Ambassador-designate	

(b) **The criteria for the appointment of Ambassadors**

Answer: The Ambassadors/High Commissioners are posted to different Missions with the approval of the Prime Minister. Subsequently, Agreement from the receiving government is sought by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Once the Agreement is accorded, credentials of the Ambassador-designate are prepared. Afterwards, he/she calls upon the leadership of the country and proceeds to his/her place of posting. The entire process may take from one month to four months because of Agreements process which depends upon different timelines followed by different countries.

(c) **Tenure of Ambassadors**

Political Ambassadors usually get two years initial contract term. However, their stay in the Mission can be increased or decreased by the competent authority due to exigencies of service.

(d) **Ambassadors who have completed their tenure**

Sr. No.	Mission	Details
1.	Beijing	Ambassador Masood Khalid has completed his contract tenure and is on extension till December, 2018
2.	Havana	Ambassador Kamran Shafi has completed his contract tenure and is on extension till August 2019

-
- | | | |
|----|----------------|---|
| 3. | New York
UN | Dr. Maleeha Lodhy has completed her contract tenure and is on extension till February 2019 |
| 4. | Ottawa | Ambassador Tariq Azim Khan has completed his contract tenure and is on extension till September, 2019 |
| 5. | Rabat | Ambassador Nadir Chaudhri has completed his contract tenure and is on extension till 23 October 2019 |
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115. ***Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government is considering to replace the current Ambassador of Pakistan in United States of America (Mr. Ali Jahangir Siddiqui); if so, the details thereof?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): As already announced, the government of Pakistan has decided to appoint Dr. Asad Majeed Khan as Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to the United States of America in place of Mr. Ali Jahangir Siddiqui. He belongs to Foreign Service of Pakistan and has served with distinction both in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Missions abroad. He is currently serving as Pakistan's Ambassador to the State of Japan. The Agreement of the Ambassador-designate has been sought from the host government.

The decision is a step towards achieving this government's reform agenda. An important pillar of these reforms is to strengthen the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by replacing non-career diplomats with officers of Foreign Service of Pakistan. We have also decided to replace non-career Ambassadors posted in Canada, Cuba, Morocco, Serbia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia with officers of Foreign Service of Pakistan.

116. ***Mr. Sher Akbar Khan:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to establish Tobacco Research Stations/Sub-stations in district Buner;*

(b) *if so, when it will be implemented; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) The Pakistan Tobacco Board, Peshawar is a statutory body set up in 1968 by Federal Government for promotion of the cultivation, manufacture and export of tobacco and tobacco products.

Pakistan Tobacco Board has purchased 16 acres land for Tobacco Model Farm at Buner. In this regard Farm Manager and staff have also been posted to undertake research trials.

However, there is no proposal for the establishment of Tobacco Research Station or Sub-Station in District Buner.

(b) Pakistan Tobacco Board has already established a Tobacco Research Station at Mardan which provides research assistance to all tobacco growing areas of KP. The Tobacco Model Farm Buner provides sufficient research assistance to tobacco growers in Buner.

117. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the year-wise value of bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and United States of America for the last five financial years?

Minister for Commerce: The bilateral trade statistics between Pakistan and the USA, for the last five financial years showing value, are given below;

Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade with USA

Million US \$

Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2013-14	3729.13	1969.30	5698.43	1759.83
2014-15	3730.45	2202.23	5932.68	1528.21
2015-16	3539.03	2386.71	5925.74	1152.32
2016-17	3452.33	2568.40	6020.74	883.93
2017-18	3694.52	2848.60	6543.12	845.91

Source FBR

The detail of top 10 export and import products is annexed as Annex-A.

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

1. ***Mr. Riaz Fatyana:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Government of the United States of Arab Emirates (UAE) issues single entry visa on the Official Passports of the Members of the National Assembly;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that a few years earlier SAARC Secretariat used to grant multiple visa for five years on the Official Passports of the Members of National Assembly but now this period has been reduced to one year; and*
- (c) *whether Ministry intends to negotiate with UAE Government and SAARC Secretariat for multiple visa for five years in order to save the time of Members of National Assembly?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): Part (a) of the question sent to Ministry of Interior.

(b) The SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme was launched in 1992. The leaders at the Fourth Summit (Islamabad, 29-31 December 1988), while realizing the importance of having people to people contacts, among the peoples of SAARC countries, decided that certain categories of dignitaries should be entitled to a Special Travel document, which would exempt them from visas within the region. As directed by the Summit, the Council of Ministers regularly kept under review the list of entitled categories.

The Visa Stickers are issued by the respective Member States to the entitled categories of that particular country. The validity of the Visa Sticker is maximum for one year. SAARC Visa Exemption Sticker never had validity for five years.

(c) SAARC Council of Ministers can recommend for issuance of multiple visa for five years, to the SAARC Summit.

2. ***Ch. Khalid Javed:**

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

- (a) *the total number of cases for education scholarship sent by the office of Social Security, Lahore to EOBI, Islamabad since 01-01-2016;*

- (b) *whether these cases are pending with EOBI alongwith the details and reasons thereof;*
- (c) *the action taken against the officers responsible for this delay;*
- (d) *the time by which the same will be finalized;*
- (e) *the time by which the Objections raised on said cases will be cleared by EOBI?*

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development: (a) No case for educational Scholarship has been received from Officer of Social Security, Lahore to EOBI, Islamabad since 01-01-2016 for verification.

EOBI was established to provide the old age pension, survivor pension, invalidity pension and old age grant to the insured persons of industrial, commercial and other establishments. Payment of educational scholarship does not come within the domain of EOBI.

- (b) N/A
- (c) N/A
- (d) N/A
- (e) N/A

3. ***Mr. Rana Iradat Sharif Khan:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state whether the Treaty Implementation Cell is functional at present; if so, the significance and nature/description thereof?

Minister for Commerce: Yes, Treaty Implementation Cell (TIC) is very much functional. It was established in March 2014 and so far seventeen meetings have been held. Attorney General of Pakistan is the convener of TIC whereas Ministry of Commerce works as the secretariat of TIC because it is formed to monitor the implementation of the 27 UN Conventions linked with GSP Plus status. Since the grant of GSP Plus status to Pakistan, Pakistan's

annual export to EU has increased from 4.538bn Euro to 6.68bn Euro. The composition of TIC is as follows:

1. Attorney General of Pakistan— Convener
2. Secretary Ministry of Commerce
3. Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Secretary Ministry of Interior
5. Secretary Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development
6. Secretary Ministry of Climate Change
7. Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control
8. Secretary Ministry of Human Rights
9. Chairman National Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
10. Provincial Additional Chief Secretaries (Coordination)
11. Representative of International Labour Organization
12. Representative of UN Women
13. Representative of Pakistan Workers Federation
14. Joint Secretary (FT-III), Secretary to TIC

The TIC is of paramount significance with regard to the implementation of the UN Conventions, whose compliance is mandatory to enjoy the GSP Plus status. The TIC monitors and oversees effective implementation of 27 UN Conventions, in the context of GSP Plus. Out of these 27 conventions, 7 pertain to human rights, 8 to labor and human resource, 8 to climate change and biodiversity and 4 to narcotics, drugs, organized crime and corruption.

Therefore, considering the extensive and vast range of UN Conventions and international treaties warranting the implementation, AG has been appointed as convener, and Ministry of Commerce has been designated as secretariat of TIC to constantly coordinate and liaise with entrepreneurs, workers representatives, civil society organizations, Government departments at federal and provincial level, EU mission in Pakistan and our missions in EU member states.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of TIC are as below:

- i. To oversee the formulation of an effective mechanism in consultation with all Provincial Governments and relevant Federal Ministries/ Division/Agencies to enable the provincial Governments as well as the federal agencies concerned for effective implementation of the ratified conventions.
- ii. To develop identical protocols for implementation which can work as effective tools for Provincial and Federal Government to regularly document the progress made; and,
- iii. To help and guide the Provincial Governments for formulation of templates which can provide for reporting in prescribed and tabulated formats and generation of reports on compliance in line with the international best practices.

4. ***Ms. Sajida Begum:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistan has re-opened its Consulate in Jalalabad, Afghanistan;*
- (b) *if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) & (b) After provision of necessary security by the Afghan government, Pakistan on 8 October 2018, decided to resume consular services at our Consulate General at Jalalabad. The Consulate remains open and operational since then.

5. ***Mr. Saad Waseem:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether the Government has taken notice of poor state of affairs of Overseas Pakistani workers, especially in Gulf States, particularly with reference to payment of their wages by the employers; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to address problems and provide functional consular services, legal support and implement labour agreements Overseas Pakistani, especially in Gulf States?*

Transferred to Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

6. ***Ms.Sajida Begum:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to increase trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka?

Minister for Commerce: Ministry of Commerce has undertaken various steps in order to increase trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka that include;

- i. Securing market access for Pakistani products through Free Trade Agreement.
- ii. Trade promotion through exhibitions and delegations

i. **Pak Sri Lank Free Trade Agreement:**

Pakistan concluded a Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA) with Sri Lanka on August 1, 2002 that became operational from 12th June 2005. Under the bilateral Free Trade Agreement, both sides agreed to offer preferential market access to each other's exports by way of granting tariff concessions. At present duties have phased out to "0" on tariff lines in PSFTA except for the Negative list.

There is no concession on the tariff lines included in the Negative list. The Negative list of Pakistan consists of 540 tariff lines at six digit level while that of Sri Lanka contains a total of 697 tariff lines at six digit level.

i. **Trade promotion:**

In order to showcase Pakistani products in the Sri Lankan market, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has been arranging a special, Sri Lanka specific, Single Country Exhibition (SCE) since 2016, the 3rd Edition of which was held in January 2018. 134 Pakistani firms participated in the exhibition in 2018.

ISLAMABAD:
The 1st November, 2018

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

(4th Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Friday, the 2nd November, 2018

33. **Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether Indian Government has failed to provide security to Pakistani Diplomats;*
- (b) *if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) & (b) The matter regarding harassment of Pakistani diplomats in India has been resolved through diplomatic channels.

The matter was taken up with the Indian side both in Islamabad and New Delhi. The Indian government was reminded that as provided by the Vienna Convention, security and protection of Pakistani diplomats posted in India is the duty of the Indian government.

A strong protest was also lodged with the Indian High Commission in Islamabad regarding the issues.

On 30 March 2018, both sides reached an Agreement to resolve the issue and this was announced by both sides.

34. **Mr. Riaz Fatyana:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *the comparative facts and figures of the Imports and Exports of the Government of Pakistan with foreign countries at present;*
- (b) *the reasons of decrease in exports of rice, wheat, cotton, mandarin, mango, textile and leather products alongwith the details of those persons/authorities who are responsible to therefor;*
- (c) *the total budget for financial year 2017-18 for pay, allowances, benefits, utility bills, visits of all employees including officers alongwith other expenditures of the Ministry;*
- (d) *the targets of the Government to boost up the exports;*
- (e) *the details of exports made during the current financial year;*
- (f) *the step taken by the Government to increase the exports; and*
- (g) *the action taken against the commercial attaches and others who are responsables for decrease the exports of the country?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) The required data is at Annex-I.

(b) 1. It is encouraging to mention that Pakistan's exports during last decade have increased from US\$ 17.4 billion (2008-09) to US\$23.2 billion (2017-18), with an average annual growth rate of almost 6%. During July–June 2017-2018 exports were US\$ 23.22 billion against US\$ 20.422 billion during the same period of last year, thus showing an increase of 13.71%. Continuing the momentum of rising export the first quarter has also showed export growth of 5%.

Export Comparison Between 2016-17 And 2017-18

Value in Thousand US\$

Commodity	Export 2016-17	Export 2017-18	% change
Wheat	1,083	236,339	22,668.69
Rice Basmati	453,441	540,231	19.14
Rice Other varieties	1,153,393	1496,844	29.78
Raw Cotton	43,567	58,227	33.65
Leather manufactures	491,152	522,869	6.46
Textile	12,450,733	13530,055	8.67
Mango	48,098	56,096	15.46

2. Apart from the previous financial year export suffered a decline during the last few years, which is as follows:

EXPORT OF PAKISTAN

(Value in M \$)

Year	Exports
2013-2014	25,110
2014-2015	23,667
2015-2016	20,787
2016-2017	20,422
2017-2018	23,222

The reasons behind decline in exports:

- (a) Fall in international prices of commodities.
 - (b) Higher cost of utilities in Pakistan compared to regional countries.
 - (c) Fall in demand in the international markets.
 - (d) Unrealistic exchange rate of Pakistan also decreased competitiveness of exports.
3. However, overall export position during 2017-18 was encouraging. Increase in Pakistan exports was mainly because of better performance of Food products, Textile, Footballs, Leather goods, Footwear, Surgical goods, Chemical & Pharmaceutical, Gems, Engineering goods etc.
4. Textile products continue to dominate the Pakistan's export basket with 58% share and it has increased from US\$12.45 billion in FY 2016-17 to US\$13.53 billion in FY 2017-18. The items which showed increase in textile group are Raw Cotton (33.65%), Bed Wear (5.77%), Cotton Yarn (10.30%) Yarn and other than Cotton (38.85%), Art, Silk and Synthetic textile (65.09%), Knitwear (15.17%), and Readymade Garments (11.22%). The items which showed decline in the textile group are Tents, Canvas and Tarpaulin (-36.26%), Cotton carded or combed (-97.87%).

5. The Food products showed an increase of 29.28% in FY 2017-18 in comparison with same period of last year. The Food group's share has reached 20 percent of total exports of Pakistan. The items which showed landmark increase in export growth are Wheat (22,668.69%), Sugar (215.662%), and products that shown reasonable increase are Rice (26.78%), Fish and Fish preparation (14.17%), Vegetables (30.56%), Fruits (5.08%) and Meat & Meat preparation (2.26%).
6. In other manufacturing group products that contributed towards positive growth in the group include: Gems (34.97%) Fertilizer manufactured (405.20%) Molasses (65.75%) Footballs (9.38%) Leather Gloves (15.36%), Leather Footwear (17.15%), and Guar & Guar products (21.83%) etc. The items which registered decrease in the export of other manufactures group are Canvas Footwear (-55.94%), other Footwear (-9.46%), Transport Equipment (-7.73%), and Furniture (-14.27%) etc.

(c) & (d) The total annual budget granted to Ministry of Commerce (Main Secretariat) for the F.Y. 2017-18 and expenditure upto June, 2017-18 is as under:

Final Budget Allocation F.Y. 2017-18(Rs.)	Expenditure during F.Y. 2017-18(Rs.)
461,771,000	440,632,245

Whereas, the final allocated budget and expenditure incurred by Ministry of Commerce (Main Secretariat) on account of Pay, Allowances, Benefits, Utility Bills, Visits, and Other expenditures is as under:

Head	Final Budget Allocation	Expenditure (Final) during F.Y. 2017-18
A01101-Pay of Officers	97,152,000	92,673,775
A01151-Pay of Other Staff	75,797,000	73,006,386
A012-1-Regular Allowances	125,865,000	120,040,067
A03302-Water (utilities)	20,000	13,082

Head	Final Budget Allocation	Expenditure (Final) during F.Y. 2017-18
A03303-Electricity (utilities)	1,000,000	892,662
A03305-POL for Generator (utilities)	200,000	199,406
A03805-Travelling Allowance (visits)	7,700,000	6,965,281
A03912-Delegation Abroad (visits)	15,750,000	15,129,578
Grand Total:	323,484,000	308,920,237

(e) The Government is undertaking the following policy measures to boost Pakistan's export performance during the current financial year:

I. Short Term Policy Measures:

- (i) Reduction of electricity tariff for the industry.
- (ii) Early refund of sales tax to ensure availability of liquidity for export sector.
- (iii) Reduction of tariffs on raw materials and inputs.

II. Medium to Long Term Policy Strategy: The following medium to long term policy measures that are linked to the structural reform of the export sector will be introduced in the current financial year:

- (i) **Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2018-23:** Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2018-23 will cover the policy interventions aimed at creating competitiveness, tariff reform, investment in export-oriented production, integration into global value chains, enhanced market access, institutional strengthening and improvement in export eco system etc.
- (ii) **Trade Related Investment Policy Framework:** To channelize investment into export-oriented production and competitive import substitution. The five-year policy will identify the priority sectors with a comprehensive package of incentives for investment in the export oriented sectors.

- (iii) **National Tariff Policy:** Ministry of Commerce is finalizing National Tariff Policy, which make the tariff structure to reflect trade policy priorities, improving competitiveness through duty-free access to imported raw materials and encouraging value addition through the principle of cascading of tariffs and removing anomalies in the tariff structure. The policy will aim to encourage value added exports of the country.

Target for the export will be decided by the Government with the approval of Strategic Trade Policy Frame Work 2018-23. However, details of trade for the period July-September, 2018 are as below:

Value in US \$ in Million

Exports	July- September 2018	July- September 2017	% Change in July-Sept 2018 over July-September2017
Exports	5,390	5,156	4.56
Imports	14,260	14,170	0.63
Balance of Trade	-8,869	-9,014	-1.61

(f) & (g) **Initiatives taken by Ministry of Commerce**

- (a) Ministry of Commerce is working on new Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF 2018-23) with focus on reducing cost of production and encouraging investment into export oriented sectors.
- (b) Moreover, STPF would also include measures for tariff rationalization, promotion of Research & Development in manufacturing sector and facilitation of SMEs for integration into Global Value Chains.
- (c) Furthermore, for market access Pakistan is currently engaged with China for the second phase of FTA, investment and transfer of technology is part of the broader collaboration under CPEC. For next five years, exports to China will be focused on processed food, high value products, Chinese government procurement of goods and services and services sector in general. Ministry of Commerce is also expanding preferential trade arrangement with Indonesia and reviewing a free trade agreement with Malaysia. Both sides have

agreed on broadening the scope of FTA by inclusion of chapters on services and investments. Currently, Pakistan is in the advanced stages of negotiating FTAs with Thailand and Iran.

- (d) As per PM package 2017-18, Rs.180 billion worth of incentives were allowed for exporters of Textile and Non-Textile sectors wherein 50% of incentives are allowed to exporters and the remaining 50% to those who enhance their export by at least by 10% in FY 2018. Besides, in order to encourage market diversification, 2% incentives of FOB value was allowed for exports to Non-traditional markets. The above mentioned PM package has also been extended for the period of 2018-21.

As per directions of the Prime Minister the performance of the Trade Officers is evaluated periodically on the basis of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) formulated (by the Ministry of Commerce and approved by the Prime Minister's Office). A Trade Officers Monitoring & Evaluation Committee (TOMEC) has been constituted in this Ministry under the chairmanship of Secretary Commerce. This Committee has been active since 2017.

Five Trade Officers whose performance was found to be "Below Average" have been recalled by this Committee.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

35. **Mr. Riaz Fatyana:**
(Transferred from 3rd Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *the reasons for conducting international trade of Pakistan in US\$/Dollar;*
- (b) *whether the payments can be made in Pakistani rupees or in the currency of other countries under bilateral agreements or through barter trade system; and*
- (c) *whether there is any proposal under consideration to made trade with other countries in Euro, Pound Sterling, Russian Ruble, Chinese Yuan and Saudi Riyal besides the US\$/Dollar?*

Referred to the Cabinet Division for allocation of subject.

36. **Mr. Saad Waseem:**
(Transferred from 3rd Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the year-wise amount earmarked, released and spent on the renovation and beautification of the building of Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the last five years alongwith details of work, which has been done and equipments installed for the said purpose?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): The requisite information is given below:

Financial Year	Earmarked Budget	Re-appropriation	Final Budget	Expenditure	Remarks
2013-14	1,707,000	3,500,000	1,707,000+ 3,500,000= 5,207,000	5,187,589	Routine repair/maintenance work
2014-15	4,000,000	19,360,350	4,000,000+ 19,360,350= 23,360,350	23,348,788	Routine repair/maintenance work. (Rs.5,787,393)
2015-16	5,500,000	11,000,000	5,500,000+ 11,000,000= 16,500,000	16,435,943	Routine repair/maintenance work. i. Construction of two watch towers for security (Rs.1,143,792) ii. Roof treatment of consular hal (Rs.1,297,900)
2016-17	7,538,000	17,353,000	7,538,000+ 17,353,000= 24,891,000	24,880,214	Routine repair/maintenance work. i. LED lights in ASB (Rs.1,990,000) ii. Uplifting of outdoor reception (Rs.1,570,700) iii. Repair/Renovation of Mosque (Rs. 2,995,000) iv. Replaced in Wall paper (Rs. 1,316,000) vii. White wash of outer facade of SYKB (Rs. 2,135,000)
2017-18	9,500,000	1,000,000	9,500,000+ 1,000,000= 10,500,000	10,352,024	Routine repair/maintenance work. i. Repair of cypher washrooms ASB (Rs 1,199,100)

Financial Year	Earmarked Budget	Re-appropriation	Final Budget	Expenditure	Remarks
					ii. Repair of bag section, store and (protocol division (Rs. 1,186,050) iii. Repair/maintenance (of elevators of the Ministry (Rs 1,120,500)

It may be noted that Agha Shahi Block of the Ministry is an old building and the Ministry has to incur expenditure on its repair/renovation every year.

37. **Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**

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

- (a) *whether players or the team management is responsible for the worst defeat of the Pakistan Cricket Team in the Asia Cup, 2018; and*
- (b) *whether any investigation will be conducted into the matter by the Government through impartial accountability?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):

(a) It is true that Pakistan team could not perform upto the expectations during the Asia Cup 2018. The key players of the team who are all youngsters could not perform to their potential.

Following the defeat in Asia Cup 2018 several discussions have been held with the Coach, Captain, Selection Committee as well as the Team Manager to take stock of the situation. Performance is always based on team work of management, coach, captain and players and need for holistic improvement can never be denied. However, in the wake of corrective actions of PCB, the result is that Pakistan has recently won the Test series against Australia in UAE.

(b) Winning and losing is part and parcel of the game. Yes, there is a need for improvement.

38. **Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government is considering to raise the case/situation of tension between Pakistan and India and raising this matter in United Nations or other International Forums; if not, the reasons thereof?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): Pakistan as a matter of policy wants the best relations with all its neighbours including India. Unfortunately the meeting between the two Foreign Ministers on the sideline of the UNGA was cancelled by India. Also, Indian political and military leadership have been issuing threatening statements. Foreign Minister spoke on this issue in his address at the UNGA and unequivocally stated that any Indian venture on lines of its doctrine of “limited” war against Pakistan will evoke a strong and matching response. The Foreign Minister also informed Mr. Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General and other interlocutors regarding these threats.

The Foreign Minister also highlighted the continuing Indian atrocities in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir in his address to the UN General Assembly and strongly called for the establishment of an independent, international Commission of Inquiry, as recommended by the OHCHR Report on Jammu & Kashmir. Our Missions abroad continue to highlight Indian atrocities in IOK and the need for an expedited resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions, for regional peace and development, to their interlocutors. Kashmir Black Day was observed in Pakistan and by our Missions abroad on 27 October 2018 to express solidarity with our Kashmiri brethren against illegal occupation of Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir by India.

39. **Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state whether it is a fact that China has given a proposal to Pakistan to setup a trade centre at Pakistan China border for promoting bilateral trade; if so, the details thereof?

Minister for Commerce: No such proposal has been given by the People’s Republic of China to setup a Trade Centre on Pakistan-China border for promotion of bilateral trade.

40. **Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Government intends to stop the project of Pakistan Textile City; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the benefits achieved from project therefrom?*

Minister for Textile: (a) Pakistan Textile City Company (PTCL) was established with the purpose to provide state of the art infrastructure to Textile Industry. Due to non-availability of utilities and other administrative issues, the Textile City could not be populated and the ensuring delay pushed the Company into deep financial crises. The company took a loan amounting to Rs.1.5 billion from NBP for infrastructure development but could not return the same and markup accrued.

The Company, to improve its liquidity, to repay loans, proposed to sub-lease 200 Acres land to K-Electric company against an estimated price of Rs. 2.6 billion. Further, K-Electric company gave an undertaking to supply electricity and water. A Summary seeking ECC's permission was submitted to the Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister In charge of Textile Division on 20th November, 2015. The Prime Minister did not agree and directed that the Company be liquidated, all of its assets be disposed of by transfer to Port Qasim Authority (PQA) and thereafter settle the liabilities of the Company.

However, voluntary winding up is still pending due to dispute between National Bank of Pakistan (the major creditor) and PQA on the proposed financial settlement plan. Recently, on 19-09-2018, Textile Division has submitted a proposal to the Prime Minister to review the decision of liquidating Pakistan Textile City Limited and be revived and its scope may be widened to make it as an Industrial Zone. Approval is awaited.

- (b) As the Project could not be completed therefore, no benefit has been achieved so far.

41. **Mr. Irfan Ali Leghari:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the details regarding goods/items exported and imported during the year 2016 alongwith the value thereof in rupees and names of countries thereof?

Minister for Commerce: A list of goods exported by Pakistan during the year 2016 alongwith their values in Pak Rupees is attached as **Annex-I**. A list of countries to which these goods were exported during the said year is attached as **Annex-II**.

2. A list of goods imported by Pakistan during the year 2016 alongwith their values in Pak Rupees is attached as **Annex-III**. A list of countries from which these goods were imported during the said year is attached as **Annex-IV**.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

42. **Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Behan:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the present Government for the development of Textile Industry;*
- (b) the comparative achievements/benefits gained from said development by the present and previous Governments; and*
- (c) the names of the countries with whom agreements have been signed by the present Government for the development of said industry?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) The government has taken following decision to address the issue of gas and RNLG by:

- o Gas price has been kept at Rs. 600/mmbtu for zero rated sectors including textiles and new slab has been created.

- o The government has also approved that gas supply to the five zero rated sectors including textiles in Punjab will be revised from 28:72 to 50:50 for gas and RLNG and the weighted average gas tariff will be \$ 6.5/mmbtu
- o The priority of allocation of gas will be revised to bring the five zero rated sectors at second priority

Further, following facilitation has been continued by the government.

- o No sales tax and custom duty on machinery
- o Zero Custom duty on manmade fibers other than polyester
- o Zero rating of textiles value chain
- o Mark up rates of Export Finance Scheme (EFS) and Long Term Financing Facility (LTFF) continued at 3% and 5% respectively

Regulatory Duty on cotton yarn is reduced to 5%

(b) One of the major issue raised by the Punjab based industry was disparity in gas pricing, the gas is available at Rs. 600/mmbtu while RLNG is based on international prices and recently it was Rs. 1,550 / mmbtu. It would reduce the cost of doing business for Punjab based industry. Further, the reduction in regulatory duty on yarn would reduce the cost of production.

(c) No agreement has been signed by the present Government for the development of textile industry as yet.

43. **Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Behan:**
(*Transferred from 3rd Session*)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the item wise details of Pakistan's trade with China during the last five years alongwith the value in rupees and quantity thereof?

Minister for Commerce: The total volume of trade between Pakistan and China in the last five years is as under:

Value in US\$ Millions

Year	Imports	Exports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2013-14	7,772.42	2,416.98	10,189.4	-5,355.43
2014-15	10,172.73	2,126.85	12,299.58	-8,045.88
2015-16	12,105.33	1,669.59	13,774.92	-10,435.74
2016-17	14,133.92	1,463.30	15,597.22	-12,670.62
2017-18	15,745.4	1,741.03	17,486.4	-14,004.4

Source: FBR

The major exports of Pakistan to China consists of cotton yarn, rice, raw hides & skins, crude vegetable material, chemical material, fish and fish preparations and crude minerals. Whereas, the major imports from China consists of machinery (all sorts) and its parts, manufactured fertilizer, chemical elements, yarn and thread of synthetic fiber, iron and steel, chemical materials, vegetable and synthetic textile fiber, road vehicles and their parts.

The item wise detail of Pakistan's trade with China (top hundred items) during the last five years along with value in rupees and quantity is at **Annex-I**.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

1. **Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the achievements gained from the visit made by the Prime Minister's to Saudi Arabia?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Salman bin Abdul Aziz to participate in the Future Investment Initiative (FII) Conference on 22-23 October 2018. During the FII Conference, the Prime Minister underlined Pakistan's priorities towards optimizing economy and attracting foreign investment opportunities in tourism sector, minerals, coal and gas exploration.

The Prime Minister also called on King Salman bin Abdul Aziz and held talks with the Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman. The Crown Prince agreed

to bring visa fee for Pakistani workers at par with the visa fee charged from Indian workers *i.e.* SAR 305. Moreover, an MoU was signed regarding deposit of US\$3 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan by Saudi Arabia for a period of one year as balance of payment support. It was also agreed that a one year deferred payment facility for import of oil, up to US\$ 3 billion, will be provided by Saudi Arabia. This arrangement will be in place for three years, which will be reviewed thereafter. Saudi Arabia confirmed its willingness in investing in a petroleum refinery in Pakistan. Saudi Arabia has also expressed interest in development of mineral resources in Pakistan.

2. **Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the response of the Saudi Arabian Leadership to the Prime Minister's offer to mediate between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): Pakistan enjoys close and cordial relations with all countries of the Muslim world including Saudi Arabia and Iran. Pakistan has always strived for peace and reconciliation among Muslim brothers and will continue its efforts in this regard. Prime Minister Imran Khan has offered his personal mediation to help resolve the Yemen crisis, if all concerned parties agree to this mediation.

3. **Ms. Kishwer Zehra:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Pakistanis living abroad have to pay 10 to 12 US\$ to all Embassies abroad for each application; if so, who carries out audit of the used amount thereof?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): It is factually incorrect that 10-12 US\$ are charged by Pakistan embassies abroad on each application. It is confirmed that passport and visa application forms are provided free of charge to all applicants. However, passport, visa, NICOP and attestation of documents are charged as per prescribed fee for each document.

All the consular services are regularly audited by the office of the Auditor General of Pakistan.

4. **Ms. Kishwer Zehra:**

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state whether any subsidy is being given by the Government on expenses for bringing the dead body of any deceased Overseas Pakistani for burial and funeral ceremony overhere?

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development: (i) No subsidy is given by the government for burial and funeral ceremony of deceased overseas Pakistanis.

(ii) Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) is providing free transportation of dead bodies from all International Airports in Pakistan to their home town.

ISLAMABAD:
The 1st November, 2018.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.