

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Thursday, the 8th August, 2019

150. ***Rana Sana Ullah Khan:**
(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state the estimated loss in financial terms to the economy due to each sit-in and lockdown in different cities of the country during the last seven years?

Reply not received.

248. ***Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro:**
(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the particular steps being taken by the Government to solve/easeout the problems faced by the business community, for positive impact on business activity?

Minister for Commerce and Textile: The following steps being taken by the government to solve/easeout problems faced by the business community for positive impact on business activity:

- i. **Revision of Export Enhancement Package:** In order to provide long term policy to support and encourage non-traditional exports of the country, the Package was extended for another period of three years *vide* SRO 711 (I)/2018 dated 8-6-2018, *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 have been 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. Moreover, for market diversification, additional incentive has been provided to promote exports in to the non-traditional markets.

- ii. **Reduction in the Cost of Production:** Gas tariffs for LNG have been lowered for Punjab to bring it at par with other provinces. Further, the gas prices for “export industries”, including jute, carpet, textile, sports’ goods, leather and surgical goods, have not been increased.
- iii. **Economic Package to support industrial growth:** Commerce Division has been working with the industry to develop a comprehensive plan to increase their competitiveness. One of the major impediments for export sectors was is higher duties on the import of raw materials and intermediate inputs. In this regard, a series of consultative sessions were held to identify sectors and products that require immediate relief in terms of reduction in the import duty in their inputs and raw materials. In the first phase, Custom Duties and Regulatory Duties on 236 Tariff Lines (TLs) of raw materials and intermediate products have been reduced. In the second phase, a list of 40 TLs were further incorporated in the Finance Bill 2019 (Supplement-I). In the second phase, tariff reduction plan has been approved for 12 sectors. The amendment in the tariff schedule has been introduced in Finance Bill 2019-Supplement, whereas, the Regulatory import duty for the export-oriented industries have been reduced *vide* SRO 190(I) 2019 dated 11th February 2019.
- iv. **Release of funds for DLTL/ Export Package Scheme and simplification of disbursement mechanism:** The payment of Export Enhancement Package claims were pending due to which exporters were facing the liquidity crunch. After extensive consultations with the Finance Division, State Bank of Pakistan and AGPR, a mechanism has been designed to expedite the

payments to the exporters. It has been decided that the settlement of outstanding claims of exporters under DLT/PM package schemes as on 31-12-2018 through cash payment (1/3rd) and issuance of Promissory Notes (remaining 2/3rd). Furthermore, Commerce Division and State Bank of Pakistan are in the process of developing online portal to efficiently manage/ execute the current/ upcoming DLT schemes. The number of documents has been further reduced. The exporters will be able to file/review and check the status of their claims online via online portal. Furthermore, the government has disbursed of Rs. 20 billion of Sales Tax Refund & Rs. 10 billion DLT.

- v. **Policy Rate for Export finance:** The rates on SBP's financing schemes for export refinancing and fixed investment are still unchanged at low levels, despite the 425 bps hike in the policy rate over the past 12 months. The purpose is to support the export-oriented sectors.
- vi. **Revision in Import and Export Regulations (Export and Import Policy Order):** In order to facilitate the business community and to make the existing regulations more business friendly and fool proof, Commerce Division finalized a number of amendments in the Import and Export Policy Order 2016, in consultation with the relevant ministries. Accordingly, a list of proposals was presented to the ECC of the Cabinet aiming at addressing anomalies, administrative hurdles and cumbersome procedures.

312. ***Mr. Naveed Aamir Jeeva:**
(Deferred during 10th Session)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state the total value of currency notes printed, so far, during present Government regime?

Minister for Finance and Revenue: The total value of currency notes printed, so far, during present Government is Rs. 888,950 million from 18th August, 2018 up to 12th April, 2019. However, the actual expansion of currency in circulation during present government tenure is as follows:

(Figures in million)

Description/ Date	17-08-2018	12-April-2019	Increase
Currency in Circulation	4,539,397	4,848,778	309,381

16. ***Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak:**
(Deferred during 10th Session)

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

- (a) *whether any gender-based labour survey has ever been conducted by any Government agency during the last six years in order to assess the number of women and men involved in our labour force all over the country;*
- (b) *if so, its details indicating also the percentage share of both genders in different fields of economy like agriculture, mining, industry etc.?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar): (a) Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has been carrying out gender based Labour Force Survey (LFS) since 1963 on regular basis. Labour Force Survey collects data on different labour market indicators, employed and unemployed labour force in Pakistan. This survey also covers the socio-demographic features of the total population and it is important to note that all these figures are gender based. During the last six years following survey reports have been compiled/published. Then gender-wise Labour Force is as under:—

Labour Force (Million)			
Year	Both Sexes	Male	Female
2009-2010	56.33	43.53	10.66
2010 -2011	57.24	43.95	13.29
2012 -2013	59.74	45.98	13.76

Year	Both Sexes	Male	Female
2013-2014	60.10	46.65	14.45
2014-2015	61.04	46.38	14.66
2017-2018	65.50	50.74	14.76

(b) The detailed share of both gender (in percentage) in different fields of economy of latest labour force survey 2017-18 are as under:—

Major Industry Divisions	2017-2018		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture forestry/hunting & fishing	38.5	30.4	67.2
Manufacturing	16.1	16.1	16.0
Construction	7.6	9.7	0.3
Wholesale & retail trade	14.9	18.7	1.5
Transport/ storage communication	6.2	7.9	0.2
Community/social & personal services	14.7	14.8	14.6
*Others	2.0	2.4	0.2

*Others (includes mining & quarrying, electricity, gas & water, financing, insurance, real estate & business services and extraterritorial organizations and bodies)

64. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

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

- (a) *the volume of outstanding external debt on Pakistan till 2019 and the steps being taken by the Government to resolve serious economic issues; and*

(b) *the detail of outstanding internal debt on the Government of Pakistan?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue: (a) The stock of outstanding external debt of Pakistan till May 2019 stands at Rs. 10,838 billion. In order to resolve economic issues Government is introducing comprehensive set of economic and structural reforms particularly focusing on export competitiveness, re-establishing fiscal stability and improving governance in key utilities and State-Owned Enterprises (SOE's). Key features of structural reforms include:

- Lowering the revenue-expenditure gap
 - Policy and administration reforms to improve revenue collection
 - Streamlining government expenditure
- Narrowing the exports -imports gap
- Bridging the saving-investment gap
- Enhancing ease of doing business
- Protecting the poor and the vulnerable

(b) Following are the details of outstanding domestic debt as of May 2019:

Descriptions	MAY 2019 (Rs. In billions)
Permanent Debt	4,817.2
Floating Debt	11,822.9
Unfunded Debt	3,123.4
Total Domestic Debt	19,763.5

65. ***Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khokhar:**

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

- (a) *whether credentials of the present Governor, State Bank of Pakistan were got verified by the relevant agencies of Pakistan; if so, whether these agencies cleared him for the appointment;*
- (b) *if no clearance was sought, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue: (a) The Governor, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is appointed under Section 10 (3) of SBP Act, 1956 which states as under:—

“The Governor shall be appointed by the President for a term of three years, and on such salary and terms and conditions of service as the President may determine, except that neither the salary of the Governor nor his other terms and conditions of service shall be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment:

Provided that the Governor shall be eligible for reappointment for another term of three years:

Provided further that no person shall hold the office of the Governor after attaining the age of sixty five years.”

It is evident from the above Section of SBP Act, 1956 that verification of credentials of the Governor SBP is not required as per law.

- (b) As given at (a) above

66. ***Mr. Muhammad Moeen Wattoo:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that imports, from India, continue un-abated even after Pulwama attack;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the Pakistan’s export to India is suspended because of 200% duty imposed by India on imports of Pakistani goods;*

- (c) *whether it is also a fact that imports of tomato and potatoes, from India, continue despite a ban in fear of disease;*
- (d) *whether it is also a fact that some Indian products are being imported from Dubai;*
- (e) *if the answers to part (a), (b), (c) & (d) above are in affirmative, the details and reasons thereof; and*
- (f) *is there any plan to ban or impose heavy duty on Indian products?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) Comparison of data for imports from India with figures available for last year in the corresponding period reveals that volume of imports from India has declined in wake of Pulwama attack. Imports from India remained 965 Million USD from February-June, 2018 whereas this year the figures have declined to 611 Million USD in the corresponding period Annex-A.

(b) Though trade equation with India is already skewed in favour of India as Pakistan imports more than it exports. Notwithstanding, the 200% duty has impacted Pakistan's exports, though the impact remains little on overall export of Pakistan due to meagre share of exports to India Annex-A.

(c) There is no ban on import of potatoes and tomatoes from India. However, tomatoes (HS Code 0702.0000) and potatoes (HS Code 0710.1000) are importable from India through land route from Wagha only. (Annex-I). In order to ensure disease free imports of agriculture products, the Commerce Division issued **SRO 1067(I)/ 2017 dated 20th October, 2017**. Under Serial No. 127 and 156 of the said SRO, tomatoes and potatoes are importable, inter alia, subject to a valid phytosanitary certificate/ inspection and plant protection release order from the Department of Plant Protection (DPP), MNFSR (Annex-II).

(d) Pakistan maintains a negative list of items for trade with India. In terms of Paragraph 5(B)(iii) of the Import Policy Order, 2016, import of goods from India or of Indian origin are not importable into Pakistan as specified in Appendix-G(Annex-III), as reproduced below:

- iii. *import of goods from India or of Indian origin specified in Appendix-G shall not be importable. The goods other than those mentioned in the said Appendix shall be importable from India subject to same conditions and requirements as prescribed under this Order wherever applicable.*

Currently, there are 1209 items that cannot be imported from India as specified in Appendix-G. In terms of the above policy position, goods of Indian origin as specified in the said Appendix cannot be imported into Pakistan via Dubai or any other country. Nevertheless, goods other than those specified in Appendix-G can be imported from India or of Indian origin from third countries subject to the conditions laid down in the Import Policy Order, 2016.

(e) Not required.

(f) In wake of Pulwama attack, the Ministry of Commerce studied all the options available with Pakistan including imposing heavy import duties on all Indian origin products. However, on the following grounds, the option was discarded;

- The decision may politically sound good but not economically viable.
- More than 50 per cents of imports are either raw materials or intermediate/ semi processed goods *i.e.* cotton, cotton yarn, P-xylene.
- Rise in import duty will increase cost of doing business and affect Pakistan' export competitiveness.
- Average cost on Indian cotton is 75 cents/ pound which is more competitive than American and Australian cotton.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

67. ***Mr. Shahid Ahmad:**

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

(a) *foreign debt on 18th August, 2018 in US Dollars;*

(b) *foreign loan obtained from 18th August, 2018 to 30th June, 2019 in US Dollars;*

(c) *foreign debt returned from 18th August, 2018 to 30th June, 2019?*

Minister for Economic Affairs (Mr. Muhammad Hammad Azhar):

(a) Foreign Public debt on 18th August, 2018 amounted to US\$ 73,102 Million.

(b) Foreign loan obtained from 18th August, 2018 to 30th June, 2019 amounted to US\$ 7,172.33 Million.

(c) Foreign debt returned from 18th August, 2018 to 30th June, 2019 amounted to US\$ 8,392.87 Million.

68. ***Ms. Naz Baloch:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office be pleased to state what steps have been taken to attract/improve the foreign direct investment?

Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office: • Government is endeavoring to boost Foreign Direct Investment in the country through various initiatives. The investment regime is quite liberal. Almost all sectors are open for foreign investment and full repatriation of dividends, profits including capital is allowed.

- The government is focusing on accelerating growth and investment, reducing cost of production, enhancing ease of doing business, attracting Pakistani Diaspora to invest in the country, using CPEC opportunities and Special Economic Zones initiatives to attract/ improve the Foreign Direct Investment in the country.

- Following are the key steps taken to attract Foreign Direct Investment in the country:

- a. Ease of Doing Business
- b. Industrial Cooperation & SEZs
- c. Investment Road Shows

- d. Involving private sector in policy formulation.
- e. Integration of Investor's Grievance Cell with Pakistan Citizen Portal.
- f. Sector scanning to promote priority sectors domestically and globally.
- g. Establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU) for industrial cooperation and investor facilitation.
- h. Online Work Visa Facilitation

Details of these initiatives are **Annex-I**.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

69. ***Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khokhar:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state whether the Government intends to increase import duty on luxury items to discourage their import; if so, the details; if not, the reasons thereof?

Minister for Commerce and Textile: At the time of preparation of Federal Budget 2019-20, a detailed exercise of tariff rationalization was conducted in the Ministry of Commerce in consultation with other relevant government agencies and stakeholders. The proposals, inter alia contained the imposition of duties on luxury items and non-essential import items. The final proposals became part of the Finance Act. There is no further proposal under consideration at this stage.

70. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

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

- (a) whether the interests of Pakistani industrialists have been taken into account in the Free Trade Agreement with China; and*
- (b) the details of Trade Balance between Pakistan and China?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) Prior to the signing of Phase-II of the Free Trade Agreement with China, the Ministry of Commerce has taken into account the interests of the Pakistani industrialist through substantive consultation process with different chambers and trade associations. Based on these consultations, the following steps have been taken to protect the Pakistani industrialists under Phase-II of Trade Agreement with China;

- All sensitive sectors have been protected and are not subject to duty reduction
- Increase in the protected list of Pakistan from 10% to 25% that come around 1760 tariff lines
- Strengthened Safeguard Mechanism to protect domestic products against surge in Chinese imports.

(b) The trade balance between Pakistan and China has shrunk to \$10.8 billion during the Fiscal, year (2018-19) as compared to the previous year (2017-18) *i.e.* \$14 billion. The detailed bilateral trade data is attached at **Annex-I**.

Annex-I

Bilateral Trade Trend:

<u>Value in US\$ Millions</u>				
Year	Imports	Exports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2006-07	3,522	576	4,098	-2,946
2007-08	4,696	685	5,380	-4,011
2008-09	4,085	701	4,786	-3,384
2009-10	4,410	1,154	5,564	-3,256
2010-11	5,789	1,634	7,423	-4,155
2011-12	6,710	2,193	8,903	-4,517
2012-13	6,639	2,610	9,249	-4,029

Year	Imports	Exports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2013-14	7,772	2,416	10,189	-5,355
2014-15	10,172	2,127	12,299	-8,046
2015-16	12,105	1,669	13,774	-10,436
2016-17	14,133	1,463	15,597	-12,671
2017-18	15,745	1,741	17,486	-14,004
2018-19	12,752	1,855	14,608	-10,897

Source: FBR

71. ***Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam:**

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

- (a) *the system developed for biometric verification of the Overseas Pakistanis, having bank accounts in Pakistan;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that such bank accounts have been blocked due to biometric non-verification choking the transfer of foreign exchange to Pakistan; and*
- (c) *the steps, being taken by the Government to solve this pressing issue as Overseas Pakistanis cannot come to Pakistan just for biometric verification; if no, reasons thereof?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue: (a) State Bank of Pakistan vide Circular No. 16 dated June 03, 2019 has issued instructions to banks to adopt following mechanism for verification of Pakistani citizens who are either non-resident Pakistanis (NRPs) or temporarily residing outside Pakistan:

Overseas Pakistanis can provide the following to their bank (through email or by post):

- o Reasonable evidence/ proof regarding account holder's residency or temporary absence from the country (*i.e.* copy of passport, visa, exit stamp, resident permit, etc.)
- o Account holder's expected date of return to Pakistan
- The bank will conduct fresh NADRA Verisys as an alternative to biometric verification.
- The bank account(s) shall be considered as 'verified' until the account holder's return to Pakistan. For Pakistanis temporarily outside Pakistan, maximum time period is six (06) months.
- Such customers are required to get biometric verification conducted upon their return to Pakistan.
- The joint bank account holder(s) who are overseas can utilize the relevant procedure described above.

(b) As of July 19, 2019, 90.6% of the customers' accounts have been biometrically verified. After expiry of the deadline of June 30, 2019, some of the banks have placed temporary debit block restrictions on the remaining unverified accounts. The banks have confirmed that in most of the cases upon provision of the required documents these accounts are un-blocked on immediate basis. However, in few cases some delay might have happened due to the different time zones. In view of the small number of remaining unverified accounts and the instructions issued for the verification of overseas Pakistani accounts, SBP feels that there would be no impact on the inward foreign remittances due to the on-going exercise of the biometric verification.

(c) As given above, SBP has already issued necessary instructions to banks about the alternate mechanism to be adopted for verification of Pakistani citizens who are either non-resident Pakistanis (NRPs) or temporarily residing outside Pakistan. Therefore, the overseas Pakistanis are not required to come to Pakistan for biometric verification.

72. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state what steps are being taken to ensure women's access

to financial services/assistance programme securing their participation in the economy?

Transferred to Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

73. ***Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state the reasons for devaluation of rupee during the last ten months alongwith the action, being taken by the Government, against the responsible therefor?

Minister for Finance and Revenue: The recent movement in the exchange rate reflects resolution of the macroeconomic imbalances accumulated over the past few years when the rupee was kept overvalued, the increased demand for imported goods led to widening of the current account deficit to unmanageable levels putting severe pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves. As a result of the demand-supply gap in the foreign exchange market, rupee depreciated by 13.7 percent in FY 18 and 24.1 percent in FY 19.

The, depreciation has helped in bringing the rupee value close to the level determined by economic fundamentals. This has not only relieved external account vulnerabilities but has also supported revival of the country's export oriented sector. While the full benefits of depreciation will take some time to unfold, the trade balance is already showing improvements with the current account deficit contracting by 31.7 percent in FY 19 to USD 13.6 billion (4.8 percent of GDP) as compared to USD 19.9 billion (6.3 percent of GDP) recorded in FY 18.

Pakistan's Current exchange rate regime is flexible and market determined, The State Bank of Pakistan, however, is committed to address disorderly market behavior.

74. ***Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz:**

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

(a) *the expected schedule of release of 2017 Population Census data relating to Education Attainment Levels of the population,*

School Enrollment Rates (Gross Enrollment Ratio and Net Enrollment Ratio etc.) and the Literacy Rates;

- (b) *the alternative strategy of the Ministry for provision of reliable information and data on the key social and economic indicators of the country, desperately needed for the evidence-based planning of development interventions at national and provincial levels;*
- (c) *if official release of Population Census 2017 data is delayed further due to political reasons?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar): (a) PBS compiled the results and provisional data pertaining to the total population by gender at national, provincial, districts and urban/rural disaggregation were released after approval of the CCI and placed on the website of the PBS.

Data pertaining to sex, population growth and density, sex ratio, age, marital status, level of education, literacy rate, employment status, access to drinking water, access to bathroom facilities and other details related to household amenities are compiled. However, CCI's approval is still awaited. Data pertaining to enrollment rates, both gross and net were not collected through Census 2017. They are available up to district level in Pakistan Social Living Standard Measurement Survey (PSLM).

(b) The information on Gross and Net enrollment rates, literacy, and other social indicators are available in regular surveys of the PBS like PSLM, Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) and Labour Force Survey (LFS). Pakistan Demographic Health Survey (PDHS) of National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) also provide data on important social indicators for evidence based planning for development interventions.

(c) Census data will be released soon after approval of the CCI.

75. ***Mrs. Shahida Akhtar Ali:**

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

- (a) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to investigate tax Amnesty Schemes initiated in the recent years including the one announced by the present Government, in order to determine whether these were availed fairly or otherwise;*
- (b) *if so, the details; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue: (a) It is stated that there is no provision for audit in various asset declaration schemes introduced in the recent tax years and no further tax can be charged in addition to tax paid under the aforesaid schemes.

However, there are provisions with respect to misrepresentation wherein if a declaration under the scheme has been made by misrepresentation or suppression of facts, such declaration shall be void and shall be deemed never to have been made under the scheme. Moreover any proceeds or assets that are involved in or derived from commission of a criminal offence cannot be declared in asset declaration schemes. Although no such case of misrepresentation has been reported from field formations, yet the provision of investigation is available and can be exercised as and when required.

- (b) As above.

76. ***Mr. Muhammad Moeen Wattoo:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistani rock salt is exported to India in raw form;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that some countries are making a lot of money from our salt by refining, packing and marketing it as their own product;*
- (c) *is there any plan to lodge a complaint against the countries who are marketing Pakistani Rock Salt as their own product, claiming it to be the Himalayan Pink Salt;*

(d) *is there any plan to ban export of Pakistani rock salt in raw form;*

(e) *if answers to part (a) to (d) are in affirmative, the details thereof?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) Rock salt in raw form is exported to many countries of the world including India, fetching the much-needed foreign exchange for the country. Country wise export data of rock salt is attached as **Annex-I**.

(b) It is a normal business practice that a product is imported into a country and a part of it is consumed locally and the remaining part is re-exported with or without value addition. Therefore, it is possible that the imported rock salt from Pakistan may have been re-exported after processing and value addition. However, there is no data available that could inform as to the marketing of imported rock salt of Pakistan's origin as their own product.

(c) In the absence of any credible information, data or evidence that rock salt of Pakistan's origin is being marketed by the importing countries as their own product, it may not be possible for Pakistan to take up the matter at any dispute settlement forum.

(d) In order to devise a policy on this issue a stakeholders' consultation session was held in the Commerce Division on 16th July, 2019 (**Minutes of the Meeting – Annex-II**). It was agreed by the stakeholders that the export of rock salt is fetching the much-needed foreign exchange for the country. At the time of dwindling foreign exchange reserves and stagnation in exports, it may not be appropriate to ban the exports of rock salt from Pakistan or discourage its exports with the imposition of export duty.

(e) As explained in the preceding paras.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

77. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel:**

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

(a) *the impact, on the daily life of a common man, of IMF package and other financial packages, which the present Government*

either have sought or to be sought in near future, particularly with reference to price-hike of different essential commodities and services;

- (b) whether any study has been conducted to determine the exact magnitude of such impact on a common man; and*
- (c) what steps are being taken by the Government to uplift the living standard of a common man?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue: (a) The Government is fully cognizant of its responsibility towards improving the everyday life of the common man. The adjustments in prices of different essential commodities and services have not been made at the behest of the IMF or any other institution. The prices reflect market forces and rising international prices in case of certain commodities.

(b) Although such a study has not been conducted, the Government is committed towards protecting the vulnerable segments of the society. For the purpose, a new Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Division is being set up to harmonize and bring efficiency in various social sector initiatives of the Government.

(c) The Government has taken a number of concrete steps for the uplift of living standards of the under privileged segments of society. The Ehsaas Program has been launched to reduce inequality, invest in people and develop backward areas of the country. Similarly, the Government has substantially increased the allocation to BISP to Rs. 180 billion in current year's budget as compared to last year's allocation of Rs. 100 billion. Improved coordination between the Federal and Provincial Governments is also ensuring that commitment towards social sector spending at provincial levels remains strong.

78. ***Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state the benefits and total income accrued from the Amnesty Scheme?

Minister for Finance and Revenue: Main purpose of the Asset Declaration Ordinance 2019 was documentation of Economy. Total income

accrued from Asset Declaration Ordinance 2019 is **Rs. 57,714 Million**. However, tax payment of **Rs. 8,081 Million** under the present scheme will be deposited upto 30th June, 2020 alongwith default surcharge.

79. ***Ms. Rubina Irfan:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state whether the Government has any plan to legalize the border trade, specifically, in Balochistan along its borders with Iran and Afghanistan?

Minister for Finance and Revenue: Pakistan has Bilateral Trade Agreement with Afghanistan. Pakistan shares long and porous border with Afghanistan and Iran. The Border trade between Pakistan and Iran & Afghanistan is already taking place in a legal manner through various Border Customs Stations such as Torkham, Chaman and Taftan etc. Trade cargo of imports/ exports is being cleared in automated manner through Customs Computerized System and traders are being facilitated accordingly. The border trade figures these countries are given below:

Pak-Afghan Bilateral Trade:

(Rs in million)

	Import Value	Export value	Transit Value
FY 17-18	48,909	173,517	372,604
FY 18-19	74,138	170,655	709,023

Pak-Iran Bilateral Trade:

(Rs in million)

	Import Value	Export value	Transit Value
FY 17-18	40,943	2,457	-
FY 18-19	56,943	1,590	-

Regarding the trade with Iran the official exports has affected due to US sanction on Iran and absence of banking channel. However, legal trade is going on locally through barter system. Negotiations are also being held with Iran Government for finding ways to improve the trade.

Any illegal cargo/smuggled goods that enter Pakistan through non-notified routes are intercepted and seized in accordance with law.

80. ***Mr. Shahid Ahmad:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Memoranda of Understanding signed regarding foreign investment in Pakistan after the 18th August, 2018; and*
- (b) the status of above said investment?*

Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office: (a) Four (04) Memoranda of Understanding have been signed after the 18th August, 2018. Detail of which is given as under:—

- (a) MoU signed on 18th July, 2019 between BOI and Business France on investment cooperation. (Signed copy of MoU is awaited from Embassy of Pakistan, France).
- (b) MoU signed on 17th February, 2019 between Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources and the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) to explore investment opportunities in the Refining and Petrochemical Sector.
- (c) MoU signed on 17th February, 2019 between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Ministry of Energy (Power) on Development of Renewable Energy Projects.

(d) MoU signed on 17th February, 2019 between the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the field of Mineral Resources.

(b) The detailed status of the aforementioned MoU is at **Annex-I**.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

81. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state how many individuals availed the Amnesty Scheme and how much money it earned to the national exchequer?

Minister for Finance and Revenue: 124,113 taxpayers have filed declaration under Asset Declaration Ordinance 2019 and total tax deposited in government treasury so far, under this head is **Rs. 57,714 Million**. However, tax payment of **Rs. 8,081 Million** under the present scheme will be deposited upto 30th June, 2020 alongwith default surcharge.

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

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

(a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistan has been importing large quantities of honey, vegetables, clothes and agricultural products like raw cotton, edible oil etc. since 2010 till date;*

(b) *if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the imports of foreign luxuries, in the form of basic items, that are already available in Pakistan?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) Import of Agriculture Products since 2010 till date is at **Annex-I**.

(b) In order to discourage imports of agriculture products, regulatory duty has been imposed on certain items. The data related to regulatory duties imposed on honey, dry fruits, sugar and other food items is at **Annex-II**.

Import of Agriculture products is regulated under the Import Policy Order 2016. Import of agriculture product is being carried out by business community to meet the local demand. Government Agencies are not involved in import of such products. Moreover, Agriculture products are imported to meet the demand in the local market as local production is not sufficient to meet the local requirement. Further, Import of such products is subject to the meeting of quarantine requirements of Plant Protection Department of Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

83. ***Mr. Saad Waseem:**

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

- (a) whether Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has taken notice of the fact that some companies, registered with SECP, including Federal Government Employees Housing Foundation (FGEHF) are not dividing the amount of profit—they receive from banks on the principal/actual amount collected against different schemes—among the concerned customers/members;*
- (b) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons; and*
- (c) the steps, being taken to make the said companies answerable in this regard?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue: (a) Payment of profit on the principal/ actual amount collected against different schemes among the concerned customers / members of the scheme is purely a contractual arrangement between a customer / member of the scheme and is governed under the specific terms and conditions of the agreement entered between the company and the customer. Accordingly, the matter does not fall within the regulatory ambit of the Commission.

(b) No, as stated at (a); and

(c) No, as stated at (a).

84. ***Ms. Munawara Bibi Baloch:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the steps, being taken to improve trade relations between Pakistan and the United States of America?

Minister for Commerce and Textile: The United States of America (USA) is the largest single country destination of Pakistan's exports and Pakistan enjoys positive trade balance with USA. Pakistan and USA have not signed any PTA or FTA. However, Pakistan is a beneficiary of preferential market access under US GSP, which is a scheme for more than 120 developing countries.

The detail of total bilateral trade during the last five years is given below;

Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade with USA

Million \$				
Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2014-15	3730.45	2202.23	5932.68	1528.21
2015-16	3539.03	2386.71	5925.74	1152.32
2016-17	3452.33	2506.90	5959.24	945.43
2017-18	3694.52	2848.59	6543.11	845.93
2018-19	3954.33	2673.23	6627.56	1281.10

Source FBR

Following steps are being taken to improve trade relations between Pakistan and United States of America;

(A) **9th TIFA (Trade and Investment Framework Agreement) Council Meeting:**

According to TIFA framework, both sides agreed to hold TIFA Council Meeting, every year, chaired by United States Trade

Representative from U.S. side and Minister for Commerce from Pakistan side. So far, 8 TIFA Council meetings have been held. For the preparation of 9th TIFA Council meeting, which is expected to be scheduled at a mutual convenient date in 2019, a TIFA Inter-sessional meeting of officials of both sides has been held on 2nd May 2019 in Islamabad. Issues relating to market access, Sanitary-Phyto-Sanitary measures, travel advisories and U.S. assistance for mango irradiation facilities have been discussed.

(B) Business Opportunities Conference:

Business Opportunities Conference (BOC) is organized as a government to government arrangement with United States Trade Representative (USTR) in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce and Board of Investment. Both sides agreed in 6th TIFA Council Meeting to initiate BoC with the object to promote trade at B2B level. So far, four BOCs have been held and both sides are working together for holding 5th Business Opportunities Conference at a mutual convenient date in 2019.

(C) GSP Outreach

The U.S. has granted preferential market access to more than 120 developing countries under its GSP Scheme carrying 3500 tariff lines. Recently, the U.S. has withdrawn preferential market access under U.S. GSP from India and Turkey, opening up a window of opportunity for Pakistan to take over market share of some sectors of strength. Ministry of Commerce is planning to schedule seminars to create awareness on Pak-US GSP amongst exporters and opportunity available in consultation with Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

(D) Pak-US Free Trade Agreement

Pakistan has no market access in U.S. market other than U.S. GSP which excludes textiles and footwear, thus reducing its little significance. Gaining increased access to the U.S. market for our exports has been one of Pakistan's major policy goals. Pakistan has requested U.S. to grant preferential market access in textiles and other sectors of strength and to sign a PTA leading to FTA.

(E) Addressing Negative Travel Advisories:

Ministry of Commerce has engaged US Trade Representative through its Trade Mission in Washington to address the negative travel advisories which prevent travel of US businessmen to Pakistan and intensify its commercial engagement with the US businesses including diaspora using all traditional avenues such as trade fairs, trade and investment delegations, country image building and branding through media campaigns and others.

The issue of US travel advisories is being given more attention in view of the tremendous improvement in the overall security situation in Pakistan. In this regard, the U.S. side has been requested to introduce the Zoning approach for Pakistan, as introduced by the EU. During the visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to U.S, the matter has been taken up with the U.S. side and progress is expected in near future.

(F) Trade & investment Promotion in United States in 2017-18

TDAP scheduled trade promotion activities in US in which 44 companies from Pakistan participated in 10 trade fairs/ exhibitions held since July 2018. The calendar of TDAP containing trade promotion activities plan in 2019 is place at **Annex-A**.

Annex-A

Schedule of Trade Fairs in United States in 2019

Following trade fairs have been included in the schedule of TDAP in 2019 with an aim to increase exports in US market;

Sr.	Event	Year	Country	Product
1.	Hotel Motel Show,	Jan, 2019	USA	Food services, table top products suppliers
2.	Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas	Feb, 2019	USA	Apparel, Knitwear, Leather, Sportswear
3.	ASD	Mar, 2019	USA	General
4.	National Hardware Show	Mar, 2019	USA	Construction Sector
5.	NJ Minerals, Fossils, Gems & Jewelry Show	Apr, 2019	USA	Gems & Jewelry
6.	Blade Show, Georgia	June, 2019	USA	Tactical gear, Knives and kitchen accessories
7.	Dealers Show	June, 2019	USA	Sporting and Motorbike Accessories
8.	FIME SHOW, Florida	July, 2019	USA	Surgical & Dental Equipment

9.	Tex World International Apparel Sourcing /Home Textile Sourcing Show, New York	July, 2019	USA	Textile & Apparel
10.	Cosmoprof, North America, Las Vegas	July, 2019	USA	Surgical & Dental Equipment
11.	Magic	Aug, 2019	USA	Textile, Apparel and Footwear
12.	Sourcing at Coterio, New York	Sep, 2019	USA	All Kinds of Garments, Footwear and accessories
13.	AIM Expo	Oct, 2019	USA	Leather & Leather apparels
14.	Private Label Manufacturer Association- PLMA, Chicago	Nov, 2019	USA	General Products
15.	NSC Congress and Expo	Nov, 2019	USA	Safety Products
16.	FIBO	Dec, 2019	USA	Fitness equipment, smart wearable's, fitness club interiors, sports nutrition products

85. ***Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz:**

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

- (a) *the important conditions agreed, in principle, by the Government of Pakistan during negotiations with IMF for loans; and*
- (b) *how these conditions of IMF are different from the packages signed by the previous Government?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue: (a) IMF's 2019-2022 Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan is a loan programme for SDR 4.3 Billion (USD 6.0 Billion).

The EFF Programme is conditional to the attainment of a set of policy commitments, which have been mutually agreed upon by the Government of Pakistan and IMF Authorities, in the form of Prior Actions (PAs), Structural Benchmarks (SBs), Indicative Targets (ITs) and Performance Criteria (PC).

The PAs, SBs, ITs and PCs are aimed at achieving the EFF Program objectives *i.e.* (i) to stabilize Pakistan's economy and lay the foundation for robust and balanced growth and (ii) to address longstanding structural weakness in Pakistan's economy.

A complete list of PAs, SBs, ITs and PCs for the 2019-2022 EFF Program is placed at Annex-I.

Details of the SBs, ITs and PAs may be perused in Attachment No. 1: “Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP)” of the set of documents entitled “*Request For An Extended Arrangement Under the Extended Fund Facility Press Release; Staff Report; And Statement By the Executive Director for Pakistan*”, Available at the Following web ID:

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2019/07/08/Pakistan-Request-for-an-Extended-Arrangement-Under-the-Extended-Fund-Facility-Press-Release-47092>

(b) The conditionality associated with the 2019-2022 EFF loan programme is broadly similar to that of loan agreements signed by previous Governments since the current IMF programme like previous ones is also aimed at correcting long standing and recurrent structural imbalances in Pakistan’s economy.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

86. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister’s Office be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of complaints, registered in the Citizens’ Portal so far;*
- (b) the number of complaints solved/addressed by the relevant authorities concerned so far;*
- (c) the benchmarks, designed to determine whether a complaint has been solved or otherwise;*
- (d) how does Prime Minister’s Office or line authority, of the portal, follow up a complaint to take it to its logical end;*
- (e) whether Government has taken notice of the hampering attitude of functionaries of different Government institutions, while solving such complaints; if so, the details thereof; and*

- (f) *what steps are being taken to make the portal more efficient, particularly by holding the functionaries, failing to address such complaints within an appropriate time frame, accountable?*

Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office: (a) Pakistan Citizen portal was launched on 28th October 2018. The details of complaints received, as of 26 July, 2019.

Complaints registered so far: **1,009,974**

- (b) Complaints resolved so far: **833,045 (82%)**

(c) Principally, resolution of a complaint in the light of prevailing rules/regulations of relevant organizations / authorities is the benchmark. However, to the level of PMDU, the benchmarks are as under;

- Respect/Courtesy shown? (Dear/respected citizen)
- Evidence provided? (picture, letter, notification etc.) attached.
- Future timeframe mentioned if complaint is not instantly resolved.
- Citizens contacted? (if required)
- Average Resolution Time
- Office/concerned officer's number provided?
- Apology tendered in case of delay?
- Citizen's Feedback

(d) For effective follow-up till logical end two methods are followed;

- i. Internal/ System-based Stages (**Section 2.3 / Annexure-I**)
- ii. External/ Organizational-based regular review of complaints at each level is incorporated in the PCP and is followed up accordingly (**Section 4 / Annexure-II**)

- Reference *“Users Guideline Manual for Complaints & Suggestions Handling”*.

(e) Yes, and for that purpose an extensive performance evaluation/audit is being planned in the light of provisions laid down in the “User’s Guidelines Manual for Complaints & Suggestions Handling”. This will help in identification of low performing officers/ offices.

(f) Processing of each and every complaint is subject to certain defined timelines. It provides minimum 20 days and maximum 41 days to a particular dashboard/user/officer. Delay, beyond the assigned timelines marks a complaint into a critical category called **Super Escalation**. Elevation of a complaint to this level invites intervention of the PM’s Office. In the case of Federal Government Organization, the respective heads (Federal Secretaries) are tasked to take action and report compliance. Whereas in the case of Provincial Governments, the concerned Chief Secretary & IG are responsible to take action.

Regular review of complaints at each level is incorporated in the Pakistan Citizen Portal and is followed up accordingly. Section 4 of “User’s Guidelines Manual for Complaints & Suggestions Handling” (Annexure-II).

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

87. ***Mr. Saad Waseem:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that in its first 100 days plan, the incumbent Government has promised to reduce dependence on foreign debts;*
- (b) if so, whether Government could implement its promise or not in its first 100 days; and*
- (c) up to what extent, the incumbent Government plans, in its long term plan, to reduce country’s debts in its tenure?*

Reply not received.

88. ***Ms. Munawara Bibi Baloch:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Pakistani exports have decreased in the international markets since 2013; if so, reasons thereof?

Minister for Commerce and Textile: The exports have decreased from US\$ 24.6 billion in 2012-13 to US\$ 22.979 in 2018-19. Year wise trade data is at **Annex-I**.

Predominantly, the reasons of this decline are structural weaknesses, lack of product and market diversification.

Structural weaknesses include:

- 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

Pakistan lacks 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.
- ii. Pakistan's export destinations are mainly five export countries or regions inclusive of USA, China, Afghanistan, United Kingdom and European Union.
- iii. 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

BALANCE OF TRADE**(Value in Million \$)****% Change over previous year**

Year	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
2012-2013	24,460	44,950	-20,490	3.54	0.09	-3.7
2013-2014	25,110	45,073	-19,963	2.66	0.27	-2.6
2014-2015	23,667	45,826	-22,159	-5.75	1.67	11.0
2015-2016	20,787	44,685	-23,898	-12.17	-2.49	7.8
2016-2017	20,422	52,910	-32,488	-1.75	18.41	35.9
2017-2018	23,212	60,795	-37,583	13.66	14.90	15.7
2018-2019	22,979	54,799	-31,820	-1.00	-9.86	-15.3

Source: PBS

ISLAMABAD:
The 7th August, 2019

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Thursday, the 8th August, 2019

@23. Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz:

Will the Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office be pleased to state:

- (a) *the present status of development in the following 9 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC);*
- (i) *Rashakai Economic Zone, M-1, Nowshera;*
 - (ii) *China Special Economic Zone Dhabeji;*
 - (iii) *Bostan Industrial Zone;*
 - (iv) *Allama Iqbal Industrial City (M-3), Faisalabad;*
 - (v) *ICT Model Industrial Zone, Islamabad;*
 - (vi) *Development of Industrial Park on Pakistan Steel Mills Land at Port Qasim near Karachi;*
 - (vii) *Special Economic Zone at Mirpur, AJK;*
 - (viii) *Mohmand Marble City;*
 - (ix) *Moqpondass SEZ Gilgit-Baltistan; and*
- (b) *the status of basic utilities such as electricity, water and gas in the above said zones?*

Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office: (a) The present status of development in following nine special economic zone under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are as under:

i. **Rashakai Special Economic Zone/ Nowshera, KP**

- JV Agreement between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zone Development Management Company (KPEZDMC) and China Road & Bridge Corporation (CRBC), was signed for the development of the Rashakai SEZ on November 3, 2018
- Formal approval of declaration of SEZ under SEZ ACT-2012 is likely to be granted in the forthcoming meeting of Board of Approval on 6 August 2019.
- Commencement of work on off-site Infrastructure Facilities will commence with effect from 31 October 2019.

ii. **China Special Economic Zone, Dhabbeji/ Thatta**

- 1530 Acres of land for the project has been reserved/earmarked by Board of Revenue. A detailed feasibility study has been completed in April 2018 by Consortium of Consultants (EY Ford Rhodes, Osmani & Co., RIAA Barker Gillette and IBA Karachi).
- The preparation of Request for Proposals (RFP) and draft Concession Agreement shall be ready for the developer solicitation through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) by end August 2019.
- PC-1 submitted for provision of 32 Megawatt of electricity by 2022.

iii. **Bostan SEZ/ Balochistan**

- Feasibility study completed and submitted by the Industries Department, Government of Balochistan.
- Industries Department submitted application for notification of Bostan SEZ as per SEZ Act, 2012.
- Presently application is under evaluation by BOI so that complete application in all aspects may be placed before the Board of Approvals for granting the status of the SEZ.

iv. **Allama Iqbal Industrial City (M3)/ Faisalabad**

- 80% Land Acquisition completed while acquisition of remaining land in progress.
- Earth breaking ceremony of Allama Iqbal Industrial City is tentatively scheduled in end August 2019.

Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) Punjab is preparing the SEZ Application for submission to BOI being secretariat of the Approvals Committee and Board of Approvals under the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2012.

v. **ICT SEZ, Islamabad**

- National Industrial Park Management Company (NIP) was given mandate to establish ICT SEZ after 6th Joint Cooperation Committee.
- NIP couldn't find land available in ICT, hence case was taken up by NIP & BOI for land at I-17 sector with CDA, however, CDA has conveyed in writing regarding non-availability of Public land in ICT.
- Recently BoI has received application from NUST for National Science & Technology Park (SEZ) in May 2019.
- The evaluation and viability of the project is under process in BOI so that complete application in all aspects may be placed before the Board of Approvals for granting the status of the SEZ.

vi. **Industrial Park on Pakistan Steel Mill land in Port Qasim near Karachi**

- The Pakistan Steel Mills, Board of Directors approved in principle the proposal in 2018.
- The matter is still under consideration between the management of NIP and Pakistan Steel Mills.
- They will organize meetings shortly to resolve the issue of land and its pricing.

vii. **Mirpur SEZ, AJK**

- The Mirpur SEZ will be developed in two phases:
 - o Part -I, Land measuring 178 Acres already acquired by the Industries Department.
 - o Part-II, Transfer/acquisition of land measuring 717 acres transferred whereas acquisition of 193 acres in in progress.
- Payment of Rs. 270.000 million made to collector for land acquisition.
- The consultant has submitted draft feasibility study, PC-I and Master Plan.
- The draft feasibility report is under revision due to new demarcation of land.
- The estimated cost for establishment of SEZ Mirpur is around Rs.6.749 Billion.

viii. **Mohmand Marble City, FATA**

- Land of 350 acres have been acquired.
- Feasibility Study is under process.

ix. **Moqpondass SEZ/ Gilgit**

- 250 acres land have already been acquired.
- Feasibility study submitted by the Industries Department Government of Gilgit Baltistan.
- Formal application for declaration of SEZ as per provisions of the SEZ Act, 2012, is still awaited

(b) **Rashakai Special Economic Zone/ Nowshera, KP**

- As per the Meeting held at MoE (Power Division) KPEZDMC to submit the PC-1 for provision of electricity by 30th August 2019.

Power Division will evaluate the proposal and process for PSDP funding.

- Petroleum Division is making necessary arrangements for provision of the Gas at the zero point of the Zone.
- Provincial government will ensure provision of adequate supply of water.

Allama Iqbal Industrial City (M3)/ Faisalabad

- Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) is carrying out detailed schematic study of the zone development programme.
- The firm demand of utilities will be calculated and forwarded to Ministry of Energy (Power Division) for funding through PSDP.
- Petroleum Division is making necessary arrangements for provision of the Gas at the zero point of the Zone.
- Provincial government will ensure provision of adequate supply of water.

China Special Economic Zone, Dhabbeji/ Thatta

- Service providers K-Electric, SSGC and KWSB have shared the official estimates along with the details of external infrastructure availability and the tentative timelines for provision of electricity, gas and water to the doorstep of DSEZ.
- PC-I for 32 MW of electricity has been prepared in coordination with K-Electric and submitted to Power Division, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad on 29th May 2019.
- Petroleum Division is making necessary arrangements for provision of the Gas at the zero point of the Zone.
- Provincial government will ensure provision of adequate supply of water.

Bostan SEZ/ Balochistan

- 125 Megawatt of electricity would be required for the zone. Ministry of Energy is committed to provide necessary requirement of electricity under the provision of the SEZ Act-2012
- Petroleum Division is making necessary arrangements for provision of the Gas at the zero point of the Zone.
- Provincial government will ensure provision of adequate supply of water.

ICT SEZ, Islamabad

- NUST submitted undertaking that electricity and Gas are not required from Federal Government for the SEZ and requirement will be met through integral arrangements.
- Petroleum Division is making necessary arrangements for provision of the Gas at the zero point of the Zone.
- Provincial government will ensure provision of adequate supply of water.

Moqpondass SEZ/ Gilgit

- Ministry of Energy (Power Division) is committed to provide the requirement of electricity as per the demand of the Zone under the provision of the SEZ Act-2012. Detailed feasibility and zone application is awaited from Government of Gilgit Baltistan.
- Petroleum Division is making necessary arrangements for provision of the Gas at the zero point of the Zone.
- Provincial government will ensure provision of adequate supply of water.

Mirpur SEZ, AJK

- Ministry of Energy (Power Division) is committed to provide the requirement of electricity as per the demand of the Zone under the

provision of the SEZ Act-2012. Detailed feasibility and zone application is awaited.

- Petroleum Division is making necessary arrangements for provision of the Gas at the zero point of the Zone.
- Provincial government will ensure provision of adequate supply of water.

Mohmand Marble City, FATA

- Ministry of Energy (Power Division) is committed to provide the required electricity as per the demand of the Zone under the provision of the SEZ Act-2012.
- Petroleum Division is making necessary arrangements for provision of the Gas at the zero point of the Zone.
- Provincial government will ensure provision of adequate supply of water.

Industrial Park on Pakistan Steel Mill land in Port Qasim near Karachi

- Ministry of Energy (Power Division) will provide the requirement of electricity as per the demand of the Zone under the provision of the SEZ Act-2012. Detailed feasibility and zone application is awaited from Government of Gilgit Baltistan
- Petroleum Division is making necessary arrangements for provision of the Gas at the zero point of the Zone.
- Provincial government will ensure provision of adequate supply of water.

24. **Ms. Maiza Hameed:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state the budget allocations, for higher education, in the last financial year and this one?

Minister for Finance and Revenue: The Budget allocated to Higher Education Commission for Current and Development Expenditure for the financial year 2018-19 and financial year 2019-20 are as under:-

Current Expenditure (Rs.)

<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
65,000,000,000	59,100,000,000

Development Expenditure (Rs.)

<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
35,829,950,000	29,046,882,000

25. **Ms. Maiza Hameed:**

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform be pleased to state how much development funds have been given, by the PTI Government, to MNAs?

Transferred to Cabinet Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

26. **Begum Tahira Bukhari:**

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs be pleased to state the steps, being taken by the Government to control the price-hike which has worsened the sufferings of the poor?

Minister for Finance and Revenue: During FY 2019-20, the inflation has been recorded at 7.34 percent as against 3.92 percent of the same period last year. The government has taken the following steps to control the price hike:

- National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) headed by Finance Minister monitors the prices of essential items in consultation with provincial governments, concerned Federal Ministries /Divisions and organizations.
- Government is making best efforts to organize the sasta bazaars as well as open markets to ensure smooth supply of essential items at affordable prices.

- Government is also committed to impose the burden of adjustments on those who can afford rather than the poor segments of the society through well established social protection and poverty alleviation programs.
- For the welfare of the labor class, the government has enhanced the minimum wage to the level of Rs. 17,500 per month from Rs. 15,000 compared to the last year.
- Prime Minister's National Agriculture Emergency Program has been announced that will ensure smooth supply of food items and uplift the agricultural economy as a whole. This will also ensure provision of essential food items to poor segments of society at affordable prices.
- State Bank of Pakistan has raised the interest rate to 13.25% effective from 17th July, 2019 to control inflationary pressure through demand management.
- Banzir Income Support Programme (BISP) under Ehsaas programme is providing unconditional cash transfer of Rs. 5,000 per quarter to 5.8 million poor families, with an annual budget of Rs. 110 billion.
- During July-May 2018-19, agriculture credit disbursement stood at Rs. 1018.8 billion compared to Rs. 849.1 billion during the same period last year showing an increase of 20 percent.
- Under Sehat Sahulat program, 270 selected hospitals, across Pakistan have been provided Rs.720,000 per year for improvement in health care services.
- A subsidy of Rs. 200 billion has been announced in the recent budget for customers who use less than 300 units of electricity in a month (comprises 75% of total electricity consumers).

27. **Ms. Kishwer Zehra:**

Will the Minister for Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the complete list of the entities, nationalized in the past alongwith the names of their owners;*

- (b) *the entities which were returned to the actual owners including their names and dates of return;*
- (c) *the entities which were given in the possession of persons other than the actual owners alongwith their names, particulars; and*
- (d) *the list of remaining entities?*

Reply not received.

28. **Ms. Kishwer Zehra:**

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

- (a) *whether Government intends to conduct audit of the recent Census; if so, the reasons for its delay; and*
- (b) *the reasons for not holding inquiry in connection with the alleged irregularities in the Census in Sindh to bring the responsables to book?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar): (a) PBS compiled the results and provisional data pertaining to the total population by gender at national, provincial, districts and urban/ rural disaggregation were released after approval of the Council of Common Interest (CCI) and placed on the website of the PBS. CCI advised Statistics Division to make arrangements for third-party validation of 01% blocks proportionately in each province, to be selected through random computer ballet through competitive bidding before releasing of final results.

Later the CCI in its 34th meeting (24-11-2017) modified its above mentioned decision and advised the Statistics Division to enhance sampling proportion from 1% to 5%. The issue is lying pending with the CCI and PBS will act on the advice of the CCI.

(b) In compliance with the decision of the CCI for validation bids were invited through open advertisement and 12 firms/ joint ventures were selected by the PBS's Consultant Selection Committee. However, implementation of CCI's decision was halted because of Senator Taj Haider's intervention through a Senate

resolution to stop PBS Selection Committee and replace it with Census Commission comprising of Senators to supervise the selection process. A parliamentary party's meeting chaired by the Prime Minister supported this move in its meeting of 24-11-2017. PBS was asked to stop the process till the nominations of MNAs and Senators by the PM.

PBS submitted a summary accordingly to the PM on 26-2-2018 for guidance on 5% validation exercise keeping in view the limitations imposed by Section-28 and 30 of General Statistics (Re-organization) Act 2011 which debar external sharing of enumeration based information collected by the government organizations with 3rd party. Moreover, expert opinion of UNFPA, Population Council and Technical Committee of renowned demographers advised against 5% validation given the time lapse after Census 2017. Prime Minister while considering PBS proposal in the light of expert comments advised to take the issue back to the CCI. PBS will act in accordance with the advice of the CCI.

ISLAMABAD:
The 7th August, 2019.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.