

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**

---

**“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”**

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

**Monday, the 8th June, 2020**

5. **\*Ms. Nasiba Channa:**  
*(Deferred from 19th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that there is rapid increase in the number of un-employed persons during the present regime;*
- (b) *if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** (a) There is no data available to substantiate this point. The results of Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2018-19 are being finalized which will provide evidence in this regard.

(b) The present government is fully cognizant of the issue and is taking number of steps to create employment opportunities in the country. Some of these steps are given below:

1. The government has announced to construct 5 million low-cost houses which will provide employment to the large number of workers due to forward and backward linkages of construction sector with allied industries.
2. The government is focusing on revival of the industrial sector with focus on export based industries which will help in creation of job opportunities for skilled labour.

3. Under the Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan National Youth Development Programme professional education will be imparted to the youth to increase their employability at national and international labour market. Moreover, they will be financially empowered through subsidized loans to promote skill development and entrepreneurship.
4. In order to prepare the youth for local and foreign jobs, skill development initiatives of the provincial governments are being supported through National Vocational and Technical Training Commission.
5. CPEC projects and Special Economic Zones will create sizeable job opportunities.
6. Investment under the second phase of CPEC will generate economic activities and thereby employment opportunities. Apart from focusing on energy, infrastructure and Gawadar projects, Special Economic Zones are planned to be established which shall create tremendous job opportunities in the country. Foundation stone of the first SEZ was laid by the Prime Minister at Faisalabad in January, 2020, while work on Dhabegi and Rashakai is likely to commence soon.
7. Overseas Employment Corporation under the M/o Overseas Pakistan & Human Resource Development (OP&HDR) is playing a pivotal role for exploring maximum opportunities for manpower export to suitable international labour markets. During FY 2018-19, more than 468,000 Pakistani workers went abroad for jobs.
8. Under four phases of Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development program almost 200,000 youth have benefited from technical hands-on skills, enabling them to earn decent livelihood and contribute in the national progress and development.

46. **\*Jam Abdul Karim Bijar**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the details of eatables, which include in the essential food items and average price of each in year ending on June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019 alongwith price of each item at present respectively; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that if the Government did not impose any tax/duty or cess in financial year, 2019-20 on essential food items, why did prices of such items were considerably increased in recent time?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Details of Prices of eatable items is annexed.

(b) **Custom**

Yes, it is true that no new import duties (Customs Duty (CD), Additional Customs Duty (ACD) or Regulatory Duty (RD) was imposed through the Finance Act 2019 on essential food items. In case of certain items like biscuits, wagers, fruit juices, coffee, cheese, etc., rate of ACD was increased due to across-the-board revision of ACD regime but such items are not essential part of the consumption basket of the poor. The rates of ACD was increased from 2% to 4% on goods having statutory CD rate of 16% and 2% to 7% on goods attracting CD rate of 20% or above. These goods are either luxury items or they are produced locally and increase in ACD rates was meant to curtail their consumption and protect local producers.

The increase in ACD from 2% to 7% on ghee/edible oils in the Finance Act 2019 was withdrawn *vide* SRO No. 821(1)/2019 dated 19-07-2019, considering the fact that it is an essential item of daily use and increase in ACD may impact retail price via pass-through effect.

As no new import duty was levied on essential food items in the last budget, so hike in price of essential food items cannot be attributed to 'customs duty factor'. Some domestic factors other than customs duty may be responsible for the increase in prices of essential food items.

**Sales Tax**

In the Finance act, 2019, no new taxes have been imposed upon essential food items except sugar where the rate of sales tax has been increased

for 8% to 17% but the tax impact upon the price has been Rs. 3 per kg. Secondly, FBR has fixed the price of sugar as Rs. 60 per kg through SRO. 812(I)/2016, dated 2nd September, 2016. Hence, present market price is not due to increase in tax because the manufacture is paying tax on fixed price of Rs. 60 per kg.

Further, in the case of edible oil and ghee, FED @ 16% at import stage and Rs. 2 per kg value addition has been done away with and rate of FED in retail packing or otherwise has been fixed @ 17% which has not caused any impact on prices.

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

162. **\*Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**  
*(Deferred from 19th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state:*

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of those living in poverty has increased rapidly during the present Government;*
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

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

163. **\*Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani:**  
*(Deferred from 19th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) whether it is a fact that Land Custom Station, NLC Dry Port, Hyderabad is being closed; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) whether it is a fact that commerce and trade of Hyderabad will face irreparable loss due to closure of said Dry Port; if so, the time by which the said decision will be cancelled; if not, the reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) No. Land Customs Station NLC Dry Port Hyderabad is not being closed as the customs administration has decided to continue the Land Customs Station NLC Hyderabad for the facilitation of trade and industry in the interior of Sindh. Board's letter C. No. 15(1)L&P/2019 dated 15-01-2019 in this regard is enclosed. However, it is to inform that NLC being the Dry Port Operator / Custodian of Goods / Terminal Operator, has unilaterally decided that they shall suspend their activity of operation of terminal / dry port operator from May 31, 2020 with the only reason that due to decrease in business, their profit has declined and they are facing losses. However, it is mentioned that the NLC Dry Port, Hyderabad remained profitable for so many years but due to some reasons import clearances had been on lower side for the year 2016-17. However, in 2017-18, 235 containers alongwith loose cargo were cleared from this dry port due to which the revenue of Rs. 413.548 millions was deposited in national exchequer. In 2018-19, despite overall import compression and slow economic growth, the NLC Dry Port Hyderabad has managed to collect the revenue of Rs. 841.587 million (104% more than the previous year) and the number of containers alongwith loose cargo rose to 337 and the trend is now moving in positive direction.

(b) It is a fact that commerce and trade of Hyderabad will face losses due to closure of the NLC Dry Port as this is the only dry port which facilitates trade and industry located in Hyderabad and interior of Sindh. The Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry as well as other stakeholders have showed their concern that closure of dry port by NLC will be detrimental to the business environment of Hyderabad and interior of Sindh. The press clippings of statements of stakeholders are enclosed. The NLC dry port is functioning but NLC authorities had communicated that Dry Port operation will be closed by May, 2020. Keeping in view, the developments of CPEC project and future relocation of Chinese industry to Pakistan and in order to facilitate the industry of Hyderabad/Sindh, FBR also requested NLC authorities to revisit their decision regarding closure of Dry Port Hyderabad in the national interest *vide* FBR's letter C. No. 18(2)L&P/2020 dated 11-02-2020. However, no response was received from NLC authorities. Accordingly, a reminder of even number dated 03-06-2020 has been issued and outcome shall be communicated in due course of time.

164. **\*Mr. Mahesh Kumar Malani:**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *how many contingent paid/contract employees have been employed in Finance Division and its subordinate offices/ autonomous bodies/attached departments; and*
- (b) *detail of each employee and criteria adopted for their employment?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) The requisite information in respect of Finance Division and its entities may be seen as per following details:

Name of Departments	No. of contingent paid/contract employees
i. Finance Division (Main) & Military Finance Wing	(87)
ii. Pakistan Mint	(26)
iii. Federal Treasury Office (FTO)	(01)
iv. Central Directorate of National Savings	(60)
v. Controller General of Accounts (CGA)	(201)
vi. Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP)	(16)
vii. Securities, Exchange Commission of Pakistan	(08)
viii. SME Bank	(89)
ix. House Building Finance Company Limited	(36)
x. Zarai Taraqati Bank Ltd (ZTBL)	(03)
xi. National Security Printing Company	(Nil)
xii. Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU)	(15)
xiii. First Women Bank Ltd (FWBL)	(02)
xiv. National Bank of Pakistan (NBP)	(3742)
xv. State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)	(728)
xvi. Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP)	(101)
xvii. Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)	(Nil)

(b) Details of each employee and criteria adopted for their employment in respect of Finance Division and its entities may be seen at Annexures mentioned against each:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Departments/Offices</b>	<b>Annexure</b>
i	Finance Division (Main) & Military Finance Wing	<b>(Annex-I)</b>
ii	Pakistan Mint	<b>(Annex-III)</b>
iii	Federal Treasury Office (FTO)	<b>(Annex-IV)</b>
iv	Central Directorate of National Savings	<b>(Annex-V)</b>
v	Controller General of Accounts (CGA)	<b>(Annex-VI)</b>
vi	National Security Printing Company	<b>(Annex-VII)</b>
vii	Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP)	<b>(Annex-VIII)</b>
viii	Securities, Exchange Commission of Pakistan	<b>(Annex-IX)</b>
ix	SME Bank	<b>(Annex-X)</b>
x	House Building Finance Company Limited	<b>(Annex-XI)</b>
xi	Zarai Taraqati Bank Ltd (ZTBL)	<b>(Annex-XII)</b>
xii	Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU)	<b>(Annex-XIII)</b>
xiii	National Bank of Pakistan (NBP)	<b>(Annex-XIV)</b>
xiv	First Women Bank Ltd (FWBL)	<b>(Annex-XV)</b>
xv	State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)	<b>(Annex-XVI)</b>
xvi	Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP)	<b>(Annex-XVII)</b>

*(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)*

165. **\*Ms. Uzma Riaz:**  
*(Deferred from 19th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken or proposed by the Government to relax the tax regime and introduce fair tax regime for the small traders and businesses during the current financial year; if not, reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue: Custom**

The government is fully committed for the revival and promotion of industrial sector including small and medium enterprises. In this regard, various incentives in customs import duties have been provided to the manufacturers/ SMEs. The detail of such incentives is as under:—

**(i) Exemption of Customs Import Duty on Raw Materials/Inputs:-**

In budget for FY 2019-20, Custom duty on 1639 industrial raw materials/inputs has been reduced to 0%. In addition to these other raw materials and intermediary goods required by the manufacturing sector including SMEs are subject to lowest tariff slabs *i.e.* 3% and 11% respectively. Special duty exemptions for the local industry have also been provided through 5th Schedule of the Customs Act, 1969. Major sectors/ SMEs which enjoy benefit under Said schedule include agriculture, dairy, poultry, bicycle chain manufacturing, tanning, manufacturing of fans and processing of marble & granite etc.

**(ii) Special Incentives To Export Oriented Units:**

Special rules / procedure has been formulated *vide* S.R.O. 327(I)/ 2008 dated 29th March, 2008 with the title of “**Export Oriented Units and Small and Medium Enterprises Rules, 2008**” for small and medium export oriented units. Under said SRO they are allowed Duty-free import of plant, machinery, equipment and apparatus including capital goods, raw materials, accessories, sub-components, components, assemblies and sub-assemblies.

**Sales Tax:**

As far as sales tax law is concerned small retailers are already out of the ambit of registration. Small retailers only pay sales tax on their electricity consumption as per section 3(9) of the Sales Tax Act, 1990. Sales tax is charged @ 5% where monthly bill does not exceed Rs. 25000 and @ 7.5% if the monthly bill exceeds Rs. 25000.

Moreover, through the Tax Laws (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2019, the threshold for registration of a retailer on account of electricity consumption has been enhanced from Rs. 600,000 per year to Rs. 1,200,000 per year.

**Income Tax:**

The Federal Board of Revenue is making dedicated efforts targeted towards exploring avenues for raising of additional revenues and broadening of the tax base in view of the highly ambitious and challenging revenue target assigned to it. Traders contribute significantly to economic activity in the country, however, a large number of traders remain out of the tax net and their contribution to tax revenues is not commensurate with their earnings/profits and gains. Compliance with a relatively complicated tax regime and obligations as a withholding agent etc. also contributes towards reluctance of traders to come within the fold of the tax net.

In this backdrop an agreement was reached between FBR and the trader community after protracted negotiations and discussions on 30-10-2019 in pursuance (of which various amendments were introduced in the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 and the Sales Tax Act, 1990 through the Tax Laws (Second Amendment) Ordinance promulgated on 26th December, 2019. The salient features of the tax regime introduced for traders are as under:

- (i) The standard rate of minimum tax under section 113 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 has been reduced from 1.5% to 0.5% for the Tax Year 2020 in the case of traders, being individuals, having annual turnover of upto Rs. 100 M.
- (ii) Under section 153 of the Ordinance, individuals having turnover of Rs. 50 Million or above in any of the preceding Tax Years are obliged to act as withholding tax agents whilst making payments for supply of goods, rendering of services or for execution of contracts. However, traders being individuals and having annual turnover upto Rs. 100 Million shall no longer be required to act as withholding agents under section 153 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.
- (iii) A trader has been defined as an individual engaged in the buying and selling of goods in the same state including a retailer and a wholesaler; however, distributors have been ousted from the scope of this definition.

167. **\*Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khokhar:**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the details of current account deficit at present; and*  
(b) *time by which this deficit will be converted into surplus?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Current account deficit as per latest available data (Jul-April FY20) is at 3.3 billion US\$(1.2 percent of GDP) compared to 11.4 billion US\$ (4.0 percent of GDP) in the corresponding period last year. The details of current account deficit is given in the following table:

(\$ Million)

	<b>July-April</b>	
	<b>FY 20</b>	<b>FY 19</b>
Current Account Balance	-3,343	-11,449
Balance on Trade in Goods	-16,478	-23,471
Balance on Trade in Services	-2,580	-3,618
Balance on Primary Income	-4,808	-4,471
Balance on Secondary Income	20,523	20,111
Current Account % of GDP	-1.2	-4.0

(b) The current account surplus is not always desirable, as the ultimate objective is to maintain a level that is both sustainable and contributes positively to economic growth.

171. **\*Mr. Saad Waseem:**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to refer the Starred Question No.87 replied on 07-11-2019 and to state:*

- (a) *the debt to GDP ratio in fiscal year 2018-19 and expected ratio of the same in year 2019-20;*

- (b) *in clear terms, the additional burden of debt, which have been saved due to revenue mobilization, rationalization of expenditure, restructuring of public sector enterprises alongwith details of such revenue mobilization, rationalization of expenditure and restructuring of public sector enterprises; and*
- (c) *the year-wise expected downfall of debt to GDP in next four years?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Debt to GDP ratio of Public debt stood at 84.8 percent at end June 2019, and it is expected that this ratio would be brought down to 83 percent by Fiscal year 2019-20.

(b) Over the medium term, Government's objective is to increase revenue mobilization, reduce expenditures and reform Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs). These measures are expected to bring stability leading to gradual reduction in the Fiscal Deficit over next few years and subsequently would reduce the country's reliance on additional Debt.

All these measures have already started to bear fruit and have helped the government to record a primary surplus of Rs. 286 billion during first half of 2019 (Jul-Dec 2019) compared to a deficit of Rs. 164 billion witnessed during Jul-Dec 2018. This primary surplus was supported by enhanced revenue and rationalization of non-interest expenditure. Over the medium term, Public Debt is expected to reduce to around 70% by Fiscal year 2024.

(c) The year-wise debt to GDP targets for next four years are provided below:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Targeted Debt to GDP</b>
2020	83%
2021	80%
2022	76%
2023	73%
2024	70%

172. **\*Mr. Mahesh Kumar Malani:**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Accountant General of Pakistan have some discretionary powers of disbursement of House Building Advance and Motor Car Advance to Federal Government employees;*
- (b) *if so, detail of employees including their names, designations and department who have been provided Advances by exercising the discretionary powers of Accountant General of Pakistan since last five years?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Yes. A two member committee consisting of Accountant General Pakistan Revenue (AGPR and Additional Finance Secretary (IGF), Finance Division has been granted discretionary powers to disburse House Building Advance (HBA) and Motor Car Advance (MCA) of disbursement of House Building Advance and Motor Car Advance to Federal Government Employees, on humanitarian grounds for deserving/ hardship cases, to the extent of 5% each of budget of AGPR. Most of the hardship cases are recommended by the Parliamentarians.

(b) The detail of employees, who have been granted HBA and MCA is at Annex-A & Annex-B respectively.

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

174. **\*Syed Abrar Ali Shah:**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that under Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act, 2005, Government have to inform the National Assembly when the total debt to GDP ratio exceed 60%;*

- (b) *if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have not informed formally to the National Assembly despite the limit of total debt to GDP has been crossed;*
- (c) *if so, the reasons thereof and what steps which are being taken in this regard?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Yes, the Government is submitting the compliance status of the Debt to GDP ratio to the National Assembly every year as per the requirement of Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act.

(b) As stated above, Government has been informing the National Assembly on annual basis Debt to GDP ratio without fail.

(c) Not Applicable in light of above clarifications.

175. **\*Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the total number of non-custom paid confiscated vehicles in the custody of custom department at present; and*
- (b) *the names of cities in which these vehicles have been parked?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a)

NAME OF CITY WHERE PARKED	NO. OF NON-DUTY PAID CONFISCATED VEHICLES
Lahore	35
Quetts	100
Gwadar	39
Gaddani	23
Chaman	47

<b>NAME OF CITY WHERE PARKED</b>	<b>NO. OF NON-DUTY PAID CONFISCATED VEHICLES</b>
Dalbandin	4
Manikhawa/ Zhob	27
Mashkel	22
Nokundi	4
Noshki	8
Quetta	162
Sheela Bagh	18
Surab	2
Sukkur	12
Hyderabad	39
Karachi	140
Peshawar	64
Abbottabad	34
Mardan	51
Nowshehra	6
Kohat	32
Sambrial	1
Islamabad / Rawalpindi	71
Multan	79
Faisalabad	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1026</b>

(b) as above.

178. **\*Syed Imran Ahmad Shah:**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *year-wise amount of tax, which has been deposited to national exchequer by each Cellular company that is actually deducted under the head of different taxes, duties etc. from consumers for the last six years;*
- (b) *is there any mechanism, which is used to reconcile the amount that is actually deducted from consumers by the cellular companies and the amount that is deposited to national exchequer by cellular companies; if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *is there any discrepancy, of deducted amount from consumers, and amount which is deposited to national exchequer by such companies, surfaced in the aforesaid period; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (d) *what corrective measures are being taken by the Government to ensure 100% deposit of deducted amount from consumers by cellular companies to national exchequer?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Detail of year-wise amount of tax, deposited by each cellular company to national exchequer is attached as **Annex-A**

(b) As per section 165 of the Income tax ordinance, 2001 periodic withholding is statement are filed biannually for the tax year which are analyzed and if any discrepancy is observed, recovery orders under section 161/205 of the income tax ordinance, 2001 are issued accordingly.

The discrepancies can also be taken up at the end of the year after filing of Return of Income, which can be selected for audit and remedial action if any can be taken if required.

Efforts are being made to get real time access of collection data in respect of telecommunication services providing companies to confirm if the tax deducted is posted correctly to the total collected amount under section 236 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001.

A substantial amount of services provided are claimed as discount on which no tax is deducted under section 236 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. The said amounts have been disallowed / added back to the income in

amendment proceedings and during the course of withholding proceedings under section 161 of the income tax ordinance, 2001. Demands / defaults have been created during the course of audits of withholding taxes against the telecom companies. The Issues are sub-judice before various Appellate Fora.

Accordingly default surcharge under section 205 of the income tax ordinance, 2001 which is in addition to the original amount of default is also charged.

(c) A substantial amount of services are claimed as discount on which no tax is deducted under section 236 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. The said amounts have been disallowed / added back to the income in amendment proceedings and during the course of withholding proceedings under section 161 of the Income tax Ordinance, 2001. Massive demands / defaults have been created / identified during the course of audit and withholding proceedings. Details attached as Annex-B. The issues are sub-judice before various Appellate Fora.

(d) Following corrective measures are taken to ensure 100% deposit of deducted amount from consumers by cellular companies to national exchequer:

- i. Periodic audits of withholding taxes are conducted.
- ii. Data of collection under this head is uploaded with PRAL for analysis.
- iii. Real time access on surprise visits is conducted to ensure proper collection deduction and payment into government exchequer.

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

179. **\*Mr. Ali Khan Jadoon:**  
*(Deferred from 19th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the steps taken by the incumbent Government to bring back stashed money by the money launderers for the last decades, from foreign countries/foreign accounts in to Pakistan's National Kitty?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** The incumbent Government has taken various steps to bring back stashed money by the money launderers for the last decades.

In this regard, besides strengthening Federal Board of Revenue and Financial Monitoring Unit, Asset Recovery Unit has also been established by the Federal Government. These departments have taken various steps to bring back stashed money by the money launderers for the last decades from foreign countries.

The detail of steps taken / progress made by these departments are given below:—

- The Federal Board of Revenue has created Anti Money Laundering cells at HQ's office as well as the Currency Detection Units (CDUs).
- Pakistan has been assigned the rating of a 'largely compliant' Jurisdiction by Global Forum on Transparency and exchange of information.
- Pakistan has put in place the requisite paraphernalia for automatic exchanges from September, 2018 and onwards. Pakistan has received bank account information of Pakistan residents from 28 jurisdictions.
- A Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement has been signed which will provide country by country reporting.
- Pakistan has signed Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements with 65 countries which provides that the contracting states shall exchange information to check tax evasion and fraud.
- FBR got hold of the information appearing in Panama & Paradise leaks and information related to properties held by Pakistanis in UAE. Cases having actionable information have been communicated to the field formations for necessary action under law. 8,000 requests for further actionable information have also been sent to UAE.

- Pakistan received data from 28 jurisdictions under OECD framework in September, 2018 and has shared actionable information with field formations to take action under the law.
- Proceedings have been initiated under law in cases of those foreign accounts holders appearing in exchange data which have not availed amnesty 2018-19.
- FBR has so far recovered Rs. 2,201 billions by utilizing the information received under the OECD's common reporting standards (CRS).
- UAE has been requested through diplomatic channels to look into the matter of Pakistanis hiding behind iqama and other schemes of U.A.E.
- The MOUs concerning cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence related to money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorism financing have been signed with Financial Intelligence Units of Iran, Srilanka, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, UK, Qatar, Malawi, China, Lebanon and Seychelles. MOUs with FIUs of UAE, Australia, Tajikistan, Belarus and Indonesia are expected to be approved by Federal Cabinet soon.
- The Assets Recovery Unit has been established.
- Amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010 have been made.
- Cooperation with foreign jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom and United States has been enhanced. In relation to the UK, both Governments have appointed Special Envoys who liaise and interact on all operational and policy matters in relation to money laundering.
- Mutual Legal Assistance Bill has been prepared. which the National Assembly has passed and is currently in the Senate. This will allow Pakistan legal enforcement and prosecution authorities to obtain all relevant evidence from overseas.

- Anti-Money Laundering Unit with the FIA has been established.
- Better coordination with law enforcement and investigation agencies has been achieved.
- International taxation Directorate within the FBR has been established.

180. **\*Syed Hussain Tariq:**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister In-charge of the President's Secretariat be pleased to state:*

- (a) *details of different events conducted in the Presidency, since September 9th, 2018;*
- (b) *the nature of each event alongwith expenditure incurred upon each event;*
- (c) *whether such expenditure are borne either by Presidency or any other agency; if so, the detail thereof; and*
- (d) *the rational of holding such events in Presidency?*

**Minister In-charge of the President's Secretariat:** (a) 76 events were held during period from 9th September 2018 to 29 January 2020. The name and details of the events are at Annex-I.

- (b) The details of the Expenditures incurred are with the Host Agency.
- (c) The expenditures are borne by the Host Agency and the details are with the Host Agency.
- (d) • Events are held on request / approval of concerned department / ministries in order to reduce the expenditures incurred by the respective ministries for arrangements at various hotels / halls besides addressing security issues.

- Per head cost for one dish at Serena/Marriot is Rs. 2000-2500 plus tax whereas at Presidency it comes to (cost to cost basis) around Rs. 1000-1200.
- Hall rent for 300 persons for a day is Rs. 300,000/- plus tax at Serena/ Marriot, whereas at Aiwan-e-Sadar it is free; thereby saving enormous amount of respective ministries / departments.
- Expenditure on camp office in last Govt. tenure is approx Rs. 17 Million per year whereas since 9th Sep., 2018 no single amount has been spent.

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

182. **\*Mr. Abdul Shakoor:**  
*(Deferred from 19th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.1 replied on 01-01-2020 and to state the role being played by the Federal Government, in developing consensus, with Federating Units, on calling upon NFC, for release of 3% share, for the merged districts of erstwhile FATA out of Federal Divisible Pool as approved by the Federal Cabinet on 2nd March, 2017?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** NFC is a constitutional body constituted under Article 160 of the Constitution. Traditionally, it takes decisions with consensus of all stakeholders. Finance Division has no role in decision making of the NFC. Finance Division only provides secretariat support to the NFC.

The matter regarding funding for erstwhile FATA came under discussion in 4th meeting of the 9th NFC held on 06-02-2019. A Sub Group of the NFC has been tasked to deliberate and make recommendations to NFC for allocation of resources for the development of erstwhile FATA, following its integration / merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As soon as the recommendations are finalized, these shall be placed before the NFC for consideration.

184. **\*Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khan:**  
(Deferred from 19th Session)

*Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state the details of proposed projects received by Economic Affairs Division from the Federal Ministers/Divisions for Japanese request survey for technical assistance launched by the Japanese Government for Pakistan during the last five years?*

**Minister for Economic Affairs (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar):**  
Economic Affairs Division received a total of 158 project proposals from Federal Ministries / Divisions during the last five years. Year wise break up is as under:—

Year	No of Projects received
2014-15	33
2015-16	44
2016-17	30
2017-18	17
2018-19	34
<b>Total:</b>	<b>158</b>

Sector wise detail of project is attached.

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

91. **\*Dr. Aysha Ghaus Pasha:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *what is the amount of FBR tax revenue mobilization up-to January 2020;*
- (b) *what is the level of shortfall in mobilization compared to the target set for aforesaid period; and*

(c) *what measures are being taken by the Government to overcome the short-fall?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Details of FBR tax revenue mobilization up-to January 2020:

**FBR Tax Mobilization Up-to January, 2020**

*(Rs. in Billion)*

<b>Years</b>	<b>Collection</b>
Direct Tax	897.5
Sales Tax	990.2
FED	144.2
Customs Duty	380.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,412.2</b>

(b) Details of shortfall in mobilization compared to the target set up-to January 2020:

**FBR Tax Targets V/s Actual Mobilization Up-to January, 2020**

*(Rs. in Billion)*

<b>Years</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Shortfall</b>
Direct Tax	920.1	897.5	22.6
Sales Tax	1038.8	990.2	48.6
FED	151.5	144.2	7.3
Customs Duty	398.6	380.3	18.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2509.0</b>	<b>2412.2</b>	<b>96.8</b>

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government to reform the system of tax collection by FBR:

1. Strict enforcement and monitoring
2. Measures for broadening of tax base and documentation of economy.

3. Deployment of technology to identify risk areas to support risk based audit.

#### **IRS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:**

- A. Automation of business processes.
- B. Income tax enforcement measures
  - Withholding Taxes
  - Broadening of Tax Base (BTB) Initiatives
- C. Registration of persons for sales tax
- D. Sales tax (enforcement measures)
  - Point Of Sales (POS)
  - Track & Trace System for Specified Goods (i.e., Tobacco, Cement, Sugar, Beverages and Fertilizers)
  - Establishment of Port Teams for Third Schedule items
  - Joint Anti-smuggling field intelligence exercise
  - Inland Revenue Enforcement Network (IREN)

#### **OTHER INITIATIVES:**

1. Identifying and check evasion by High Net worth Individuals
2. Plaza Mapping at Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad
3. Launch of Device Identification, Registration and Blocking System (DIRBS) to control smuggling of mobile devices
4. Discouraging imports of luxurious goods through additional Regulatory Duties (RDs)
5. Forensic audit in Sugar, Tobacco and Steel Industries to address leakages and tax evasion and in these industries

#### **CUSTOMS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:**

The following are the priority initiatives for FY 2019-20 for Customs:

1. More contribution / collection through realizing stuck-up revenue through administrative measures like Auctions, Recovery, litigation disposal etc.

2. Enhance Effectiveness of the Risk Management Process/ Establishment of National Targeting Centre to prevent loss of revenue through mis-declarations in values, quantities, & description.
3. Strengthening of Post Clearance Audit Organization and Function to ensure that consignments cleared through Green channel are scrutinized and possible evasions/short payments are recovered.
4. Design, Develop and Roll Out of WeBOC-glo for ease of doing business and promote bonafide imports.

### WAY FORWARD

Besides above listed steps / initiatives, the government has also launched a five year reform program by obtaining a loan from the World Bank which includes wide-ranging reforms including that of automation, policy and administrative one.

- Transformation of Business Model.
- Organizational capacity building by HR system improvement.
- Simplification of laws and procedures.
- Taxpayer facilitation through behavioral change.

92. **\*Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the percentage of reduction in imports and increase in exports, respectively contributed to narrow down overall trade deficit by the incumbent Government alongwith industries, whom imports have been reduced in the corresponding period; and*
- (b) *whether Government has assessed the decline of imports of such industries; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Reply not received.

93. **\*Ms. Uzma Riaz:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the details of austerity measures under taken by the incumbent Government in securing IMF loan since 2018 till to date?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** The reduction of fiscal deficit, inter alia through austerity measures is at present in the economic interest for which the government has initiated homegrown reforms program to put the economy on the path of stabilization and inclusive growth. These reforms include correcting external imbalances; restrict losses of public sector enterprises and increase coverage & compliance of tax regime. It may not be correct to assume that reforms are undertaken on the directions of IMF or other development partners. It is pertinent to mention that Finance Division has been imposing the expenditure cuts and austerity measures even when we have not been into any IMF program.

Since the incumbent Government has taken over the charge, it has taken a number of steps and has adopted a number of measures to ensure right & rational utilization of public money/ capital. In this regard the Prime Minister, Federal Cabinet /Cabinet Division have taken several decisions to curtail the expenditure from public money; few are as under;

- (i) Prime Minister's residence has been shifted to a Grade 20 Officer's house with only 3 employees.
- (ii) Minimum use of official protocol by the Prime Minister.
- (iii) Excess fleet of luxury vehicles and general duty vehicles has been auctioned.
- (iv) Abolished all PSDP related discretionary funding and all discretionary grants available to the President and Prime Minister, on current side.
- (v) Allocation under Gifts & Entertainment has been abolished.
- (vi) Complete Ban on Medical Treatment of Cabinet Members abroad.

- (vii) Non essential staff has been placed / being placed at the disposal of other ministries for better utilization.
- (viii) Restrained the Cabinet members & Officers to undertake foreign visits unless there is pressing need / obligatory / utmost important.
- (ix) Constituted Task forces especially “Taskforce on Austerity Measures & Federal Government Restructuring”
- (x) Further, Public Finance Management (PFM) Act-2019 has also been enacted for better financial management.

In addition to the extensive Austerity Drive of the incumbent government, the Finance Division (as per its past practice) has also imposed **austerity measures** in the financial year 2018-19 (**Annex-I**) and 2019-20 (**Annex-II**) which **are pure initiative of the Finance Division and are not imposed under the IMF conditions.** In the Austerity measures, certain expenditures are banned to maintain the spending within the budget line.

*(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)*

94. **\*Ms. Nasiba Channa:**  
*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) the percentage of increase in price hike during the tenure of incumbent Government; and*
- (b) whether the Government intends to control the dearness in the country?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) The percentage of increase in price hike is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate which during the tenure of incumbent government is given below:

Period	CPI (National)
2018-19	6.8
2019-20 (Jul-May)	10.9

(b) Yes the government is making best efforts to control dearness in the country. The main measures to control dearness are as follows:

### **Policy Measures**

- To ensure sufficient food supplies during the lockdown, Federal Cabinet has banned the export of all edible items till the normality in the coronavirus situation.
- ECC banned sugar export in an attempt to control the surging prices.
- ECC allowed import of 0.3 million tons of wheat to decrease the local wheat price and to meet the domestic requirement. ECC also approved waiving 60% regulatory duty and 7% withholding taxes on its import.
- Government has discontinued borrowing from SBP which has inflationary impact. Government has retired Rs. 552 bn (Jul- 8th May, FY2020) as compared to borrowing of Rs.4,967 billion in the same period last year.
- To contain fiscal deficit, there was complete restriction on supplementary grants to ease out inflationary pressures.

### **Administrative Measures**

- Price monitoring Cell in Ministry of National Food Security & Research is monitoring price hike of essential food items.
- The government is expanding the network of Sasta Bazaars and Utility Store outlets for provision of smooth supply of daily use items.
- The CCP is taking effective measures to control Cartelization and undue Profit.

### **Relief Measures**

- The ECC approved Rs. 50 billion technical supplementary grant for the Utility Store Corporation (USC) announced under the PM's relief package.
- Rs. 21 billion has already been disbursed to the USC under the package after December for procurement of essential items.

- To facilitate customers, a subsidy of Rs. 226.5 bn has been allocated in the budget for customers who use less than 300 units of electricity in a month and an expenditure of Rs. 186.5 bn has been made uptill 19th May, FY2020.
- Out of Rs. 24 bn allocated for gas subsidy, expenditure of Rs. 15.5 bn has been made uptill 19th May FY2020;
- To minimize the negative impact of COVID-19, government is making best efforts to provide relief to consumers in energy prices and other essential items. Government announced the relief package worth of around Rs. 1.24 trillion. Some of the salient features of the package are:
  - o A sum of Rs. 200 billion has been allocated for labors across the country. To support vulnerable families, Rs. 150 billion is provided for the monthly stipend which has increased from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000 per month for the next four months for 12 million families.
  - o The Panagahs (shelter) for jobless and poor has been extended to provide meals and shelter for unemployed.
  - o For wheat procurement, Rs. 280 billion has been provided.
  - o People will also be able to pay electricity and gas bills in installments for those whose electricity consumption is upto 300 units and gas bill upto Rs. 2000. The facility covered 75 percent of power consumers and 81 percent of gas consumers.
  - o Tax relaxation on imports of pulses, waived off duty on import of palm oil and reduced prices of petroleum products in order to provide relief to consumers.

95. **\*Mr. James Iqbal:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the total number of those containers which were loaded with goods and cleared through Torkham border without imposing duties/taxes on it during the last eight months and uptill now; and*
- (b) *if so, the reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) & (b) M/s PRAL was requested to retrieve the data of imports carried out from Customs Station Torkham during the period 01-07-2019 to 31-05-2020. The summary of the imports processed by MCC (Appraisalment), Peshawar are as under:

<b>Total Nos. of GDs/ Process</b>	<b>Total Nos. of Vehicles</b>	<b>Duty &amp; Taxes (Rs. in million)</b>
22,904	52,264	8292.83

It may be added that the Federal Board of Revenue has constituted a Joint Investigation Team comprising of Member (Legal & Accounting - Customs), FBR (Chairman of JIT), Collector MCC (Appraisalment & Facilitation), Peshawar, Collector MCC (Enforcement & Compliance), Peshawar and Director Intelligence & investigation, Regional Office, Peshawar to look into the issue of the alleged clearance of vehicles carrying import goods from Afghanistan without payment of leviable duty/ taxes at Torkham. FBR has received the report of the JIT and is in the process of examining it to take further action in the matter. Since, FBR is currently undertaking budget exercise, thus progress report will be submitted upon conclusion of budget session.

96. **\*Choudhary Faqir Ahmad:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the impact of IMF package and other financial packages on daily life of a common man, which the incumbent Government either have borrowed or to be sought in near future, particularly with reference to hike in the prices of different essential commodities and other 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?*

Reply not received.

97. **\*Ms. Uzma Riaz:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the total amount of funds transferred to local Government under the NFC award since 2013 to 2018 with province-wise details of local Governments?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** The Federal Government transfers funds, under the NFC Award, only to the Provincial Governments and not to the local Governments.

99. **\*Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Privatization be pleased to state:*

- (a) *how many public entities have been privatized since 2017 clearly mentioning the nature of privatization i.e percentage of share sold to private sector; and*
- (b) *also provide the year of privatization and revenue generated from sale of each entity?*

**Minister for Privatization (Mr. Muhammadmian Soomro):** (a) There have been no privatization transactions since, 2017.

- (b) As above.

100. **\*Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khokhar:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that crypto currency is banned in Pakistan;*
- (b) *if so, the law declaring it banned and making it an offence; and*
- (c) *whether it is also a fact that people involved in the business of bit-coins are being booked; if so, the law under which the same is being done?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) There is no law that specifically allows or bans the use of crypto-currencies in Pakistan.

(b) The existing legal framework in Pakistan does not explicitly address the subject of crypto-currencies. However, the regulator/SBP issued guidelines *vide* BP RD Circular No. 03 of 2018 dated April 06, 2018 and FE Circular No. 03 of 2018 dated April 18, 2018 to its reporting entities regarding the prohibition of dealing in Virtual Currencies/ tokens. In addition, the State Bank of Pakistan also issued a caution letter regarding the risks of Virtual Currencies for general public awareness *vide* ERD/M&PRD/P/01/2018-31 dated April 06, 2018.

(c) The question regarding booking of individuals involved in Bitcoin business does not fall under the purview of SBP . However, SBP requires its reporting entities to not facilitate their customers to transact in virtual currencies/ tokens. Any transaction in this regard are immediately reported to Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU) as a suspicious transaction.

101. **\*Ms. Fauzia Behram:**

*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government during last two year to enhance domestic exports to Turkey and Japan?*

Reply not received.

102. **\*Syed Javed Husnain:**

*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) the objectives behind the Establishment of Agricultural Development Bank, the rate of interest on which the loans being issued/granted to the farmers by the Bank,*
- (b) whether such a huge interest rate on the loans would be supportive for the developments of the agriculture's;*

- (c) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to give the agriculture the status of Industry and whether there is any proposal to grant the loans on said interest rate; and*
- (d) *the rate of interest on which the loans being granted to the Industry from the Bank?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) The Prime Objective is to provide “**SUSTAINABLE**” rural finance and services particularly to small farmers and low income houses and to meet the financing needs of agro-based industries and micro enterprises so as to strengthen the agricultural sector and mitigate poverty.

The Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) is providing Agri. loans to farmers all over the country at the floating rate of 06 months KIBOR plus 5% p.a. *i.e.* 16.16% on all Production as well as Development schemes except E-Credit Schemes & Rural Development Scheme of AJ&K.

**Production Loans:**

Seed, Fertilizer, Pesticides/Insecticides, Diesel/Oil and Working Capital under Non-Farm Credit.

**Development Loans:**

Tractors, Machinery Implements/Attachments, tube wells, dairy/livestock, dairy/poultry structure, orchard plantation, godowns, irrigation schemes & bio-gas units etc.

(b) The rate of Mark-up being charged by the Bank on Production and Development Loans is for capital conservation and sustainable operations of the Bank. Being linked with KIBOR, the Mark-up rate of the Bank is supportive for the development of the agriculture since the benefit in reduction of KIBOR rate is passed on to the borrowers. At present, KIBOR rate is declined to 8.25% hence the Bank’s Mark-up rate on current loans would be 13.25% p.a only. Further, the ZTBL Markup rate is competitive in the market as is evident from the comparative position of Mark-up rates being charged by other banks of the country (**Annex**).

(c) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) ZTBL does not advance loan to Industrial sector. It provides agricultural loans to small farmers of the country.

ANNEX

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MARK UP RATES CHARGED  
ON AGRICULTURE LOANS BY SCHEDULE BANKS & ZTBL**

Sr. No.	Name of Bank	Mark-up (%)
1.	National Bank of Pakistan	17.5%
2.	Habib Bank Limited	6 months KIBOR + 6%
3.	Allied Bank Limited	Working Capital: 6 months KIBOR + 5% Development Finance: 6 months KIBOR + 6%
4.	United Bank Limited	6 months KIBOR + 6%
5.	MCB Bank Limited	6 months KIBOR + 5%
6.	Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited	6 months KIBOR + 5%

103. **\*Syed Imran Ahmad Shah:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether State Bank of Pakistan being a regulator has taken notice of deceitful advertisements of Banks in which they invite people to invest in their schemes, particularly in Islamic banking and offer profit therefrom in contrary to actual portfolio of loss and profit of such schemes in preceding years;*
- (b) *if so, the details thereof alongwith loss and profit of every scheme portfolio of each bank for the last three years; and*

- (c) *steps being taken by Government and the SBP to make it mandatory for banks to advertise their schemes with accurate portfolio alongwith details of loss and profit of such schemes of the preceding years also in national and regional languages and sign contract in true spirit and under the relevant contract law?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Banking institutions develop their products and advertise them through print and electronic media. However, it is mandatory for banking institutions to ensure that their products and all related processes and operations are in compliance with the instructions issued by SBP.

With particular respect to Islamic banking institutions (IBIs), SBP has issued detailed instructions for profit & loss distribution and pool management for IBIs (**Annexed**). This is a mandatory requirement for all IBIs. Moreover, a comprehensive Shariah Governance Framework for IBIS is in place under which all IBIs are required to comply with a number of Shariah compliant regulatory requirements

Islamic banking institutions in Pakistan offer three main types of deposit facilities *i.e.* current deposits, saving deposits and fixed deposits. Under these three broad categories, IBIs develop different products and market those. However, the starred question does not specify the product against which the requisite data can be provided.

It is mandatory for banking institutions including Islamic banking institutions (IBIs) to comply with the instructions of SBP for all their products and related processes/procedures/operations. With particular respect to disclosures regarding profit loss distribution of Islamic banking, IBIS are mandated to disclose the actual monthly/periodic profit/loss distributed to each category of deposits during last 2 years on their websites as well as on notice boards of each branch.

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

104. **\*Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**  
*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state that what are the reasons of unprecedented increase in the budgetary deficit*

*that is the highest during the last 40 years and steps being taken by the Government to fix it for reducing the same?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** The revised budget deficit target for 2018-19 was 7.2% of the GDP whereas the actual deficit stood at 8.9% of GDP. The main reasons are as under:

- Shortfall of Rs. 321 billion in FBR revenue.
- Shortfall of Rs. 276 billion in other revenues. (SBP Profit and receipts from PSEs).
- Increase of Rs. 104 billion in interest payments.
- Increase of Rs. 99 billion in Pay and Pension.
- Increase of Rs. 62 billion in PSDP spending.

The government has taken the following measures to curtail the fiscal deficit at appropriate level.

- o Revenue collection and expenditure are being monitored on monthly basis.
- o No Supplementary Grants are being given to Ministries/Divisions.
- o All cases of Technical Supplementary Grants are being approved by the Federal Cabinet.
- o There is a complete ban on purchase of all types of vehicles except operational vehicles of law enforcing agencies.
- o Ban on creation of new posts.
- o Foreign visits by officials/delegations have been curtailed drastically.

106. **\*Syed Agha Rafiullah:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the names of the countries to which Pakistan has trade relations for imports and exports at present?*

Reply not received.

107. **\*Mr. Mohsin Dawar:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state that whether any time is announced for Establishment of a University by Prime Minister in North Waziristan to be included in the coming PSDP or not?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** 1. A project for feasibility study to establish a university at North Waziristan with the nomenclature:

*“Feasibility Study for Establishment of University in North Waziristan Tribal District (NWT D)”* was approved on 20th March 2020 by DDWP of Higher Education Commission at a cost of Rs. 7.560 million.

2. Higher Education Commission has proposed for allocation of Rs. 7.560 million in next year’s PSDP 2020-21. The project is part of proposed PSDP 2020-21 with an allocation of Rs. 7.560 million.

108. **\*Mr. Ali Gohar Khan:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the foreign loan obtained by the Government during the period from 2007 to 2019 and the year-wise amount paid thereupon as interest?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** The disbursement during 01 -Jul-2007 to 30-Jun-2019 and the year wise amount paid thereupon as Principal & Interest is mentioned below:-

(US \$ Million)

Year	Dis.	Prin.	Int.	Total
2007-08	3,033	1,133.456	982.55	2,116.010
2008-09	4,100	2,566.406	872.92	3,439.324
2009-10	3,203	2,338.675	781.32	3,119.933

<b>Year</b>	<b>Dis.</b>	<b>Prin.</b>	<b>Int.</b>	<b>Total</b>
2010-11	1,890	1,924.570	812.54	2,737.114
2011-12	2,629	1,534.237	765.31	2,299.548
2012-13	2,534	2,265.694	740.21	3,005.907
2013-14	6,454	2,979.453	747.91	3,727.365
2014-15	5,408	2,826.577	956.42	3,783.000
2015-16	7,428	3,255.054	1,092.05	4,347.108
2016-17	11,174	5,195.665	1,242.24	6,437.900
2017-18	12,247	4,175.020	1,636.04	5,811.059
2018-19	10,709	7,054.230	2,067.34	9,121.570
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,810</b>	<b>37,249.037</b>	<b>12,696.86</b>	<b>49,945.898</b>

109. **\*Syed Agha Rafiullah:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the number of poor people is fastly increasing during the present Government;*
- (b) *if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Reply not received.

110. **\*Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khokhar:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Sugar was exported from July, 2019 to January, 2020; if so, the quantity and the rate at which the same was exported;*

- (b) *whether it is also a fact that Sugar is being imported by the Government; if so, the quantity and the rate of sugar imported; and*
- (c) *whether it is also a fact that custom duty on this import will be waived off; if so, the loss to be suffered by the National Exchequer due to the same?*

Reply not received.

111. **\*Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur:**  
*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the export of petroleum products from Pakistan during the first four months of the current financial years 2018-19 increased by 94.14 percent as compared to the same period of the previous year 2017-18;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that Pakistan is exporting coal;*
- (c) *if the reply to (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, the name of petroleum products and the countries to which those products are being exported; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Reply not received.

112. **\*Ms. Nuzhat Pathan:**  
*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to enhance domestic export to China during the last two years?*

Reply not received.

113. **\*Mr. Ali Gohar Khan:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the strategy being evolved by the Government to increase export of textile products and the exports increased by the present Government during the years 2018 and 2019 respectively?*

Reply not received.

114. **\*Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Privatization be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to privatize both education and health sectors for achieving better result in terms of international standard; and*
- (b) *if yes, the time by which same will be privatized; if not, the reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Privatization (Mr. Muhammadmian Soomro):** (a) There is no proposal under consideration by the Government regarding privatization of education and health sectors.

- (b) As above.

115. **\*Mr. Afreen Khan:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that 22 Schools and 8 BHUs at Upper Kohistan area Khundian were affected by the flood in 2010;*
- (b) *if the answer of par (a) is in affirmative the reasons for not reconstructing the said School and BHUs so far?*

**Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office:** (a) Yes, as confirmed by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), flood in 2010 affected the areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However as per Planning and Development Division *vide* Notification dated 21st October, 2010, a Federal Reconstruction Unit (FRU) in the Planning and development Division was formed for reconstruction / rehabilitation of flood affected areas in 2010. **(Annex I).**

(b) Federal Reconstruction Unit under Planning and Development Division's *vide* notification mentioned at **Para a** above, was responsible for construction of Schools and BHUs at Upper Kohistan affected by the floods in 2010.

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

116. **\*Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khan:**  
*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the names and educational qualifications of the Assistants and Deputy Collectors, Customs and Assistants and Deputy Commissioners, Inland Revenue working in the FBR at present?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** The lists of 248 Assistant and Deputy Collectors of Pakistan Customs Service and 602 Assistant and Deputy Commissioners of inland Revenue Service containing their names and educational qualifications are placed at **(Annex-I)** and **(Annex-II)** respectively.

*(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)*

117. **\*Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir:**  
*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) the total number of taxpayers in the country at present;*
- (b) the number of taxpayers included in tax net in term of previous Government from 2008 to 2013 and 2013 to 2018;*

(c) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the present Government to strengthen the tax net; and*

(d) *if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) The Total number of taxpayers in the Country at present are 2,629,927.

(b) The number of taxpayers included in tax net in term of previous Governments:

2008	=	708,974
2013	=	715,993
2018	=	2,825,286 (up to 09-08-2019)

(c) The present Government is working on the following proposals to strengthen the tax net:

- (i) Registration of Traders through Market Committees.
  - (ii) Properties and Motor Vehicle Registration Data.
  - (iii) Information from Bank Accounts.
  - (iv) Frequent Travelers Data.
  - (v) Commercial and Industrial Gas Consumers.
  - (vi) Data for Electricity Consumers from DISCOs.
- (d) Not Applicable.

@118. **\*Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

*Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state:*

(a) *whether it is a fact that the World Bank has approved a package of 825 million dollars in 2017 for different projects of health and energy sector in Pakistan; if so;*

(b) *the details of terms and conditions to repay the said loan indicating also the percentage of interest to be paid by Pakistan on the said loan?*

**Minister for Economic Affairs (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar):** (a) & (b) Actually Pakistan signed a package of **US \$ 1513.23 million** with World Bank during the financial year 2016-17 instead of US \$825 million.

The projects approved pertained to various sectors that include Water, Education, Social Protection, and Governance and Policy and Health **(Annex-I)**.

The names are as follows:

1. Balochistan Integrated Water Resources Management and Development Project **(US \$200 million)**
2. Additional Financing for the Tarbela Fourth Extension Hydropower. **(US \$390 million)**
3. National Social Protection Program. **(US \$100 million)**
4. Sind Resilience Project. **(US \$100 million)**
5. National Immunization support Project. **(US \$89.7 million)**
6. Third Punjab Education Sector Project. **(US \$300 million)**
7. Finance for Growth Development Policy Financing - DPC. **(US \$301 million)**
8. Debt Management Reform Program - Ministry of Finance” (TAGR Grant). **(US \$1.526 million)**
9. Governance and Policy Project Balochistan (MDTF Grant). **(US \$16.00 million)**
10. Governance and Policy Project FATA (MDTF Grant). **(US \$5.00 million)**
11. Governance and Policy Project KP (MDTF Grant). **(US \$10 million)**

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

29. **\*Ms. Munawara Bibi Baloch:**  
*(Transferred from 21st Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the steps taken to improve the performance of First Women Bank; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that said bank will be privatized to improve its performance alongwith the detail thereof?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Following steps have been taken by the Government to improve performance of First Women Bank Limited:-

- Issued a letter of comfort to FWBL in order to secure Rs. 300 million refinance credit line from Pakistan Mortgage Refinance Company (PMRC).
- Advised and supported management to improve product diversification and growth by connecting them with possible business partners like Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), PMRC etc.
- Launched **Internet Banking solution** with minimal cost supported by **24/7 call centre**.
- Relocated branches to commercially viable areas.
- **Profit of Rs 248 million (after tax) in the year 2019** as compared to the year 2018 where losses of Rs. 246 million were faced by the bank.

(b) Yes.

- Privatization process is expected to bring further resources to the Bank in terms of Capital and professional experience.
- In this regards Financial Advisers have been appointed. Further the Transaction Committee for Privatization of FWBL has also been constituted to review and discuss the findings of the Draft Legal, Financial, Tax and Human Resources Due Diligence Reports.

30. Admissibility is being considered.

31. **\*Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the percentage of NFC Award allocated for the erstwhile Tribal Districts in the last NFC Award; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal to provide interest free loans to the people of these districts?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) At present, the merged districts of erstwhile FATA are not getting any share from the Divisible Pool Taxes. The present NFC (9th NFC) is still deliberating on the new NFC Award and the matter of “development of erstwhile FATA, following its merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa” is already on the agenda of the 9th NFC.

However, Federal Government is meeting all the financial requirements of the merged districts of erstwhile FATA from its own resources till the time new NFC Award is announced.

For the financial year 2019-20, the Federal Government has allocated Rs.152,356.00 million for merged districts of erstwhile FATA, which is approximately 4.9% of provincial share of the divisible pool taxes.

(b) At present, no exclusive proposal to provide interest free loans to the people of these districts is under consideration. However, the Federal Government has approved Prime Minister’s Kamyab Jawan (PMKJ) Program through which concessional loans ranging from 0.1 million to 5.0 million will be provided to the youth across the country and people of these areas can also avail this facility.

32. **\*Mr. James Iqbal:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the names of employees of the Ministry and its attached institutions who proceeded for visits abroad on Government*

*expenditures during the last three years year-wise alongwith dates and justification thereof; and*

*(b) the amount incurred on each of said employees separately?*

**Minister for Economic Affairs (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar):** (a) During the last three years, 40 employees of EAD proceeded on visits abroad on Government expenditure. Year-wise breakup is given below:—

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Employees proceeded for visit abroad</b>
2019-20	08
2018-19	12
2017-18	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

Names of employees, alongwith year-wise detail, dates and justification, are placed at **Annex-I**.

(b) Detail of expenditure incurred on visits abroad is at **Annex-II**.

*(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)*

33. **\*Mr. Mohsin Dawar:**  
*(Transferred from 21st Session)*

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state the details of projects/funds allocated in PSDP during last five years for North Waziristan?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** 1. The Federal PSDP provides a one-line budget to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for carrying out development works in the merged districts (formerly FATA).

2. Year-wise detail of funds allocated in federal PSDP during last five years for projects located in North Waziristan is as under:

Rs. in million

<b>Fiscal year</b>	<b>No. of projects</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
2015-16	05	17,233.265	1,470.000
2016-17	05	25,619.925	2,347.095
2017-18	06	27,042.317	2,131.833
2018-19	06	27,042.317	2,609.915
2019-20	05	25,855.996	4,079.084

Details are placed at Annex-I.

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

34. **\*Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**  
*(Transferred from 21st Session)*

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the new steps taken by present Government so far to enhance trade relations with Belarus?*

**Minister for Commerce:** Pakistan and Belarus enjoy cordial bilateral and commercial relations and are continuously arranging trade fairs and exhibitions to boost bilateral trade.

In September, 2019, a 31-member delegation from Belarus came to Pakistan to participate in the IE&M Asia International Engineering and Material Fair from 26th to 28th September, 2019 at the Lahore Expo Centre, which was inaugurated by Mr. Mian Muhammad Aslam Iqbal, Minister of Industries, Commerce & Investment, Government of Pakistan.

The delegation from Belarus included leading companies from the fields of machinery, automobiles, tractors, metallurgical works, as well as other fields of science and technology.

A Belarus-Pakistan Business Forum was also held in Expo Centre on 27th September, 2019, which was supported and facilitated by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). The Forum was held on the

sidelines of National Exposition of Belarus within the framework of International Engineering & Machinery Asia Exhibition held from 26-28th September, 2019 at Expo Center Lahore.

As a follow-up, the 6th Session of Pakistan-Belarus joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was scheduled to be held on 17-18 March, 2020 in Minsk, Belarus. The 6th JMC had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The (previous) 5th Session of Pak-Belarus Joint Commission was held on 16-17 November, 2017.

Furthermore, the following activities took place in 2018 and 2019 in regards of enhancing trade relations between Pakistan and Belarus.

- On the formal request from Belarusian side: Pakistani delegation comprising Trade Experts from government and private sectors (exporters) headed by Joint Secretary Textile Division visited Belarus in March 2018 during 40th Specialized Exhibition / Fair of Textile, Apparel and Footwear “BelTexlegprom Spring 2018”.
- Trade Development Authority of Pakistan participated in “**(Belagro)**” at Minsk during the month of June, 2018 with 03 companies.
- TDAP invited the Belarusian businessmen in 10th Expo Pakistan and TEXPO exhibitions held in 2018 and 2019 at Lahore. Belarusian delegates visited the subject exhibitions.

35. **\*Mr. Saad Waseem:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state”*

- (a) *the year-wise exact number of persons who filed tax returns for the last five financial years;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that for the financial year 2018-19 less number of persons as compare to previous financial year filed their tax returns if so, the reasons thereof;*

(c) *does not such declining trend of filing of tax returns for the year 2018-19 show poor planning of the Government;*

(d) *if so, what corrective measures have been taken in this regard?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) The year-wise number of filers up to respective due date.

(i) TY-2015 1,346,007

(ii) TY-2016 1,575,845

(iii) TY-2017 1,914,503

(iv) TY-2018 2,825,286

(v) TY-2019 2,629,927 (up to 31-05-2020)

(b) Lesser returns were filed due to extension of return filing date in 2018 up to August, whereas for 2019, it was up to February. Lessor period of 6 months.

(c) Compared with month on month comparison, a positive trend of 46.8 % is observed. (1,683,982 for TY-2018 up to 28-02-2019 and 2,472,099 for TY- 2019 up to 28-02-2020).

(d) Non-filers have been issued notices for filing of return.

36. **\*Mr. Naveed Aamir Jeeva:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the monthly/annual profit/interest being paid by each bank of the country at present?*

Reply not received.

37. **\*Syed Agha Rafiullah:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

(a) *details of officers, designations and place of their posting including Member Customs Operation of FBR who were removed*

*from their posts alongwith charges against them since the inception of present Government;*

- (b) *whether inquiries were conducted prior or after the removal of such persons; if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *what steps are being taken to take such inquiries up to their logical end and what steps are being taken to eliminate corruption in FBR?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Since inception of this Government a number of Customs officers have been transferred / posted as a matter of routine administrative reshuffle. However, recently following officers of Customs have been removed from their posts. It is pertinent to mention that there is a probe/investigation against all except Dr. Jawwad Uwais Agha:-

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of officer/ Designation/ present place of posting</b>	<b>Designation/ place of posting</b>
1.	Dr. Jawwad Uwais Agha, (retired)	Ex-Member (Customs-Operations), FBR (Hq), Islamabad
2.	Mr. Asif Saeed Khan Lughmani, Chief, FBR.	Ex-Collector, MCC (Preventive), Peshawar
3.	Mr. Ihsan Ali Shah Chief, FBR	Ex-Collector, MCC (Appraisalment), Peshawar
4.	Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad Chief, FBR	Ex-Collector, MCC (Preventive), Quetta
5.	Mr. Raza, Chief, FBR	Ex-Collector, MCC (Appraisalment), Quetta
6.	Mr. Arbab Qaiser Hamid, Secretary, FBR	Ex-Additional Collector, MCC (Appraisalment), Peshawar.
7.	Dr. Tahir Iqbal Khattak, Second Secretary, FBR	Ex-Deputy Collector, MCC (Appraisalment), Peshawar.

Sr. No.	Name of officer/ Designation/ present place of posting	Designation/ place of posting
8.	Mr. Atta-ur-Rehman, Superintendent, FBR	Ex Superintendent, MCC (Appraisalment), Peshawar.

Position has further been clarified in (b) and (c) below.

(b) FBR has already constituted a Joint Investigation Team headed by Member (Legal & Accounting-Customs), FBR *vide* letter dated 28-02-2020. In addition, the FBR has already requested FIA authorities to conduct investigation in the matter.

(c) The cases against above referred 7 officers, would be formally initiated once findings of the inquiry, as mentioned in **b** above are received and they require so.

However, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has establishment an Integrity & Performance Management Unit (IPMU) to look into corruption related complaints of FBR officers and officials. In order to bring transparency and accountability in FBR's operations, a detailed mechanism is in place to scrutinize, corruption related complaints and submit report along with recommendations to the competent authority for necessary action under the relevant rules and procedures defined in Efficiency and Discipline Rules 1973, if needed.

To further streamline working of Integrity Management Cell, FBR has launched Complaint Management System for proper follow up of corruption related complaints against officers/officials of FBR.

38. **\*Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the domestic exports to Philippine during the next financial year?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The volume of trade between Pakistan and Philippine is small and has been fluctuating over the years. However, the trade balance has been in favor of Pakistan. As our trade balance with Philippines has always remained in our favor; this country could be a very good prospective market for our exports.

The volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Philippines since 2015-16 is given below:-

#### **Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade with Philippines**

	<b>Million \$</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Export</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>2015-16</b>	94.07	40.9	134.97	53.17
<b>2016-17</b>	147.43	36.8	184.23	110.63
<b>2017-18</b>	149.94	80.05	229.99	69.89
<b>2018-2019</b>	162.48	62.04	224.52	100.44

(Source: PBS)

### **STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**

#### **Market Access Initiatives**

During the inaugural session of Pakistan-Philippines Joint Ministerial Conference (JMC) hosted by Pakistan in April, 2018, it was decided that both countries would explore the possibility of entering into a Preferential Trade Agreement. Ministry of Commerce has conveyed itself to be the focal agency for further talks.

To this end, both sides agreed to conduct respective feasibility studies to explore possibility of a PTA. In this regard Philippines nominated its Bureau of International Trade Relations and Industry Policy as the focal agency. Ministry of Commerce has already been conveyed to the Philippines side as the focal agency to conduct feasibility study on a possible PTA/FTA with Philippines.

In order to boost our exports, Pakistan intends to propose a PTA/FTA with Philippines in line with the Government policy to build strong links with all the member countries of ASEAN. Moreover, Pakistan is currently negotiating market access initiatives with other member states of ASEAN including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and Laos to further regional economic integration.

The Terms of Reference of the respective studies will be shared on mutual convenience. Upon completion of the respective studies, if the findings turn out to be positive, both the countries would embark upon further talks for inking the PTA/FTA accordingly.

39. **\*Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the status of imports and exports of Pakistani trade with India alongwith the status of imports and exports of Pakistan in 2018-19?*

**Minister for Commerce:** In the wake of Government of India's unilateral and unlawful action of revoking the Article 370 of its constitution; thereby changing the constitutional status of the Indian held Kashmir and imposing curfew for an unannounced period in the conflict region, Government of Pakistan formally suspended imports from India through SRO 927(1)/2019 (Annex-I) and exports to India through SRO 928(1)/2019 (Annex-II) issued on 9th August 2019. However, those therapeutic products that are regulated by Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) were excluded from the operations of suspension of trade through (S.R.O. 977(I)/2019 (Annex-III) and S.R.O. 978(I)/2019(Annex-IV) issued on 2nd September, 2019.

Furthermore, Trade is also suspended along two trading points at LoC; Chakotthi-Uri, Rawalakot-Poonch.

As a result of imposition of 200% duty by India on its imports from Pakistan since 16th February, 2019 (post Pulwama attack), and suspension of trade by Pakistan since 9th August, 2019, the bilateral trade between two countries has seen a plunging trend as depicted below:—

Values: USD Million

Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2014-15	358.082	1,699.65	2057.736	(-) 1,341.57
2015-16	303.58	1779.60	2083.18	(-)1476.02
2016-17	359.179	1701.670	2060.849	(-)1342.49
2017-18	342.44	1840.96	2183.40	(-) 1498.52
2018-19	261.69	1503.73	1765.42	(-)1242.04

*Source: FBR*

Pakistan's overall trade performance in 2018-19 showed a slight improvement as compared to 2017-18. Pakistan's total exports in 2018-19 stood at USD 23.17 and total imports were recorded at USD 53.9 billion.

*(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)*

40. **\*Mr. Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan:**  
*(Transferred from 21st Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) how many employees of BPS-1 to 22 of the Federal Government Secretariat are being paid secretariat allowance of 20% of the basic pay since 2013 alongwith the total amount being paid on this count; and*
- (b) estimated amount required for other than the Federal Secretariat employees for paying 20% Secretariat Allowance of the basic pay alongwith the total arrears since 2013 after the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan alongwith details of the Federal Government departments and its employees?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) The employees of Federal Secretariat are getting "Special Allowance" (commonly known as secretariat allowance) 20% of the basic pay. Total number of employees of BPS-1 to 22 of the Federal Government Secretariat who are being paid special allowance of 20 % of the basic pay since 2013 is 11479 and the total amount being paid annually is approximately Rs. 2.5 Billion.

(b) No order has been issued by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The matter is subjudice in the Apex Court.

41. **\*Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether the Government intends to constitute a Parliamentary Committee in order to control the unnecessary increases in the prices of edible and common use items and to determine their correct prices;*
- (b) *if so, the details; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Reply not received.

42. **\*Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the names of countries to which vegetables and fruits were exported by Pakistan during the last five years; and*
- (b) *the quantity and value thereof?*

**Minister for Commerce:** (a) Country-wise export of vegetables and fruits during last five years along with quantity and value thereof is reflected in the table at **Annex-I**.

(b) As at point (a) above.

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

@43. **\*Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the total amount of loans provided by Asian Development Bank (ADP) to Pakistan during the tenure of present Government till date; and*
- (b) *the conditions/interest on which said loan was obtained?*

**Minister for Economic Affairs (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar): (a)**

During the tenure of the present Government, nine (9) new loans amounting to USD\$ 2,470.30 have been signed with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) from August 2018 – May, 2020.

(b) The terms and conditions of these loans are attached at **Annex-I**.

<b>ANNEX-I</b>				
Sr. No.	Name	Signing Date	Loan Amount (US\$ Million)	Conditions/ Interest
1	Balochistan Water Resources Development Sector Project	05-01-2019	79	Interest Rate – 2% p.a. Repayment – Up to 25-years, including 5-year Grace Period
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Roads Improvement Project (Additional Financing)	26-02-2019	75	Interest Rate – LIBOR + 0.5% p.a. Repayment – Up to 25-years, including 7-year Grace Period
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project - Project Resilience Financing	28-02-2019	7	Interest Rate – LIBOR + 0.5% p.a. Repayment – Up to 25-years, including 5-year Grace Period
4	Punjab Water Resources Management Projects	15-04-2019	8.7	Interest Rate – 2% p.a. Repayment – Up to 25-years, including 5-year Grace Period
5	BISP Social Protection Development Project (Additional Financing)	17-11-2019	200	Interest Rate – LIBOR + 0.5% p.a. Repayment – Up to 25-years, including 5-year Grace Period
6	Energy Sector Reform and Financial Sustainability Program (Subprogram 1)	29-12-2019	300	Interest Rate – 2% p.a. Repayment – Up to 25-years, including 5-year Grace Period
7	MFF Power Transmission Enhancement Investment (Program II Tranche 3)	13-12-2018	280	Interest Rate – LIBOR + 0.5% p.a. Repayment – Up to 25-years, including 5-year Grace Period
8	Trade and Competitiveness Program (Subprogram 1)	07-09-2019	500	Interest Rate – 2% p.a. Repayment – Up to 25 years, including 3-year Grace Period
9	Economic Stabilization Program (SIMP)	09-12-2019	1,000	Interest Rate – LIBOR + 2% p.a. Repayment – Up to 8 years, including 3-year Grace Period
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2,470.30</b>

44. **\*Mr. Salahuddin:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state the details of the PSDP projects completed during the last ten years, ongoing and future projects of Hyderabad?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** During last ten (10) years, 17 projects costing Rs. 4043.941 million located in Hyderabad were completed (**Annex-I**). Four (04) projects costing Rs. 3.1 billion are on-going and being financed under federal PSDP 2019-20 (**Annex-II**).

Projects given in Annex-II would continue till completion. New schemes relating to federal subjects would be financed from PSDP as and when proposed by the federal Ministries / Divisions.

*(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)*

- @45. **\*Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state whether present Government has obtained loans from IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank during present tenure alongwith the conditions of said loans?*

**Minister for Economic Affairs (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar):** Yes, the present government has obtained an amount of **US\$ 4,906** million as disbursement against loans during 18th August, 2018 to 29th February, 2020 from **IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank** as per following details:

(US\$ Million)

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Maturity</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>Amount Disbursed</b>
ADB	Up to 25 Years including 5 Years Grace Period	Market based OCR= Libor 6 months +0.5%  Concessional loan=Fixed 2%  Special Lending= Libor 6 months +2%	<b>2,613</b>
World Bank	Up to 25 Years including 5 Years Grace Period	IBRD= Libor 6 months +0.5% to 1%  IDA(Concessional Loans)= Fixed 0.75% to 3.3%	172 <u>688</u> <b>860</b>
IMF	12.5 Years including 4.5 Years Grace Period	SDR based averaging around 4% per annum	<b>1,433</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>4,906</b>

46. **\*Dr. Nafisa Shah:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *province-wise break-up of loans extended by ZTBL to farmers in last two years;*
- (b) *what is the Mark-up at which the loan is given; and*
- (c) *how many women farmers are beneficiaries?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) During the last two years, Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd. disbursed loans of Rs.83,186.63 million in FY 2017-18 and Rs. 71,477.94 million in FY 2018-19. Province-wise break up is as under:

(Rs. in million)

Province Name	2017-18		2018-19	
	Borrowers	Amount	Borrowers	Amount
Punjab	247,741	67,230.63	203239	60,000.69
Sindh	27,464	11,808.58	18401	7,673.91
Khyber Pakhtukhwa	10,552	3,166.43	9085	2,872.65
Balochistan	764	308.16	567	224.5828
GB	1,609	342.96	1350	328.8469
AJ&K	2,536	329.87	2360	377.2641
<b>Total</b>	<b>290,666</b>	<b>83,186.63</b>	<b>235002</b>	<b>71,477.94</b>

(b) Floating rate of 6 months Kibor offer rate plus 5% p.a on all Production as well as Development Loans. Being linked with KIBOR, the markup rate, of the bank is supportive for the development of the agriculture since the benefit in reduction of KIBOR rate is passed on to the borrowers. At present, KIBOR rate is declined to 8.25% hence the Bank's markup rate on current loans would be 13.25% p.a only.

(c) Women Farmers

Borrowers	2017-18		Borrowers	2018-19	
	Amount	Amount		Amount	
18.073	4,198.96		15.013	4,061.04	

ISLAMABAD:  
The 7th June, 2020

TAHIR HUSSAIN,  
Secretary.

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

**“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”****For Monday, the 8th June, 2020**

44. **Syed Javed Husnain:**  
*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the bank interest rate in the year 2017 and for the year 2020;  
and*
- (b) *the total internal loans borrowed by the Government so far from  
banks and the increase of burden on the Government due  
to increase in bank interest rate?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) The bank interest in FY2017 was Rs. 1,206 billion and for the year 2020 (Jul19- Jan 20) was Rs. 1,468 billion.

(b) The total domestic loans borrowed through the banking system stands at Rs.15,058.3 billion, whereas the net additional borrowing through the banking system during Jul19-Jan 20 was Rs. 367.1 billion.

During, ongoing fiscal year (July 2019 - Jan 2020), the policy rate increased by 100 bps (1 percent) in the month of July 2019. During this period, all of the domestic debt raised from the banking system was through medium to long-term Government securities. The cost of borrowing through long-term government bonds declined by 2 to 3% p.a during this period. Therefore, the government was able to borrow in long tenors at rates well below the policy rate of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

45. **Syed Javed Husnain:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the rate on which Zarai Taraqiati Bank is giving loan to the Farmers and Agri-Farming Industry respectively and whether Ministry has any proposal under consideration to provide loans to Farmers on said rate for promotion of agriculture in the country?*

Reply not received.

46. **Mr. Saif Ur Rehman:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state the sources of water supply to Bahria Town Karachi?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** Provision of water in the cities is primarily a domain of provincial governments. Therefore, the Government of Sindh was requested to provide reply to the Question.

Karachi Water and Sewerage Board, Government of Sindh has informed that 02 Water Connections of 6 inches diameter each were sanctioned for M/s. Bahria Town from the 48 inch diameter. Balance Conveyance system (Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply System) at Dumlottee Pumping station. The total discharge is 1.8-Million-Gallon Daily. (**Annex-I**).

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

47. **Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether AGPR, Islamabad has made payment of pension contribution of Rs.100532/- to Hyderabad Electric Supply Company Ltd. in respect of its employees namely Ghulam Sarwar Dars P.No.50121724, the then PS to Federal Minister*

*for Labour and Manpower, for the period he remained on deputation from HESCO to Ministry of Labour and Manpower from 17-10-2008 to 31-3-2010 in pursuance of letter No.1(10)/2008-Admin-I dated 31-1-2011 of Ministry of Labour and Manpower; if so,*

- (b) *the details of Cheque No. & date of payment to incumbent and if not, reasons thereof and the time by which AGPR will make payment to HESCO against its vender No.30311881 maintained with District Accounts Officer, Hyderabad?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) As per record of office of AGPR, no payment of pension contribution amounting to Rs. 100,532/- was made to HESCO under the head Pension Contribution (A-04101) in respect of Ghulam Sarwar Dars. The Ministry concerned i.e. M/o Labour and Manpower (Now M/o Overseas Pakistanis & HRD) may apprise current status of subject case since no such case had been received in the office of AGPR. Further, letter dated 31-01-2011, as referred to in the question, is not traceable in the office of AGPR.

(b) As per record of office of AGPR, vendor No 3031181 does not pertain to HESCO. The same relates to Muhammad Anwar Khan having CNIC No 37101-6057060-9. Office of AGPR has 112 vendor numbers of HESCO and concerned department is in better position to intimate the accurate vendor number for issuance of contribution of pension authority. However, procedure for payment of pension contribution is as under:-

- (i) Borrowing department forward complete case to office of AGPR for issuance of pension contribution authority.
- (ii) the borrowing department issues sanction letter and submit bill to AGPR for cross cheque in favour of lending department.

48. **Mr. James Iqbal:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to increase the trade relations with Denmark?*

Reply not received.

49. **Mr. James Iqbal:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the fresh initiatives taken by the incumbent Government to enhance the trade relations with Belgium?*

Reply not received.

50. **Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state:*

- (a) *facts about existence of any Committee on innovation funding; and*  
(b) *steps taken by the Government to ensure such innovation funding?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** (a) Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives does not have any committee on **innovation funding**. However, innovation funding is being done by different government entities.

(b) Under Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme. for national youth development, initiatives are being taken to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in order to generate employment as per the vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan. Under Startup 'Pakistan, a PC-I of Rs. 1.4 Billion is under review wherein Blended Incubation Centres will be established in 60 public universities in the first phase. Besides entrepreneurship training, youth with promising business ideas and innovative solution will be provided innovative/seed funding besides exposure to capital venture markets and angel funding. An amount of Rs. 450 million has been allocated for the innovation fund during first phase for these 60 BICs. Another project 'green Youth Movement-Sarsabz Pakistan', PC-I of Rs. 800 million is under consideration. Under this project, eco-innovation will be encouraged among the youth through Prime Minister's Eco-Innovation Challenge. A budget of Rs. 28 million has been, allocated for this activity to promote eco-innovative solution fur environmental conservation and to combat climate change issues. Both these projects will be funded through special block allocations provided for in the budget under the Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme and will be implemented through HEC.

Besides the above programme, Ministry of information Tecluiology & Telecommunication is also undertaking initiatives for promoting innovation and enterprise in the country. The details, if required, may be provided directly by the Ministry.

51. **Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state facts about existence of any guidelines for Corporate Social Responsibility?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) prepared voluntary guidelines for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Pakistan for public companies in 2013 with the aim of promoting responsible business conduct that supports community development in the interest of the public. SECP CSR voluntary guidelines encourage public listed companies to devise CSR policy endorsed by their Board of Directors and ensure that appropriate apparatus is in place for devising CSR policy and its implementation through an inclusive mechanism.

2. The overall objective is to move towards:
  - (i) An integrated approach of social development for public and private sector focusing on responsibility elements needed to bring conceptual clarity and build capacity through creative collaboration and to attain SDG targets and sustained economic growth cost effectively.
  - (ii) Instead of building new policies, guides and practices, there is need to identify the root cause of inaction and fill the gaps. ‘Creating awareness on benefits of integrating responsible practices into organizational strategic policies’ is the main stay.
  - (iii) A private sector led independent governance structure is proposed to steer the implementation in the country.

52. **Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the names of the employees of Ministry and its attached departments who went abroad on foreign tours on Government expenditure;*
- (b) *the dates of such tours and reasons thereof; and*
- (c) *the details of amount spent on each of the employee by the Government?*

**Minister for Economic Affairs (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar):**

(a),(b),&amp; (c)

**DETAILS OF FOREIGN VISITS UNDERTAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEES OF EAD DURING 2019-20**

S.No	Name of Employee	Designation	Purpose of visit/ Reasons	Country visited	Date	Expenditure
1	Mr. Noor Ahmad	Secretary	6th Japan Pakistan High Level Economic Policy Dialogue	Tokyo, Japan	9-13 July, 2019	769,704/-
2	Mr. Owais Nauman Kamil	Senior Joint Secretary	6 <sup>th</sup> Session of Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation	Tashkent, Tajikistan	1-4 July, 2019	325,193/-
3	Mr. Ahmad Haniif Qureshi	Additional Secretary	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Session of Pakistan-Hungary Joint Commission	Budapest, Hungary	11-14 September	372,617/-
4	Mr. Noor Ahmad	Secretary	Participation in Pak-German Bilateral Government to Government Negotiations	Berlin, Germany	11-12 September, 2019	403,600/-
5	Mr. Noor Ahmad	Secretary	16 <sup>th</sup> Pakistan - European Union Joint Commission	Brussels, Belgium	13-18 November, 2019	614,352/-
6	Mr. Ahmad Haniif Qureshi	Additional Secretary	5 <sup>th</sup> Session of Pakistan-Qatar Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC)	Doha, Qatar	4-5 November, 2019	177,627/-
7	Ms. Humaira Akif	Section Officer	5 <sup>th</sup> Session of Pakistan-Qatar Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC)	Doha, Qatar	4-5 November, 2019	167,719/-
8	Mr. Noor Ahmad	Secretary	Annual Meetings of the World Bank IMF and Auxiliary Meetings	Washington, DC USA	4-25 October, 2019	1,152,772/-
Total						3,977,010/-

53. **Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- the names of the employees of the Ministry and its attached departments who went abroad on foreign tours on Government expenditure during last five years;*
- the details of dates and amount spent on each employee of such tours and reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) The requisite details in respect of Ministry of Finance and Revenue may be seen at Annexures mentioned against each:

	<b>Name of Departments</b>	<b>Annexures</b>
i.	Finance Division (Main)	(Annex-I)
ii.	Military Finance Wing	(Annex-II)
iii.	Controller General of Accounts (CGA)	(Annex-III)
iv.	Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP)	(Annex-IV)
v.	Revenue Division (FBR)	(Annex-V)

(b) As Above.

*(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)*

54. **Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the amount of domestic and external loans outstanding against the present Government?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** The domestic and external loans outstanding at end Dec 2019 is as follows:

(PKR trillions)	Jun-18	Dec-19	Change
Domestic Debt	16.4	21.7	5.3
External Debt	8.5	12.0	3.5
<b>Gross Public Debt</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>
<b>Of Which</b>			
Financing of Federal Budget Deficit			5.0
Due to Currency Depreciation			2.6
Cash Balance / Deposits			1.2

Total Public Debt increased by Rs. 8.8 trillion between July 2018 & Dec. 2019, out of which (a) Rs. 5.0 trillion (57%) was borrowed for meeting the budget deficit; (b) Rs. 2.6 trillion (29%) was due to currency depreciation; (c) the remaining increase of Rs. 1.2 trillion (14%) was on account of increased cash balances of the Government.

Therefore, the actual borrowing of the government during the period to finance the fiscal deficit was Rs. 5.0 trillion.

55. **Ms. Rubina Irfan:**  
(*Transferred from 20th Session*)

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the benefits, in term of financial and administrative, which are being extended to the people of Balochistan under different projects of CPEC at present;*
- (b) *the benefits, in term of financial and administrative, which will be extended to the people of Balochistan of such projects, after the completion of CPEC; and*

(c) *whether provincial Government of the Balochistan is on board in execution of the projects of CPEC; if so, the details thereof?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** (a) A number of projects are being executed in Baluchistan under CPEC (Annex-A). In the implementation phase, employment have been generated particularly in Gwadar and Hub. For instance, in HubCo power plant 1,301 Pakistani have been hired who are mainly form the local community. Moreover, in GDA and CPA as well as in China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), mainly local people are employed to run the affairs of their respective organizations.

In addition, the 62 bedded Pakistan China Friendship Hospital constructed under CPEC is serving the people in Gwadar and thus far has treated over 120,000 patients. Vocational institute at Gwadar has provided 600 local students with different technological skills.

(b) In all CPEC projects in Balochistan, local communities have been given priority in jobs and the same will be extended in the operation mode. Moreover, with the implementation of Gwadar Smart Port city, more jobs would be created. Also Hub SEZ has been approved by the Board of Approval of the Board of Investment. Both Hub and Boston SEZs will create opportunities for entrepreneurs and population alike. Similarly, road projects such as DI-Khan and Zhob Kuchlak will provide speedy access to locals to transport their produce in the market effectively.

(c) Baluchistan Government is fully involved in the development process. Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan has been approved by GDA governing body chaired by CM Balochistan on 23 August 2019. In Joint Working Group for Gwadar, the Chief Secretary Baluchistan is co-convener. ACS Development Balochistan along with DG Gwadar Development Authority are also members of the said joint working group who formulate development agenda for Gwadar city. Moreover, CM Balochistan along with other CMs are part of the JCC, the highest forum for CPEC related decision making.

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

56. **Syed Hussain Tariq:**  
*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether pre and post evaluation of the policy of monetization of transport facility for civil servants BS-20 to BS-22 since its inceptions; if so, the detail thereof;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that each Ministry/Division/Department has to prepare and submit to the Cabinet Division and Finance Division every month a report on the expenditure relating to the CNG, POL and the repair/maintenance of the operational/general duty vehicles, so that the resultant financial impact/savings of the policy could be addressed;*
- (c) *whether it is a fact Ministries/Divisions/Departments have failed to act in accordance with aforesaid instructions;*
- (d) *if so, what steps are being taken to hold accountable ministries/divisions/departments; and*
- (e) *the details of any proposal under consideration of Government to revisit the policy?*

Transferred to Cabinet Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

57. **Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**  
(Transferred from 20th Session)

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

- (a) *does the Earthquake and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) intend to auction its 75 vehicles under Prime Minister's austerity measures initiative;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that there are reports that the important electrical and mechanical equipment's of these vehicles have been removed from them, so, as to auction of these vehicles be given at lower bid than the market available price to their blue eyed individuals; and*
- (c) *what measures are being taken by the Government to make transparent procedure and investigate this matter?*

**Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office:** (a) Yes, ERRA has conducted the auction of 75 vehicles under the Prime Minister's austerity measures initiatives **Annex-I**.

(b) No electrical or mechanical equipments were removed from these vehicles. The auction was conducted in a very transparent manner.

(c) As per procedural requirement, interested bidders were invited through PPRA website and newspapers, as well to visit the vehicles on 25-02-2020. No electrical or mechanical equipment were removed from these vehicles. Auction Committee conducted the auction on 26-02-2020 in transparent manner. Amount received through auction was manifold as compared to reserve price which were deposited into Government treasury accordingly.

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

58. **Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khokhar:**

*(Transferred from 20th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) whether it is a fact that the on line copy of salary slip of AGPR for the Government employees for the month of January 2020 has not been uploaded on Internet; if it is uploaded the date of such uploading along with the steps taken by the Government to control such situation in future; and*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that AGPR Islamabad was facilitating the Federal Government employees with hard copy; and*
- (c) the time by which the same has been stopped and not uploaded on net alongwith the reasons of its delay?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Online copy of salary slips of AGPR for the Government employees for the month of January, 2020 has not been uploaded on internet (email) due to technical problem in SAP (Systems, Application & Product) system which is still prevailing. The system experts are trying to resolve this technical problem and salary slips shall start to be uploaded as soon as the problem is resolved.

(b) Due to shortage of stationery, the hard copies of pay slips / computerized pay rolls were discontinued. Now the office of AGPR, Islamabad has started providing hard copies of pay slips to Drawing & Disbursing Officers (DDOs) from February, 2020.

(c) The position has already been explained at Parts (a & b) above.

7. **Mr. James Iqbal:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the names of the countries with which Pakistan is bonded in trade relations at present?*

**Minister for Commerce:** At present, Govt of Pakistan is bonded in any trade relations with 210 countries (list at Annex A)

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

8. **Khawja Sheraz Mehmood:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether there is any proposal for grant of Technical Allowance/ Special Engineering Allowance @ 1.5 times of basic pay to the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) registered engineers working in Federal Government departments under consideration by the Finance Division/Federal Government;*
- (b) *why the Government has not granted Technical Allowance/ Special Engineering Allowance @ 1.5 times of basic pay to the PEC registered engineers working in Federal Government departments while the same has been granted in Punjab, KPK and AJK?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Yes, The Ministry of Water Resources initiated a proposal for grant of Technical Allowance/Special Engineering Allowance @ 1.5 times of basic pay to the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) registered Engineers working in Federal Government departments. A summary for Prime Minister, to this effect was received in the Finance Division. After examination in Finance Division certain queries were conveyed to Ministry of Water Resources, the reply from that Ministry is awaited.

(b) The Federal Government determines the need of technical/ special allowances, keeping in view the nature and circumstances of particular jobs as well as fiscal space.

Moreover, in terms of Article 240 of the constitution, the Provincial Governments are empowered to make independent decisions for their employees, which are not binding on the Federal Government.

9. **Sardar Nasrullah Khan Dreshak:**

*(Transferred from 21st Session)*

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state names of areas of Southern Punjab particularly the under Development Districts of Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh which will be benefited from CPEC Projects?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** Southern Punjab will emerge as an important region in the country after the completion of the projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The already completed Multan-Sukkur Motorway (392 km), constructed at the cost of USD 2.98 billion, has connected major urban centers in the Southern Punjab. Projects will generate approximately 22,000 jobs during the implementation phase, most of them comprised of local labour force.

In CPEC socio-economic development projects portfolio, the southern Punjab region and particularly the districts of DG Khan and Muzaffargarh have been given due attention. Both the districts are rich in agricultural business specially in Cotton crop production and livestock; therefore, Model Dairy Farm is being proposed in DG Khan along with Advanced Cotton Research Laboratory in Multan to enhance cotton crop production and social well being of the region, in socio-economic development projects under CPEC.

Moreover, the region is also part of the CPEC Central Alignment as per the Long-Term Plan of CPEC which will be passing through Kot-Addu, DG Khan, Rajanpur etc. With connectivity through Sukkar-Multan Motorway (M-5) and CPEC central alignment will boost the value propositions of the region and would create multiple economic opportunities for the locals.

Apart from this, a substantial portion of ML-1 Railway projects will also be passing through this area, which will be spurring/sponsoring agricultural and other businesses.

10. **Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

*(Transferred from 21st Session)*

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the fresh steps being taken by the Government to increase country's exports to Jordan in the next fiscal year?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Jordan stands at US \$ 60.78 million in 2018-19, out of which exports to

Jordan are US \$ 32.63 million and imports stand at US \$ 28.15 million. Trade balance of Pakistan with Jordan is positive.

The volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Jordan is as follows:—

<b>Year</b>	<b>Export</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>Trade Balance</b>
2013-14	4621	25.31	71.52	20.89
2014-15	49.54	36.20	85.74	13.33
2015-16	39.54	23.65	63.19	15.89
2016-17	50.10	30.75	80.85	19.34
2017-18	32.23	27.73	59.95	4.50
2018-19	32.63	28.15	60.78	4.48
<b>(July-March) FY20</b>	29.77	12.53	42.30	17.24

#### **Major Exports:**

- Pakistan's top exports to Jordan include cotton fabrics, blankets, woven fabrics of cotton and cereal straw & husks etc.

#### **Major Imports:**

- Pakistan's top import product from Jordan include potassium sulphate, mineral/chemical fertilizers, waste and scarp and potassium chloride etc.

#### **Fresh Steps Taken by the Government:**

In order to boost exports to Jordan Government of Pakistan has recently established Trade Office in Amman, Jordan with the objective to enhance exports and improved bilateral trade & investment ties with a Non-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member Country from the Middle Eastern region. This newly established Commercial Section will undertake various activities to boost Pakistani exports and bilateral investment in goods & services sector. Moreover, Government of Pakistan also intends to effectively utilize existing intuitional arrangements like Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) between the two countries to discuss various trade related issues.

11. **Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the new steps being taken by the Government to increase domestic exports to Hungary in the next financial year?*

**Minister for Commerce:** Hungary is a European Union member country and supports Pakistan in the EU for grant of GSP+ status. As EU has extended its GSP+ facility for Pakistan for another 2 years, therefore Pakistan's exports have duty free access in Hungarian market due to the GSP+ status.

The Government of Pakistan has and is making sustained efforts to comply with the 27 conventions and International obligations required to sustain GSP+ status.

The inaugural session of Pakistan Hungary Joint Commission was held in Budapest on 12-13 September, 2019 which was aimed for extended cooperation in agriculture and water conservation, food processing and livestock.

As a result, technical assistance in the form of Tied Aid Loan Facility was offered by Hungary to Pakistan in the agriculture, livestock and fishery sector, which is administered by Economic Affairs Division.

Furthermore, 15 member delegation with representatives of the following business areas were scheduled to attend the Pakistan- Hungarian Business Forum which was to be held on 26th March, 2020 in Lahore:

- (a) Agricultural technologies
- (b) Food industry
- (c) Fish farming, animal husbandry
- (d) Water industry, sewage treatment
- (e) ICT (Information and Communication Technology)
- (f) Medical Technology

Pakistan-Hungarian Business Forum was scheduled to be held in Lahore on 26th March, 2020 to increase Business to Business (B2B) linkages between the two countries. All the arrangements had been done. Unfortunately, the Forum had to be postponed considering the current COVID-19 pandemic.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Trade and Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and Hungarian Export Promotion Agency (HEPA) was also scheduled to be signed during the Pakistan-Hungarian Business Forum.

Hungary is already investing heavily in Pakistan, especially in KPK. MOL is the Hungarian multinational oil and gas company headquartered in Budapest, Hungary. Its subsidiary MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Company is operating in Pakistan since 1999. MOL Pakistan has undertaken joint ventures with the local exploration and production companies.

Hungary is further interested to invest in agriculture, food processing and livestock sectors of Pakistan.

12. **Mr. Jamil Ahmed Khan:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the year-wise total value of fruits imported from India during the last five years?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The year wise total value of fruits imported from India during the last five years is mentioned in the table below:—

S No.	Year	Import Value (USD Million)
1	2015-16	6.75
2	2016-17	9.08
3	2017-18	4.90
4	2018-19	0.25
5	2019-20	0.04

Source: TDAS

### **Major Fruit Imports**

Pakistan's major imports of fruits from India include fresh or dried cashew nuts, desiccated coconuts, dried fruits, preserved fruits and dried nuts etc.

The reason for current sharp decline in import of fruits and its preparation from India is due to the suspension of trade with India by Pakistan since 9th August, 2019 in wake of Government of India's unilateral and unlawful action of revoking the Article 370 of its constitution; thereby changing the constitutional status of the Indian held Kashmir.

13. **Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**  
(*Transferred from 21st Session*)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the year-wise value of vegetables imported from India during the last five years?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The year wise total value of vegetables imported from India during the last five years is mentioned in the table below:—

S No.	Year	Import Value (USD Million)
1	2015-16	130.68
2	2016-17	104.40
3	2017-18	27.52
4	2018-19	8.38
5	2019-20	0.47

#### **Major Vegetable Imports**

Pakistan's major imports of vegetable from India include dried leguminous vegetables, potatoes (chilled or fresh), onions, shallots, ginger, tomatoes etc.

In the wake of Government of India's unilateral and unlawful action of revoking the Article 370 of its constitution; thereby changing the constitutional status of the Indian held Kashmir, Pakistan formally suspended its trade with India w.e.f 9th April, 2020 – one of the prime reason for sharp decline in imports of vegetables from India.

ISLAMABAD:  
*The 7th June, 2020.*

TAHIR HUSSAIN,  
*Secretary.*