

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**

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

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

**Friday, the 24th July, 2020**

92. **\*Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**  
*(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Commerce:** (a) The percentage of reduction in imports and increase in exports is enclosed at **Annex-I**.

(b) The decline of the imports in the such industries was not assessed in real terms, however, following factors have contributed in the recent trend of decrease in imports:

- i. Depreciation of Pak Rupee, which has made imports expensive.
- ii. The current worldwide economic slowdown.
- iii. Ban on trade with India.
- iv. Increase in duties and taxes on the import of luxury items.
- v. Regulation of import of food items *via* SRO 237.
- vi. Regulation of import of vehicles *via* SRO 52.

- vii. Completion of projects under CPEC and diverting demand of expensive imported products to alternate/ substitute products also reduced the imports.
- viii. Further, duty to expensive imports, local industry also adopt to increased local production of those raw material or subsidiary good.

This trend of decrease in imports will continue unless the demand of imported products in Pakistan increases.

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

96. **\*Choudhary Faqir Ahmad:**  
*(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a), (b) & (c) • IMF package is to tackle Balance of Payment crisis while financial package from World Bank, Asian Development Bank are related to support development projects in education, health, infrastructure, etc., which government may not be able to finance alone due to revenues constraints.

- There is no direct impact of IMF package and other financial packages on daily life of a common man, particularly with reference to hike in the prices of different essential commodities and other services.

- The COVID-19 outbreak has affected Pakistan’s economy through various channels. The government undertook immediate measures and announced a fiscal stimulus package of Rs 1.24 trillion to provide relief to common man.

- IMF’s Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) amounting to \$ 1.386 billion to counter the economic impacts of this novel outbreak will also support government’s efforts to mitigate the economic shock, the facility will be used to address declining international reserves and increase social sector spending.

- Additionally, concessionary lending by IFIs; the WB and ADB, etc. will provide much needed support to the government during this crisis time to overcome the COVID-19 Challenge.

- No such study has been conducted on government level to determine the exact magnitude of such impact on a common man.

- Prior to COVID-19, Prime Minister has launched a comprehensive Poverty Alleviation Program “Ehsaas” on 27th March, 2019 with its 4 focus areas and 155 policy actions to reduce inequality, invest in people and uplift lagging districts. Under this program, the government allocated Rs. 190 billion.

- Prime Minister has announced special package for construction sector with the aim to boost business activity to generate employment in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak.

- To uplift agriculture sector “National Agriculture Emergency Programme” in coordination with all provinces has been introduced. Thirteen mega projects at the cost of Rs. 277 billion are under execution.

- After COVID-19 outbreak, the Prime Minister announced a fiscal stimulus package of Rs. 1.24 trillion (around \$8 billion). The package covers Emergency Response, Support to Business and Relief to Citizens, as given below:

	<i>Rs. bn.</i>
<b>Emergency Response</b>	<b>190</b>
NDMA	25
Medical equipment/incentive for workers	50
Emergency provisioning/ Funds	100

	<i>Rs. bn.</i>
Tax relief on Food & Health items	15
<b>Relief to Citizens</b>	<b>570</b>
Relief to daily wage workers	200
Relief to vulnerable families & Panagah	150
Relief on petrol /diesel	70
Funding to Utility Stores	50
Power & Gas subsidy/ payment deferral measures	100
<b>Support to Business &amp; Economy</b>	<b>480</b>
Payment to farmers (wheat)	280
Relief to Exporters	100
Relief to SMEs & Agriculture	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,240</b>

101. **\*Ms. Fauzia Behram:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The government has taken several steps to increase exports to Japan and Turkey. Some of the steps taken in this regard are delineated below:-

i. **Japan:**

- To gain level playing field with the competitors in the Japanese market, the Ministry of Commerce, during the 6th Japan-Pakistan High Level Economic Policy Dialogue (JPHLEPD) held on 11th July, 2019 in Tokyo, Japan, proposed Preferential Trade Agreement leading to a full-fledged Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

- Ministry of Commerce in collaboration with the Japanese Ministry of Energy, Trade and Investment (METI) and Japanese Embassy in Pakistan has constituted a Monitoring Committee which is a cross-institutional mechanism to resolve the issues faced by the businesses of both sides.
- The Ministry of Commerce also held joint seminar with METI during the 6th Joint-Government Business Dialogue in December, 2018, Tokyo, Japan, wherein the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Industries & Production and Investment apprised the Japanese business community about the trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan.
- Moreover, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has also participated in sector specific exhibitions, held in Japan, *inter alia*, Foodex, Tokyo (Food items), Fashion World, Tokyo (Fashion garments & products) and Sportswear and Goods Expo, Tokyo, held in 2019. TDAP also intends to participate in the subject exhibitions in the year 2020 wherein leading Pakistani enterprises will showcase their products.

ii. **Turkey:**

- Pakistan and Turkey are conducting bilateral trade and economic relations under the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) which is the highest-level political consultations mechanism that Turkey has with other countries.
- So far 6 meetings, of the HLSCC have been held. The 6th HLSCC meeting was held on 13-14 February, 2020.
- President Erdogan visited Pakistan on 13th -14th February, 2020 for the 6th meeting of High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC).
- The Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) was also signed during the 6th HLSCC meeting, which further aims to increase bilateral trade and economic cooperation.
- The Pakistani and Turkish delegations held the meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade and Investment on February 13th, 2020 under the 6th High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) in Islamabad. Both sides reviewed the existing

bilateral trade and agreed to increase the level of economic engagement.

- The FTA negotiations, which were stalled for the last 2 years were discussed during the Intersessional Meeting held on 16th-17th January, 2020 between Pakistan and Turkey. In this regard, both sides agreed to conduct a Joint Scoping Study which would identify potential sectors where opportunities are not being exploited at present. This study would form the basis for future roadmap of Pakistan Turkey FTA negotiations.
- Two MoUs were signed during the meeting of Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment under the 6th HLSCC on 13th February, 2020.
  - i. The Halal Accreditation Agency of The Republic of Turkey (HAK) and The Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) signed a MoU to reinforce the cooperation between the two authorities in the field of halal accreditation and conformity assessment.
  - ii. MoU on Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation Matters between the Ministry of Trade of Turkey and the FBR/Ministry of Finance of Pakistan was also signed.
- The first ever Pakistan Turkey Business and Investment Forum was held on 14th February, 2020 in order to promote trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan for the Turkish side.
- The Forum was addressed by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erodgan, President of Turkey and H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- On 13th February, 2020, Ministry of Commerce arranged Business to Business meetings with the visiting Turkish delegation in which 40 Turkish companies participated and around 450 meetings were held for possible Joint Ventures and to explore avenues of cooperation among the private sectors of both the countries.

- Pakistan's leading manufacturers of leather products participated in "Le Show Istanbul" in 2019. Le Show is the most prestigious international leather and fashion exhibition. 20 renowned companies from Pakistan representing leather garments, handbags, and accessories participated in the event.
- Crescent Group, Masood Textile, Kamal Textile, Koh-e-Noor Textile, Sapphire, Denim Fashion, Nishat etc. were part of the 21 member textiles delegation who visited Turkey from 24th-29th February, 2020.

106. **\*Syed Agha Rafiullah:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Commerce:** Pakistan has always adopted a policy of maintaining dynamic and good trade relations not only with the regional countries but also with rest of the world with the exception of India, Israel and North Korea.

Pakistan's trade regime has unceasingly sought to promote and further trade interests with its global partners.

The same is evident from the trade statistics placed as **Annex-I**.  
(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

109. **\*Syed Agha Rafiullah:**  
(Deferred during 20th Session)

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

- whether it is a fact that the number of poor people is fastly increasing during the present Government;*
- 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.

110. **\*Mr. Muhammad Afzal Khokhar:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Commerce:** (a) Available sugar export data from July, 2019 onwards according PBS is:

**Export figures of Sugar**

Series	Unit	Value in Million US\$			
		July-Jan, 2018-19		July-Jan, 2019-20	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Export	M.T.	276,068	81.90	181,447	70.66
Import	M.T.	4,026	2.06	3,651	1.86

**Source : Pakistan Bureau of Statistics**

(b) In Case No. 88/04/2020 dated 11th February, 2020 concerning Ministry of Industries and Production titled "Issues of Public Importance", the ECC of the Cabinet decided that there shall be no ban on import of sugar. However, specific sugar import decision will be taken by the ECC of the Cabinet on a fresh reference of the Ministry of Industries and Production as decided in Case No. ECC-37/6/2020 dated 10th February, 2020 on a Summary moved by Ministry of Industries and Production, whereby it imposed immediate ban on export of sugar.



(c) According to Federal Board of Revenue, the customs tariff prior to the recent decision of the Cabinet to waive off regulatory duty leviable on the import of sugar was as under:-

- The statutory rate of Customs duty (CD) on PCTs. 1701.1390 & 1701.1400) was 20%. However, the same was exempt under Sr. No. 11 of Part-III of the 5th Schedule to the Customs Act, 1969. Additional Customs Duty leviable @ 7% was also exempt under Sr. No. 3 (viii) of SRO 670(I)/2019.
- The Regulatory Duty (RD) which was leviable @40% has recently been removed as per ECC's Decision in Case No. 37/06/2020 dated 10-02-2020.
- At present no customs duty is leviable on the import of sugar.

As far as future loss to the national exchequer on account of the waiver of the regulatory duty on intended import of sugar by the Government is concerned, the same can only be determined once the exact quantum of sugar to be imported, is known.

111. **\*Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Commerce:** (a) Export of petroleum products increased from 96.61 Million US \$ in July-October 2017-18 to 187.56 Million US \$ in July-October, 2018-19. Percentage increase was 94.14%. Data is given below:

### Export Data of Petroleum Products

Value in Million US\$

Groups/Commodities	July-Oct., 2017-18	July-Oct., 2018-19	% change Over Previous Year
<b>A Petroleum Group &amp; Coal</b>	<b>96.61</b>	<b>187.56</b>	<b>94.14</b>
1. Petroleum crude	33,08	104.17	214.90
2. Petroleum products (Excel. Top Naphta)	40.24	55.01	36.68
3. Petroleum top naphta	23.29	28.39	21.89
4. Solid fuels (coal)	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: PBS

(b) Export of coal is not mentioned in list of banned items *i.e.* Schedule-I of Export Policy Order, 2016, which means that it is exportable. There had been some export of coal from July-Jan 2019-20 worth 0.100 Million US \$ as indicated in **Annex-I**.

(c) The name of petroleum products and their country-wise export is mentioned as under:

#### Country-wise Export of Petroleum Products

Value in Million US \$

Commodity by Country	July-Oct., 2017-18	July-Oct., 2018-19
	Value	Value
<b>PETROLEUM CRUDE</b>	<b>33.079</b>	<b>104.162</b>
Australia	33.079	--
Guinea	--	26.156
Papua New Guinea	--	27.931
United Arab Emirates	--	50.075

Commodity by Country	July-Oct., 2017-18	July-Oct., 2018-19
	Value	Value
<b>(II) PETROLEUM PRODUCTS</b>	<b>40.242</b>	<b>55.180</b>
Afghanistan	37.697	53.221
India	0.752	--
Italy	--	0.045
Korea, Republic of	0.001	--
Madagascar	--	0.081
Mozambique	0.002	--
Netherlands	1.783	--
Philippines	0.000	--
Singapore	0.003	0.260
United Arab Emirates	0.003	1.574
<b>PETROLEUM TOP</b>		
NAPHTHA	23.289	28.213
India	6.639	5.347
Korea, Republic of	2.647	--
Madagascar	--	5.964
Philippines	2.438	--
Singapore	8.197	16.901
United Arab Emirates	3.369	--

Source PBS

Annex

**Export of Petroleum Products**

Value in Million US\$

Groups/ Commodities	July-Oct, 2017-18	July-Oct, 2018-19	% change Over Previous Year	July-Jan, 2018-19	July-Jan, 2019-20	% change Over Previous Year
	Vale	Value		Value	Value	
<b>A Petroleum Group &amp; Coal</b>	<b>96.61</b>	<b>187.56</b>	<b>94.14</b>	<b>300.07</b>	<b>179.49</b>	<b>-40.18</b>
1 Petroleum crude	33.08	104.17	214.90	163.96	110.32	-32.72
2 Petroleum products (Excl. Top Naphta)	40.24	55.01	36.68	92.86	28.64	-69.16
3 Petroleum top naphta	23.29	28.39	21.89	43.24	40.43	-6.49
4 Solid fuels (coal)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.100	100.00

Source : Pakistan Bureau of statistics.

112. **\*Ms. Nuzhat Pathan:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Commerce:** In order to enhance domestic exports to China, the Government has taken various steps. These include:

- Early implementation of the Phase-II of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) which has been signed, during visit of the Prime Minister to China in April, 2019 and tariff reduction modalities have been implemented from 1st January, 2020. In Phase-II, China has offered favorable concessions to Pakistan, which *inter alia* include;
  - Immediate elimination of tariffs on 313 tariff lines of Pakistan's prime export interest (list attached).
  - Increase in the protected list of Pakistan from 10% to 25% which comes to 1760 tariff lines.
  - Implementation of Electronic Data Exchange System to curb under-invoicing and misdeclaration.
- The Ministry of Commerce has also launched a country wide campaign of awareness seminars to apprise the domestic industry about business and export opportunities available under second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II) so that Pakistan can reap maximum benefits arising out of this Agreement. Five sessions of the awareness campaign have already been held so far in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar and Faisalabad. A large number of representatives of Chambers of Commerce and exporters associations of textile, apparel, leather and leather garments, footwear, animal and agricultural products, dairy, processed food, chemicals, engineering sector etc. and Women Chambers of Commerce have actively participated in these events.
- Moreover, Secretary Commerce has also written twenty one sector specific letters to different public and private stakeholders

to disseminate the information about prospects available under second phase of the CPFTA. These stakeholders include Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), Board of Investment (BOI), and all exporters associations (list of associations is attached as Annex-I). The role of these public and private stakeholders is crucial for the success of this Agreement and enhancing our exports to China.

- The Ministry of Commerce has also updated its official website to disseminate information about the Phase-II of the CPFTA. The complete details of the tariff reduction modalities and answers to the FAQs about the Agreement are available on website.
- In an effort to persuade textile and leather products sourcing from Pakistan to China, the Ministry of Commerce led a delegation of 35 leading enterprises of textile and leather to participate in Li & Fung Vendor Summit held on 15-19 June, in Shanghai, China. The subject event helped in establishing B2B linkages for the Pakistani enterprises with their Chinese counterparts. Following that, China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)-a leading textile and garment association of China, have shown keen interests in the joint ventures.
- To showcase Pakistani products in the Chinese market, Pakistan participated in the 1st China International Import Exhibition (CIIE), held in November, 2018 in Shanghai, China wherein large number of Pakistani enterprises participated. Pakistan also participated in the 2nd China International Import Exhibition (CIIE), held in November, 2019 in Shanghai, China. Pakistan also intends to participate in the forthcoming 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE), to be held in November, 2020 wherein leading Pakistani enterprises will showcase their products to persuade the Chinese buyers.
- Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has participated in number of exhibitions other than CIIE. The list of exhibitions in China for the year 2019 is placed at **Annex-II**.

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

113. **\*Mr. Ali Gohar Khan:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The present government has extended unprecedented facilitations to the textiles value chain resulting in growth in terms of values and quantities of value-added products during first seven months of the current financial year, *i.e.* July-January 2019-20 compared to corresponding period of previous year.

The present government has taken the following measures:

- Gas price has been rationalized at Rs. 786/mmbtu for export-oriented sectors including textiles
- RLNG has been rationalized at \$6.5/mmbtu
- Electricity has been provided at reduced rate of 7.5 cents/kwh to export oriented sectors including textiles
- Import of cotton has been allowed through the Torkham Border
- Regulatory Duty/Custom Duty and Additional Custom Duty has been withdrawn for imported cotton with effect from January 15th, 2020
- Importantly, the Government has released around Rs. 17 billion in Duty Drawback of various schemes of Textiles Policy and PM Package of Incentives
- Mark up of Long Term Financing Facility has been continued at 5%.
- Mark up on Export Finance Scheme has been continued at 3%.
- Duty free import of textile machinery has been continued.

**Textile sector export performance during July-Jan 2019-20:**

The exports of textiles sector during July-January 2019-20 remained \$8,099 million compared to \$7,812 million in corresponding period of previous year, an increase of 3.68%. In terms of quantities the exports have increased significantly, especially;

- Knit garments exports increased by 6.27% in terms of value and in terms of quantities increased by 4.57%
- Woven garments exports in terms of value increased by 10.84% and in terms of quantities increased by 20.99%
- Bed-wear exports increased by 2.77% in value and 9.78% in terms of quantities

**Textile Sector Export Performance during 2018-19:**

Overall textile exports remained \$13,329 million during July-June 2018-19 compared to \$ 13,520 million in corresponding period of previous year, decrease of -1.42%, however, in terms of quantities the exports have increased significantly, especially;

- Knit garments exports increased by 6.92% in terms of value and in terms of quantities increased by 15.52%.
- Woven garments exports in terms of value increased by 3.03% and in terms of quantities increased by 32.77%.
- Bed-wear exports increased by 0.06% in value and 8.18% in terms of quantities.

Furthermore, the Commerce Division in consultation with the textiles value chain is in process of formulating the 3rd Textiles Policy. Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce has already constituted a Task Force for formulation of Textiles Policy. The Textiles Policy would provide a consistent policy regime for next five years and will take into account all the aspects of textiles value chain and would provide cogent proposal for the chronic issues faced by the industry.

30. **\*Dr. Nafisa Shah:**  
(Deferred during 21st Session)

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state the progress of national initiative for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under PSDP programme and what is the total allocation for this purpose?*

Transferred to Cabinet Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

36. **\*Mr. Naveed Aamir Jeeva:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** The detail of interest being paid by each bank of the country on its deposits and profit earned by each bank for the Year 2018 and 2019 is annexed.

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

41. **\*Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) There is no need to constitute Parliamentary Committee to control the unnecessary increase in the prices as the Prime Minister and Economic Team of the PM are regularly monitoring the price movement of common use items with the consultation of provincial governments.



(b) Government is taking all necessary measures to control unnecessary increase in the prices of edibles and common use items so that common man may not face undue inflationary pressure.

Prices monitoring Cell in Ministry of National Food Security is monitoring price hikes of essential food items on daily basis.

The government is expanding the network of Sasta Bazaars and Utility Store outlets for provision of smooth supply of daily use items.

CCP is taking measures to control Cartelization and undue Profit.

National Price Monitoring Committee is regularly monitoring the prices and supply of essential items in consultation of federal ministries and provincial governments.

CPI inflation has declined from 14.6% in January 2020 to 8.6% in the month of June 2020 due to pro-active policy and administrative measures of the government.

99. **\*Mr. Salahuddin:**

*Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state the performance regarding review and appraisal of International and Regional Economic Trends and their impact on the national economy and detail of proposed proposals concerning changes in International economic Orders during the last two years?*

Reply not received.

100. **\*Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

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

**Minister for Commerce:** Pakistan and Norway enjoy good bilateral and diplomatic relations. The history of relations goes back to 1947 when Norway recognized Pakistan as a sovereign state in that year and later established Embassy in Islamabad in 1976. There is a sizeable Pakistani diaspora living in Norway. They contribute significantly to remittances by making Norway the fourth most important source of remittance in Europe.

In 2015-16 Norway was one of the biggest source of FDI with a total investment of US\$173 million. Telenor is the largest Norwegian company in Pakistan. While investment in Solar Energy and LNG are also part of the plans.

Trade between Norway and Pakistan is picking gradually and the balance is in favor of Pakistan. Pak-Norway bilateral trade has increased from US\$ 69.06 million in 2013-14 to US\$ 81.47 million in 2018-19. Pakistan's exports have increased from US\$ 55.16 million in 2013-14 to US\$ 57.46 million in 2018-19. Pakistan's imports have also increased from US\$ 13.90 million in 2013-14 to US\$ 24.01 million in 2018-19. Balance of trade is in favour of Pakistan, which is US\$ 33.45 million in 2018-19.

The following steps are being taken by the Government to enhance trade relations with Norway.

1. Norway is a member of European Free Trade Association (EFTA). In order to promote trade relations and gain access to Norwegian market, the government has initiated a process of negotiations for Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states namely Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Collectively, these countries offer an import market of US\$ 360 billion. The Government is actively engaging with the EFTA states for concluding an FTA between the two in areas including trade in goods, services and investment.
2. In this regard, both sides are working on a joint scoping exercise to identify broad parameters for an agreement and the respective market potentials.
3. Pakistan's Trade & Investment Counselor, Sweden is accredited to look after trade matters in Norway and is maintaining a close liaison with commercial institutions of Norway and individual importers to facilitate and promote trade activities;
4. All trade inquiries made by Pakistani exporters are promptly responded.
5. All trade inquiries made by importers of host country are also responded expeditiously.
6. A close liaison with Pakistani diaspora in Norway is being maintained to promote products from Pakistan.

101. **\*Ms. Nusrat Wahid:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to promote domestic trade relations with the Qatar and Singapore during current financial year?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The steps being taken by the Government to promote domestic trade relations with Qatar and Singapore are delineated as under:

***Qatar:***

The trade volume between Pakistan and Qatar has been on rise and has tilted in favor of Pakistan, over the past five years. The bilateral between Pakistan Qatar remained US\$ 1818.02 million in FY 20. The Exports to Qatar observed a consistent increase from US\$ 52 million (2016-17) to US\$ 106.36 (2018-19) and US\$ 138.22 million (2019-2020). However the imports from Qatar have also been rising from US\$ 1253.79 (2016-17) to US\$ 2505.27 (2018-19) and fell significantly in 2019-20 tuning to US\$ 1679.8 million. The details are below:

**Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade with Qatar**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Exports</b>	<b>Imports</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>Trade Balance</b>
2016-17	52.00	1253.79	1305.80	-1201.79
2017-18	90.81	1844.45	1935.26	-1753.64
2018-19	106.36	2505.27	2611.63	-2398.91
2019-2020	138.22	1679.8	1818.02	-1541.6

In Middle East, as per the % age change in growth, Qatar, remained the top export destinations of Pakistan showing growth of 36 %, in FY 20. Regardless of the slowdown in the economy caused due to Covid-19, Qatar, has shown a positive growth through-out Feb- June 2020, while resting at an increased growth of 40 % in exports during June 2020 as compared to June 2019. It is notable that during the current pandemic of Covid -19 the exports to Qatar have increased significantly tuning to US\$ 50.13 million in March-June (2020) as compared to US\$ 39.33 million in march – June 2019. The Ministry of Commerce has taken several steps to enhance bilateral trade

relations with Qatar and boost domestic exports, in the current fiscal year, which are as follows:

- (a) An MOU, establishing Pakistan-Qatar Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment was signed during the visit of Emir of Qatar to Pakistan on 22nd June, 2019. The said MOU shall improve the bilateral trade relations between the two countries by removing impediments to trade and enhancing exports to Qatar.
- (b) In order to enhance bilateral economic cooperation, 5th Session of Pak-Qatar JMC was held on 4-5 November 2019 at Doha, co-chaired by his Excellency Mr. Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of Qatar and Mr. Umar Ayub, Minister for Petroleum, Government of Pakistan.
- (c) Qatar has allowed import of Pakistani origin rice in their tender after several years of ban due to low quality of rice exported to Qatar in 2012. CTC has advertised a tender for supply of 4000 tons of 1121 Basmati Rice (Origin Pakistan) in July, 2019. A Pakistani company, Chappal Group of industries won and exported rice, after winning the said tender, by December 2019. Moreover, Pakistani companies have again competed against other regional countries in the main tender of the Central Tendering Committee of Qatar issued in May 2020 for supply of 48000 MT of basmati rice.

***Singapore:***

Singapore is one of the most market oriented and open economies in the world. Bilateral trade between Pakistan and Singapore has been recorded at USD 679 Million in FY 2019-20 with the trade balance heavily in favor of Singapore. Pakistan's exports to Singapore stood at USD 52 Million whereas imports were recorded USD 632 Million in 2019-20

Singapore holds great significance for Pakistan as a viable market for Pakistani products. It is envisaged that bilateral engagement with Singapore can provide Pakistan with a foothold which can then be leveraged to acquire status of full dialogue partner with ASEAN.

In a bid to gain market penetration in Singapore and to acquaint the Singapore's business community with the trade and investment opportunities available in Pakistan, a Webinar has been scheduled in the last week of July,

2020. The Webinar will be attended by the Singaporean business and investment companies and officials from economic ministries. The Webinar would be one of the stepping-stone to reinvigorate trade and investment relations between Pakistan and Singapore.

Pakistan is also exploring the possibility of having an institutional mechanism such as Joint Trade Committee with Singapore. Such institutional mechanism will be instrumental in deepening trade ties as well as economic diplomacy with Singapore.

102. **\*Ms. Nusrat Wahid:**

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the details of relaxations or immunities given by the present Government to the Industrial Sector (textile cement, steel industries) in various taxes and duties during current financial years?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:**

**Income Tax**

No specific relaxations or immunities have been given by the present government to the industrial sector for the textile, cement and steel industries. However the industrial sector may benefit from the following tax concessions provided to taxpayers which are enumerated as under:—

- In order to promote and facilitate setting up of Special Economic Zones for bolstering investment and to enable development of SEZ's on Private Public partnership (PPP) also been conferred upon a co-developer of special Economic zone through Finance Act, 2020.
- Exemption has been granted on profits and gains of a company from a green field industrial undertaking for a period of five years incorporated on or after the first day of July, 2019. The definition of Industrial Undertaking has recently been inserted in the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 through the Income Tax (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 which is applicable with effect from 1st July, 2019.
- Exemption has been granted for five years to industrial undertakings set up for manufacturing of equipment used in generation of renewable energy if such undertaking is set up between 1st March 2019 and 30th June 2023.

- The restriction on purchase of locally manufactured motor vehicles above 1300 cc has been abolished for non-filers to support the automobile manufacturing sector.
- In order to create opportunities of employment for fresh graduates a new tax credit for persons, including industry, employing freshly qualified graduates is being introduced. Persons employing fresh qualified graduates, having graduated after 1st July 2017 from universities or institutions recognized by the Higher Education Commission would be given a tax credit equal to the amount of annual salary paid to such graduates.

### **Sales Tax**

#### **1. The Finance Supplementary (Amendment) Act, 2018:**

The sales tax on LED/SMD lamps was previously exempt if the same were meant for dedicated use for renewable sources. Through the aforesaid Act, exemption has been extended to cover the local supplies of all LED/SMD lamps meant for conservation of energy.

#### **2. Finance Supplementary (Second Amendment) Act, 2019:**

(i) A new S. No. 150 inserted in Table-1 of the Sixth Schedule to the Sales Tax Act, 1990 states as under:

Plant and machinery excluding consumer durable goods and office equipment as imported by greenfield industries, intending to manufacture taxable goods, during their construction and installation period subject to conditions noted below and issuance of exemption certificate by the Commissioner Inland Revenue having jurisdiction:

- (a) the importer is registered under the Act on or after the first day of July, 2019; and
- (b) the industry is not established by splitting up or reconstruction or reconstitution of an undertaking already in existence or by transfer of machinery or plant from another industrial undertaking in Pakistan.

(ii) Previously available exemption to Machinery, equipment and spares meant for initial installation, balancing, modernization, replacement or expansion of projects for power generation through renewable energy has been extended upto 30th June, 2023.

(iii) Previously available exemption to systems and items for dedicated use with renewable source of energy like solar, wind, geothermal has been extended upto the 30th June, 2023.

### 3. **Finance Act, 2019:**

(i) Through S. No. 151, supplies, imports of plant and machinery, equipment for installation and industrial inputs for tribal areas erstwhile FATA/PATA have been exempted till June, 2023.

(ii) Through S. No. 152, supply of electricity has also been exempted to such industrial/undertakings which have set up before 31-05-2018 in tribal areas comprising erstwhile FATA/PATA.

(iii) Through Finance Act, 2019, rate of tax on locally manufactured textile and leather made ups has been reduced to 14% if the retail outlet is integrated with FBR's computerized system for recording of real time sales from the point of sale.

### 4. **Tax Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019:**

(i) S. No. 13 has been inserted in the Fifth Schedule through which supplies of raw material, components and goods supplied for manufacturing in the Gwadar Free Zone have been declared as zero-rated.

(ii) Through S. No. 14, supply of locally manufactured plant and machinery to manufacturers in Gwadar Free Zone have also been declared as zero-rated.

### 5. **Tax Laws (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2019:**

(i) Further, value addition tax @ 3% under the Twelfth Schedule has also been done away with through the Tax Laws (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 on import of plant and machinery in the case of manufacturer. In addition, the excess input tax under Twelfth Schedule will also be refunded to registered persons making zero-rated supplies *i.e.* exports.

(ii) To encourage local manufacturing of mobile phones, tax rate on mobile phones upto the value of 30 US dollar has been reduced from Rs. 130 to Rs. 100 and phones having value upto 100 US dollar, from Rs. 1320 to Rs. 200.

**6. Finance Act, 2020:**

(i) Rate of tax on locally manufactured textile and leather made ups has been reduced to 12% if the retail outlet is integrated with FBR's computerized system for recording of real time sales from the point of sale.

(ii) Import and local supply of cotton seed oil cake has been exempted from sales tax under S. No. 155 of Table-1 of the Sixth Schedule to the Sales Tax Act, 1990.

(iii) Import of CKD kits by local manufacturers of following Electric Vehicles have been exempted from sales tax under S. No. 156 of Table-1 of the Sixth Schedule to the Sales Tax Act, 1990:

- (a) Road Tractors for semi-trailers (Electric Prime Movers)
- (b) Electric Buses
- (c) Three Wheeler Electric Rickshaw
- (d) Three Wheeler Electric Loader
- (e) Electric Trucks
- (f) Electric Motorcycle

(iv) Import of plant and machinery for assembling of Electric Vehicles.

(v) Following changes have also been made regarding Gwadar Free Zone through Finance Act, 2020:

- (a) Zero-rating to supply of raw material, components, and goods to Gwadar Free Zone has been provided in the same manner as supplies to Export Processing Zones.
- (b) Supplies of locally manufactured plant and machinery to manufacturers of Gwadar Free Zone has also been notified as zero-rated.
- (c) Further Sale of imported materials and equipment will be subject to tax at residual value.



(d) Import of machinery, equipment, materials and goods imported by investors of Gwadar Free Zone shall be exempted from sales tax.

(vi) Supply of Electric Vehicles in CBU condition @ 1%.

## **Customs**

### **1. Incentives in Budget 2020 Given to Industry:**

(i) Removal of 2% additional customs duty on more than 1600 tariff lines of basic raw materials.

(ii) Reduction of customs duty on more than 130 tariff lines of raw materials/ intermediary goods import of wide range of industries, including textile cement and steel.

(iii) Customs duty on various chemicals including dyes/pigments used in textile industry, have been reduced from 16% to 11% & 3%.

(iv) Customs duty on Kraft paper used in manufacture of packing material for cement has been reduced from 16% to 3%.

### **2. Incentives for Cement Sector**

In the budget for FY 2019-20 the rate of Customs duty on machinery, and parts used in the cement industry falling under PCT 84.74 was reduced to 0% and in FY 2020-21 the Additional Customs duty on this machinery and parts has also been abolished.

### **3. Incentives for Steel Sector**

In 2019-20 customs duty on raw material for steel industry falling under PCT codes 72.01, 72.02, 72.03 and 72.04 was reduced to 0%. In 2020-21 the rate of additional customs duty on these primary raw materials excluding goods falling under 72.04 has been reduced to 0%. Moreover, in order to further reduce the cost of doing business of this sector, Regulatory Duty on import of HRC classifiable under Pakistan Customs Tariff (PCT) code 72.08 has been reduced from 12.5% to 6% and on PCT codes 72.25 and 72.26 from 17.5% to 11%.

103. **\*Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

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

- (a) *the aid received by the Government of Pakistan from different countries and NGOs after spreading corona pandemic in Pakistan alongwith the detail thereof;*
- (b) *the amount of loans against Pakistan waived off or leniency made in the payment of loans; and*
- (c) *the detail of overall benefit accrued to Pakistan?*

Reply not received.

104. **\*Mr. Naveed Aamir Jeeva:**

*Will the Minister for Privatization be pleased to state the names of institutions of which privatization is being carried out by the Government in near future; if so, reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Privatization (Mr. Muhammadmian Soomro):** At present, Ministry of Privatization is processing privatization/divestment of eighteen (18) PSEs. Concurrently, twenty-eight (28) properties/ assets, owned by various Ministries/ Divisions are also being processed and at advanced stage of privatization. List of Active Privatization Programme is placed at **Annex-A**. Moreover, list of Phase-II PSEs is placed at **Annex-B**. Focus of the Privatization Programme is two-fold:

- a. Divestment of shares of the profitable PSEs to broaden the investor base entailing the benefits of enhanced corporate governance/ earnings to reduce public debt & poverty reduction;
- b. Disposal of unutilized / underutilized real estate assets of the Government and PSEs.

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

105. **\*Mr. Naveed Aamir Jeeva:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the annually value-wise medicines imported during the last five years?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The detail of annually value-wise medicine imported during the last five years in the table below:

Years	Unit	Quantity	Value
2014-15	MT	22,233	947.77
2015-16	MT	20,258	921.46
2016-17	MT	19,976	975.26
2017-18	MT	22,395	1072.73
2018-19	MT	23,287	1093.78

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

106. **\*Syed Agha Rafiullah:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the annually, the detail value-wise of dry fruits imported during the last five years?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The detail of annually value-wise of dry fruits imported during the last five years in the table below as “**Annex-A**”.

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

107. **\*Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

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

*(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to build new cities in the country in order to decrease the burden of population on big cities;*

*(b) if so, the time by which same is to be made possible?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar):** (a) As per distribution of subjects under the Constitution, planning for establishment of new cities is the responsibility of Provincial

Governments. As such the Federal Government is not planning to develop any new settlement in the country.

(b) As above

108. **\*Mr. Salahuddin:**

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state whether Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) has taken action against its members for professional misconduct, on conviction or penalty awarded by SECP; if so, the details of the same for the last five years?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** Yes. Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) has taken action against 27 members for professional misconduct, on conviction or penalty awarded by SECP; the details of the same for the last five years is at **Annex-I**.

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

109. **\*Mr. Ali Wazir:**

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

*(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to open one or more branches of ZTBL in NA-50; if so, the details thereof;*

*(b) if not, the reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a & b) At present there is no proposal under consideration to open any Branch of ZTBL in NA-50 as ZTBL's Tank branch is looking after the credit needs of the farmers of NA-50. However, the feasibility of opening of a new branch can be looked into after a Branch Opening Survey and if found feasible the same will be included in the Annual Branch Expansion Plan for the year 2021 to be submitted to State Bank of Pakistan in October 2020.

110. **\*Mr. James Iqbal:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state that the steps being taken by the Government to promote trade relations with Bangladesh?*

**Minister for Commerce:** Bangladesh is one of the top destinations for exports of Pakistan. Trade between Pakistan and Bangladesh has always been in favour of Pakistan. It is the second top export destination of Pakistan in Asia after China and Afghanistan.

A brief account of the steps/measures undertaken by the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), the Commercial Section, Dhaka and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) to promote trade with Bangladesh, despite the general unfriendly political environment, is delineated as under:

- i. Government of Pakistan has included Bangladesh in List ‘A’ countries from October 2019 which has facilitated travel of Bangladeshi businessmen to Pakistan.
- ii. The issues regarding restricted Visa regime by Bangladesh for Pakistani Businessmen and maintaining a separate counter for registration of Pakistani businessmen on arrival before immigration process were taken up with the relevant authorities in Bangladesh, consequently some positive development has been witnessed to this end.
- iii. Trade promotion measures ensuring an effective participation in trade related events by TDAP have resulted in first ever participation of Pakistan Tanners Association’s (PTA) in trade shows like the “Leather Tech” in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2018 and again in 2019. Similar efforts paved the way for participation of the Bangladeshi buyers’ delegation in TEXPO-2019 Lahore wherein orders worth US\$ 263,974 were generated.
- iv. Moreover, the Commercial Section, Dhaka, has actively been pursuing activities ranging from match-making and networking to resolution of trade disputes between the two countries on regular basis.

As a result of these measures, Pakistan exports to Bangladesh have increased from US\$ 618 million in 2017 to the level of US\$ 752.67 million in 2018-19. Even though the trade remained in surplus this year too, the overall trade including both exports and imports decreased in wake of Covid-19, the economic fallouts of which remained palpable throughout the world since February, 2020. The following table shows bilateral trade figures for last four years:

(US\$ in Millions)

Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2014-15	704.97	64.56	769.53	(+)640.42
2015-16	707.11	55.97	763.08	(+)651.15
2016-17	618.71	59.72	678.43	(+)558.98
2017-18	736.41	68.59	805.00	(+)667.83
2018-19	752.67	54.08	806.75	(+) 698.58
2019-20	654.79	45.60	700.39	(+)609.19

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

- Pakistan's major exports to Bangladesh include woven cotton fabrics, cotton yarn, raw sugar, raw cotton, tanned leather, machinery and its parts and synthetic fabrics including silk and woollen.
- Pakistan's main items of imports from Bangladesh are raw jute, tea and mate, yarn & thread of synthetic fibers and tobacco.

111. **\*Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani:**

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

- (a) *the details of the arrangements/preparation were made by Government for COVID-19 during the months of February, March, April and May, 2020; and*

- (b) *the details of equipments availability, equipment imported and distributed to the provinces against there demands, numbers of patients position, deaths and recovered thereof; and*
- (c) *the detail of testing capacity and tests conducted alongwith particular arrangements made for Hyderabad in this regard?*

**Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister’s Office:** (a) In March 2020, in pursuance of decision by National Security Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, a National Coordination Committee (NCC) and National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) were established with broad based representation from provincial governments and all stakeholders (**Annex-A**), for an integrated and coordinated efforts to combat the threat of Covid-1 9. Some of the salient actions taken since then are highlighted as follows:

- Capacity assessment and strengthening of health care systems including enhancement of bedding capacity in hospitals, enhancing testing capacity, promotion of research and development for infectious diseases and provision of medical equipment including PPEs to the provinces and regions.
- Establishment of quarantine and isolation centers in major cities. Installation of thermal scanners to facilitate pilgrims/passengers at International Airports, Domestic Airports, Chaman Border, Taftan Border, Torkhum Border etc.
- Launching of massive public awareness campaign to highlight the preventive measures through COVID-19 help line & UAN number operational 24/7.
- Economic Stimulus Package of Rs. 1200 Billion launched to stabilize economy.
- Ehsaas Emergency Cash Payment program worth Rs 203.8 Billion launched to help 116.9 million households.
- 225,000 stranded Pakistan expatriates brought back to the country since April 2020.
- Tele-Health Portal and Yaran-e-Watan program launched.

(b) 1. In order to assess National medical capacity of health institutions, NDMA collected medical equipment data. Details are mentioned at **Annex-B**.

2. NDMA prepared National requirements of medical equipment for COVID-19 pandemic in March on the basis of requests/demands received from PDMAs, Provincial Departments as at **Annex-C**.

3. Furthermore, PPEs demand for the month of May & June 2020 was prepared by the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, attached as per **Annex-D**.

4. Accordingly, medical equipment including Personal Protection Equipment's (PPEs) have been provided in 10 tranches to Provinces / Regions so far. Detail is as per **Annex-E**.

5. Detail of ventilators, face masks, and other items provided by NDMA to the provinces is attached as per **Annex-F**.

6. The position of patients, deaths and recovered, is detail as per **Annex-G**.

(c) Disaster Management is a devolved subject being managed by provincial governments, while NDMA provides support at Federal level. All assistance in terms of ventilators, PCRs Machine / Kits etc were provided to respective provincial health department for further distribution to district / hospital (Details is as per **Annex-E & Annex-F**). Only PPEs were distributed directly to hospitals Details of PPEs and testing equipment provided to Hyderabad is enclosed as **Annex-H**.

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

112. **\*Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

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

*(a) the total amount of funds deposited in COVID-19 inland and abroad which was established to control COVID-19;*



(b) *the detail of funds also granted to all provinces and Government of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan; and*

(c) *the further detail of amount un-utilized out of same at present?*

Reply not received.

113. **\*Mr. Ali Wazir:**

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

(a) *whether it is a fact that loans have been granted to the farmers by the Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited;*

(b) *if so, the details of the granted loans and the total defaulted amount thereof alongwith detail of the defaulters of more than one millions, province-wise break-up; and*

(c) *the reasons for ignoring the farmers of merged district?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** (a) Yes. ZTBL has set up a network of 482 agri. lending branches to advance loans mainly to small farmers and has been granting loan to eligible farmers as per its TOR.

(b) The province wise regular loan portfolio outstanding, defaulted both NPLs & SAM as well as defaulters of more than Rs. 1. 0 million as on 30-06-2020 is as under;

BREAK UP OF GRAND TOTAL									
Sr.#	Province	Grand Total		Regular Loanee		Non Performing Loans NPLs		Special Asset Management (SAM)	
		Number of borr.	Total Out.	Number of borr.	Loan outst.	Number of bor.	Loan outst.	Number of bor.	Loan outst.
1	Sindh	80,256	30,650	19,850	9,172	19,092	10,897	41,314	10,581
2	Punjab	389,826	137,752	201,581	67,983	143,666	54,942	44,579	14,827
3	Khyber Paktunkhwa	23,389	5,157	12,069	3,282	3,851	880	7,469	995
4	Baluchistan	8,960	4,326	709	280	381	178	7,870	3,868
5	Azad Kashmir	4,700	884	3,500	689	880	173	320	22
6	Gilgit/BLN	4,614	896	2,922	606	1,514	270	178	20
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>511,745</b>	<b>179,665</b>	<b>240,631</b>	<b>82,012</b>	<b>169,384</b>	<b>67,340</b>	<b>101,730</b>	<b>30,313</b>

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**Province wise Defaulters having totals Outstanding greater than 1 Million**


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SR. #	Province	Borrower	Principal	Markup	Total Outstanding
1	Sindh	4,404	4,296	1,387	5,684
2	Punjab	19,463	18,367	5,342	23,709
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	188	178	37	215
4	Balochistan	20	17	5	22
5	Azad Kashmir	3	2	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>24,078</b>	<b>22,861</b>	<b>6,772</b>	<b>29,633</b>

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(c) ZTBL is the equal opportunity provider for loans to all eligible farmers all over the country according to its branch network and financial resources and no one farmer of any district is ignored without any business justification.

114. **\*Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state that the steps being taken by the Government to promote trade relations with the Kyrgyzstan?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The Bilateral Trade statistics are given as under:

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**Pakistan's Bilateral Trade With Kyrgyzstan US \$ million [Source(FBR)]**


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Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2013-14	0.34	0.13	0.47	0.20
2014-15	0.94	0.11	1.05	0.84
2015-16	1.03	0.05	1.08	0.98
2016-17	0.91	0.08	0.98	0.83
2017-18	1.20	0.07	1.27	1.14
2018-19	1.81	0.06	1.87	1.75
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>0.114</b>	<b>1.864</b>	<b>1.636</b>

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- Pakistan's major exports to Kyrgyzstan are medicament mixtures, razors and razor blades, Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical, dental, Fruit & vegetable juices, unfermented .
- Pakistan's major imports from Kyrgyzstan include dried vegetables and live animals.

However, Ministry of Commerce has taken following measures to increase trade with Kyrgyzstan:

- (a) Kyrgyz side during the 3rd Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), expressed interest in benefitting from Pakistan's experience in exports to European Union. Pakistani side agreed to share experience and provide technical assistance to Kyrgyz Republic on GSP+. Mr. Kamal Shahryar (Advisor in TRAP on GSP+ implementation) visited Bishkek and training was arranged for Kyrgyz officials and private sector for two days on 15-16th October, 2018.
- (b) Ministry of Commerce has proposed signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and the State Agency on Investment and Export Promotion of the Kyrgyz Republic. The MOU calls for cooperation in trade exhibitions training tours for entrepreneurs, business forums, exhibitions and fairs;
- (c) Draft MoU on establishment of Joint Working Group to enhance trade cooperation has been shared with Kyrgyz Republic. However, the response of Kyrgyz side is awaited.
- (d) Kyrgyz Delegation participated in Pakistani Trade Fairs and Exhibitions EXPO Pakistan 2017 and TEXPO 2019, and Pakistani companies are also participating in trade events in Kyrgyz Republic.
- (e) Ministry of Commerce is trying to operationalise Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement.

115. **\*Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to enhance trade relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The trade volume between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has been on rise and has tilted in favor of Pakistan, over the past couple of years. The volume of total bilateral trade between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, at present, stands at US \$ 2181.98 Million (2019-2020). The Exports to Saudi Arabia observed a consistent increase from US\$ 336.9 million (2016-17) to US\$ 342.08 (2018-19) and US\$ 446.18 million (2019-2020). However, the imports from Saudi Arabia have been declining from US\$ 3213.46 (2017-18) to US\$ 1735.8 in 2019-20. The details are below:

**Pakistan's Bilateral Trade Data with Saudi Arabia (US \$ Million)**

Year	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2016-17	336.98	2163.39	2500.37	-1826.41
2017-18	305.74	3213.46	3519.20	-2907.72
2018-19	342.08	2959.61	3301.69	-2617.53
2019-2020	446.18	1735.8	2181.98	-1289.6

*Source FBR*

In Middle East, as per the % age change in growth, Saudi Arabia remained the top export destinations of Pakistan showing growth of 34% in June 2020. Regardless of the slowdown in the economy caused due to Covid-19, Saudi Arabia has shown a positive growth through-out Feb- June 2020, while resting at an increased growth of 36 % in exports during June 2020 as compared to June 2019, while others have shown negative growth during the same period.

The Government has taken the following steps to increase the trade with Saudi Arabia and strengthening the bilateral relations over the past couple of years:

**Trade Diplomacy: -**

1. Registration of the Pakistani meat companies with the Saudi Food and Drug Regulatory Authority (SFDA) has been a long due issue with the Saudi Arabia which hindered the exports of meat to KSA. In this regard, with the efforts of the commercial sections, Riyadh and Jeddah six meat exporting companies including M/S Fauji Meat Limited and M/S Big birds have been registered with the SFDA.

2. Mr. Ahmed Hamed Al-Ghamdi, Advisor to Saudi Minister for Energy along with representatives of Saudi Aramco, Maaden and ACWA power visited Pakistan from Sept 30- Oct 05, 2018 to hold technical discussions with their counterparts in Government of Pakistan for investments in mega projects.
3. Pak- Saudi Arabia Joint Ministerial Commission was held on 16-17th January 2018. Consequently, Pak- Saudi Joint Working Group on trade and investment has been established which has held its two meetings, on 27th February 2018(at Riyadh) and September (5th), 2018 (at Islamabad) to discuss Trade and investment opportunities in both the countries and prospects of export enhancement.
4. Pak- Saudi Arabia Business Conference was held on 18th February 2019 during the visit of the Crown Prince. The conference was chaired by the Minister for Commerce and Investment Saudi Arabia and Advisor to PM on Commerce Pakistan. Around 300 people participated from both sides.
5. Saudi – Pak Virtual Conference - highlighting trade and investment potentials in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia - is being worked out in collaboration with Makkah Al Mukarmah Chamber of Commerce and Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce to be held in second week of August 2020.
6. Pakistan has upgraded its trade mission at Riyadh and a Trade officer of BPS 20 has been appointed at Riyadh instead of BPS-18 officer.

**Exhibitions:**

7. **Foodex Saudi Exhibition:** A Pakistani pavilion is being established in upcoming said Exhibition, which is going to be held from November 9 - 12, 2020, for the promotion of Food Sector of Pakistan in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Kingdom has heavy imports of food items annually where Pakistan's share needs to be increased.

8. **Jeddah Int'l Trade Fair:** Pakistan is participating in the said Trade Fairs an exhibition for promotion and display of textiles, fashion garments, footwear and home furnishing, which is going to be held in 23-25 December 2020 in Jeddah.
9. **Rawal International Virtual Exhibition:** A first virtual exhibition for Pakistani products, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce will organize this exhibition in collaboration with Commercial Section Jeddah.
10. **Pakistani Citrus Week** was organized (Feb 2017) for promotion of Kinnow as non-GMO produce of Pakistan, Second & Thirds edition of Pakistan Citrus Week were held at Jeddah in January 2018 & January 2019.
11. **Establishment of Display Gallery:** In order to highlight Pakistan's export sector and availability of ready samples, a display gallery is being established at the premises of the Consulate General of Pakistan Jeddah, which will facilitate Pakistani exporters to place their product samples and promotional material at no cost for entering Saudi Arabian market.

#### **Trade Delegations:**

12. Pakistan Trade Delegation comprised of 30 Companies and Trade Bodies represented by the Presidents of Karachi, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Srahad& Haripur Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & industry visited Saudi Arabia from 12- 15 January 2019. Saudi Export Development Authority -KSA (SEDA) in line with their Vision 2030, hosted the Pakistani Trade Delegation to Jeddah (Jan 12-15, 2019). The two sides discussed aspects of joint cooperation and ways to enhance trade and economic relations between the two countries and 6 MoUs were signed between the trade and commerce chambers of both sides.
116. **\*Syed Agha Rafiullah:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the year-wise total amount/value of "Tea" imported during the last five years?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The detail of year-wise “TEA” imported during the last five years in the table below:

<b>Years</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Value</b>
2014-15	MT	150,538	340.818
2015-16	MT	173,785	513.014
2016-17	MT	194,833	523.790
2017-18	MT	181,853	551.874
2018-19	MT	222,732	571.690

*Source:* Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

ISLAMABAD:  
*The 23rd July, 2020*

TAHIR HUSSAIN,  
*Secretary.*

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

## “UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Friday, the 24th July, 2020

45. **Syed Javed Husnain:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** Yes. Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) is providing Agri. Loans to farmers and agri-farming industry all over the county at the floating rate of 6 months KIBOR offer rate 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.

Further, the Federal Government announced a “Credit Guarantee Scheme - for small and marginalized farmers” in 2015. The scheme covers up to 50% of the losses of the banks, in case of non repayment of small farmer’s loans covered under the guarantee, the risk is borne by the GOP. Through this scheme 300,000 farmer households/families are being benefited with a loan size up to Rs. 100,000.

48. **Mr. James Iqbal:**  
(Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The following steps have been taken by the Government trade relations with Denmark:—



1. Denmark is part of European Union and Pakistan has positive engagement with the Scandinavian country primarily through this platform. The trade relationship is viewed in light of the GSP + status granted to Pakistan since 1st January 2014 which allows duty free market access in all 27-member states of the European Union (EU), including Denmark. Pakistan has successfully concluded two previous biennial reviews in 2016 and 2018 respectively, while the Third Biennial Review (2018-2019) is in process.
2. Denmark has a population of only 5.6 million with a moderate Pakistani diaspora. Pakistan has an Embassy in Copenhagen, and the Commercial Section in Stockholm looks after the commercial affairs of Denmark.
3. During his visit to Davos for the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting from 21st to 24th January 2020, the Advisor to PM on Commerce met with Mr. Jeppe Kofod, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Denmark and extended his support for the Third Biennial Review of the GSP Plus. Both Ministers agreed to enhance cooperation in trade and economic areas at the bilateral level. Pakistan's exports have increased from US\$ 102.13 million in 2013-14 to US\$ 184.91 Million in 2018-19. Pakistan's imports have decreased from US\$ 176.31 million in 2013-14 to US\$ 90.46 million in 2018-19. The balance of trade is in favour of Pakistan which is US\$ (+) 94.45 million in 2018-19.

### **Visit / exchange of delegations**

- I. Earlier in 2018, a high-level delegation comprising of representatives of the Grundfos Company (world's leading pump manufacturing company) visited Pakistan and met with various government representatives, including Secretary Commerce on 26th September 2018 to discuss the enhancement of trade and investment potential with regards to clean drinking water and waste water treatment of the textile mills.
- II. A high-level delegation comprising of representatives of the Vestas Company - Danish manufacturer, seller, installer, and servicer of wind

turbines visited Pakistan and met with the Advisor to PM on Commerce on 6th February 2020 to discuss the trade and investment potential of sustainable energy solutions.

49. **Mr. James Iqbal:**  
(*Deferred during 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?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The following initiatives have been taken by the incumbent Government to enhance trade relations with Belgium.

1. Belgium is a very important country for Pakistan, especially in light of the GSP plus status granted to Pakistan, as it is the seat of the EU parliament. Therefore, Pakistan has an Economic Minister and Commercial Secretary posted in Brussels. The trade relationship between the two countries is viewed in the light of the GSP + status granted to Pakistan since 1st January 2014 which allows duty free market access in all 27-member states of the European Union (EU), including Belgium. Pakistan has successfully concluded two previous biennial reviews in 2016 and 2018 respectively, while the Third Biennial Review (2018-2019) is in process.
2. As part of the outreach activities for the Third Biennial Review of GSP +, the Advisor to PM on Commerce, Industries & Production and Investment visited Brussels from January 26th to 29th, January 2020 where he met members of EU Parliament, Heads of Committees etc. A Reception was also held on 27th January 2020 in Brussels to further engage the Ambassadors of EU member states, MEPs, leading businessmen, representatives of trade promotion bodies etc.
3. In order to develop linkages between the trade, promotion agencies on both sides, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in trade and investment was signed by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) jointly with three Belgian trade and investment promotion agencies namely the Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT), Wallonia Export Investment Agency (AWEX) and Brussels Agency for Business Support (Hub Brussels), in Brussels on 20th February, 2019.

4. A 12-member delegation from Belgium attended TEXPO Pakistan held in April 2019 in Lahore and B2B meetings of the delegates were arranged with the exhibitors and various trade associations represented at the venue.
5. A business dinner was organized in Brussels on 11th February, 2019 by the Embassy of Pakistan for the leading businessmen and trade organizations to brief them on trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan.
6. Mango Extravaganza was organized in Brussels at Pakistan House on 9th July 2019 to introduce Pakistani mangoes in the Belgium market by engaging with major stakeholders including importers, wholesalers, retailers and general public.
7. There is continued engagement of the Commercial Section, Belgium with importers, retailers, distributors and wholesale dealers for promoting Pakistani exportable products. Regular meetings also held with leading Chambers, trade bodies, Associations by the Commercial Section in Brussels.

#### **Visit / exchange of delegations**

- i. A 20-member delegation led by CEO, AWEX visited Karachi and Lahore from 4th-9th November, 2018 and held meetings with TDAP, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT), Sindh Board of Investment (SBI), Fashion design Council, National Engineering University (NED), GSK etc. AWEX also signed a MOU with PBIT and SBI.
- ii. The 2nd Edition of Pakistan-Belgium Business and Investment Opportunities Conference was organized in Brussels on 2nd August, 2018 by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry (BECI). A Pakistani delegation of 28 members participated to explore business opportunities for Pakistani companies who were new to the Belgium market and help such countries to evaluate market potential and establish business contacts. The event was also participated by Belgium companies who were interested in doing business with Pakistan. This event was a sequel to the first conference organized in May, 2018.

- iii. An eight member delegation of the Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) visited Belgium from the 15th of October, 2018, associated with the beauty/cosmetics sector, fashion garment etc. During the visit B2B meetings were arranged.

26. **Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the names of the countries with which Pakistan has not established trade relations (import/export)?*

**Minister for Commerce:** Pakistan has always adopted a policy of maintaining dynamic and good trade relations not only with the regional countries but also with rest of the world. Pakistan's trade regime seeks to protect the national interest and emphasizes on open market relations. However, there are few countries with which Pakistan has no trade relations at present, namely, India, Israel and North Korea.

- For decades, despite politically challenging environment, Pakistan has been maintaining trade relations with India. However, 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.
- Likewise, to ensure compliance with the two recent resolutions passed by the United National Security Council (UNSC), namely, 2375 (2017) and 2397 (2017), primarily targeting North Korean oil imports, textile exports and overseas labourers and North Korean exports of food, agricultural products, minerals machinery and electrical equipment, Pakistan has suspended normal trade relations with North Korea. Following these resolutions by UNSC, a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) has been issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18th January, 2018 for strict implementation.

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

27. **Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the total number of tax filers in the country at present?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue:** The total number of Income Tax filers on the basis of tax returns filed for the Tax Year 2019 works out as under:-

Sr. #	Category	Return Filers
(i)	AOPs	66,534
(ii)	Companies	46,311
(iii)	Individuals	2,582,317
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,695,162</b>

The total number of Sales Tax filers on the basis of Sales Tax returns filed for the tax period May, 2020 is as under:-

Period	Registered Persons	Filers
May-2020	264,971	141,485

Data has been provided for May 2020 because Sales Tax return filing for June 2020 is still in process.

28. **Syed Agha Rafiullah:**

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

- (a) *the names and designations of the employees of Ministry and its attached departments who made their visits within the country; and*
- (b) *the purpose of each said visit alongwith the amount incurred on the visit of each employee?*

**Minister for Commerce:** (a) & (b) The names and designations of the employees of Main Ministry and erstwhile Textile Division who visited within the country during FY 2019-20 alongwith purpose of each visit and

amount incurred on each visit is attached at **(Annex-A)**. The names and designations of the employees of attached departments under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce who visited within the country during FY 2019-20 alongwith purpose of each visit and amount incurred on each visit is attached at **(Annex-B)**.

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

29. **Mr. Jai Parkash:**

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

- (a) *the quantity of sugar exported from 2008 to 2013 alongwith year and month-wise separate detail; and*
- (b) *the names of the countries to whom sugar exported?*

**Minister for Commerce:**

Commodity by Country	Quantity in MT					
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
<b>Sugar</b>	<b>60,680</b>	<b>23,974</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>48,672</b>	<b>1,064,215</b>
Afghanistan	48,953	23,974	50	—	21,226	70,689
Somalia	—	—	—	—	—	144,419
Saudi Arabia	6,001	—	—	—	4,250	102,477
South Sudan	—	—	—	—	—	81,682
Sri Lanka	994	—	—	—	—	79,630
India	—	—	—	—	—	59,646
Yemen	8,901	—	—	—	8,750	56,500
Djibouti	—	—	—	—	3,225	53,053
United Arab Emirates	—	—	—	—	3,204	46,364
Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	43,124
Malaysia	—	—	—	—	2,494	35,042
Turkey	—	—	—	—	250	25,620
U.R.of	—	—	—	—	—	9,702
Tanzania	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tajikistan	—	—	—	—	400	8,894

Commodity by Country	Quantity in MT					
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
Viet Nam	—	—	—	—	2,000	7,850
Oman	—	—	—	—	—	7,410
Thailand	—	—	—	—	—	6,000
Iran (Islamic R.)	—	—	—	—	—	4,850
Kenya	—	—	—	—	—	3,264
Benin	—	—	—	—	—	3,044
Kuwait	—	—	—	—	—	2,935
Madagascar	—	—	—	—	—	2,392
China	2,400	—	—	—	—	1,916
Qatar	—	—	—	—	—	1,768
Bahrain	—	—	—	—	—	1,650
Seychelles	—	—	—	—	—	905
Belgium	—	—	—	—	—	900
Mauritius	—	—	—	—	—	390
Georgia	—	—	—	—	—	388
Canada	—	—	—	—	42	297
Angola	—	—	—	—	—	260
Uganda	—	—	—	—	—	260
Hong Kong	225	—	—	—	25	259
Guinea	—	—	—	—	—	156
Germany	31	—	—	—	38	91
Russian Federation	—	—	—	—	—	78
Lebanon	—	—	—	—	—	26
Croatia	—	—	—	—	—	24
Austria	200	—	—	—	—	—
Bangladesh	92925	—	—	—	—	—
Comoros	—	—	—	—	208	—
Gambia	—	—	—	—	520	—
Sudan	—	—	—	—	2,040	—

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

30. **Mr. Jai Parkash:**

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

(a) *the quantity of wheat exported from 2008 to 2013 along with month and year-wise detail thereof; and*

(b) *the names of the countries to whom wheat exported?*

**Minister for Commerce: (a) & (b)**

Commodity by Country	Quantity in MT					
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
<b>WHEAT</b>	<b>29,691</b>	<b>142,506</b>	<b>3,516</b>	<b>1,781,050</b>	<b>413,673</b>	<b>169,403</b>
Sri Lanka	—	—	19	173,090	150,951	66,204
Indonesia	—	—	—	24,673	8,751	42,646
Malaysia	—	—	—	55,813	6,182	15,835
Afghanistan	29,691	142,506	3,497	41,753	31,385	15,705
Myanmar	—	—	—	3,005	—	8,002
Thailand	—	—	—	—	—	7,875
UAL	—	—	—	117,446	66,394	6,617
Viet Nam	—	—	—	10,881	—	2,546
Yemen	—	—	—	223,250	14,000	1,753
Singapore	—	—	—	6,514	—	1,156
Oman	—	—	—	18,422	223	801
U.R.of Tanzania	—	—	—	3,051	10,001	210
Hong Kong	—	—	—	22	100	37
Australia	—	—	—	10	—	14
Philippines	—	—	—	44,468	5,500	2
Bangladesh	—	—	—	697,684	35,954	—
Jordan	—	—	—	338	130	—



Commodity by Country	Quantity in MT					
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
Kenya	—	—	—	219,880	73,820	—
Madagascar	—	—	—	3,142	6	—
Taiwan	—	—	—	7796	475	—
Qatar	—	—	—	61,071	9,800	—
Djibouti	—	—	—	33,000	—	—
Saudi Arabia	—	—	—	2,341.	—	—
Somalia	—	—	—	150	—	—
South Africa	—	—	—	250	—	—
Sudan	—	—	—	33,000	—	—

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

31. **Mr. Naveed Aamir Jeeva:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the detail of annual value-wise import of ready made clothes during the last five years?*

**Minister for Commerce:** The detail of annual value wise import of ready - made clothes during last five years is indicated in the table below:

Years	Value in Million US\$
2014-15	33.073
2015-16	35.803
2016-17	25.006
2017-18	40.074
2018-19	52.674

Source : Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

ISLAMABAD:  
The 23rd July, 2020.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,  
Secretary.