

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Thursday, the 27th May, 2021

31. ***Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir:**

(Deferred during 29th Session)

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

- (a) the employment generation programmes of the Government in the country, the details thereof;*
- (b) the number of employment opportunities generated by Federal Government during the last two years along-with province-wise break-up of the same; and*
- (c) the province-wise details of fields, in which employment generated and cost incurred thereon by the Government in the said process?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar): (a) The present Government is committed to enlarge employment opportunities in the country. Provision of employment to youth is a big challenge, but stands on high priority on the agenda of present government. The Government has taken various steps for reviving the economy, accelerating the pace of economic growth and creating employment in the country. The major programmes are as under:

1. Construction Package:

Construction industry has backward and forward linkages and boost 40 sectors of small and large manufacturing industry simultaneously. It is estimated that millions of employment opportunities would be generated through construction package.

2. **Textile Package:**

The textile of Pakistan has been at almost full-capacity production taking advantage of the government withdrew duties and taxes on import of the raw cotton. Statistics have shown that the government has recreated half a million jobs by strengthening the textile industry.

3. **Builder Island:**

The project would attract up to five million tourists with people already approaching the government for investment and approximately 150,000 jobs will be generated by the project.

4. **Export Processing Zones:**

Export Processing Zones Authority is a Pakistan Government venture conceived and designed to increase and improve the exports of the country. Its main objectives are accelerating the pace of industrialization in the country and enhancing the volume of exports by creating an enabling environment for investors to initiate ambitious export-oriented projects in the Zones which would, as a corollary, create job opportunities, bring in new technology and attract foreign investment.

5. **Prime Minister Skills for All: Hunarmand Pakistan Program under Kamyab Jawan Initiative:**

NAVTTTC has recently launched the programme at estimated cost of Rs. 9,880 Million in line with “National Skill Strategy (NSS)” focusing on interventions for skill development of youth and uplift of TVET sector in country. Under this program thousands of skills jobs are expected to be generated.

6. **Ravi River Urban Development Programme:**

The government hopes that the Ravi City Project costing PKR 5 trillion (USD 30 billion) will create millions of jobs as at least 40 industries are connected to the construction sector.

7. **IT Parks Package:**

A vibrant, expanding economic contributor, Pakistan’s IT Industry generates over 2 billion dollars each year for the country. Its potential also being explored. Rapid investment is being fuelled by the mushrooming growth of exports along-with the support of government organizations and policies. It is expected that thousands of employment opportunities may be generated through this program.

8. **Employment Generation under CPEC:**

Investment under CPEC is expected to be around US \$ 50.70 Billion. This huge inflow of investment will generate massive economic activities and thereby employment opportunities. Apart from focusing on energy, infrastructure and Gwadar projects, 9 Special Economic Zones will be established under CPEC portfolio, which will create tremendous job opportunities and technological transformation. Further, the ML-1 project to upgrade and dualize the rail track from Peshawar to Karachi (1872 km) has a potential to create 174,000 direct jobs. Employment opportunities under CPEC would further go up over the period of time.

(b) Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and Provincial Statistics departments collect, compile and maintain data on labour force, manpower and employment etc. The latest available official data on labour and employment is for the year 2017-18. Moreover, Labour Force Survey (LFS) for 2019-2020 did not take place due to COVID-19 and an extensive LFS for 2020-2021 by the PBS is in the field which will have a district level representative sample.

(c) LFS 2020-21 will provide district level data as well as and when available.

63. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(Deferred during 29th Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the year-wise total percentage of increase in domestic exports during the tenure of incumbent Government, till date?

Minister for Commerce: The data pertaining to year-wise total percentage of increase in domestic exports during the tenure of incumbent Government, till date is at **Annex-A**.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

64. ***Mr. Muhammad Hashim Notezai:**
(Deferred during 29th Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the items or products exported/imported to/from Iran during the previous five years along-with the value thereof; and*
- (b) *the volume of exports/imports through Taftan border till date along-with the detail thereof?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) The items or products exported to Iran in previous five years along-with value are placed as **Annex-I**.

The items or products Imported from Iran in previous five years along-with value are placed as **Annex-II**.

(b) The volume of Imports from Iran through Taftan Border are placed at **Annex-III**.

The volume of Imports from other-countries through Taftan Border are placed at **Annex-IV**.

The volume of exports through Taftan Border are placed at **Annex-V**.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

49. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**
(Deferred during 29th Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the present ranking of the country in Economic Complexity Index;*
- (b) *whether such ranking has gone up or down during the tenure of the incumbent Government; if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *whether it is also a fact that Pakistan needs to diversify its exports industries in order to explore new markets;*
- (d) *if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) According to the latest available ranking for Economic Complexity Index (ECI) released and maintained by the

Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), Pakistan has ranked 106 out of 157 countries in 2019 with a score of -0.559.

(b) Pakistan has shown an improvement in the ranking by 2 points to 106 in 2019 from 108 in 2018.

(c) The fact is that to diversify exports Pakistan needs to enter in to the market of non-traditional products and countries. To this end, market access agreements such as PTAs/FTA and DLT scheme are being utilized. The economy of Pakistan is slowly but steadily picking up the pace to achieve the economic diversity. Pakistan has exported 110 new products worth USD 3.5 Million in last eight months of this fiscal year compared to 2015-19 (5Y). The following table shows number of news products exported in last 3 years compared to the number of products exported in 2015-17.

Year	Export Value USD Million	No. of New Products
2018-19	14.2	313
2019-20	64.5	367
2020-21	60	289
Total	139	672

Moreover, Pakistan has also increased its exports in non-traditional markets in last five years from USD 600 Million to 1076 Million (**Annex-I**).

(d) The following steps have been taken to diversity exports:

1. **PM PACKAGE OF INCENTIVE FOR EXPORTERS:** In 2017, the Government announced an Export Package of Rs. 180 billion to facilitate the business community and arrest the declining trend in exports. During Phase-I of the PM Package (from 16th January 2017 to 30th June 2017), the exporters of gloves, footballs and other sports goods, leather garments, footwear, surgical and cutlery sectors were provided cash support at specific percentage of FOB value of exports. During Phase-II (from 1st July, 2017 to 30th June 2018), the Package was extended with certain modifications by allowing 50% of the incentive to all eligible sectors and the remaining 50% of incentive was linked to at least 10% enhancement in exports as compared to the corresponding

period of the last year. During Phase III, the Package was further extended for the next three years (2018-21) on the same terms and conditions as was approved in the second phase with the addition of more non-textile sectors *viz*, electric fans, transport equipment, auto part accessories, machinery including electric machinery, furniture, stationary, fruits & vegetables and meat and meat preparation including poultry. Moreover, to encourage market diversification, 2% incentive of FOB value was allowed for exports to the non-traditional markets.

2. **TARIFF RATIONALIZATION THROUGH NATIONAL TARIFF POLICY:** The Custom Duties and Regulatory Duties on 236 Tariff Lines (TLs) of raw materials and intermediate products were reduced in budget 2018-19. In supplementary budgets I and II, the duties on 40 TLs and 106 TLs respectively were reduced. Moreover, Customs Duties on 1639 TLs were reduced to zero in the budget 2019-20. In budget 2020-2021, additional Customs Duty of 2% on 1623 Tariff Lines, consisting of basic raw materials used by the industry, have been removed. Moreover, in order to discourage smuggling in the country and keeping in view the vision of the Prime Minister to facilitate the legitimate trade, duties on 135 smuggling prone items have also been reduced. Similarly, to facilitate the industry especially Engineering Sector in the country, duties on 36 Tariff Lines of flat Iron and Steel products, *i.e.* Hot Rolled Coils (HRC) have been reduced. In order to implement the “Make in Pakistan Initiative” duties have been reduced on 112 Tariff Lines, consisting of inputs/intermediate goods, used by the exporters in the domestic production. Duties on 90 items have also been reduced from 11% to 3% & 0% on intermediate goods which were not manufactured locally.
3. **E-COMMERCE POLICY:** Introduced in October, 2019, the policy covers and provides guidelines on key components for promotion of e-Commerce including regulatory environment, financial inclusion and digitization through payment infrastructure, empowering youth and SMEs, consumer protection, taxation, ICT infrastructure, logistics and engagement in multilateral negotiations.

4. **IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF TRANSIT THROUGH PAKISTAN:** New border points opened for trade with Afghanistan and Iran Ghulam Khan BCP opened for ATT, Kharlachi notified as rebatable BCP to enhance exports, Customs & banking facilities being established at all BCPs, APTTA 2010 being revised to improve efficiency of transit thru Pakistan, TIR Rules being rationalized, ATT bulk shipments allowed thru Gwadar port, Joint Check Posts of all agencies established at BCPs to reduce clearance time, Scanning regime rationalized and removal of transshipment restrictions.
5. **MARKET ACCESS INITIATIVES:** To have better market access for Pakistani products, the Government has taken the following initiatives:
 - i. **Pak China FTA Phase-II:** Pakistan has signed the second phase of Pak-China FTA, effective from 1st January, 2020, under which duty on 313 Tariff Lines will be reduced to zero by China. The enhanced market access will further diversify Pakistan's export in these Tariff Lines.
 - ii. **Market Access by China on Yarn, Rice and Sugar:** The Chinese Government has granted one-time duty-free buying arrangement of US\$ 01 billion access to Pakistan in yarn, sugar and rice.
 - iii. **Enhanced Market Access offered by Indonesia:** As a result of concerted negotiations, Ministry of Commerce has been able to get market access from Indonesia on additional 20 tariff lines. Exports in these 20 tariff lines will further diversify Pakistan's exports to Indonesia, for Pakistan's global export in these lines amount to US\$ 4 billion.
 - iv. **Enhanced Market Access offered by Sri Lanka:** In Dec., 2019, three new varieties namely, PK 385 and or Super Kernel grade, 1121 Kianat Rice, PK 198/D 98 Basmati Rice have been added to the list of Rice having duty free access to Sri Lankan market.

- v. **New Markets:** To further diversify Pakistan’s exports to non-traditional markets, the Ministry of Commerce has launched the **“Look Africa”** policy to promote and facilitate exports to the untapped markets of African region, which hold immense potential for Pakistan to enhance its market share.

- vi. **Enhanced engagement with top 10 African Economies:** The Ministry of Commerce has enhanced interaction with African Ambassadors/High Commissioners based in Pakistan, and directed the trade officers posted in African countries to intensify engagement with respective Governments and business leaders.
 - a. 6 new commercial sections in Egypt, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan, Algeria, and Senegal have been opened. Moreover, accreditation has been granted to four existing Trade Officers as follows:
 - Commercial Councilor Kenya (Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Eretria)
 - Commercial Secretary South Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland)
 - Commercial Councilor Morocco (Tunisia, Mauritania)
 - Commercial Secretary Nigeria (Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Ghana, Benin)

 - b. **Arrangement of Look Africa Trade Forums in Major Cities:** “Look Africa Trade Forum” was organized on the sidelines of EXPO Pakistan-2017 at Karachi, attended by hundreds of businessmen from 18 African countries, all African Ambassadors/High Commissioners in Pakistan, diplomats, government officials and over two hundred Pakistani businessmen. Trade Forums were also arranged in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Islamabad, with the help of the chambers of commerce.

 - c. **Negotiations on Bilateral/Multilateral Trade Agreements:** Trade Negotiation Committees have been formed/reactivated with major African countries. Joint

Working Groups (JWGs)/JTC with Tunisia and Kenya have been established, while Egypt has agreed to the establishment of a JWG between the two countries. Bilateral Trade Agreements (BTAs) are in process with Nigeria, Rwanda and Ethiopia. Under these BTAs, JWGs will also be established. Engagement with SACU, ECOWAS and EAC is being initiated.

- d. **Enhanced Subsidy for Africa:** TDAP provides special subsidy (80-90%) to companies/delegations to encourage their participation in exhibitions in Africa. After the launch of “Look Africa Policy Initiative”, 12 exhibitions in Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia etc. and 1 delegation of Surgical, Pharma and Sports Goods to Algeria and Tunisia have been sponsored by TDAP under the policy.
- e. **Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference:** The event was held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 30-31 January, 2019, with an aim to promote trade and to further strengthen existing trade linkages with the African region.

Annex-I

COUNTRY-WISE DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPORTS OF PAKISTAN

(Value in USD Million)

Countries	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Philippines	64.72	119.17	107.95	142.42	99.31
Qatar	57.53	50.69	95.40	101.73	138.22
Slovenia	56.12	59.21	68.91	62.66	73.03
Taiwan	46.19	55.19	117.02	62.08	61.91
Norway	42.95	44.93	52.79	57.34	57.30
Brazil	40.59	43.83	53.12	66.47	67.98
Senegal	38.00	17.09	45.82	27.13	45.25
Ukrainian	37.03	36.87	46.82	42.29	53.71
Djibouti	33.80	28.94	58.92	35.22	64.91

Countries	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Somalia	28.80	36.96	55.02	48.83	66.19
Kazakhstan	26.45	44.47	86.03	77.85	64.11
Bulgaria	12.87	14.95	18.73	20.16	28.18
Ghana	11.64	13.06	41.02	37.41	54.06
Latvia	6.81	10.89	16.46	25.03	28.89
Slovak Republic	3.14	3.00	2.62	4.67	11.65
Uzbekistan	2.07	3.23	8.03	22.04	21.50
Haiti	1.72	2.99	2.18	2.21	14.68
Nepal	0.94	0.77	3.09	0.91	20.77
Czech Republic	35.40	41.91	41.14	48.56	47.33
Ireland	53.57	58.22	63.34	63.26	57.15
Total	600.32	686.36	984.41	948.24	1,076.12

Source: TradeMap

77. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel:**
(Deferred during 31st Session)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that thousands of posts of different cadres in Federal Administrative institutions have been abolished recently; if so, the departments-wise details thereof along-with reasons or justification to abolish such posts in each departments;*
- (b) *whether abolishing of such posts increase the already rising trend of un-employment in the country:*
- (c) *the details of stance of Government on the reports of discontinuation of pensions and benefits ancillary thereto for Government employees; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (d) *what corrective measures are being taken by the Government on both of the counts?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin): (a) Cabinet Committee on Institutional Reforms (CCIR) for re-organizing the Federal Government has recommended that all posts that have remained vacant for more than one year in BPS-01-16 be abolished in all Ministries,

Divisions and Executive Departments. The proposal is still under consideration and no final decision has been taken so far.

(b) The proposal includes abolition of posts in BPS 1-16, which are vacant for more than one year. Therefore, abolishing such posts will not contribute towards increasing the rate of un-employment. It does not imply that Federal Government is going to make any employee of Federal Government jobless through this decision.

(c) No proposal is under consideration in finance Division to discontinue pension and benefits ancillary thereto.

(d) No reply is required as per position explained above.

100. ***Mr. Ahmad Hussain Deharr:**
(Deferred during 31st Session)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that recently Real Estate Amnesty Scheme has been announced by the Prime Minister of Pakistan recently;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the number of installments has been increased from one to three for the commercialization fee in Lahore and Rawalpindi Districts of Punjab Province;*
- (c) *whether it is further a fact that the said facility has not been provided to the other districts of the province;*
- (d) *the details of steps taken or being taken by the Government for the implementation of the said scheme in all the provinces; and*
- (e) *the time by which the uniform policy or law will be enforced throughout the Punjab Province; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin): (a) Government has announced construction incentive package for Builders and Developers, also known as Prime Minister's Package for Construction Industry in April, 2020, *vide* Tax Law (Amendment Ordinance, 2020). The same has been incorporated into Income Tax Ordinance, 2001

vide Finance Act, 2020. Deadline for availing the scheme was expiring by 31-12-2020. Therefore, the incentive package scheme has been extended *vide* Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021.

(b) Commercialization of immovable property and charging fee for it does not pertain to FBR. It will be more appropriate to obtain reply from Government department which deals with commercialization fee for different Districts of Punjab including Lahore and Rawalpindi.

(c) Pertains to Government department which holds authority to convert commercialization fee into installments for different districts of Punjab.

(d) Amnesty Scheme is applicable in all provinces as per tax laws and has been publicized to public to avail benefit under it.

(e) Pertains to Ministry/Department which hold authority to introduce uniform policy.

56. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the reasons for extremely high rate of inflation during the current regime?

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin): (a) Rising inflation rate across the world has been observed due to supply and demand disruptions during the pandemic as in April 2021, Iran recorded inflation at 49.5 percent and Turkey 17.1 percent. However, in Pakistan, government has committed to contain the inflationary pressure in the country through ensuring smooth supply of commodities, checking profiteering & hoarding and vigilant monitoring of prices both at Federal and Provincial levels. The inflation rates during the current regime as under:

FY 2018-19:	6.8%
FY 2019-20:	10.7%
FY 2020-21 (Jul-Apr):	8.6%

The major reasons of increase in inflation are as under:

- The Palm oil and Soybean oil prices have increased during last year in international market. Palm oil prices have increased from \$ 609/MT to \$1075/MT in April 2021 (showing an increase of 76.5 percent). Similarly, Soybean oil prices have increased from \$680/MT to \$1202/MT (showing an increase of 76.8 percent).
- Crude Oil prices have increased from \$23.3/bbl to \$ 64.8 /bbl (showing an increase of 168 percent).
- Prices of Tea in international market have increased from \$2350/MT to \$2640/MT (showing an increase of 12.3 percent).
- To correct the macro-economic imbalances, government has taken difficult decisions such as market-based exchange rate regime and adjustment in utility prices.
- Supply disruption due to pandemic also played a major, role in rising the inflation.
- Climate change, water shortage and high input prices have affected production of major and minor crops and resulted in price hike.

Change in international and Pakistan domestic prices during last year

Commodity	International Price Increase	Domestic Price Increase
Crude Oil	178%	Petroleum Products: 45%
Wheat	27%	Atta: 28%
Sugar	56%	Refined Sugar: 18%
Edible Oil	76%	Dalda: 21%

57. ***Sheikh Fayyaz-Ud-Din:**

Will the Minister for Privatization be pleased to state the number of Government institutions running in loss at present along-with the total volume of loss?

Transferred to Finance Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

58. ***Mr. Ali Gohar Khan:**

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to create new jobs along-with the details thereof?

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar): The present Government is committed to enlarge employment opportunities in the country. Provision of employment to youth is a big challenge, but stands on high priority on the agenda of present government. The Government has taken various steps for reviving the economy, accelerating the pace of economic growth and creating employment in the country. The major programmes are as under:

1. Construction -Package:

Construction industry has many backward and forward linkages. It is linked to 40 sectors of small and large manufacturing industry simultaneously. It is estimated that millions of employment opportunities would be generated through construction package. About 4.5 million workforce is employed in the construction sector, which is 7.3 percent of the total labor force.

2. PM's Naya Pakistan Housing Construction Initiative

Under the PM's affordable housing initiative, minimum 100,000 houses will be constructed during the next 4 years with an average cost of Rs.3 million each under low-cost housing scheme *i.e.* Rs. 300 billion. It is estimated that an additional Rs.200 billion will also be contributed by Private Sector due to Construction Package. It means an additional Rs. 500 billion will be contributed by construction sector which is 42.77% of Construction Sector's GDP Contribution for 2020-21. It is estimated about additional 2 million jobs will be created under the PM's initiative.

3. Textile Package:

The textile of Pakistan has been working at almost full-capacity production taking advantage of the government withdrawal of duties and taxes on import of the raw cotton. Statistics have shown that the government has recreated half a million jobs by strengthening the textile industry.

4. Prime Minister’s Skills for All: Hunarmand Pakistan, Program under Kamyab Jawan Initiative:

NAVTTTC has recently launched the programme at estimated cost of Rs. 9,880 million on line with “National Skill Strategy (NSS)” focusing on interventions for skill development of youth and uplift of TVET sector in country. Under this program, the total enrolment in TVET institutes is around 433,237.

5. PM’s Green Stimulus Package

In April 2021, the PM launched “Green Stimulus” focused on two objectives — job creation and restoration of our natural eco-systems. The first ongoing phase is fully funded through budgetary provisions and the focus is to upscale the activity and recalibrate priority towards green job creation. As a result, employment has already been boosted to 65,000 daily wage “nighabaan” jobs across the country in nursery raising, plant care, protection of natural forests, honeybee farming and fire-fighting activities. Through the provinces, an additional 200,000 jobs is planned during 2021. In the second phase, external funding of around \$60-100 million are being mobilized through multilateral donors. The second phase will include establishment of a National Parks Service and support sanitation activities, including storm water management, rainwater harvesting and solid and liquid waste management and hospital waste disposal. This will be carried out in at least 20 main cities of the country, creating employment estimated at 600,000 daily-wage jobs.

6. Employment Generation under CPEC:

Projects worth US\$ 12.47 billion in the transport and energy infrastructure have been carried out successfully and many are under-implementation. In the second phase (2021-25), investments will mainly focus on industrialization, agriculture modernization, socio-economic development and cooperation in Science & Technology has already taken off. The purpose is to reap the dividends of the investment made in the energy and transport infrastructure. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) development at Rashakai, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Allama Iqbal Industrial Zone in Faisalabad and Dhabeji, Thatta are in different stages of development. Similarly, funds have been allocated in the current PSDP (2020-21) for utilities provision to these SEZs. In addition, the strategic project of Main Line-1 (ML-1) has also been planned in the second phase. The ML-1 project to upgrade and dualize the rail track from Peshawar to Karachi (1872 km) has a potential to create 174,000 direct jobs. Employment opportunities under CPEC would further go up over the period of time.

59. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

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

- (a) *the time by which ban would be imposed on interest in the country; and*
- (b) *what is the role of the State Bank of Pakistan, either positive or negative, in this regard?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin): (a) A gradual approach for transformation of banking system into Shariah compliant banking has been adopted since the start of this millennium, wherein Islamic banking was re-launched in 2001- 02 as a parallel system in the country. This approach has proved to be a success as reflected by significant growth of Islamic banking in the country.

- The Islamic Banking Industry now accounts for 17 percent of the country's overall banking system in terms of assets while in terms of deposits the share is 18.3 percent (as of December 31, 2020).
 - The network of the industry now consists of 22 Islamic Banking Institutions (IBIs) (5 full-fledged Islamic banks and 17 conventional banks having Islamic banking branches) with 3,456 branches along-with 1,638 windows (Islamic banking counters at conventional branches) across the country (as of December 31, 2020).
- (b) • State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has played an instrumental role in growth of Islamic banking in the country. Promoting Islamic finance has remained an important component of strategic goals of the central bank.
- SBP is among few regulators that have introduced comprehensive legal, regulatory and Shariah compliance framework for Islamic banking industry.
 - Owing to its efforts for promoting Islamic banking in the country, SBP has been voted as the 'Best Central Bank of the Year 2020' in promoting Islamic finance for the fourth time (SBP has also won this award in 2018, 2017, and 2015) by a poll conducted by

Islamic Finance News (IFN), RED money Group Malaysia, in January 2021.

- Earlier SBP has been awarded as “Best Central Bank of the Year 2020” by Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA)-Edbiz Consulting, UK. Obtaining the award from IFN’s its second international achievement during FY 2021.

60. Admissibility is being re-considered.

61. ***Mr. Ahmad Hussain Deharr:**

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

- the reasons for not including District Multan in CPEC project whereas it is the largest historical and the oldest city of Southern Punjab;*
- whether it is a fact that this city will be included in the CPEC project and a commercial zone will be established there in order to end the deprivations of the people of District Multan; if so, the time by which it will be included in the said projects; if not, the reasons thereof; and*
- the action taken by the Government against those who did not include District Multan in CPEC project?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Asad Umar): (a) The proposal for development of SEZ in Multan was initially deliberated in the 1st JCC Meeting held on 27th August 2013 but was not approved for inclusion by the Chinese delegation.

(b) District Multan is beneficiary of CPEC. The premier CPEC project of Multan-Sukkur 392 km Motorway with capital outlay of USD 2.89 billion is a clear example of inclusion. Moreover, a Joint Cotton Breeding Lab is also being established under National Food Security & Research in Multan. Proposals for establishment of Special Economic Zones are initiated by Provincial Governments. If Provincial Government finds it feasible to establish

SEZ in Multan under CPEC, the proposal should be moved through provincial SEZ Authority *i.e.* Punjab Board of Investment & Trade, as per the laid down procedure of SEZ Act 2012.

(c) As above

62. ***Mr. Ali Gohar Khan:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken to increase exports of textile products?

Minister for Commerce: The Federal Government is extending various facilitations to the entire textiles and apparel value chain to boost exports. Resultantly, despite COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan total exports of textiles and apparel have shown an increase of 9.06% in July – March 2020-21 as compared to corresponding period of the previous year. Details of facilitation measures are follows:

- Gas price has been rationalized at Rs. 830/MMBtu for export-oriented sectors including textiles.
- RLNG has been rationalized at \$ 6.5/MMBtu for export oriented sectors including textiles.
- Electricity was provided at 7.5 cents/kWh for July-August 2020 and 9 cents/kWh for rest of financial year 2020-21 to export oriented sectors including textiles and apparel.
- Custom/Regulatory and Additional Custom Duties has been withdrawn for imported cotton with effect from January 15, 2020.
- Government has released around Rs. 7.5 billion during 2020-21 for Textile and Non-Textile sectors, Rs. 51 billion during 2019-20 and Rs. 46 billion during 2018-19 in Duty Drawback of various schemes of Textiles Policy and PM Package of Incentives.
- Mark up on Long Term Financing Facility (LTFF) has been continued at 5%.
- Mark up on Export Finance Scheme (EFS) has been continued at 3%.

- Duty free import of textile machinery has been continued.
- Withdrawal of Additional Customs Duty (ACD) and Regulatory Duty (RD) on 164 textiles raw materials and semi processed raw materials to encourage product diversification.
- Withdrawal of Regulatory Duties on Cotton Yams.
- Import of Cotton from Torkham Border has been allowed.
- Withdrawal of Custom Duty and Additional Custom Duty on Cotton Yams.

Further, 3rd Textiles and Apparel Policy has been formulated and submitted for approval of competent forum.

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

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the steps taken by the TDAP in implementation of “Look Africa” initiative at present; and*
- (b) *the details of export as well as import items with the African countries under the above initiative?*

Minister for Commerce: (a) Ministry of Commerce launched its Look Africa Policy in 2017-18 to enhance focus and increase engagement with Africa region. Under the Policy, the following initiatives have been taken:

- i. **Commercial Presence:** In addition to Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria & South Africa, four new trade Missions in Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Senegal are operational now while trade Missions in Sudan and Tanzania have also been approved. The eight trade Missions have been given accreditation of neighboring countries, covering thirty six countries out of fifty four countries of Africa.
- ii. **Institutional mechanisms:** JWG on Trade with Egypt and Joint Trade Committee with Kenya have been established and inaugural meetings have been held and being followed up. Joint Trade

Committee (JTC)/Joint Working Group (JWG)/Bilateral Trade Agreements (BTA) are being established with Ethiopia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Senegal, Morocco, South Africa, Cameroon, Mozambique and Tanzania.

- iii. **Sector-specific strategies:** Ministry of Commerce has identified following priority sectors for Africa and specific strategies to enhance exports of these sectors are being developed.
 - a. Pharmaceutical
 - b. Surgical instruments
 - c. Engineering goods including Tractors and two-three wheelers
 - d. Leather & Sports Goods
 - e. Rice
 - f. Textiles
- iv. **Linkages with African trading blocs:** To create linkages with major trading blocs in Africa and their member states, 1st chapter of Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference was organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and Ministry of Commerce at Nairobi, Kenya on 30th & 31st January 2020. The Conference was attended by businessmen and officials of twenty six (26) African countries and more than one hundred Pakistani companies, in which Pakistan's export sectors were presented. More than 1800 B2B meetings were also organized. 2nd chapter of the Conference, focusing on West Africa, is scheduled to be held in November 2021 at Lagos, Nigeria.

Steps taken by TDAP

- v. TDAP offers up to 80% subsidy to companies willing to participate in exhibitions held in African countries, under Look Africa Policy.
- vi. In 2018-19, TDAP participated in 10 (ten) exhibitions in Africa covering various sectors. (Details are provided at **Annex-I**).
- vii. TDAP received and coordinated delegations from Tanzania and Sudan in 2020.
- viii. Despite the pandemic and cessation of usual business activities, TDAP participated in the 38th International Fair Khartoum, Sudan in January

2021. 16 companies from Pakistan participated in the event and secured export orders worth approximately US\$ 5 million.

- ix. TDAP has signed or is in the process of signing 06 (six) MOUs with counterpart trade promotion organizations in Africa for promotion of trade activities, exhibitions and exchange of delegations.
- x. After the on-set of Covid-19 and consequent restrictions on physical trade related activities, Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and Trade & Investment Officers abroad have organized around forty one (41) webinars on specific countries and products, to inform Pakistani business community regarding trade regulatory regimes in African countries and potential sectors/products for exports to specific African markets, in which African experts explained and guided Pakistani exporters. (Details are provided at **Annex-II**)

(b) Top exports of Pakistan to Africa region include Rice, textiles & apparel, chemicals, Cement, Pharmaceuticals, Sugar confectionery, Tractors, Surgical instruments and sports goods etc. Details are provided below:

Pakistan top exports to Africa Region FY (2019-20) US\$ million

Sr. #	HS 4	Description	2018-19	2019-20
1.	1006	Rice	648.398	759.932
2.	5209	Woven cotton fabrics	96.079	76.433
3.	6309	Worn clothing and articles	4.868	70.352
4.	2207	Ethyl alcohol & other spirits	47.690	53.134
5.	2523	Cements	43.434	50.361
6.	6302	Bed, table, toilet and kitchen linens	40.154	42.187
7.	5208	Woven cotton fabrics	36.718	38.877
8.	3004	Medicament mixtures	29.585	34.124
9.	1704	Sugar confectionery	22.224	23.073
10.	5210	Woven cotton fabrics	26.575	23.056
11.	5513	Woven fab of syn staple fib	29.283	21.887
12.	8701	Tractors	11.922	19.371
13.	6306	Tents, camping goods, tarpaulins etc.	12.968	15.724
14.	5211	Woven fab of cotton	11.015	15.611
15.	9018	Electro-medical apparatus	18.620	15.021
16.	4811	Paper, paperboard etc.	7.072	14.811

17.	6203	Men's apparel	13.531	14.548
18.	6305	Sacks and bags	8.823	11.349
19.	9506	Sports goods	11.210	9.615
20.	4203	Articles of apparel of leather	9.010	7.939
21.	5205	Cotton yarn	13.039	7.905
22.	5512	Woven fab of syn staple fiber	6.552	7.665
23.	7210	Flat-rolled prod of iron	3.913	6.576
24.	3903	Plastics	6.130	6.242
25.	3824	Chemicals	6.332	5.978

Source: PRAUFBR

Top imports of Pakistan from Africa region include Coal, petroleum gas, Tea, phosphates & fertilizers, Cotton, metallic alloys and waste, pulses & beans, sanitary towels, seeds & fruits and food preparation material etc. Details are provided below:

Pakistan top Imports from Africa Region FY (2019-20) US\$ million

Sr. #	HS 4	Description	2018-19	2019-20
1.	2701	Coal,	1059.27	885.26
2.	2711	Petroleum gas	499.71	609.73
3.	0902	Tea	540.93	527.65
4.	2809	Di phosphorus pentatonic/phosphoric acid	294.59	230.35
5.	5201	Cotton	81.73	151.93
6.	3105	Fertilizers	95.72	117.43
7.	7204	Ferrous waste and scrap	77.44	54.96
8.	2510	Natural calcium phosphates and aluminum	41.56	48.05
9.	0713	Pulses & Beans	56.91	44.39
10.	9619	Sanitary towels	34.34	16.44
11.	1209	Seeds, fruits and spores, for sowing	19.34	14.14
12.	7202	Ferro-alloys	0.25	7.93
13.	2106	Food preparations	7.51	7.47
14.	7403	Copper	15.16	7.02
15.	8908	Floating structures for breaking up	1.85	6.62
16.	4703	Chemical wood pulp	9.52	4.30
17.	2905	Acyclic alcohols	5.28	3.70
18.	4105	skins of sheep or lambs	2.96	3.34
19.	3104	Mineral/chemical potassic fertilizers	1.52	3.26
20.	3902	Polymers of propylene	6.57	3.12
21.	7208	Flat-rolled products of iron	14.97	2.74
22.	3506	Prepared glues and adhesives	0.36	2.36

23.	2008	Fruits, nuts and other edible parts of plants	0.37	2.23
24.	4407	Wood sawn or chipped	3.47	2.19
25.	8703	Motor vehicles	2.26	2.14

Source: PRAL/FBR

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

64. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

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

- (a) whether present Government has taken loans from World Bank and IMF;*
- (b) if so, the reasons along-with the details of loan amount; and*
- (c) the details of interest rate?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin): (a) Yes, the present Government has obtained loans from World Bank and the IMF.

(b) The Government has availed the following financing facilities from the IMF:

- i. Extended Fund Facility (EFF) 2019-22 is of around USD 6.0 billion. Of this amount, the Government has received approximately USD 1.9 billion till date. The program supports the Government's economic reform agenda which aims to address structural imbalances in the economy for sustainable and inclusive growth in the future. The reform measures aim to improve (i) fiscal discipline (ii) debt sustainability (iii) tax base and revenue generation (iv) cost recovery in the energy sector (v) performance of state owned enterprises (SOEs), and (vi) the effectiveness of AML/CFT regime.
- ii. Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) amounting to approximately USD 1.38 billion was availed in April 2020. It provided the necessary fiscal space to the Government to mitigate the negative human and economic impact of the pandemic.

With regards to the World Bank, the Government has secured disbursement of US\$ 1,454.7 million as loan under 29 projects having total committed value of US\$ 7,386.7 million since August 2018 to support development objectives in the following sectors:

- Finance and revenue
- Renewable energy
- Tourism
- Communication
- Climate change
- Agriculture
 - Urban and rural development and WASH
 - Social safety net, human capital development, education and health etc.

The project-wise disbursements against committed loans are given at Annex-A.

(c) The interest of IMF loans varies according to the SDR interest rate, and the level of utilization of quota by a member country. Presently, average interest rate is in the range of 1.82-2.0 percent.

Financing terms of World Bank loans are as under:

IDA Financing

Interest Rate = 1.25% p.a

Service Charge = 0.75% p.a

Commitment Charge = 0 to 0.5% p.a (**currently zero**)

Repayment Period = 25 years including 5-year grace period

IBRD Loan

Interests = 6 months LIBOR + Variable Spread Front-end Fee = 0.25% p.a

Commitment Charge = 0.25% p.a

Repayment Period = 20 years including 5-year grace period

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

65. ***Sheikh Fayyaz-Ud-Din:**

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state the progress made until now in respect of the ongoing projects of CPEC?

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives
(Mr. Asad Umar):** (a) Status of CPEC Projects –

✱	Completed: 20 Projects	
✱	Infrastructure –	5
✱	Energy –	9
✱	Gwadar –	2
✱	Socio-economic Development -	4
✱	On-going: 35 Projects	
✱	Infrastructure –	6
✱	Energy –	8
✱	Gwadar –	4
✱	Socio-economic –	13
✱	Industrial Cooperation –	4

Details of the on-going CPEC projects is attached (**Annex-I**)

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

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

- (a) the details of Refinance and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Women Entrepreneurs under the State Bank of Pakistan at present; and*
- (b) indicating also the names of those entities which are involved with SBP in order to promote this scheme?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin): (a) Under the scheme, refinancing will be provided by State Bank of Pakistan at 0% to participating financial institutions for onward lending to women entrepreneurs across the country at a mark-up rate of upto 5% per annum. Such loans will also be eligible for 60% risk coverage to banks on their financing to SMEs. The key features of the scheme are as under:

- i. Financing shall be available to women entrepreneurs across the country for a period of upto 5 years, including maximum grace period of upto six months.

- ii. Maximum financing limit under the scheme will be Rupees Five million (Rs. 5M).
- iii. Financing under the scheme should be provided for setting up of new business enterprises or for expansion of existing ones.
- iv. Financing under the scheme should be provided to women borrowers preferably under the personal guarantee of the borrower.
- v. Rate of mark-up for end user under the facility will be upto 5% 6) per annum (p.a.). SBP will provide refinance to PFIs at 0%.

Currently, the scheme is being implemented with the help of 18 Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs). The list of PFIs is given below:

Allied Bank Limited.
Askari Bank Limited.
Bank Al Habib Limited.
Bank Alfalah Limited.
Bank of Khyber.
Bank of Punjab.
Faysal Bank Limited.
First Women Bank Limited.
Habib Bank Limited.
Habib Metropolitan Bank Limited.
JS Bank Limited.
MCB Bank Limited.
National Bank of Pakistan.
Pak Brunei Investment Company Limited.
Sindh Bank Limited.
Soneri Bank Limited.
United Bank Limited.
Samba Bank Limited.

ISLAMABAD:
The 26th May, 2021

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”**For Thursday, the 27th May, 2021**

22. **Mr. Sher Akbar Khan:**
(Deferred during 29th Session)

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

- (a) *the Ministries/Divisions/Departments in the Federal Government Islamabad whose employees have been getting rental ceiling/hiring of residential accommodation in cash with monthly salary;*
- (b) *is there any proposal under consideration of the Government to give the said facility to those Ministries/Divisions/Departments/constitutional or autonomous bodies whose employees are not availing the said facility with monthly salary;*
- (c) *if answer to part (b) above is in affirmative, the time by which the same will be done/implemented;*
- (d) *if answer to part (b) above is in negative, then reasons thereof?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Shoukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin): (a) The following institutions drawing salaries through AGPR, are getting rental ceiling with their salaries:

1. Federal Investigation Agency.
2. Integrated Border Management System.
3. Islamabad High Court.
4. National Highway and Motorway Police.
5. Police Department of ICT.
6. Rapid Response Force.

(b) The proposal for payment of rental ceiling with salary to the Government servants of the remaining departments is under consideration of the Ministry of Housing & Works.

(c) Due to huge data collection, data analysis concerning the whole Federal Government, comprehensive evaluation and finalization of the proposal of monetization of hiring facility by Ministry of Housing & Works, no time frame can be given at this stage.

(d) Not applicable.

11. **Syed Agha Rafiullah:**

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

- (a) *the Federal Board of Revenue through FPSC inducted almost 600 highly qualified Inspectors IR through competitive process in two batches in 2016 and 2018;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that they hold various professional and technical degrees; however, they are not being promoted upwards in the hierarchy rather given promotion from BPS-16 to BPS-16 on same scale which is discouraging talented employees and it will put negative impact on revenue;*
- (c) *what steps have been taken by the Government to address this huge issue of same scale promotion so that properly use the skills of qualified talented services for revenue?*

Reply not Received.

*ISLAMABAD:
The 26th May, 2021*

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.