



# THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

Monday, the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

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## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Monday, the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

The National Assembly of Pakistan met in the National Assembly Hall (Parliament House) Islamabad, at 5:54 p.m. with the honourable Speaker (Sardar Ayaz Sadiq) in the Chair.

### RECITATION FROM THE HOLY QUR`AN

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ - بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ -

إِذَا زُلْزِلَتِ الْأَرْضُ زِلْزَالَهَا ﴿١﴾ وَأَخْرَجَتِ الْأَرْضُ أَثْقَالَهَا ﴿٢﴾ وَقَالَ الْإِنْسَانُ مَا لَهَا ﴿٣﴾  
يَوْمَئِذٍ تُحَدِّثُ أَخْبَارَهَا ﴿٤﴾ بِأَنَّ رَبَّكَ أَوْحَىٰ لَهَا ﴿٥﴾ يَوْمَئِذٍ يَصُدُّرُ النَّاسُ أَشْتَاتًا ﴿٦﴾  
لِيُرَوْا أَعْمَالَهُمْ ﴿٧﴾ فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ ﴿٨﴾ وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ ﴿٩﴾  
(سورة الزلزال، آیات: 1 تا 8)

[ترجمہ: پناہ مانگتا ہوں میں اللہ کی شیطان مردود سے۔ اللہ کے نام سے شروع جو بڑا مہربان نہایت رحم فرمانے

والا ہے۔

جب زمین تھرا تھرا دی جائے گی، جیسے اس کا تھرا تھرا ناٹے ہے۔ اور زمین اپنے بوجھ باہر پھینک دے گی، اور آدمی کہے گا اسے کیا ہوا؟ اس دن وہ اپنی خبریں بتائے گی۔ اس لیے کہ تمہارے رب نے اسے حکم بھیجا۔ اس دن لوگ مختلف حالتوں میں لوٹیں گے تاکہ انہیں ان کے اعمال دکھائے جائیں۔ تو جو ایک ذرہ بھر بھی بھلائی کرے وہ اسے دیکھے گا۔ اور جو ایک ذرہ بھر بھی برائی کرے وہ اسے دیکھے گا۔]

### RECITATION OF HADITH

۳۰۔ عَنْ ثُوْبَانَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: سَيَكُونُ فِي أُمَّتِي فَلَائِقُونَ كَذَّابُونَ، كُلُّهُمْ يَزْعَمُ أَنَّهُ نَبِيٌّ، وَأَنَا خَاتَمُ النَّبِيِّينَ لَأَنْبِيٌّ بَعْدِي. (۱)

[ترجمہ: حضرت ثوبان رضی اللہ عنہ سے مروی ہے کہ رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ میری امت میں تیس

جھوٹے پیدا ہوں گے۔ ہر ایک کا دعویٰ ہوگا کہ وہ نبی ہے۔ سن لو! میں آخری نبی ہوں۔ میرے بعد کوئی نبی نہیں۔]

### RECITATION OF NAAT

میں نے اللہ سے سرکار کا در مانگا ہے  
 کوچہ سرورِ کونین میں گھر مانگا ہے  
 تاابد پیتار ہوں شربت دیدارِ رسول  
 پیاس جس کی نہ بجھے ایسا جگر مانگا ہے  
 درگاہ حق میں دعا ایک یہ مانگی ہے ریاض  
 موت سے پہلے مدینے کا سفر مانگا ہے

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

جناب سپیکر: اَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ۔ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ۔ Question Hour یہ

Question Hour تو ہو گیا۔

(مداخلت)

### FATEHA PRAYERS

جناب سپیکر: علی صاحب دعا کرا دیں please۔ اقبال ظفر جھگڑا صاحب کے بھائی بھی انتقال کر گئے ہیں۔ دونوں کے لئے کرا دیں۔ جب ہم یہ دعا کراتے ہیں تو اس میں ہم پھر سب کے لیے دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کی مغفرت فرمائے جتنے یہاں جن کے نام لیے گئے ہیں اور جتنے لوگ بھی پاکستان میں ہوتے ہیں یا باہر بھی تو ان کے لیے بھی کرواتے ہیں۔

(دعاے مغفرت کی گئی)

### ANNOUNCEMENT REG: PRESENCE OF A GROUP OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM PIES GROUP OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ISLAMABAD IN THE GALLERY

جناب سپیکر: میں honourable Members کی attention دلوانا چاہتا ہوں کہ ہمارے پاس یہاں پے PIES Group of school and colleges Islamabad کے students اور faculty ہیں we welcome them۔

### STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

جناب سپیکر: جی راء حسن نواز صاحب، راء حسن نواز صاحب۔ عمر صاحب آپ کو پتہ ہے اور آپ لوگوں کی مشاورت کے ساتھ یہ فیصلہ ہوا تھا کہ Question Hour میں Point of Order نہیں ہوگا۔ Question Hour لیا جائے گا تو اور جہاں تک آپ کا تعلق ہے۔ آپ دو دفعہ walk out کر کے آپ نے کورم کی بات کرنی ہوتی تو آپ بیٹھے رہتے، میں نے آپ کو بات کرنے کا موقع دینا تھا۔ لیکن آپ کرنا ہی نہیں چاہتے۔ Please یہ politics نہ کریں یہ بڑا serious معاملہ ہے۔ تو میں questions and answers کے بعد لوں گا۔ جی راء حسن نواز خان صاحب۔

(اس موقع پر سنی اتحاد کونسل کے معزز اراکین نے احتجاجی نعرے بلند کیے، پلے کارڈ آویزاں کیے اور ایوان سے واک

آؤٹ کر گئے)

جناب سپیکر: کوئی ضروری بات جب ایک چیز decide ہو گئی وہ گھنٹے کے بعد بھی ہو سکتی ہے not present۔ نہیں ان کی جگہ نہیں ہو سکتا۔ سید حسین طارق صاحب not present، سیدہ شہلا رضا صاحبہ not present، طاہرہ اور نگزیب صاحبہ۔ جی۔

محترمہ طاہرہ اور نگزیب: جی thank you سپیکر صاحب. Question No. 113.

جناب سپیکر: جی طاہرہ صاحبہ سوال کیجئے۔

محترمہ طاہرہ اور نگزیب: جی. Question No. 113.

### Provide education to out-of-school children

113. \*Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to provide education to out-of-school children across the country at present including Islamabad?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** Directorate General of Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) and National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) under the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training address the educational needs of marginalized and out-of-school children (OOSC).

BECS initially operated 12,304 schools nationwide, educating 453,000 children. Following the **CCI Decision of August 6, 2020**, BECS transferred its schools and teachers to provincial governments by June 30, 2021. It now focuses on federal areas, including ICT, Gilgit-Baltistan, and AJ&K, with **1,225 schools** (776 in GB, 248 in ICT, 201 in AJ&K) enrolling **44,092** students (20,848 male, 23,244 female) and **57 ALP centers** with 556 learners. Over 500,000 children have transitioned to mainstream education after primary schooling through BECS.

Under the **Zero Out-of-School Children Campaign (2023)**, BECS and partners enrolled **80,000 OOSC**, including **12,375 identified and enrolled by BECS** in ICT alone. The initiative has increased BECS

enrollment to 20,000 students across 1,620 schools. BECS plans to enroll **10,000 new students** in ICT, AJ&K, and GB in the next six months and **50,000 additional students** over the next five years.

NCHD, an autonomous body established under Ordinance No. XXIX of 2022, plays a complementary role. In May 2023, it identified **27,000 OOSC** in Islamabad, leading to the launch of the **“Zero OOSC Enrollment in ICT” project, enrolling 17,613 children** in newly established community schools. NCHD also manages **community schools in AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan, enrolling over 14,631 children.**

Following the **18th Amendment**, education governance was devolved to provinces, but under **Federal Legislative List (FLL-13)**, the Federal Government retains authority to coordinate and support provinces on national education goals. In this capacity, NCHD provides technical assistance for OOSC identification and enrollment.

To further achieve **100% literacy**, additional initiatives include evening classes in **23 schools across Islamabad** targeting OOSC and a **school meal program** to boost enrollment and retention. Both BECS and NCHD seek necessary funds and approvals to sustain and expand their efforts.

**Mr. Speaker:** Answer be taken as read, supplementary please.

محترمہ طاہرہ اور نگزیب: سنائی نہیں دیتی۔

جناب سپیکر: کان میں لگا لیں۔ اپنے عوام کے مسائل کے اوپر بھی تو بات کرنی ہے۔ جی

supplementary کیجئے۔

محترمہ طاہرہ اور نگزیب: میرا یہ question ہے، Parliamentary Secretary صاحبہ سے

کہ اسلام آباد میں انہوں نے فرمایا ہے کہ صرف 23 سکولوں میں شام کی کلاسز شروع کی جا رہی ہیں۔ 23 سکول تو بہت

کم تعداد میں ہیں جبکہ بچے جو سکولوں سے باہر ہیں ان کی تعداد تو ہزاروں میں ہے۔ تو یہ 23 سکول ناکافی ہیں۔

دوسرا میرا ان سے question ہے کہ Punjab government جس طرح ہونہار سکیم کے لیے students کو scholarships دے رہی ہے۔ کیا یہ منصوبہ اسلام آباد میں بھی ایسی ہونہار scheme شروع کرنے کا کوئی ارادہ ہے یا نہیں۔

جناب سپیکر: محترمہ فرح ناز اکبر صاحبہ، پارلیمنٹری سیکرٹری۔

پارلیمانی سیکرٹری برائے سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی، وفاقی تعلیم و پیشہ ورانہ تربیت (محترمہ فرح ناز اکبر): جی ذرا question repeat کر دیں اتنا شور ہے۔ اتنا شور ہے اس میں میں جواب نہیں دے سکتی آپ please ان کو order میں لائیں اور طاہرہ صاحبہ please آپ دوبارہ question کر لیں۔

جناب سپیکر: آپ اپنا کام کیجئے۔ مجھے نہ بتائیں کیا کرنا ہے میں نے۔

محترمہ فرح ناز اکبر: سپیکر صاحب میں نے question نہیں سنا۔

جناب سپیکر: جی طاہرہ صاحبہ repeat کیجئے۔

محترمہ طاہرہ اور نگنیب: میں question repeat کر دیتی ہوں۔ ان کو سمجھ نہیں آئی question کی تو میں repeat کر دیتی ہوں۔ میرا یہ سوال تھا کہ انہوں نے بتایا شام کی classes کا کئی سکولوں میں ہم نے اجراء کیا ہے تعلیم کے لیے۔ جبکہ اسلام آباد میں بچے جو ہیں وہ 23 سکولوں سے کہیں زیادہ ہیں۔ تو یہ ہزاروں بچے 23 سکولوں میں تو پورے نہیں آسکتے۔ اس کے لیے کیا اقدام مزید کیے جائیں گے۔ اور ہونہار scheme پنجاب کے اندر Chief Minister Punjab نے شروع کی ہے۔ پورے صوبے میں اسی طرح اسلام آباد میں بھی یہ scholarships بچوں کو دینے کا کوئی ارادہ ہے federal capital میں government کا یا نہیں؟

جناب سپیکر: جی پارلیمنٹری سیکرٹری صاحبہ۔

محترمہ فرح ناز اکبر: بہت شکریہ سپیکر صاحب! بالکل انہوں نے درست فرمایا ہے۔ ہماری پالیسی شروع ہو گئی

ہے 2024 اور 2025 میں education voucher programme شروع ہونے والا ہے۔ جس

میں 5 ہزار per month ہر بچے کو دیا جائے گا جو private schools for providing better

implement تو یہ opportunities to out of school children اور  
 7500 they have started FDE کی evening shift میں 50 schools ہیں  
 اور 50 evening shift schools اور students are being enrolled  
 of children جس میں 30 schools ہیں وہ صرف girls education کے لیے ہیں۔ بہت شکریہ۔

جناب سپیکر: یہ supplementary سید و سیم حسین صاحب۔ آپ کا button دبا ہوا تھا۔ چلیں

تشریف رکھیں۔ انجم عقیل صاحب۔ next question.

جناب انجم عقیل خان: میرا یہ سوال ہے کہ جی۔۔۔

**Mr. Speaker: Question No?**

جناب انجم عقیل خان: 114۔

### **Regularization of Lecturers/Teachers in Islamabad**

114. \*Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan:

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that some Lecturers/Teachers in Colleges/Schools in Islamabad were not considered for regularizing of their services;*
- (b) *if answer to part (a) above is in affirmative, the names, domiciles, colleges/schools and the reasons for non-regularization so far; and*
- (c) *whether the Government intends to reconsider their services and when could they be regularized?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training**  
 (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui): (a) The Ministry of Federal Education



and Professional Training has constituted a committee to consider the cases of daily wagers for their regularization vide Ministry's Notification dated 27-12-2024 (copy enclosed). Therefore, the case is under process.

(b) As above

(c) As above.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

**Mr. Speaker:** Answer be taken as read, supplementary please.

جناب انجم عقیل خان: یہ ایک کمیٹی پہلے بھی بنی تھی۔ اس کمیٹی نے کام کیوں نہیں کیا۔ اور اب دوبارہ آپ کمیٹی بنا رہے ہیں اس کا کوئی schedule نہیں دیا کہ یہ کمیٹی تک کب تک اپنا کام مکمل کرے گی۔ 10,10 سال سے teachers جو ہیں وہ daily wages پہ کام کر رہے ہیں، ان کو کب regularize کیا جائے گا اور کیا ان کے جو سابقہ 10 سال ہیں وہ ان کی service میں شامل کیے جائیں گے۔

جناب سپیکر: جی۔ پارلیمنٹری سیکرٹری صاحبہ۔

محترمہ فرح ناز اکبر: بہت شکریہ سپیکر صاحب جیسا کہ انہوں نے mention کیا ہے پہلے ایک کمیٹی بنی تھی جس نے اس پر کام کیا تھا اور انہوں نے 15 دن کی deadline دی تھی لیکن اب دوبارہ انہوں نے ایک اور کمیٹی 15 جنوری کو بنائی ہے اور ان سے ان teachers کا یہ ریکارڈ مانگا گیا ہے جیسے ہی یہ ہمیں ملیں گی تو ان شاء اللہ اس پر پورا کام ہوگا۔ یہ 132 teachers کا ہے جس میں 73 رہ گئی ہیں تو جیسے ہی یہ complete ہوں گی، کمیٹی کی meetings سے جو finalize ہوگا، اس کے بعد ہم ان کو regularize کریں گے ان شاء اللہ۔

جناب سپیکر: Supplementary کوئی نہیں ہے، اگلا سوال عالیہ کامران صاحب۔

محترمہ عالیہ کامران: سوال نمبر 115۔

## Negative impact of taxation on the people

115. \*Ms. Aliya Kamran:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan's large undocumented economy, limited tax base, and reliance on regressive taxation reflect a failure to formalizing the economy, due to which it has put potential negative impacts on the country's people;*
- (b) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to address the potential negative impact of regressive taxation on the people, the mess of the undocumented economy, and work towards a more sustainable and equitable tax system, that reduces reliance on such measures on long term basis?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):** (a) The Government has made a comprehensive plan to address the issue of Pakistan's undocumented economy, limited tax base, and reliance on regressive taxation. Tax revenue generation largely depends on the performance of the Economy. Thus, healthy economic activities create opportunities leading to higher tax collection. The economy faced multiple challenges of macroeconomic imbalances, supply shocks, and international economic slowdown during the financial year which have hampered the economic growth. In view of these odds, FBR has initiated effective measures to increase the tax base and tax collection.

(b) The reform of tax system in Pakistan is a major priority area for the government and the Prime Minister has taken keen personal interest. The transformation plan for FBR was approved by Prime Minister 19th September, 2024. The efficiency of FBR's tax collection is dependent

on the quality and capacity of the organization to improve with multiple interventions spanning over three key areas *i.e.* **administrative realignment, human resource development** and enhancing the **level of digitalization** which are under progress.

- (i) The **administrative restructuring** on the Custom side, includes establishment of Digital Enforcement Stations at Indus Crossings across the country and on river Hub, under a dedicated Indus Customs Collectorate, strengthening of strategically located Customs Check Points in Baluchistan, re-organization of the Directorate General of Intelligence to improve counter-smuggling operations under single command, and establishment of command fund to incentivize seizure of smuggled goods. On the Inland Revenue side setting up Model Tax Offices, enhancing mobility to field officers and transit accommodation for the field officers are major elements. The activities pertaining to the initiatives in this area are expected to be completed by end May, 2025.
- (ii) The digitalization efforts to bring FBR at par with comparable economies include establishment of a faceless mechanism for centralized appraisal and examination and establishment of Cargo Tracking System, value chain digitalization to document the supply chain in key sectors and internal systems digitalization. The activities pertaining to the initiatives in these areas are expected to be completed by end March, 2025.
- (iii) A key component for the success of this reform strategy is the development of FBR's workforce and providing it with the requisite skills and additional expert support. This would be achieved through enhancing audit capacity of field offices by engaging third party payroll firms, hiring experienced senior auditor executives from private sector to serve as audit mentors, utilizing the services of sectoral experts, onboarding top-quality law firms to represent FBR in most high value cases, strengthening post clearance audit function by engaging technical experts. For capacity building of HR the introduction of specialized training and certification courses for officers, and establishing a dedicated HR Cell at FBR headquarters have been planned. In order to improve current tax collections without compromising fairness, a performance

management and incentives regime is also being implemented based upon two broad parameters *vis-a-vis* Integrity of officers and performance of officers based upon key functions being performed by them against well defined KPIs. The activities pertaining to the initiatives in this area are expected to be completed by end January, 2025

**Mr. Speaker:** Answer be taken as read, supplementary question please.

محترمہ عالیہ کامران: میرا supplementary سوال یہ ہے کہ ٹیکس کے معاملات میں اصلاحات کے نام پر جو سختی کی جا رہی ہے، کیا اس سختی کے نتیجے میں معیشت مزید damage نہیں ہو رہی؟ جو نئے smuggled Items لائے جا رہے ہیں ان کو net میں لانے کیلئے کیا اقدامات کئے جا رہے ہیں؟  
جناب سپیکر: وزیر مملکت علی پرویز صاحب۔

وزیر مملکت برائے خزانہ و محاصل، توانائی ڈویژن (جناب علی پرویز): بہت شکریہ، Honourable Member صاحبہ نے جس مسئلے کی طرف نشاندہی کرائی ہے اس کا بہت ہی کلیدی کردار ہے اگر ہم نے پاکستان کو ایک جامع اور پائیدار ترقی کے سفر پر ڈالنا ہے تو اس چیز کو اور اس ادارے کی اہمیت کو دیکھتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم صاحب نے 19 ستمبر 2024 کو FBR کی بھرپور transformation کا ایک پروگرام منظور کیا تھا، اس کے مطابق آپ کے IRIS کی بھی اور custom directorate کی restructuring کی جا رہی ہے۔ کیونکہ ممبر صاحبہ نے custom کے شعبہ اور smuggling کے سلسلہ کے اندر بات اٹھائی ہے، supplementary question میں اس پر نشاندہی کی ہے تو یہاں پر میں گزارش کرنا چاہوں گا کہ اپنے border areas کو reinforce کرنے کیلئے Indus collectorate کا بھی ایک concept پر آم منسٹر صاحب نے approve کیا ہے، جس سے آپ کے جو Indus کے اوپر 20 یا 22 bridges ہیں، کیونکہ جو

consumption centers ہیں وہ سارے east of Indus ہیں تو وہاں پر کراچی کے علاوہ سارے کے سارے consumption centers جو east کے اندر ہیں تو ان bridges کے اندر بھی FBR کی capability کو reinforce کرنے کی کوشش کی جا رہی ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ وسائل کے ذریعے FBR اور custom capacity building کی کوشش کی جا رہی ہے، intelligence based restructuring operations کو کرنے کیلئے، اور intelligence capability کو بڑھانے کیلئے faceless plan کے اندر ایک جامع منصوبہ بنایا گیا ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ آپ جانتے ہیں appraisal کا منصوبہ بھی 15 دسمبر کو operationalize کر دیا گیا ہے تو ایک بھرپور transformation programme ترتیب دیا گیا ہے اور ہم ان شاء اللہ تعالیٰ بالکل جامع بنیاد پر revenue کے فقدان کے مسئلے کو حل کرنے کیلئے جا رہے ہیں، بہت بہت شکریہ۔

**Mr. Speaker:** Supplementary, Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli Sahiba.

محترمہ آسیہ ناز تنولی: شکریہ، سوال کے دوسرے حصہ میں supply chain کے حوالے سے بتایا گیا ہے کہ value chain digitalization to document the supply chain in key sectors and internal systems digitalization شامل ہے، میرا سوال یہ ہے کہ fuel prices اور پالیسی میں اگر بہتری کی جائے تو supply chain بہتر ہو سکتی ہے۔ تو کیا ایسی long term policy بنائی جائے گی جس سے supply chain کو بہتر کیا جائے تاکہ باہر سے جو کمپنیاں آرہی ہیں ان کے پاکستان کو دور رس نتائج حاصل ہوں۔

جناب سپیکر: علی پرویز صاحب۔

جناب علی پرویز: Honourable Member نے جو supply chain کی بہتری اور اس کو اور فعال کرنے کیلئے، اخراجات کی کمی کیلئے، توانائی کی قیمتوں کے گھٹاؤ کی بات کی ہے، میرے خیال سے اس کے اوپر تو بڑے جامع انداز کے اندر کام جاری ہے اور آپ جانتے ہیں پٹرول کی قیمتیں جو تقریباً 300 روپے سے اوپر تھیں، وہ کم ہو کر 250 روپے کے اوپر آگئی ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ بجلی کی جو cost ہے اس کو بھی کم کرنے کیلئے بھرپور کوشش اور کاوش جاری ہے۔ کیونکہ یہاں پر تو taxation کی جو chain ہے اس کے بارے میں بات ہو رہی تھی تو ہم نے یہاں اس کی documentation کیلئے جو اقدامات لئے ہیں اس میں section 236(g) اور (h) کا نفاذ، جس کے اندر وہ سارے کا سارا withholding tax کا data نکال کر اس کو اب documentation کی chain کے اندر لانے کیلئے کوشش کر رہے ہیں تو یہ سوال تو اس حد تک محدود تھا، لیکن جو supply chain کی viability اور اس کو اور فعال کرنے کیلئے حکومت جو پروگرام شروع کر رہی ہے اس کے اوپر اگر یہ fresh سوال دے دیں تو ہم بھرپور جواب دے دیں گے۔

ویسے ہم نے بتا دیا ہے کہ کس طرح سے ہم نے ان کی cost کو کم کرنے کیلئے، cost of doing business کرنے کیلئے اور ہم پٹرول کی قیمتوں میں پہلے ہی کمی لاکھے ہیں اور وزیراعظم صاحب عنقریب ہی آپ کے بجلی کے شعبہ کے اندر بھی جو اصلاحات کی وجہ سے بجلی کی قیمتیں کم ہوں گی وہ بھی آپ کے سامنے آجائیں گی، بہت بہت شکریہ۔

جناب سپیکر: اس کا fresh question کر دیجیے گا۔ شگفتہ جمانی صاحبہ اگلا سوال، موجود نہیں، شرمیلا صاحبہ فاروقی ہشام اگلا سوال، موجود نہیں۔ سید وسیم حسین صاحب، ابھی تو یہاں تشریف رکھتے تھے؟ مائیک کھولیں، محبوب صاحب آپ بات کیجیئے۔

### POINTING OUT THE LACK OF QUORUM

جناب محبوب شاہ: میں quorum point out کرتا ہوں۔

**Mr. Speaker:** Count be made.

(The count was made.)

**Mr. Speaker:** The House is not in order. The House is adjourned till the quorum is complete.

*(The Proceedings of the House were suspended till the completion of quorum.)*

(اجلاس کی کارروائی جناب سپیکر کی زیر صدارت 6 بج کر 56 منٹ پر دوبارہ شروع ہوئی)

**Mr. Speaker:** Count be made please.

(The count was made.)

**Mr. Speaker:** The House is not in order.

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Austerity measures to cut off Government expenditure

†106. \*Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan:

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

- (a) *the number of times present Prime Minister (PM) has announced austerity drive/measures for the Government departments since the inception of the present Government;*
- (b) *the details of austerity measures announced in each of the said announcements by the PM Office to cut off Government expenditure?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):**

(a) The austerity drive or measures have been announced by the Federal Cabinet on the recommendations of the Prime Minister once under the Present Prime Minister. The Austerity Measures were approved by the Cabinet on 27-08-2024 and notified on 04-09-2024.

(b) The detail of Austerity Measures for controlling the expenditure of the federal government, includes:-

1. There shall be a complete ban on the purchase of all types of vehicles (except operational vehicles such as ambulances & other medically equipped vehicles, fire fighting vehicles, buses & vans for educational institutions, solid waste vehicles & motorbikes), Procurement of machinery / equipment (except those required for hospitals / laboratories / agriculture / mining / schools), creation of new posts including contingent paid / temporary posts, continuation of contingent paid / temporary posts beyond one year, treatment abroad at Government expense; and all non-obligatory visits abroad where Grounding is involved.
2. The Austerity Measures notified by the Cabinet Division regarding visits abroad will remain applicable unless modified or withdrawn by the Federal Cabinet.
3. All posts lying vacant for last three years shall be abolished.

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*(Question Hour being incomplete, the remaining Starred Questions were treated as Unstarred and placed on the Table of the House.)*



## Original objectives of supporting industrial development

### 125. \*Syed Hussain Tariq:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that several bilateral Development Financial Institutions (DFIs), originally established to promote industrial investment, have been investing significant amount in Government securities rather investing in the industrial sector;*
- (b) if so, the reasons behind the shift from supporting industrial activities and foreign investment for investing heavily in Government securities and does this shift align with the DFIs original mandates;*
- (c) what impact will occur by this substantial investment in Government securities on industrial growth and the ability of these institutions to fulfill their intended roles; and*
- (d) what corrective measures are being implemented to address this issue and realign investments with the original objectives of supporting industrial development?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):** (a) • DFIs have stated that while the core function of JICs is to provide Financial facilities to industrial and commercial entities, as per their MOU the DFIs are allowed to engage in capital and money market activities as an additional line of business. Moreover, DFIs portfolio is a

mix of advances and investments in alignment with their risk management and overall financial objectives.

- Government securities are issued at a high interest rate. As these securities are risk-free and give competitive return, there is a tilt in DFIs to invest in the same. These investments are always short-term and in accordance with market conditions and within the limits allowed by the Regulator (SBP).
- PAIR has a specific constraint due to sanctions imposed on the JV partner i.e. Iran, which is hampering its ability to deliver on its mandate. Consequently, the company relies on short-term money market funds.

(b)

- DFIs endeavor to keep an optimal balance between their primary goal of industrial growth and investment in securities to remain economically viable. Besides, DFIs investment in Government securities is also sometimes motivated by a need to support government fiscal needs during critical times.
- Economic uncertainty have also at times reduced business activities and increasing industrial loan portfolio in such economic cycles results in higher non-performing loans. DFIs and the Regulator ensure that there is a balance between higher risk industrial loan portfolio and the risk-free government securities.

(c)

- DFIs normally adopt a hybrid strategy of combining investments in government securities through OMOs while supporting industrial growth by allocating funds from their own equity. This approach ensures that DFI's equity is effectively utilized to support various sectors of the economy.
- DFIs continue to play a role in promoting Islamic finance, supporting SMEs, fostering industrial projects, including renewable energy and infrastructure.

(d)

- With recent reduction in interest rates, DFIs have now more incentive to increase their industrial loan portfolio.
- Ensuing economic stability will increase business volume, which will further induce DFIs to shift more towards higher investments in industry and commerce.

## Information Technology (IT) Universities established in the country

112. \*Syeda Shehla Raza:

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:*

- (a) *how many Information Technology (IT) Universities are established in the country at present; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration by the Government to establish an IT University in Sindh; if so, the details thereof?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** (a) At present **07 Universities (03 Public & 04 Private)** are working in Pakistan which have Information Technology embedded in their title. However, it is apprised that none of these Universities is uni-disciplinary University and offering wide range of disciplines/programmes. Furthermore, it is clarified that nearly every university is offering the programmes related to IT and its relevant fields.

(b) At present, no proposal for establishment of IT University in Sindh is under consideration at HEC. Likewise, in the wake of 18th constitutional amendment, establishment of a university is the prerogative of respective provincial government; the federal government can establish/enact Institute(s) in the specialized fields.

**(Annex-I)**

Sr. No	Name of the University	Public/Private	Province
1	Information Technology University of the Punjab, Lahore	Public	Punjab
2	Khawaja Freed University of Engineering & Information Technology, Rahim Yar Khan	Public	Punjab
3	Balochistan University of Information Technology & Management Sciences, Quetta	Public	Balochistan
4	CECOS University of Information Technology and Emerging Sciences, Peshawar	Private	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
5	City University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar	Private	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
6	Qurtaba University of Science and Information Technology, Dera Ismail Khan	Private	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
7	Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar	Private	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

## **Objectives of Geographical Indications Act, 2020**

116. **\*Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

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

- (a) *what are the intended objectives of the Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, 2020;*
- (b) *up to what extent said intended objectives have been achieved in practice, particularly in terms of promoting Pakistani products in international markets;*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that reports indicate Pakistan has not fully realized its goals under this Act, revealing several grey areas;*
- (d) *if so, what specific challenges and shortcomings have been identified in the implementation of the Act;*
- (e) *what measures are being taken by the Government to strengthen the regulatory framework and address these grey areas, specifically, how are stakeholders including government agencies, producers, and civil society collaborating to ensure effective protection and promotion of geographical indications both within Pakistan and internationally; and*
- (f) *what strategies are being implemented to enhance the visibility and marketability of Pakistani Geographical Indications products in foreign markets?*

**Minister for Commerce (Jam Kamal Khan):** (a) The Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, 2020, was enacted with the following specific objectives:

1. To establish a legal framework for registering and protecting Geographical Indications (GIs) in Pakistan, ensuring that the rights of authorized users i.e. producers and operators etc. could be safeguarded.
2. To enhance the economic value of GI-labeled products, especially from underdeveloped areas, to create employment opportunities and improve livelihoods.
3. To protect registered GIs from being falsely used, unfair competition or misrepresentation in both domestic and international markets, in line with Article 22 of the TRIPS Agreement.
4. To strengthen the export potential of Pakistani products by establishing their unique identity in foreign markets.

(b) Since the enactment of the Geographical Indications (GI) Act in 2020, Pakistan has identified 200 potential GI products, 16 of which have been registered domestically and other 14 are near completion. The Ministry of Commerce established the GI Cell in February 2022 to expedite registration and protect these products in collaboration with provincial departments. Basmati Rice, Pakistan's first registered GI, has strengthened Pakistan's apposition in international disputes, particularly against India, while international registration for Khewra Pink Rock Salt is underway. The Ministry actively pursues GI-related cases in, foreign jurisdictions and conducts awareness sessions with, stakeholders to enhance understanding of GI rights.

(c) Pakistan has made progress under the Geographical indications (GI) Act of 2020, several challenges remain. These include delays in registering identified GI products, limited international recognition of registered products, and inadequate awareness among stakeholders about GI rights. Additionally, there are concerns over enforcement mechanisms and insufficient coordination between provincial and federal authorities. These grey areas highlight the need for more robust implementation strategies to fully realize the Act's potential and project Pakistan's unique heritage.

(d) The implementation of Pakistan's GI Act faces challenges such as limited stakeholder awareness, slow registration processes, weak

enforcement, inadequate provincial-federal coordination, and a lack of marketing strategies to maximize the economic potential of GI products.

(e) Establishment of dedicated Geographical Indications (GI) Cell within the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), funded by the Export Development Fund (EDF), to oversee GI-related matters. This Cell is staffed with research analysts and a legal team focused on international legal cases concerning Pakistan's GIs, notably Basmati Rice.

The Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) of Pakistan is creating a dedicated GI Registry to enhance registration and monitoring processes.

Consultations are being conducted across provinces to educate producers, exporters, and traders about the economic potential of GIs.

Workshops are organized to assist producers in drafting Books of Specification for their goods, ensuring compliance with GI standards.

Diplomatic missions are tasked with promoting and marketing Pakistani GIs and addressing instances of mis use in foreign markets.

Civil society organizations are being involved in advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the benefits of GIs.

(f) TDAP, organized the International Food and Agriculture Expo in 2023 and 2024 in Karachi, showcasing Pakistan's register, Geographical Indication (GI) products for promotion and awareness the event attracted participants, including individuals and companies from around the world, representing diverse business sectors.

Pakistan Mineral and Development Corporation (PMDC) is also going to conduct an expo in Osaka Japan of promotion of Khewra Pink Rock Salt.

## **Steps to taken continuous learning of Education to students**

117. **\*Ms. Sharmila Sahiba Faruqui Hashaam:**

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:*

- (a) *keeping in view the recent disruptions to educational institutions due to strikes and protests, what strategies are being implemented by the Government to ensure continuous learning of education for students; and*
- (b) *how is the Ministry addressing the gap in curriculum relevance, particularly in ensuring that education aligns with modern technological and professional requirements?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** (a) To address disruptions caused by strikes and protests, the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have implemented several strategies to ensure continuous learning for students:

**FDE Initiatives:**

- **Saturday Classes:** Educational institutions under FDE now hold Saturday classes to recover lost instructional time and ensure syllabus completion.
- **Remedial Classes:** Additional classes have been introduced to help students strengthen their understanding of key concepts, particularly those struggling academically due to interruptions.
- **Performance Guidelines:** Schools and colleges have received specific guidelines aimed at improving student performance and results.

**HEI Strategies:**

- **Online Learning:** HEIs have adopted online platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Learning Management Systems (LMS) to continue academic activities. Courses requiring lab or hands-on training are accommodated with extra hours in the academic schedule.
- **Flexible Calendars:** Flexible academic calendars have been implemented, with additional evening or weekend classes to allow for syllabus completion.

- **Adapted Assessments:** Exams are rescheduled, and assessment frameworks are modified to address challenges such as unforeseen events, student needs, and logistical issues.

These measures aim to mitigate learning disruptions and ensure students receive quality education despite challenges.

(b) Efforts to align education with modern technological and professional requirements are being led by the **National Curriculum Council (NCC) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC)** of Pakistan.

#### **NCC Initiatives:**

NCC has notified and implemented a curriculum for **Coding & Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and practical computer education in all Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) institutions, addressing the growing demand for technology-focused education.

#### **HEC Initiatives:**

- HEC, established under Ordinance # LIII of 2002, periodically develops and reviews curricula for **Undergraduate and Graduate programs through National Curriculum Review Committees (NCRCs)**. These committees include academic experts, researchers, professional councils, and other stakeholders, ensuring curricula reflect **emerging trends, market demands, and international standards**.
- So far, HEC has developed curricula for **150 disciplines**, with a revision cycle of 3-5 years, now being reduced to **2-3 years** to keep pace with advancements in the field.
- HEC has adopted the **Outcome-Based Education (OBE) model**, emphasizing clearly defined learning outcomes, graduate employability, and alignment with industry demands, societal needs, and global benchmarks.
- The **Undergraduate Education Policy (2023)** incorporates **General Education, Major/Minor Subjects, Internships, and Capstone Projects**, inspired by frameworks like the **Washington**



**Accord and Liberal Arts Education models** from the USA and Canada.

Through these initiatives, NCC and HEC aim to enhance educational relevance, graduate, employability, and alignment with global academic and professional standards, fostering innovation and advancement in Pakistan's education sector.

## **Issue of excessive school bags weight**

118. **\*Syed Waseem Hussain:**

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:*

- (a) what measures are being taken by the Government to address the issue of excessive weight school bags in both public and private educational institutions in the capital, considering the placing of burden on children;*
- (b) how do current practices align with international standard regarding school bag weight; and*
- (c) what corrective steps are being implemented to develop a comprehensive syllabus that not only reduces physical burden but also equip the students with knowledge of international standards, Islamic values and also our cultural heritage?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** (a) Federal Directorate of Education, with the Ministry of Federal Education has introduced a "Bag less initiative" for Class 1-5 in Islamabad's Primary schools. As per this initiative:

- Students carry only essential items (copies, diaries, pencil boxes) while books are stored in classroom pigeonhole cupboards.
- Parents are encouraged to provide lightweight backpacks.
- This initiative prioritizes the physical and mental well-being of students.

Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) is mandated to register and regulate private schools / colleges functioning in the territorial jurisdiction of Islamabad only. In order to address the issue of excessive weight; school bags in Private Educational Institution (PEIs) of Islamabad, ICT-PEIRA had already advised PEIs regarding avoiding excessive weight by providing lockers or designated space for keeping books in the school premises **(copy enclosed)**.

(b) The initiative aligns with global standards by:

- Minimizing school bag weight to recommended limits (10-15% of body weight).
- Introducing classroom storage to eliminate the need to carry books daily.
- Focusing on student health and well- being.

(c) The FDE is streamlining the syllabus to reduce unnecessary content and minimize physical burden while integrating Islamic values (by implementing the Islamiat curriculum and compulsory teaching of Quran as per the Holy Quran Act, 2017) and cultural heritage (by establishing special cultural rooms. Subjects like AI, Data Science, and Coding are included to align with global standards. Digital tools and resources further lighten school bags and enhance learning; ensuring students are equipped with essential skills and knowledge.

National Curriculum Council (NCC) Wing is mandated under “Federal Supervision of Curricula, Textbooks and Maintenance of Standards of Education Act 1976” to prepare Scheme of Studies (a layout plan of subjects to be taught at each grade), to develop curricula from Early Childhood Education (ECE) to Grade-XII, and to approve textbooks developed by publishers before prescribing in various classes of Educational Institutions.

National Curriculum Council (NCC) has developed and notified National Curriculum of Pakistan (NCP) 2022-23 for all compulsory and elective subjects. The existing curriculum is called standard-based curriculum technology oriented curricula and is aligned with International Standards to enhance skills in students such as problem solving, critical thinking. NCP promote Islamic values and cultural heritage of Pakistan.

NCC notified Scheme of Studies 2024 which addressed the rationalization of curriculum by introducing summative and formative evaluation and is guideline for implementing agencies (FDE, FGEIs,) PEIRA etc.) Further, NCC notified Curriculum for Islamiat for Grade 1-12. Character Education, Life Skills Based Education, Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy as non-credit curricula introduced.

Furthermore, to promote cultural heritage, NCC notified 07 Religions Curricula (Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, Bahai, Kalasha, Zoroastrianism and Buddhism) for Grade 1-12.

Lesson plan/syllabus distribution for academic year.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

## **MOUs signed with other countries for financial loans**

119. **\*Syeda Shehla Raza:**

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the details of agreements and Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed by the Government with other countries for financial assistance/loans etc. during the fiscal year 2022-2023?*

*Transferred to Economic Affairs Division for answer on Next Rota Day.*

## **Implementation of Faceless Customers Assessment System in Karachi**

120. **\*Shazia Marri:**

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration by the Government to implement Faceless Customers Assessment (FCA) System in Karachi; and*
- (b) if so, the details of key objectives and benefits expected from the implementation of the FCA System?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb) (a) • Yes. Faceless Customs Assessment (FCA) has been implemented w.e.f. 15th December 2024.**

- For this purpose, a Central Appraising Unit (CAU) has been established at South Asia Pakistan Terminal (SAPT), Karachi as a pilot project.
- CAU is a protected and isolated workspace where Appraising Officers work without any contact or access with other stakeholders during working hours.
- Presently, GDs filed at four collectorates namely Collectorates of Customs- Appraisal East/West/SAPT and Port Muhammad Bin Qasim, Karachi are marked by system to CAU for FCA assessment.
- FCA shall be rolled out to other customs stations in the country.

(b) Key objectives of Faceless Customs Assessment (FCA) include:

- Anonymity in assessment to eliminate physical interface between importer and assessing officer
- Swift clearances through efficient utilisation of manpower
- Enhanced uniformity in assessment across locations

The initiative has remarkably improved efficiency in customs assessments. Analysis of clearances before and after implementation of FCA (16th to 30th December 2024 viz 2nd to 15th December 2024); reflects very encouraging results mentioned below:

- Average clearance time has significantly reduced from 105 hours to 52 hours; a net reduction by 51%
- Incidents of “Call Documents” by Appraising Officers has decreased from 4085 cases to 1134; a net reduction by 72%
- Volume of examinations decreased from 878 to 204 cases; a net decrease by 77%
- There is no pendency in customs assessments

- Revenue collection improved to 2.3% during the first fortnight of FCA implementation.

All relevant indicators have shown clearance time has reduced remarkably, improved quality of assessment, enhanced uniformity and trade facilitation coupled with improvement in revenue collection.

## **Male and Female students got scholarships to study**

121. **\*Mr. Pullain:**

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:*

- (a) the number of male and female students from Balochistan and other Provinces, who got scholarships to study inside the country and also abroad since, the inception of the China Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the detail of expenditure incurred thereon; and*
- (b) whether the names, percentage, districts and the CNIC numbers of such students along-with the complete details thereof?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** (a) China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was launched in April 2015. No exclusive scholarship project/scheme is approved/funded under CPEC.

However, the following two projects under HEC PSDP program are being executed for the coastal regions of Balochistan.

1. Award of scholarships to the students from Gwadar including one-year Chinese Language course from China
2. Coastal Region Higher Education Scholarship Program for Balochistan”

The aforesaid projects are aimed to increase the human capital of the region so that they could get the better opportunities of job in the CPEC projects. The gender wise details of scholarships awarded to the students from Balochistan since the inception of CPEC i.e. 2015 is as under:-

<b>Gender wise Scholarships awarded to the students from Coastal region of Balochistan</b>					
<b>S #</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Coastal Region Higher Education Scholarship Program for Balochistan (BS Undergraduate)	100	44	17	61
2	Award of Scholarships to the Students from Gwadar	200	87	6	93
<b>Total</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>154</b>

**Approved Cost and Expenditure Incurred Thereon:**

- The approved cost of the project *“Award or scholarships to the students from Gwadar including one-year Chinese Language course from China”* is Rs.165.113 million from which an expenditure amounting to Rs.140.300 million is incurred during first two quarters of CFY-2024-25.
- The approved cost of the project *“Coastal Region Higher Education Scholarship Program for Balochistan* is Rs. 385.437 million from which expenditure of an amount of Rs. 36.030 million is incurred during first two quarters of CFY-2024-25.

In addition to the aforementioned coastal region scholarships, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan is also executing special scholarship schemes for the students of Balochistan to excel their excellence in addition to national level scholarship Programs where the Federal Government Quota Policy is observed.

Detail of these scholarship projects exclusively being executed to the students from Balochistan is appended Below:

<b>Details of Scholarships Awarded to the Students of Balochistan</b>				
<b>Sr</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Undergrad</b>	<b>Postgrad (Masters/MS/PhD)</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Provision of Higher Education Opportunities for Students of Balochistan & FATA - (Phase-II)	1312	337	1649
2	Provision of Higher Education Opportunities for Students of Balochistan & FATA - (Phase-III)	869	-	869
3	Master leading to PhD Scholarship Program (Indigenous and Overseas) for the students of Balochistan (An initiative of the Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Baluchistan Package)		368	368
4	Law Graduates Scholarships Program for Balochistan for Study Abroad	50	33	83
<b>Total</b>		<b>2231</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>2969</b>

Gender wise Detail is appended Below:

<b>Gender wise Scholarships Awarded to the Students of Balochistan</b>				
<b>Sr</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Provision of Higher Education Opportunities for Students of Balochistan & FATA – (Phase-II)	1104	545	1649
2	Provision of Higher Education Opportunities for Students of Balochistan & FATA – (Phase-III)	544	325	869
3	Master leading to PhD Scholarship Program (Indigenous and Overseas) for the students of Balochistan (An initiative of the Aghaz-e- Haqooq-e- Baluchistan Package)	286	82	368
4	Law Graduates Scholarships Program for Balochistan for Study Abroad	71	12	83
<b>Total</b>		<b>2005</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>2969</b>

Brief of these projects are attached at Annex-A.

Apart from special projects, HEC has also awarded **69008** scholarships to the students from Balochistan observing Federal Government Quota Policy from 2015 till date. A comparative study/province wise break-up of a scholarship awarded to the students is detailed at **Annex-B**.

(b) Details are appended at **Annex-C**.

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



## Status of unified national curriculum in all institutions

122. \*Ms. Shahida Rehmani:

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state that what is the status of implementing a unified national curriculum in all Government and private institutions in the country?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** National Curriculum Council (NCC) has developed and notified National Curriculum of Pakistan 2022-23 for all compulsory and elective subjects in consultation with the stakeholders from provinces both public and private organizations experts. The implementation of NCP 2022-23 across the country after consultation with the relevant stakeholders is as under:-

Area Province	Primary (Grade 1-5)	Elementary (Grade 6-8)	Secondary (Grade 9-10)	Higher Secondary (Grade 11-12)
ICT	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Will be implemented from Academic Year 2025
Punjab	Implemented	Implemented	Islamiat has already been implemented. Rest of the subject will be implemented from March, 2025 for 9 <sup>th</sup> grade and for 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade from March 2026	Islamiat has already been implemented. Rest of the subject will be implemented from March, 2025 for 1 <sup>st</sup> Year and for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year March, 2026
Gilgit-Baltistan	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Will be implemented from Academic Year 2025
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Will be implemented from Academic Year 2025
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Implemented	Implemented	Will be implemented in 2026	Will be implemented in 2026
Sindh	Implemented for ECE and Grades 1- 12 for Five Core Subjects			
Balochistan	Implemented	Will be implemented in 2026	Will be implemented in 2026	Will be implemented in 2027

## Exemptions from income tax for individuals

123. \*Syed Rafiullah:

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the details of exemptions from income tax for individuals, entities, or any other persons who fall under the definition of "a person" as per applicable laws, regardless of their post, department, or nature of the organization, who receive salaries, pensions, or any other emoluments from the Government and this should include the criteria, categories of eligible individuals and entities and the provisions of law that govern such exemptions?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):** Exemption provisions relating to individuals/entities/any other person who receive salary, pension and any other emoluments from the Government is attached as **Annex-I**. It is also stated that the majority of the exemption provisions relate to the benefit of the civil and military pensioners and their dependents, personnel's of the Armed Forces serving in hard area, Constitutional posts of the President of Pakistan, Judges of the Supreme Court and High Court and Chiefs of the Pakistan Armed Forces etc.

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

## Instructions issued for the students of pre-medical admission

124. \*Sahibzada Sibghatullah:

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:*

- (a) whether the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has approved the admission of pre-medical students into engineering disciplines ; if so, the details including the criteria thereof;*
- (b) what specific instructions or guidelines have been issued to universities by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) regarding the admission of pre-medical students into engineering programs; and*
- (c) what steps are being taken to ensure that the quality and standards of engineering education are maintained while admitting the students from non-engineering background?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** (a) The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), *vide* its notification dated 11-07-2024 (**Annex-I**) issued with the approval of its governing body in its 49th meeting held on 28th June 2024 has allowed the students having HSSC (Pre-Medical) qualifications for admission in all engineering programs.

(b) The above-referred notification by Pakistan Engineering Council is addressed to all Vice Chancellors/Rectors/Heads of HEIs of Pakistan with detailed admission process. These policy guidelines and SOPs are issued by PEC, not by the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

(c) Engineering education at the undergraduate level is regulated by PEC, which ensures the maintenance of national and international standards of professional competence and ethics for engineers. It also licenses engineers and engineering institutions to effectively promote and uphold these standards.

Clause-II of the aforementioned policy explicitly reflects the said procedure.

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

## **Government facing financial challenges**

126. **\*Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state that, how is the Government supporting universities and Higher Education Commission (HEC) facing financial challenges?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** The Federal Government, through the Higher Education Commission (HEC), established under Ordinance LIII of 2002, provides support to all universities (both Federal and Provincial chartered) in the following ways:

1. **Funding**

1. **Recurring Grant:**

- Based on consultative process amongst all stakeholders (the federal/provincial government, HEC and respective Universities), a consolidated budget/recurring grant is allocated by the Federal Government.
- The bulk grant received from the Federal Government is disbursed to the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in accordance with the approved funding policy.
- For FY 2024-25 an amount of Rs. 65.0 Billion is allocated as recurring grant for the public sector HEIs across the country.
- The efforts of HEC could bring tangible increase in provincial allocations to the extent of Government of Sindh and Balochistan only. The universities in the Punjab, and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa provinces are striving for receiving provincial funding.

#### 1. **Development Budget:**

- In addition to recurring grants, the Federal Government allocates a development budget through specific projects aimed at both hard and soft interventions in universities. These include infrastructure development such as new campuses, academic and administrative blocks, hostels, and laboratories; human resource development; establishment, enhancement, and upgrading of laboratories and equipment; faculty development; procurement of transport; improvement of ICT infrastructure; and support for extracurricular activities.
- The development portfolio of HEC for the FY 2024-25 is Rs. 61.115 Billion 159 projects.

#### 1. **Human Resource Development**

- The Federal Government through special schemes/projects offers merit & need-based, scholarships (indigenous & overseas) at undergraduate, postgraduate and post-doctoral level for students to promote higher education access.

- Faculty development programs aimed at enhancing the teaching, research, and professional skills of university faculty members to ensure high-quality education and academic excellence. These programs are either supported by the HEC, or individual institutions.

## 1. **Research and Innovation Support**

Higher Education Commission (HEC) supports research, innovation, commercialization and entrepreneurial eco system in the country to enable the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Pakistan to become hubs of economic growth and contribute to socio economic development of the country. The following are the key initiatives:

- National Research Program for Universities (NRPU)
- Technology Development Fund (TDF)
- Research & Innovation Grants under Higher Education, Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project
  1. Grand Challenge Fund (GCF)
  2. Local Challenge Fund (LCF)
  3. Technology Transfer Support Fund (TTSF)
  4. Rapid Research Grant (RRG)
  5. Center of Excellence Grant (COE)
- International Collaborative Research Grants focused on joint research collaborations of Pakistani Universities with international academic and sectoral partners:
  1. Innovative & Collaborative Research Grants (ICRG) under Pak UK Education Gateway Project
  2. PAK-FRANCE PERIDOT Researcher's Mobility Program

### 3. PAK-TURK Researchers' Mobility Program

- Establishment of Offices of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORICs)
- Establishment of Business Incubation Centers (BICs)
- Innovation Seed Fund (ISF) Under HEDP Project
- Establishment of Center of Excellence & national Centers in emerging fields
- Other Initiatives for Research Support
  1. Travel Grant Program for Pakistani Researchers
  2. Grant to Organize Seminar, Conference, Symposium or Workshops
  3. National Digital Library Program
  4. HEC Journal Recognition System (HJRS)

### 1. ICT Infrastructure and Promotion of Digital Education

To enhance digital literacy across the country the following programs/activities have been initiated by the Federal Government/HEC:

- Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme
- Smart Universities (Transformation through Smart Classrooms)
- PERN Connectivity in Universities/HEIs
- Digital Library
- Digital Learning and Skill Enrichment Initiative (DELSI)
- National Video Conferencing Network

- Education Transformation Agreement (ETA)
- Microsoft Certifications
- Huawei ICT Academy Program
- Higher Education TV channel

#### 1. **Accreditation and Quality Assurance**

Steps taken to ensure universities meet quality standards through accreditation and periodic assessments.

- Policy/guidelines for establishment of new HEIs
- Institutional Affiliation Policy
- Transnational Education (TNE) Policy
- Establishment of five Accreditation Councils
  - National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC)
  - National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC)
  - National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (NACTE)
  - National Technology Council (NTC)
  - National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC)
- Quality Assurance framework
  - Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE)
  - Postgraduate Program Review (PGPR)

- Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs) in HEIs
- Establishes policies and guidelines to improve teaching, curriculum.
  - Undergraduate Education Policy
  - Postgraduate Education Policy
  - Open and Distance Learning (ODL ) Policy
  - Faculty Appointment Criteria
  - Tenure Track Statutes (TTS) for appointment and promotion of TTS faculty
  - HEC Anti-Plagiarism Policy
  - Policy for Interim Placement of Fresh PhD (IPFP)

#### 1. **Capacity Building**

National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) is continuously developing capacity building programs for the faculty and administrative staff of higher education institutes (HEIs) in Pakistan.

#### 1. **Governance**

- Issuance of Guidelines/SOPs to the universities for:
  - Governance reforms, administration, and strategic planning.
  - Promoting transparency and efficiency in university management through institutional audits and evaluations.

#### 1. **Special Initiatives**

- Campus Security and Surveillance Policy
- Policy for Student with Disabilities



- Policy on Drug and Tobacco Abuse in Higher Education Institutions
- Policy on Protection Against Sexual Harassment in HEIs
- National Fee Refund Policy

#### 1. **Extracurricular Activities in HEIs**

Pakistan Universities Sports Board (PUSB) is affiliated with 25 National Sports Federations with full rights. Various Intervarsity Sports Championships are organized annually for men and women student players under PUSB. Every year 28 sports events for women and 35 sports for men are organized in the universities/Degree Awarding Institutes (DAIs) wherein, all student players of HEC recognized Universities are allowed to participate in the sports championships.

#### 1. **Empowering Connections Global Education Diplomacy**

HEC explore avenues and paving the way for collaborations among the academics of Pakistan and other countries through specialized programs.

#### **Financial Challenges being faced by the Higher Education Sector:**

The federal annual recurring allocations for universities in the past remained at rising trajectory, however these grants are stagnant since 2018-19. Hence, universities in FY 2024-25 are receiving federal grant at the level disbursed in FY 2018-19 regardless of the fact that there is many fold increase in their students' enrolment, faculty and staff. During CFY (2024-25), a rationalized demand at an outlay of Rs. 125.126 billion was submitted to the Finance Division, Govt. of Pakistan. However, the Finance Division initially communicated the IBC (Indicative Budgetary Ceiling) of Rs. 25.00 billion that showed Rs. 40 billion reduction and restricted disbursement to the federal universities/centers only. Subsequently, the allocation for 2024-25 was revised exactly at the level of previous FY 2023-24 (Rs. 65 billion). The gap in demand and allocation of recurring budget by the federal government for the higher education sector is 48%.

The stagnancy in federal allocation, unprecedented increase in salary and pension by the Governments (approximately by 160%) and inflationary impacts on non-salary expenditures during 2017-18 to 2024-25 have led many universities towards serious financial crisis. As a result, many universities in Pakistan are currently unable to pay full salaries and pension to their employees. With insufficient public funding, the universities are compelled to focus more on income generation than producing skilled and quality workforce.

The role of provinces in funding to their universities is uneven-annual allocations to universities by the Sindh and Balochistan Governments in CFY stand at Rs. 31.957 billion and Rs. 5.0 billion respectively whereas Punjab Government has allocated only Rs. 3.861 billion and KP Government has not earmarked any regular grant to its universities.

To protect the future of millions of HE students (who are already confronted with the challenge of low level of public finance and corresponding dwindling quality), it is high time that both federation or provincial Governments must resolve the provision of adequate public funding to all HEIs across the country.

## **Welfare Schemes for Inland Revenue employees**

127. **\*Mr. Jamshaid Ahmad:**

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.175 replied on 09-09-2024 and to state:*

- (a) the segregated details of welfare schemes for Inland Revenue (IR) employees, including a breakdown of welfare heads such as assistance to the families of Shuhada (martyrs), fuel allowances, educational scholarships for children of employees, house rent subsidies, etc, along-with names, designations, places of posting, specific subsidies extended to each beneficiary;*
- (b) details of those who will receive direct cash payments, either through electronic transfer to their accounts or in cash;*
- (c) whether it is a fact that the current spending of Pont of Safe (POS) fee collections exceeds its intended purpose, and recent*

*changes in operational procedures are deemed irrational; if so, the reasons thereof; and*

- (d) *what steps are being taken by the Government to ensure that POS fee collections are used for intended purposes including conducting an audit of such expenditure?*

Reply not Received.

## **Establish vocational training centers for women**

128. \*Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli:

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Government to establish and strengthen vocational training centers for women, including ensuring that technical institutions are equipped to provide women with the necessary skills and opportunities for economic empowerment and participation in the workforce?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), is making substantial efforts to enhance and expand vocational training opportunities for women.

Recognizing the pivotal role women play in national development, NAVTTTC has placed a strong emphasis on initiatives aimed at fostering economic empowerment and increasing women's participation in the workforce. As part of these efforts, NAVTTTC launched the "She Fixes" / "Theek Kar Dungi" initiative on International Women's Day, a women-only program designed to empower 650 women across Pakistan by providing specialized vocational training in fields such as Sports and Fitness Training, Plumbing, Solar Water Heater Technician, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (HVACR), General Electrician, UPS & Solar PV Technician, Home Appliance Repair Maintenance, and Mobile Phone Repairing. These three-month courses are being offered in cities including Lahore, Islamabad, Rahim Yar Khan, Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah, Quetta, Gilgit, Skardu, Bahawalpur, and Bahawalnagar. The program aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 8, and 10, which focus on gender equality, decent work, economic growth, and the reduction of inequalities.

Additionally, as outlined in the approved PC-I of the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program (2023-26), 40% of seats will be reserved for women to ensure their inclusion and promote gender equity, enabling them to achieve financial independence while working from home.

## Mangoes exported during last five years

129. \*Mr. Naveed Aamir:

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the country-wise, quantity and value-wise details of mangoes exported during the last five years?*

**Minister for Commerce (Jam Kamal Khan):** Mangoes, often referred to as the "King of Fruits, hold a significant place in Pakistan's agricultural exports. Over the past five years, the country has consistently exported mangoes to a variety of global markets, establishing itself as one of the leading exporters in the world. Year wise exports of mangoes (Qty & Value) is given below:

S. #	Country	YEAR WISE QTY (MT) & VALUE (US \$ M)											
		2019 - 2020		2020 - 21		2021 - 22		2022 -23		2023 - 24		2024 - 25	
		Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1.	UAE	47,659	28.31	45,620	28.94	50,359	34.15	41,119	26.86	50,185	30.63	17031	10.85
2.	UK	7,733	15.77	6,630	25.62	7,159	27.84	6,024	20.34	7,776	24.42	4783	17.97
3.	Afghanistan	26,770	10.96	23,473	8.27	17,021	4.74	17,782	2.83	35,423	5.97	14942	3.21
4.	Oman	16,253	9.75	12,996	8.31	12,930	8.81	8,141	5.30	9,594	5.67	3349	2.04
5.	Saudi Arabia	7,362	8.53	4,694	6.06	3,015	4.68	2,963	3.80	3,382	4.43	1445	2.11
6.	Kazakhstan	8,512	5.02	15,001	12.41	25,671	22.27	26,297	18.54	35,245	21.11	24028	14.49
7.	Uzbekistan	5,573	4.46	8,606	5.30	6,013	5.39	1,234	1.97	2,038	1.22	499	0.31
8.	Qatar	3,947	3.50	5,165	5.34	5,141	5.38	3,533	3.41	2,858	2.60	1234	1.53
9.	Germany	1,060	2.03	845	3.15	959	3.31	1,072	3.26	1,493	4.52	831	2.58
10.	Canada	588	1.76	406	2.16	303	1.82	272	1.56	397	2.28	279	1.39
11.	Bahrain	1,599	1.73	1,797	1.89	1,491	1.89	1,305	1.37	1,436	1.60	535	0.79
12.	Norway	729	1.49	741	2.59	703	2.68	725	2.44	749	2.25	242	0.81
13.	Kuwait	896	0.90	677	0.74	458	0.73	235	0.32	356	0.47	179	0.23
14.	Italy	434	0.88	279	1.05	373	1.40	245	0.79	386	1.19	213	0.75
15.	Sweden	382	0.73	246	0.91	284	1.14	239	0.84	368	1.16	204	0.77
16.	Azerbaijan	3,629	2.86	—	—	868	0.62	5,130	3.54	42	0.03	0	0.00
17.	Japan	114	0.39	242	0.99	289	1.27	149	0.76	199	0.86	162	0.61
18.	Switzerland	151	0.30	137	0.49	130	0.49	80	0.31	118	0.33	75	0.17
19.	U.S.A.	89	0.24	183	0.55	299	1.50	257	0.89	345	1.16	160	0.57
20.	France	64	0.12	214	0.76	160	0.58	159	0.53	367	1.09	146	0.54
21.	Belgium	274	0.50	46	0.13	9	0.02	4	0.01	11	0.04	2	0.01
22.	Hong Kong	464	0.63	85	0.19	91	0.21	72	0.14	75	0.14	4	0.01
23.	Singapore	330	0.61	238	0.63	196	0.59	91	0.24	133	0.30	115	0.28
24.	Malaysia	373	0.60	301	0.62	264	0.56	193	0.38	154	0.32	78	0.20
25.	Others	113	0.21	125	0.12	87	0.12	777	1.35	886	0.66	558.23	1.89

Source: PRAL, MT = Metric Ton, \$ = US Dollar & M = Million

Pakistan's mango exports over the past five years tell a story of resilience, adaptation, and strategic market expansion. While traditional markets like the UAE remain vital, the emergence of Central Asian and European destinations reflects the growing global recognition of Pakistani mangoes. By leveraging its reputation for high-quality mangoes and expanding into premium markets, Pakistan can further enhance its position as a global leader in mango exports.

Answer by:

**Jam Kamal Khan**

**Federal Minister for Commerce**

Pakistan is renowned for its high-quality citrus fruits, particularly kinnow, which is among the country's top agricultural exports. Citrus fruit exports have played a crucial role in boosting Pakistan's agricultural trade and strengthening its position in international markets. The detail of citrus exported to different / countries in FY-2024-25 (July to December) is given below:

**Country wise Export of Citrus Fruit**

S. #	Country	2024-25	
		(July - December)	
		Qty (MT)	Value (\$ - M)
1.	Afghanistan	77,547.44	16.72
2.	Bahrain	372.55	0.16
3.	Belgium	36.40	0.17
4.	Cambodia	24.80	0.01
5.	Canada	162.04	0.11
6.	Hong Kong	47.80	0.02

7.	Indonesia	6,384.01	3.30
8.	Iraq	76.21	0.03
9.	Italy	81.38	0.28
10.	Kazakhstan	1,514.15	0.64
11.	Kuwait	555.88	0.73
12.	Maldives	12.00	0.01
13.	Mauritius	310.53	0.16
14.	Netherlands	102.84	0.13
15.	Oman	2,845.39	1.25
16.	Philippines	1,674.43	0.81
18.	Portugal	23.92	0.01
19.	Qatar	820.36	0.35
20.	Reunion	185.50	0.16
22.	Russia	343.64	0.21
23.	Saudi Arabia	527.99	0.26
24.	Singapore	290.52	0.13
25.	Sri Lanka	2,445.96	1.14
26.	UAE	9,173.09	3.99
27.	United Kingdom	131.46	0.08
<b>Total</b>		<b>105,690.3 MT</b>	<b>\$ 30.9 M</b>

*Source: PRAL, MT = Metric Ton, \$ = US Dollar & M = Million*

### Details of Revenue generated

During the period of July to December 2024-25, Pakistan exported a total of **105,690.3 metric tons (MT)** of citrus fruits, generating a revenue of **\$30.9 million**. The largest export destination was **Afghanistan**, which imported **77,547.44 MT**, contributing **\$16.72 million**, or over **54% of total revenue**. This highlights Afghanistan's dominance as the primary market for Pakistani citrus fruits. Other significant contributors included the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, with **9,173.09 MT** exported, generating **\$3.99 million**, and **Indonesia**, which imported **6,384.01 MT** and contributed **\$3.30 million**. These three markets collectively accounted for the majority of both volume and revenue.

Markets like **Oman (2,845.39 MT, \$1.25 million)** and **Sri Lanka (2,445.96 MT, \$1.14 million)** also played an essential role in sustaining citrus exports. European destinations such as **Italy (81.38 MT, \$0.28**

million) and Belgium (36.40 MT, \$0.17 million) demonstrated moderate demand, while markets in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines (1,674.43 MT., \$0.81 million) and Singapore (290.52 MT, \$0.13 million), offered additional diversification opportunities. Despite smaller volumes, countries such as Kazakhstan, Kuwait, and Canada contributed significantly to the overall revenue. For instance, Kazakhstan imported 1,514.15 MT, generating \$0.64 million, while Kuwait imported 555.88 MT and contributed \$0.73 million.

This performance underscores the strategic importance of regional markets like Afghanistan and the UAE for volume-driven growth, while premium markets such as Italy and Kazakhstan offer opportunities for higher revenue per metric ton. With diversified market penetration across Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, Pakistan's citrus export sector demonstrates resilience and potential for growth in both traditional and emerging markets.

## **Project can not accommodated in the current financial year**

130. \*Syed Rafiullah:

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.111 replied on 23-10-2024 and to state:*

- (a) the detail of each forum, which is required to approve a project for its inclusion in the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP);*
- (b) the name of forum, where asked/this question is currently being dealt;*
- (c) whether the Central Development Working Party cleared the project; if so, details thereof;*
- (d) if not, the reasons for the delay or as to whether it is delayed due to lack of approval; and*
- (e) whether the Government will ensure its inclusion in the next PSDP by actively involving the sponsoring agency, in case the said project can not be accommodated in the current financial year?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudry):** (a) & (b) The development projects are placed for consideration/ approval of DDWP/ CDWP/ ECNEC as per the financial limit/ ceiling of that particular forum. The financial limit/ ceiling of DDWP is 1.0 Billion, CDWP is upto 7.5 Billion while every project costing more than 7.5 Billion requires approval of the ECNEC. Provincial projects costing more than Rs. 10.0 Billion are considered and recommended by the CDWP for approval of the ECNEC. Furthermore, every project regardless of cost having foreign aid or foreign exchange component more than 25% of the total cost is also considered by the CDWP. The estimated total cost of the instant project is Rs.2,876.81 million, therefore, it would be considered by the CDWP.

(c) & (d) The project was discussed in the Pre-CDWP meeting held on 18-10-2024 and the response of the Sponsoring Agency (M/o NHSRC) to the observations of the Pre-CDWP meeting is "awaited for further processing/ placement before the CDWP.

(e) As per PMF Act, 2019, projects technically approved by the relevant competent forum are included/ accommodated for funding in the PSDP. The project under consideration being unapproved will be considered for funding in FY 2025-26 if approved by the CDWP.

The project scope involves purchase of cancer medicines only (as part of Govt. share of Rs. 789.35 million-23%). This is not a development activity, funding from recurrent side may also be explored by the sponsors.

## **Devaluation of Pak Rupee compared to dollar**

131. **\*Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan:**

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the year-wise devaluation of the Pak Rupee compared to the dollar during the last two years along-with the reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):** SBP response:

- Following table summarizes the movement of exchange rate during recent years.



**USD - PKR Exchange Rate**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Closing USD/PKR Exchange Rate</b>	<b>PKR App.(+) / Dep.(-)</b>
FY22	204.85	-23.1%
FY23	285.99	-28.4%
FY24	278.34	2.7%
FY25*	278.64	-0.1%

\*up to 02 Jan 2025

- During FY22 & FY23, PKR remained under pressure and witnessed depreciating trend. The depreciation of PKR was due to weak external account position. Current account balance recorded a deficit of \$17.5billion in FY22, primarily on account of surge in imports. Elevated international commodity (including oil) prices, supply disruptions and imports to support economic activity have been the major contributors to current account deficit. Although current account deficit declined in FY23 to US\$3.3 billion, US monetary tightening (increase in Federal Fund rates from 0.5 percent in March 2022 to 5.25 percent by June 2023), consequent US Dollar's broad-based strengthening against other currencies, had added to external sector challenges.
- However, during FY24, PKR has appreciated by 2.7% against US Dollar and closed at PKR 278.34 per USD. The appreciation is a result of improved balance of payment position as the current account deficit narrowed to US\$1.7 billion. In addition, IMF program and prudent monetary and fiscal policies resulted in a wave of positive sentiments allowing the PKR to appreciate against USD.

## Settlement Policies of Government and Private Institutions

132. \*Ms. Sofia Saeed Shah:

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state why the settlement policies of Government financial institutions and private financial institutions, both regulated by the State Bank of Pakistan, differ from each other?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):** The regulations /instructions guidelines issued by the State Bank of Pakistan are required to be meticulously followed by the both public and private sector banks line with applicable laws, rules and regulations, etc. The SBP Act 1956 and BCO 1962 etc. empowers SBP to perform aforesaid functions. Further, keeping in view the business considerations each bank is bound to formulate various internal policies to deal with operational matters including loan settlement policy, duly approved by their respective Board of Directors.

## Cases of tax fraud in Pakistan

133. \*Ms. Samina Khalid Ghurki:

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

- (a) how many cases of custom/tax fraud of various kinds have been deducted in Pakistan during the last four years;*
- (b) what is the volume of these frauds (in Pak Rupee);*
- (c) names of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) officers/officials held responsible for these frauds; and*
- (d) what action has been taken by the Government against involved officers/officials, as well as the detail of action taken against main culprits?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):** (a) Customs

During the last four (04) years Pakistan Customs registered 299 cases of fiscal frauds.

**INLAND REVENUE**

During the last four years the regional Directorates of I&I-IR have registered 77 FIRs in Sales Tax Fraud cases.

**(b) Customs**

The total amount involved in these 299 cases is Rs 30,082.62 million

**INLAND REVENUE**

Total amount of sales tax involved in 77 FIRs was Rs. 411,773 million.

**(c) CUSTOMS**

The following employees have been found involved for the frauds:

- i. Mr. Dashti Khan, Inspector (OPS); his role is limited to one case (FIR No. 6/2024 dated 30-08-2024) only in which amount of Rs.25 million is involved.
- ii. Rana Nisar Ahmed (Examination Officer); his role is limited to one case (FIR No. 1/2025 dated 7-01-2025) only in which amount of Rs.4.70 million is involved.

**INLAND REVENUE**

The following employees are accused as abettors/facilitators;

- i. Yasir Latif, Facilitation Officer (Employee of PRAL).
- ii. Rizwan Taj, Facilitation Officer (Employee of PRAL).
- iii. Hassan Khalil (Ex-Employee of PRAL).
- iv. Malik Faisal Sajjad UDC-Customs.

(d) **CUSTOMS****Action taken against Officers/ Officials**

- i. Mr. Dashti Khan, Inspector (OPS) has been suspended and Charge Sheet has been issued. Disciplinary proceedings are underway.
- ii. Rana Nisar Ahmed (Examination Officer) has been placed off duty and suspension is under process.

**Action taken against main culprits**

299 cases have been registered and criminal/civil proceedings are underway before relevant legal fora.

**INLAND REVENUE**

- i. Yasir Latif, Facilitation Officer(PRAL) is on bail, challan submitted before Special Court, Karachi & Rawalpindi and trial is pending.
- ii. Rizwan Taj, Facilitation Officer(PRAL) is on bail, challan submitted before Special Court, Rawalpindi and trial is pending.
- iii. Hassan Khalil (Ex-Employee of PRAL) under arrest by the Directorate of I&I-IR, Karachi.
- iv. Malik Faisal Sajjad UDC-Customs is on Judicial Remand and trial under process by Special Court, Lahore.

**Action taken against main culprits.**

77 FIRs were lodged against 547 accused persons, 105 accused were arrested, sales tax amounting to Rs. 4,324 million have been recovered and 44 Challan were filed before Special Courts where trials are under process.

## Devising of new formula for pension of Government employees

134. **\*Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro:**

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government is considering devising of a new formula for calculation of pension of Government employees, which will reduce the amount of pension for future retiring employees pension receivers?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):** No. Presently, no proposal to amend the Article 474-B Civil Servant Regulations (CSR), which provides the formula for calculation of pension, is not consideration.

## Deduction of General Sales Tax

135. **\*Mr. Jamshaid Ahmad:**

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

- (a) the current modus operand for reconciling the 15% GST deduction from consumers on their cash payments by eateries in real-time to determine if such deductions are accurately recorded in the national exchequer's accounts;*
- (b) whether it is a fact that under-invoicing of such GST deductions have occurs; if so, what measures are being taken by the Government to identify and address such grey areas; and*
- (c) what steps are being taken by the Government to strengthen the current modus operandi to ensure that every penny deducted from consumers is properly accounted for in the government's accounts, and that no revenue is lost due to discrepancies in the maintaining of recording process?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):** (a) The services of supply of food is liable to be charged sales tax @15% (in case of payment in cash) or 5% (in case of payment through debit/credit card) in terms of S.No.1 of Table-1 of the Islamabad Capital Territory (Tax on Services) Ordinance, 2001.

To ensure that 15% GST deduction from consumers are accurately recorded in the national exchequer's accounts, FBR has introduced a full

fledge comprehensive mechanism of issuance of QR code printed invoices. These invoices can be verified by the end-consumers through Tax Asaan Application. In case the same is not verified, the consumers may report such invoices on the said application for necessary enforcement action as per law which includes imposition of penalties and sealing of premises by the concerned field formations of FBR. At RTO Islamabad's level, strict monitoring exercise is being conducted which includes mystery shopping, regular field visits by the concerned officers/officials and media awareness campaigns on a regular basis.

Recently, RTO Islamabad has introduced a WhatsApp number to report un-verified invoices, once such report is received, the process of sealing and imposition of penalty is initiated without delay.

(b) Sales Tax Act and Rules thereof obligates any taxpayer of providing services of food etc to pay due sales tax operating with integrated system of FBR. In case of any lapse observed by the field formation (RTO, Islamabad), statutory action as provided under Chapter XIV-AD of the Sales Tax Rules, 2006 are being initiated in such cases. The said rules provide that:

- (i) If three un-verified invoices are found in the same day and five in a week then business premises shall be sealed and charge of penalty of Rs. 500,000/- upto Rs.2,000,000/- along-with forensic audit of system.
- (ii) If one un-verified invoice is reported notice u/s 33(24) of the Sales Tax Act 1990 is issued and penalty of Rs.500,000 is imposed or 200% of amount of tax involved whichever is higher.

The above Rules are being implemented in letter and spirit without fail in case of defiance by the restaurants/eateries operating in the ICT.

(c) In order to ensure that tax deducted from consumers is duly deposited with Governments accounts, strict enforcement measures are being taken which include regular monitoring, sealing of non-compliant Restaurants/ eateries and imposition of penalties. Side by side, RTO Islamabad is making full use of media campaigns to sensitize the consumers to ensure that the taxes paid by them reach the national exchequer. Pamphlets and posters are pasted in targeted areas to spread

awareness amongst consumers. All out efforts including field visits are conducted by the relevant officers /staff to restaurants/eateries in order to ensure that invoices having QR codes are issued which are verifiable through the system.

## Projects completed in current financial year

136. \*Ms. Aliya Kamran:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has proposed withholding funding for slow-moving or incomplete projects to prioritize those expected to be completed within the current financial year and the rationale behind this policy;*
- (b) was a cost-benefit analysis conducted before introducing this policy; if so, what were the findings regarding its long-term effectiveness and potential trade-offs;*
- (c) the potential impact of this policy on projects costs, timely public service delivery, and the public, particularly those reliant on projects where funds have been withheld;*
- (d) how will the Planning Commission ensure that this policy does not lead to unintended consequences, such as project abandonment or increased burdens on affected communities; and*
- (e) what measures are being taken by the Government to balance efficient resource allocation with the realities of unforeseen delays or challenges faced in project time line?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudry):** (a) Planning Commission has not proposed any policy for withholding funding for slow-moving or, incomplete projects so far. However, as a matter of development strategy and as per approval granted by the National Economic Council (NEC), the priority is being assigned to fast moving ongoing mega/core projects for provision of adequate financing under the federal PSDP. The savings of funds if so identified during currency of the fiscal year by the sponsoring ministries /

divisions against the budgeted slow moving/problematic projects, the same are diverted to fast-moving projects through re-appropriations by PAOs as per delegated powers under Public Finance Management and PAOs Powers Regulations 2021. The M/o PD&SI during quarterly reviews of PSDP 2024-25 with PAOs also recommend necessary adjustment / re-appropriation of funds, within the approved size of PSDP as per authorization granted by the NEC, through intra/inter sectoral adjustment of allocations so as to ensure optimum utilization of PSDP by focusing on fast-moving and national importance projects for timely completion during CFY.

(b) As stated above. Allocation efficiency of PSDP funds is being focused within limited fiscal space by adhering the guidelines and priorities approved by the National Economic Council in its meeting held on 29th January, 2024 (Annex-I).

(c) The sponsoring agencies are making efforts to complete maximum number of budgeted projects as per approved PC-Is as per financial phasing to avoid cost/time over run and frequent revisions of projects so that fiscal space may be created for new high impact initiatives for improved public infrastructure and services.

(d) Planning Commission has regular mandate of quarterly review with all the sponsoring Ministries / Divisions/ Provinces and Executing Agencies to discuss/ resolve the impeding bottlenecks being faced by the project authorities in smooth execution of budgeted projects. A few major issues identified during the periodic reviews and monitoring are listed as under:

1. Delay in land acquisition/ right of way
2. Adverse security, law & order situation
3. Litigation / Court cases
4. Delay in foreign loan arrangement/ agreements.
5. Natural calamities and climatic disasters
6. Change in scope and designs due to poor feasibility studies of projects



7. Cost escalation due to inflationary and exchange rate fluctuations
8. Recruitment/ hiring & procurement issues etc.

(e) Several measures are being taken to balance efficient resource allocation and improve the implementation of PSDP projects to deal with the delays and confronting challenges. Few measures being taken by the Planning Commission are attached as **Annex-II**.

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

## **Dependence on external and internal debts**

137. \*Malik Muhammad Aamir Dogar:

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state what specific steps are being taken by the Government to reduce its dependence on external and internal debts, including effectively lowering the percentage of national debt in the upcoming financial year?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Auragzeb):** Public debt is mainly obtained for financing of the fiscal deficit. Therefore, the government aims to reduce fiscal deficits by taking measures for fiscal consolidation, revenue mobilization and expenditure rationalization. This will help in generating primary surpluses, which is expected to reduce the need for more borrowing.

Government has introduced various structural reforms and fiscal stabilization measures such as broadening the tax base, reforming the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), while ensuring that social safety net and development spending are not impacted. All these measures are expected to bring stability leading to gradual reduction in the fiscal deficit over next few years and subsequently would reduce the country's reliance on additional debt. With narrower fiscal deficit, public debts is projected to enter a downward path.

Reducing reliance on external debt depends on strengthening foreign exchange earnings (FEE) and achieving a current account surplus. Maintaining a zero current account deficit or positive account before interest payments, along with achieving higher growth in FEE compared to the interest rate on external public debt, will gradually reduce the

external public debt. Pakistan's current account posted a surplus of \$944 million in the first five months of the current fiscal year (5MFY25), in contrast to a massive deficit of \$1.676 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

(PKR Trillion)	Jun-21	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24
Domestic Debt	26.3	31.1	38.8	47.2
External Debt	13.6	18.2	24.1	24.1
<b>Total Public Debt</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>71.3</b>
<b>Debt to GDP ratio</b>	<b>71.4%</b>	<b>73.9%</b>	<b>74.9%</b>	<b>67.4%</b>

## Region wise tax collection by FBR

138. **\*Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**

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

- (a) *what are the tax collection targets and the tax collection details provided to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) during the last five years; and*
- (b) *what are the details of region wise tax collections by the FBR during the said period?*

Reply not Received.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Amount Allocation for 2022 Flood Victims of DI Khan by PM

21. **Mr. Fateh Ullah Khan:**

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

- (a) *how much the amount has been allocated for the flood 2022 victims of Dera Ismail Khan by the Prime Minister of Pakistan;*
- (b) *the number of affected persons/victims to whom said amount have been paid and the number of remaining unpaid victims; and*
- (c) *the time by which said amount will be given to remaining flood victims?*

Reply not Received.

## Lengthy and Difficult Process of Reclaiming Money from National Savings

22. **Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that those who maintains their saving accounts with Pakistan Post, are suffering badly to receive back their money from National Savings due to lengthy and difficult process of National Savings;*
- (b) *if the answer to part (a) above is affirmative, the reasons for delay and the time frame has been fixed by authorities for this process?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):**

(a) It is clarified that individuals maintaining their savings accounts with Pakistan Post are receiving their money from National Savings in a timely manner.

(b) In 2021 in compliance of FATF, Pakistan Post was barred from executing the agency function of national savings schemes and the entire portfolio maintained by Pakistan Post was transferred to the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS). Under laid down prescribed procedure, account holders of savings schemes at Pakistan Post are now required to present their investment documents at the concerned post office which then verifies and forwards these cases to the regional centres of CDNS. There are designated sections at each regional center to ensure timely transfer of verified record to the CDNS's core business application thereby completing the transfer of investments to CDNS for onward handling of investors in an efficient and timely manner.

## Reasons for Delays in Trainees' Monthly Stipend under NAVTTC

23. **Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli:**

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state that;*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that many students/girls who have completed their different training courses from National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), H-9, Islamabad, with the collaboration of UNHCR have not so far been paid stipend amount of Rs. 18000/- for the last one year;*
- (b) *if the answer to part (a) above is in affirmative, the reason for this delay and the time by which they will be paid their remaining stipend amount?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** (a) Yes, it is fact that many trainees have not received their monthly stipends under NAVTTC-UNHCR Skill Development Program(Cohort-F).

(b) It is apprised that as per the signed Partnership Framework Agreement (PFA) between NAVTTC and UNHCR, the stipend amount (@PKR. 6000/- per month per trainee) for trainees enrolled under the

NAVTTC-UNHCR Skill Development Program (Cohort-F) is paid directly by UNHCR itself. These payments are processed through the Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) mechanism, utilizing the services of a Financial Service Provider (FSP).

According to UNHCR, stipends have been successfully disbursed to 85% of the trainees. However, 15% of trainees have not received their stipends due to the following reasons:

- **Citizen Number Verification Issues:** Some trainees' citizen numbers could not be verified by NADRA due to technical issues. As a result, HBL (the FSP) is unable to proceed with the disbursement of payments.
- **Collection Time-Frame Expiry:** UNHCR requires trainees to collect their stipend from designated HBL outlets within a specified one-month time frame. If the trainees fail to do so, the uncollected cash is returned to UNHCR in accordance with their policy.

## Funds Generation from the Export of Citrus Fruit

24. **Ms. Samina Khalid Ghurki:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the names of the countries to which Citrus Fruit have been exported and the funds generated from this export?*

Reply not Received.

## PIA Deficit and Privatization Plans

25. **Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

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

(a) *whether it is a fact that the deficit of Pakistan International Airline (PIA) has reached 860 billion up to 4th November, 2024;*

(b) *whether Government has approved 60% share to be sold out for 85 billion and in response one party offer as maximum 10 billion is made; and*

(c) *where is other four representative party who applied documents for PIA offer?*

**Minister for Privatization (Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan):** (a) Aviation Division is the concerned ministry to comment on the latest deficit of PIACL.

(b) The Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) in its meeting held on 14th November, 2024 **rejected the bidding results for Divestment of PIACL (60% of equity stake)** of the highest bid of PKR 10.0 Billion submitted by a single bidder, against Reference Price amounting to PKR ~ 85.03 Billion. The CCoP decision has been ratified by the Federal Cabinet *vide* Case. No.631/Rule-19/2024/1066 dated 02-12-2024.

(c) The other Pre-Qualified Bidders after conducting Buy-side Due Diligence, did not participate in the PIACL Bidding process.

## **Promotion Policy of the Employees of National Bank of Pakistan**

26. **Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

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

- (a) what is the policy for the promotion of the employees in next grade;*
- (b) if those employees who have completed their five years service in same grade; and*
- (c) then should they be promoted to next higher grade according to seniority list of employees in the National Bank of Pakistan?*

**Minister for Finance and Revenue (Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb):**

(a) National Bank of Pakistan has informed that following is the minimum eligibility criteria stipulated in BoD approved Promotion Policy dated 27-11-2023:

**Promotion from Non- Clerical to Clerical Cadre:**

- Minimum service in the current grade: 3 years
- Minimum Qualification - Intermediate
- Last year's Annual Confidential Report should be 'Good' and above

- No listed punishment awarded in the last 5 Years (including current year)

**Promotion from Clerical to Officer Grade-III:**

- Minimum service in the current grade: 3 Years
- Minimum Qualification - Graduation
- Last year's ACR should be 'Good' and above
- No listed punishment awarded in the last 5 Years (including current year)

**Promotion from OG-III and above:**

- Minimum service in the current grade: 3 years
- Minimum Qualification / Graduation
- Last 3 years Annual Performance Appraisal should be 'Good' and above
- No listed punishment awarded in the last 5 Years (including current year)

(b) Rule 22 of NBP Staff Service Rule 2021 (Approved by Board of Directors under Bye-laws 51 of the National Bank of Pakistan Bye-Laws, 2015 read with Section 11 of Banks (Nationalization) Act, 1974) states:

“All promotions shall be made based on performance and on the merits of each case and no employee shall have a right or claim to be promoted to any particular post or grade by virtue of seniority alone”

Accordingly, completion of five years' service or more in same grade is considered and allowed with additional marks of seniority for each year of service over 03 years in the same grade.

(c) However, in addition to seniority for promotion of staff, other parameters are also considered i.e. Past performance and test/ interviews etc.

## **Proposal to Construct the Building of School/College in Sector I-16, Islamabad**

### **27. Mr. Ramesh Lal:**

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that land has been allocated for School and College for the residents of Sector I-16, Islamabad;*
- (b) *if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration by the Government to construct the building of School/College thereon?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** (a) As per master plan of Islamabad Capital Territory, CDA reserves plots for public sector institutions for Primary, Secondary and Colleges in each developed sector.

FDE has approached CDA *vide* letter No. 4-349/2021(Dev)FDE dated 12-06-2024 for allocation/allotment/possession of plots reserved for public sector institutions but no reply has been made so far. However, after allotment of reserved plots from CDA FDE will initiate proposal/PC-I for establishment of public sector institution accordingly.

(b) At present there is no such proposal under consideration for sector I-16. However, after allotment of reserved plots from FDE will initiate proposal/PC-I for establishment of public sector institution accordingly.

## **Reasons for Delay in ProMotion of Employees of BPS–16 of International Islamic University, Islamabad**

28. **Syed Rafiullah:**

*Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the details of employees at the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) who have been serving in BPS-16 for the last decade or so and are eligible for promotion to the next scale (i.e BPS-17), but have not been promoted due to various pretexts, including the reasons for not granting these promotions;*
- (b) *whether any deficiencies, such as lack of training, which are primarily attributed to the employees, are not tantamount to the failure of the University administration as it was duty of the University administration to address these deficiencies in a timely manner, rather than depriving the aforementioned employees of their rightful promotion;*



- (c) *what remedial measures are being taken to finalize these promotions as soon as possible; and*
- (d) *what actions are being taken by the Government to hold the IIUI administration accountable for its failure to promote the employees to the next higher scale?*

**Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui):** (a) At present, there are **eighteen (18)** employees serving in BPS-16 at the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) for the last decade and eligible for promotion to the next scale (*i.e.* BPS-17). Complete detail of such employees is at **Annex-A** and these hardship cases can be categorized as under:-

S. #	No. of hardship cases	Reason of not considered for promotion
1.	07	Due to non-availability of post in BPS-17
2.	11	Due to non-convening of DPC

Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC), to consider the promotion cases of employees to next scale was lastly convened on 06-11-2020, chaired by the President (IIUI). The DPC deliberated such hardship cases at length and recommended to identify the posts, which can be utilized for promotion of eligible incumbents to next scale and bring the proposal to next meeting of DPC for consideration and recommendations to the BoG.

(b) It is apprised that services statutes of IIUI were initially approved by the University's Board of Trustees in 1987 and amended from time to time with the approval of its BoG. The training is not the mandatory part of the promotion policy. The criteria for promotion of employees has been prescribed by the Board of Governors, IIUI embedded in the service statutes; according to which incumbents to be considered for promotion should meet requirement of ACRs and prescribed qualifications of BPS-17 *i.e.* Master's degree (B-grade in semester system/1st division in annual examination system) or equivalent from HEC recognized university. The university has a dedicated department for professional training of employees which has been established under Directorate of Human Resource in the university organogram.

(c) In wake of Supreme Court of Pakistan Judgement dated 24-10-2024 in Constitution Petition No. 07 of 2024; the current management of the university has taken serious view of delay in promotion of employees and agenda is being prepared to hold the meeting of DPC as soon as possible.

(d) HEC, as regulator, issues policy guidelines in various academic matters from time to time to all HEIs. However, the Universities/HEIs, being autonomous by virtue of their Acts/Charters, can frame their Service/Recruitment Rules for appointment & promotion of their staff as well as faculty members with the approval of their governing body *i.e.* BoG/Syndicate/Academic Council.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

**Mr. Speaker:** The House is adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

*(The House was adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.)*