بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

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Monday, the 24th August, 2026

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN
ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Monday, the 24th August, 2026

The National Assembly of Pakistan met in the National Assembly Hall (Parliament House) Islamabad, at 05:07 p.m. with the honourable Speaker (Sardar Ayaz Sadiq) in the Chair.

RECITATION FROM THE HOLY QUR`AN

اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطٰنِ الرَّجِيْم۔ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْم۔

يَوْمَ نَطْوِي السَّمَآءَ كَطَيِّ السِّجِلِّ لِلْكُتُبِ ۚ كَمَا بَدَاْنَاۤ اَوَّلَ خَلْقٍ نُّعِيْدُهٗ ۚ وَعْدًا عَلَيْنَا ۚ اِنَّا كُنَّا فٰعِلِيْنَ ﴿١٠٤﴾ وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي
الزَّبُوْرِ مِنْۢ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ اَنَّ الْاَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصّٰلِحُوْنَ ﴿١٠٥﴾ اِنَّ فِيْ هٰذَا لَبَلٰغًا لِّقَوْمٍ عٰبِدِيْنَ ﴿١٠٦﴾ وَمَاۤ اَرْسَلْنٰكَ اِلَّا
رَحْمَةً لِّلْعٰلَمِيْنَ ﴿١٠٧﴾

(سورۃ الانبیاء، آیات: 104تا107)

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

جس دن ہم آسمان کو لپیٹ لیں گے جیسے سجل فرشتہ نامہ اعمال کو لپیٹتا ہے اور جیسے ہم نے اس جہان کو بنایا تھا ویسے ہی پھر بنادیں گے یہ وعدہ ہے جس کا پورا ہونا لازم ہے۔ ہم نے زبور میں ذکر کے بعد لکھ دیا ہے کہ زمین کے وارث میرے نیک بندے ہی ہوں گے، یقیناً عبادت گار لوگوں کے لیے اس میں پیغام ہے اور ہم نے آپ کو تمام جہانوں کے لیے سراپہ رحمت بنا کے بھیجا ہے۔]

RECITATION OF HADITH

عَنْ أَبِيْ أُمَامَةَ رَضِيَ اللّٰهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِه وَسَلَّمَ: إِنَّ اللّٰهَ بَعَثَنِيْ رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِيْنَ وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِيْنَ

[ترجمہ: حضرت ابو امامہ رضی اللہ تعالیٰ عنہ سے روایت ہے کہ رسول اللہ ﷺ نے ارشاد فرمایا بے شک اللہ تعالیٰ نے مجھے تمام جہانوں کے لیے رحمت اور تمام جہانوں کے لیے ہدایت بنا کے مبعوث فرمایا۔]

RECITATION OF NAAT

یوں ذہن میں جمالِ رسالت سما گیا

میرا جہانِ فکر و نظر جگمگا گیا

خلقِ عظیم و اسوۂ کامل حضور ﷺ کا

آدابِ زیست سارے جہاں کو سکھا گیا

NATIONAL ANTHEM

FATEHA PRAYER

جناب سپیکر: اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰہِ مِنَ الشَّیْطٰنِ الرَّجِیْم۔ بِسْمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ۔ میں honourable ممبران کے notice میں ایک چیز لاناچاہ رہاہوں۔ یہ جو ایک وحشیانہ قتل ہوا ہے حناء جاوید نامی خاتون کا۔

میں اس لیے یہ بات کرناچاہ رہاہوں چونکہ زیادہ تر provincial subjects ہوتے ہیں تو ہم provinces کو ہی refer کرتے ہیں کہ وہ یہ چیزیں دیکھیں۔ مگر اس کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ حناء جاوید کو NITB نے National Assembly میں attachment کے اوپر December 2019 سے لے کے June 2026 تک یہاں پہ post کیا ہوا تھا۔ اور پھر جب NITB کا یہ programme ختم ہوا تو وہ یہاں سے واپس چلی گئیں۔ اور جس انداز سے یہ قتل ہوا ہے اور خواتین کے اوپر جو تشدد ہو رہا ہے اس پر ہم سب کو تشویش ہے اور ہم سب پریشان ہیں۔

تو میں شکر گزار ہوں Women Parliamentary Caucus کا جنہوں نے اس کو take up کیا اور میں اس پر request کروں گا کہ ہم آپ کو refer کرتے ہیں کہ جہاں جس طرح کی بھی آپ کو مدد چاہیئے، اس case کو monitor کرنے کے لیے National Assembly of Pakistan اس پہ آپ کو پوراپورا support کرے گی۔ اور میں یہ بھی چاہ رہاہوں کہ یہ Standing Committee on Interior کو بھی refer کر دیا جائے اور وہاں Women Caucus بھی اس کے اوپر ذرا سا coordination بہتر کر لیں۔ تو زیادہ اچھا ہے۔

تو میں Minister for Law & Human Rights اعظم تارڑ صاحب کو request کروں گا کہ وہ بات کریں۔ مگر اس سے پہلے دُعا کے لیے میں request کرناچاہوں گا سائرہ افضل تارڑ صاحبہ، آپ دعا کرا دیجئے حناء جاوید صاحبہ کے لئے جن کو بے دردی سے قتل کیا گیا۔ جی سائرہ افضل تارڑ صاحبہ۔

(دعائے مغفرت کی گئی)

POINT OF ORDER

جناب سپیکر: جی لاء منسٹر صاحب۔

وزیر برائے قانون وانصاف وانسانی حقوق (سینیٹر اعظم نذیر تارڑ): جناب سپیکر! اس حوالے سے اس House کا بھی concern ہے and she has been serving here یہ جیسے ہی خبر گئی تو اس پہ میں نے بطور Minister for Human Rights فوری

طور پہ حکومت پنجاب سے رابطہ کیااور ہم constant contact میں ہیں، I am in contact with Regional Police Officer and CPO Rawalpindi بھی جو کہ تفتیش کے مراحل پہ، دو ملزمان جو گرفتار ہیں وہ تین روز کے ریمانڈ پہ ہیں۔

میں نے Prosecutor General of Punjab Irfan Sadiq Sahib کو خاص طور پہ ہدایت کرر کھی ہے۔اس میں ایک Special Prosecution Team انہوں نے constitute کی ہے جو کہ خود monitor کرے گی اس case کو تاکہ اس میں کسی قسم کی کوئی کمی بیشی نہ ہو اور ان شاءاللہ العزیز ملزمان کو کیفر کردار تک پہنچائیں گے۔

Committee کے حوالے سے بھی میں عرض کروں گا کہ انہیں جس طرح کی assistance چاہیئے Ministry of Law and Justice سے اور Human Rights سے، اور جو information سر Punjab prosecution اور Punjab Police سے چاہیئے We are already in coordination اور سر! اس کی پوری پیروی ہو گی ان شاءاللہ۔

جناب سپیکر: جی شکریہ۔ لامنسٹر صاحب ہم آپ سے یہی توقع رکھتے تھے۔

Mr. Speaker: Question Hour. Saba Talpur Sahiba.

(مداخلت)

جناب سپیکر: نہیں۔ آپ کو بولنے نہیں دوں گا۔ Question Hour کروں گا۔ آپ نے quorum point out کرنا ہے، کردیں، ضرور کردیں۔ مگر میں Question Hour میں بولنے نہیں دوں گا۔ جی صباء تالپور صاحبہ۔

جناب سپیکر: جی۔ محترمہ صباء تالپور صاحبہ، not present۔

(مداخلت)

POINTING OUT THE LACK OF QUORUM

جناب سپیکر: ان کو mic دیں، تاکہ یہ quorum point out کریں۔

جناب محمد اقبال خان: جناب سپیکر! please counting کریں، کورم پورا نہیں ہے۔

Mr. Speaker: Count be made.

(The count was made.)

Mr. Speaker: The House is not in order. The proceedings of the House are suspended till the quorum is complete.

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

(اجلاس کی کارروائی 6 بج کر 2 منٹ پر زیر صدارت جناب ڈپٹی سپیکر دوبارہ شروع ہوئی۔)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Count be made.

(The count was made.)

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CROP-SPECIFIC CLIMATE ADVISORIES TO FARMERS

ⴕ113. * Ms. Saba Talpur:

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state:

a) whether any Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supported projects is currently being implemented in Sindh to provide crop-specific climate advisories to the farmers;

b) if so, the names of the districts in Sindh covered under the project and the progress achieved so far; and

c) whether the Federal Government intends to expand climate advisory services to all climate-vulnerable for agriculture in districts of Sindh; if so, details thereof?

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Rana Tanveer Hussain):

(a) The implementation status of the project:

The Impact Based Forecast (IBF) is being provided by Pakistan Meteorological Department with financial and technical support from FAO's GCF Project and provides advisory concerning temperature, wind, and rainfall for the next 3-4 days with 3-time update per week. The GCF project is currently ongoing (expected closure in Mar 2, 2028) with a good progress especially on the IBF. IBF advisory for wheat began in the beginning of 2026, and as of July 2026, system development for rice and cotton is near-completion. The draft advisory is expected to start in August 2026 with expected improvement with feedback from the users/local experts. GCF project is expecting work with PMD further to improve the quality (e.g. inclusion of perspectives currently not included in the advisory such as long-term forecast, pests-related warning, and crop expansion (e.g. sugarcane, maize etc).

ⴕ*(Question Hour not being observed, the Starred Questions were treated as Unstarred and placed on the Table of the House.)*

(b) The districts covered and progress achieved, and

It covers Sanghar, Umarkot, and Badin Districts in Sindh Province, and DG Khan, Lodhran, Multan, Khanewal, and Muzaffargarh Districts in Punjab Province. These are the target districts of FAO's GCF Project, where the project installed 24 weather stations (approximately 3 stations per district). The weather stations improves the weather forecast of PMD, hence contributes to more accurate IBF advisory. As mentioned above, wheat advisory began, and cotton and rice advisory is under development.

(c) Whether the Government intends to support scaling up these climate advisory services to other climate-vulnerable districts across Sindh

The continuity/sustainability of the service is up to PMD's willingness. FAO is supporting PMD for the initial investment to develop the triggers/thresholds for advisories for target districts by funding workshops and engaging provincial and local agricultural experts from FAO, provincial government, universities and farming communities. While FAO cannot talk on behalf of PMD or provincial government, FAO's experience was that adding the IBF services coverage for the 8 project districts (3 in Sindh, 5 in Punjab) in collaboration with PMD was relatively easy as it just required several missions by PMD officials to the districts and several workshops to get feedback from local stakeholders.

<u>MEASURES TO IMPROVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT</u>

114. * Mr. Ali Muhammad:

Will the Minister for Maritime Affairs be pleased to state:

a) the current status of Pakistan's seafood exports, including export value during the last five years;

b) details of major export destinations and the principal sanitary, Phytosanitary and quality-related issues affecting access to international markets;

c) the measures being adopted by the Government to improve fisheries management, traceability, cold-chain infrastructure, processing

facilities and also compliance with international standards to enhance seafood exports; and

d) what further steps are being taken to prevent rejection of Pakistani consignments abroad?

Minister for Maritime Affairs (Mr. Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry): (a) During FY 2025-26, the seafood exports has surpassed the USD 500 million mark for the first time in history of Pakistan and reached to US$ 568 million and exported quantity 278,404.7 metric tons. The export value and quantity increased to 15% when compared with value earned and quantity exported during 2024-25**.** The exports of last five years given below:-

ITEMS	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**
Quantity (in m. tons)	184,543	166,267	214,367	202,400	242, 485
Export Earnings (Value in million USD)	415	431	496	406	489.2

(b) The major export destinations for Pakistan's fish and fishery products include China, Thailand, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, the United States of America, and the European Union. Recently, Pakistan gained access to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) market through the Russian Federation following the registration of sixteen (16) fish processing establishments **(Annexure-A)**.

Pakistan's seafood exports are predominantly sourced from marine capture fisheries. Fish are mainly harvested by artisanal fishing vessels, landed at fish harbors, auctioned, and transported to approved processing establishments for export.

The principal SPS and quality-related constraints affecting access to international markets include inadequate cold chain infrastructure, poor onboard handling and preservation practices, outdated fishing vessels and landing facilities, limited traceability, and fragmented governance across the fisheries value chain. These challenges, coupled with insufficient investment and limited policy incentives for modernization, constrain compliance with international food safety and quality standards.

(c) <u>Marine Fisheries Department, Karachi</u>

The Ministry of Maritime Affairs with technical support of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations has formulated the National Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy 2025-2035. The consultation and peer review process has been completed. The policy is at final stage of approval.

The Government of Pakistan i.e. MoMA has recently submitted a project titled “Conserving Marine Biodiversity by Accelerating Transition to Sustainable and Regenerative Fisheries Management Practices” at a cost of US $ 3.12 million to Global Environment Facility (GEF). The aim of the project is to conserve globally significant marine biodiversity by accelerating the adoption of ecosystem-based responsible use and sustainable management of fisheries resources. The objective of the proposed project will assist public and private stakeholders to better address the key drivers of marine biodiversity loss. The project status is under review of the respective authority.

The Government of Pakistan i.e. MFD has also submitted a project titled “Pakistan Fisheries Subsidies Agreement Implementation Readiness and Value Chain Needs Assessment” at a cost of USD 50,000/- to World Trade Organization-Fish Fund Program. The project objective is to assess the gaps in fisheries value chain with regards to stock depletion and food loss-food waste and national action plan roadmap and a bankable Category II concept note for subsequent Fish Fund support in areas such as data systems, monitoring and surveillance, legal harmonization, fisheries management tools, stock-assessment capacity and targeted training. The project status is under review of the respective authority.

A project of 1.2 billion PKR has been started at Korangi Fisheries Harbor Authority (KoFHA) for the renovation of auction hall, repair of existing jetties and Installation of floating Jetties. The harbor will be completed in one year as per international standards and it will be act as EU corridor. The harbor will be helpful to increase the exports many folds.

MoMA and MFD are working in collaboration with Government of Sindh for the betterment of Karachi Fish Harbor (KFH), the coordinated efforts will be helpful to re activate Harbor as per desired hygienic and Phytosanitary standards of the international market i.e. EU. Currently, Expansion of K-1 Hall of KFH is being expanded and renovated.

Federal Government and Provincial Governments of Sindh and Balochistan are implementing a project namely Installation of Vessels Monitoring System (VMS) on Fishing boats to improve the monitoring and surveillance for making the stocks more sustainable at a cost of Rs. 1200 million. The project will cover 7000 fishing boats, greater than 15 m in length.

The Marine Fisheries Department installed 1000 Turtle Excluder Devices on selected Shrimp Trawlers to restore shrimp exports to USA market. The Department has introduced Pakistan Mahi Dost App since 5th January, 2026 to ensure end to end traceability of fish & fish products intended for export to EU and other markets.

The Ministry has floated a proposal to declare Fisheries Sector as an Industry. The draft summary for the ECC was forwarded to the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance for their comments. By declaring the industry, the industry will be able to bring new and modern technology for the value addition. The worth and quality of the product will increase up to the international level and fetch the good price from good market. It will make the sector more compatible with the international market. The value and worth of the product will increase many folds.

Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority, Karachi

The Government of Pakistan, through the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, is undertaking strategic initiatives to modernize fisheries infrastructure, strengthen traceability systems, improve cold-chain facilities and ensure compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements to enhance Pakistan’s seafood exports.

In this regard, Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA) is implementing the Export-Oriented Fisheries Infrastructure Development Project, funded through the Government of Japan Grant Assistance, to upgrade Korangi Fisheries Harbour into a modern export-oriented fisheries harbour in accordance with European Union (EU) sanitary, hygiene and fish handling standards.

The project comprises the following major interventions:

- Construction of a modern Floating Fish Landing Pier (Floating Jetty) for offloading export catch.
- Modernization of the Fish Auction Hall by introducing improved fish handling, grading, sorting and auctioning facilities in line with EU sanitary requirements and international best practices.
- Upgradation of harbour infrastructure, including jetty rehabilitation for operational efficiency.
- Construction of boundary wall for security of harbour.

These initiatives are expected to significantly improve product quality, traceability and food safety, reduce post-harvest losses and export rejections, attract private sector investment and enhance the competitiveness of Pakistan's seafood exports in international markets, particularly the European Union and other high-value destinations.

(d) No Pakistani fish and fishery product consignments have been rejected by importing countries to date. To minimize any future risk of rejection, the Competent Authority has strengthened its inspection, certification, and laboratory testing regime for fish and fishery products intended for export.

All approved fish processing establishments are required to implement and maintain a Food Safety Management System based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. The Marine Fisheries Department conducts annual HACCP audits, regular inspections, and risk-based laboratory testing, while also issuing technical guidelines and providing continuous regulatory oversight to ensure compliance with the sanitary, Phytosanitary, and quality requirements of importing countries.

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

<u>EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND IMPORT SUBSTITUTION</u>

115. * Syed Rafiullah:

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state:

a) the status of implementation of the Government's proposed industrial policies relating to automobiles, batteries, electronics, solar manufacturing and energy storage;

b) the role assigned to the Engineering Development Board in formulation, implementation and monitoring of these policies;

c) whether industry associations, manufacturers and technology experts were consulted during the preparation and review of these policies; if so, the details thereof; and

d) what measurable targets have been established for domestic manufacturing, exports, technology transfer, employment generation and import substitution under these policies during the next five years?

Minister for Industries and Production: (a) The proposed industrial policies relating to automobiles, batteries, electronics, solar manufacturing and energy storage are under process. These policies are currently under consideration and have not yet been approved by the competent forum. Accordingly, their implementation has not yet commenced.

(b) The Engineering Development Board (EDB), under the administrative control of the Ministry of Industries and Production (MoIP), has been assigned the responsibility for formulating the initial draft of these policies in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Subject to approval of the policies, EDB will also be responsible for their implementation, monitoring and periodic review in accordance with the approved policy framework.

(c) Yes. Extensive consultations were held with industry associations, manufacturers, investors, technology experts and other relevant stakeholders during the formulation and review of these policies. Several consultative meetings were convened by the Ministry of Industries and Production (MoIP) and the EDB to obtain stakeholder input and build consensus on the proposed policy measures.

(d) Since these policies are currently under consideration and have not yet been approved, the proposed targets are still under evaluation. The finalized measurable targets relating to domestic manufacturing, exports, technology transfer, employment generation and import substitution will be shared upon approval of the respective policies.

CURRENT OPERATIONAL STATUS OF THE FOUR MAJOR DAMS

116. * Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli:

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

a) what is the current operational status of the four major Dams projects Diamer-Bhasha, Mohmand, Kurram Tangi and Nai Gaj, which together are expected to add over eight million acre-feet of water storage; and

b) whether the Government intends to ensure these projects remain on schedule to their completion for strengthening the country's water, food and energy security?

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Muhammad Mueen Watto): It is apprised that the projects Diamer Basha, Mohmand, Kurram Tangi and Nai Gaj are currently under construction phase, their status is as under:

Name of Project	Gross Storage Capacity (MAF)	Generation Capacity (MW)	Progress (%)
Diamer Basha Dam	8.1	4,500	22.21
Mohmand Dam	1.239	800	54.52
Kurram Tangi Dam (Stage-I)	–	18.4	78.89
Nai Gaj Dam	0.300	4.2	48.30

(b) The Government is fully appreciative of significance of the said projects and intends to ensure that these projects remain on scheduled of completion.

RAILWAYS' COOPERATION BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND RUSSIA

117. * Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan:

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state what plan is under consideration of the Government to enhance cooperation between Pakistan and

Russia expanding cooperation and Deeping engagement in the Railway sector, with a shared focus on promoting sustainable development and modernization initiatives?

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi): The Government of Pakistan is committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Russian Federation in the railway sector to enhance regional connectivity, facilitate international trade, and promote the modernization of Pakistan Railways.

In this regard, Pakistan Railways has entered into a Freight Forwarding Contract with Russian Railways Logistics (RZD Logistics) to establish a framework for cooperation in international freight transportation and multimodal logistics services.

As part of this initiative, Pakistan Railways and Russian Railways Logistics agreed to launch a Pakistan-Russia Pilot Container Freight Train. However, the commencement of the Pilot Train could not take place as scheduled due to the regional conflict.

Both Pakistan Railways and Russian Railways Logistics remain committed to the project and continue to coordinate for launching the Pilot Train as soon as the regional situation permits.

The proposed cooperation is expected to:

- Enhance rail-based trade and regional connectivity between Pakistan, Russia and Central Asian countries.
- Promote sustainable and cost-effective freight transportation through multimodal logistics solutions.
- Facilitate exchange of technical expertise and best practices in railway freight operations.

Strengthen international freight services, improve logistics efficiency, and contribute to the modernization and financial sustainability of Pakistan Railways.

NA-97's FARMERS TO PROVIDE SUSBSIDIZED FERTILIZER

118. * Mr. Muhammad Saad Ullah:

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state whether the Federal Government intends to introduce any special package

for the farmers of NA-97 to provide subsidized fertilizer, agriculture diesel and also provision for interest-free agricultural loans to the said farmers?

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Rana Tanveer Hussain): Federal Government is committed to support farmers across the country through various agricultural development initiatives including gas subsidy to provide affordable fertilizers to framers and uncollateralized credit facility for small and landless framers under Zerkhaize scheme. However, at present, there is no constituency-specific package under consideration for NA-97 providing subsidized fertilizer, subsidized agricultural diesel, or interest-free agricultural loans.

ILLEGAL ENCROACHMENTS IN FGEHA's VARIOUS SECTORS

119. * Ms. Sehar Kamran:

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state:

a) the year-wise details of actions taken by the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) against illegal encroachments in its various sectors and schemes during the last three years; and

b) the measures have being taken/adopted to prevent future encroachments in FGEHA-managed sectors and schemes?

Minister for Housing and Works (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) The Enforcement & Vigilance Wing of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has carried out continuous anti-encroachment operations across its various sectors and schemes during the last three years. These operations were undertaken to protect Authority land from illegal occupation, remove unauthorized encroachments, and prevent unlawful construction activities. The year-wise details of the actions taken are as follows:

1. **Sector G-14**

   Major Operations: 8

   Minor Operations: 15

Outcome: Approximately 700 kanals of land were cleared, particularly in G-14/2 and G-14/3, by removing illegal encroachments and restoring possession to FGEHA.

2. **Sector G-15/3**

   Major Operations: 3

   Minor Operations: 11

   Outcome: Approximately 130 kanals of land were cleared from illegal encroachments.

3. **Sector G-12**

   Major Operations: 5

   Minor Operations: 20

   Outcome: Multiple illegal structures were demolished, effectively preventing further encroachment and unauthorized construction.

4. **Sector F-14/F-15**

   Major Operations: 5

   Minor Operations: Approximately 18–25.

   Outcome: Approximately 4,500 kanals of land were cleared and secured from illegal occupation.

5. **Sector F-12**

   Major Operations:3

   Minor Operations: 10

   Outcome: Continuous enforcement prevented any new unauthorized construction within the sector.

6. **Green Belts (Between Sectors G-13 and F-13)**

   Minor Operations: Approximately 35

   Outcome: Green belts were cleared of encroachments and maintained through regular enforcement drives to prevent re-encroachment.

7. **Margala Archard project**

   Major Operations: 4

   Minor Operations: Approximately 20–30.

   Outcome: Approximately 7,000 kanals of land were cleared of encroachments and brought under the possession of FGEHA.

8. **Sector G-13**

Regular enforcement operations were carried out to remove movable encroachments, illegal sheds, and unauthorized fencing.

9. **Legal Action:**

A total of 16 FIRs were registered against encroachers to deter illegal occupation and ensure compliance with applicable laws.

Overall, the Enforcement & Vigilance Wing has carried out extensive enforcement activities over the past three years, resulting in the recovery of thousands of kanals of FGEHA land, demolition of illegal structures, prevention of unauthorized construction, protection of public assets, and initiation of legal proceedings against violators.

(b) To effectively counter future encroachments in FGEHA sectors, the Enforcement & Vigilance Wing maintains continuous vigilance through regular inspections, field monitoring, and prompt enforcement actions. Routine surveillance is carried out to identify and remove illegal encroachments at an early stage, thereby preventing their expansion and protecting FGEHA land from unauthorized occupation.

For major anti-encroachment operations, the Enforcement & Vigilance Wing coordinates closely with the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration and other relevant law enforcement agencies to ensure the availability of adequate security and administrative support. As these large-scale operations require prior coordination, planning, and deployment of security personnel, they may occasionally take additional time to execute. Nevertheless, the Enforcement & Vigilance Wing remains committed to taking timely and effective action against all forms of encroachment and continue to monitor vulnerable areas to prevent re-encroachment.

LOSSES CAUSED BY THE RIVER BANK EROSION

120. * Mr. Awais Haider Jakhar:

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state that the measures being taken by the Ministry to prevent the losses caused by river bank erosion in the country?

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Muhammad Mueen Watto):

<u>Flood Management Mechanism in Pakistan</u>

The institutional arrangements for flood management in Pakistan involve a range of key government agencies and regulatory bodies at both federal and provincial levels. Each institution plays a crucial role in flood management. This multi-tiered approach is essential for coordinating and managing the flood. The details of the institutions/agencies along with their role has been presented in table below:

Sr.	Institution	Role
1.	Ministry of Water Resources	Policy Matters
2.	Federal Flood Commission	• Coordination among the provinces and Federal line Agencies. • Preparation, Monitoring and Evaluation of National Flood Protection Plans, their implementation by the Provinces. • Pre and Post Flood Meetings.
3.	WAPDA	Flow measurement, O&M of flood telemetry system and O&M of major reservoirs.
4.	IRSA	Regulation of Irrigation Water as per Water Apportionment Accord.
5.	PCIW	Responsible for acquisition of rivers flow data from across the border in respect of important sites over the rivers in India/held in Kashmir.
6.	PMD	Issue weather & flood forecasts and dissemination of warning, GLOF Monitoring.
7.	NDMA	• Contingency planning for disasters. • Rescue and relief operations. • Coordinate with PDMA's, DDMA's.
8.	Provincial Irrigation Departments of four (04) Provinces	Operation & maintenance of hydraulic structures, pre & post flood inspections, establishment of warning centers and preparation of flood fighting plans.
9.	PDMA's, DDMA's	Management of Disasters, contingency planning, rescue and relief activities in their jurisdiction.
10.	DMA, GB	
11.	SDMA, AJ&K	
12.	NHA	Maintenance and monitoring of cross drainage works of National Highway and Motorway Network.

13.	Pakistan Railways	Maintenance and monitoring of cross drainage works of Railway Network.
14.	Pak Army	Pak Army's Corps of Engineers, Engineers Directorate, GHQ to provide necessary help to the civil authorities to carry out rescue and relief.

Activities by Federal Flood Commission, Ministry of Water Resources

Established in January 1977 through a Resolution and later on re-notified in July 2015

Measures taken/activities by Federal Flood Commission, MoWR for 2026 Monsoon Season

i. Coordination meetings with Federal and Provincial Agencies.
ii. Review restoration of 2025 flood damages restoration, preparedness for 2026 Monsoon and issue directions accordingly.
iii. Review implementation of Flood Plain Regulation Act in the provinces and Federal Line Agencies.
iv. Review removal of encroachments and confirmation by SUPARCO.
v. Review of lag times versus the flow pattern observed during 2025 Monsoon.
vi. JICA Flood Telemetry Project implementation.
vii. ADB's Flood Telemetry project formulation and coordination.
viii. Development of comprehensive mechanism for GLOF related challenges and strengthening institutional arrangement.
ix. Flood Communication Cell of FFC is operational from 15th June, 2026.
x. Flood Communication Cell of Federal Flood Commission started functioning on round-the clock basis from 15th June, 2026 till end monsoon season (15th October, 2026) for collection, compilation rainfall, rivers flow data and reservoir water levels and its transmission to concerned agencies at Federal and Provincial Government level on 24 hours/daily basis in normal/ low flood stage and 6-hourly basis in case of high flood levels in main rivers.
xi. FFC issues daily flood situation report from 1st July 2026 containing weather situation, reservoir and rivers flood data at important control

structures through its Flood Communication Cell till end monsoon season 2026.

In addition to the above, following activities are going on:

i. After the consecutive 2010, 2011 & 2012 flood events, **National Flood Protection Plan-IV (NFPP-IV)** was formulated at an estimated cost of Rs. 332.246 billion and approved by the CCI in May 2017. However, it could not be implemented due to lack of resources/donor funding.

ii. In compliance of PM's Directive dated August 29, 2022, FFC has updated NFPP-IV to incorporate lessons from 2022 floods; finalized Updated NFPP-IV (**Total = 375 No. Sub-Projects costing Rs. 825 billion**) stands submitted by the MoWR, on August 22, 2025, for approval of CCI. The plan is divided into two phases.

iii. Accordingly, Flood Protection Sector Project-III (FPSP-III) i.e. **Phase-I** of NFPP-IV, comprising of **170 Sub-Projects,** estimated cost of **Rs. 194.625 billion** was approved by the ECNEC on June 27, 2023. **Phase-II** of NFPP-IV, **205 Sub-Projects** with estimated cost of **Rs. 630 billion** will be implemented after completion of Phase-I**.** (Refer details at **Annexure-I)**

FFC is presently coordinating the implementing of FPSP-III. However, physical implementation has not yet started due to financial constraints and non-availability of matching foreign funding (80%) to be arranged by EAD in line with ECNEC's decision.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AT RAILWAY STATIONS

121. * Ms. Shahida Rehmani:

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

a) whether the air quality and environmental pollution are regularly monitored at Railway stations, locomotive sheds and railway workshops;

b) if so, the names of the cities or Railway stations which are the most affected by the pollution;

c) whether any collaboration has been sought from the relevant environmental protection agencies in this regard; and

d) if not, the reasons therefor and the strategy adopted by the Ministry to fulfill discharge its environmental responsibilities?

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi): (a) Measuring the Air Quality Index (AQI) is the responsibility of the respective Environment Protection Agencies (EPAs), which are fully authorized to assess air quality within the premises of Pakistan Railways.

(b) No railway premises have been reported as being at high risk of pollution by the respective Provincial Environment Protection Agencies.

(c) As mentioned in the reply of Item (a), respective Provincial Environment Protection Agencies are fully authorized to measure AQI in Railway premises. Hence, no collaboration has been made with Environment Protection Agencies in this regard.

(d) As mentioned in the reply of Item (a), it falls under the purview of Environmental Protection Agency.

<u>ISLAMIC CURRICULUM REFORMS</u>

122. * Mr. Sanjay Perwani:

Will the Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony be pleased to state:

a) whether any Islamic curriculum reforms have been proposed or implemented to promote inter-faith harmony and religious tolerance; if so, the details thereof; and

b) the details the institutions involved in the said reforms?

Transferred to Federal Education and Professional Training for answer on Next Rota Day.

MAJOR VEHICLE CATEGORIES MANUFACTURED IN PAKISTAN

123. * Syed Rafiullah:

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state:

a) the current localization levels of major vehicle categories manufactured or assembled in Pakistan, including passenger cars, motorcycles, tractors and commercial vehicles;

b) the year-wise details of amount of the foreign exchange spent on imports of completely knocked down (CKD) kits, components and parts during the last five years;

c) what measures have been taken under the proposed Auto Industry Development Policy to increase domestic value addition, strengthen the vendor industry and reduce dependence on imported components;

d) whether the Ministry has established localization targets for manufacturers; and

e) what monitoring mechanism exists to verify achievement of such targets?

Minister for Industries and Production: (a) The current localization levels of major vehicle categories manufactured or assembled in Pakistan, including passenger cars, motorcycles, tractors and commercial vehicles, are enclosed at **Annex-A**.

(b) The year-wise details of foreign exchange spent on the import of CKD kits, components and parts during the last five years are not maintained by the Engineering Development Board (EDB). The relevant data is maintained by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Finance. Therefore, FBR may be requested to provide the requisite information.

(c) The proposed Automotive and Auto Parts Manufacturing Policy 2026-31 is under finalization. The draft policy contains measures aimed at enhancing domestic value addition, strengthening the local vendor industry, promoting technology transfer, improving quality standards and reducing dependence on imported components. The finalized policy will be shared with the National Assembly after its approval by the competent forum.

Under the existing framework, localization is promoted through the levy of Additional Customs Duty (ACD) at 16% on localized parts for four-wheelers and 31% on localized parts for two- and three-wheelers. The list of localized parts is notified through SRO 693(I)/2006 and updated bi-annually on the recommendations of EDB.

(d) At present, no separate localization targets have been notified under the existing policy framework. However, the proposed Automotive and Auto Parts Manufacturing Policy 2026-31 envisages a strengthened localization framework, including appropriate localization targets and performance benchmarks, which are under evaluation and will be shared after approval of the policy.

(e) Under the existing framework, localization is monitored through the notification and periodic updating of the localized parts list under SRO 693(I)/2006, based on technical evaluation by EDB. The proposed Automotive and Auto Parts Manufacturing Policy 2026-31 also provides for a more comprehensive monitoring and verification mechanism, which will be implemented/shared after approval of the policy.

(Annexure has been Placed in the National Assembly Library.)

<u>SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN</u>

124. * Mr. Muhammad Saad Ullah:

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state whether the Federal Government intends to introduce a skills development and business support programme for women in the industrial sector of Faisalabad?

Minister for Industries and Production:

1. The Federal Government provides budgetary funds for skill development training to the National Vocational and Technical Training

Commission (NAVTTC), Islamabad, an apex body responsible for regulating and promoting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Pakistan.

2. It is submitted that at present following organizations/institutes, functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Industries & Production, are imparting skill development programmes and formal technical education in collaboration/affiliation with relevant Technical Boards, Authorities and NAVTTC:-

i) Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM), Karachi.

ii) Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC), Lahore.

iii) Technology Up-gradation and Skill Development Company (TUSDEC), Lahore.

iv) Karachi Tools, Dies and Moulds Centre (KTDMC), Karachi.

3 In addition, the Federal Government, through the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) under Ministry of Industries and Production, is providing training, capacity building programmes of short duration and business development services to SMEs, startups and women entrepreneurs in Faisalabad.

4. Faisalabad, being one of the major industrial and textile hubs of Pakistan, remains an important focus area for SMEDA's outreach and enterprise development interventions. SMEDA's interventions are focused on entrepreneurship development, assistance for access to finance, business planning, marketing, and linkages etc.

5. During the year 2025-26, SMEDA continued its regular business development services for entrepreneurs and SMEs in Faisalabad through advisory support, helpdesk facilitation, guidance on business registration and compliance, use of pre-feasibility studies, linkages and awareness training programmes while working closely with Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI), Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) and academic institutions.

6. One dedicated Officer of SMEDA is also placed at Faisalabad for extending the business support services to the business community of Faisalabad including the women. SMEDA's Representative at Faisalabad extends business

support services particularly in close coordination with Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI).

7. The detail of training and capacity building programmes organized by SMEDA at Faisalabad during the FY 2025-26 is **enclosed at Annexure**, which shows a significant participation of women beneficiaries.

8. Moreover, Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Development Company (PGJDC)under Ministry of Industries and Production has also established its training centers one each at Lahore and Sargodha (efforts underway for revival of Sargodha center), for skill development of Gems and Jewellery Sector of these cities and the adjoining areas. Several gems and Jewellery skill development programs for women have been arranged at these centers enrolling students coming from Faisalabad as well. These centers became non-operational due to exhaustion of funds in 2019, however concerted efforts are being made to revive them. The Lahore center has been successfully revived in December, 2024 and skill development programs in the fields of gemology, diamond grading etc. are being conducted at the center. Under these training programs, students especially women, are being enrolled from all over Punjab province including Faisalabad as well.

(Annexures have been Placed in the National Assembly Library.)

STAFF SHORTAGES IN FEDERAL HOSPITALS

125. * Ms. Shaista Pervaiz:

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

a) the current sanctioned and filled strength of doctors, nurses and paramedics in federally administered hospitals at present;

b) what is the status of medicine and equipment availability against indented requirements during the last Financial Year; and

c) the steps being taken by the Government to address staff shortages in the said Hospitals?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Syed Mustufa Kamal): (a) Details regarding current and filled strength regarding requisite staff is mentioned in the following:

Sr.	Name of Hospitals	Sanctioned	Filled
Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Islamabad			
i.	Doctors / Clinicians	852	467
ii.	Nurses	1093	730
iii.	Paramedical Staff	508	293
Federal Government Polyclinic, Islamabad			
i.	Doctors / Clinicians	453	363
ii.	Nurses	288	243
iii.	Paramedical Staff	391	287
National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, Islamabad			
i.	Doctors / Clinicians	63	46
ii.	Nurses	52	46
iii.	Paramedical Staff	46	40
Shykh Zayed Postgraduate Medical Institute, Lahore			
i.	Doctors / Clinicians	178	47
ii.	Nurses	588	459
iii.	Paramedical Staff	450	287
Federal General Hospital, Islamabad			
i.	Doctors / Clinicians	75	65
ii.	Nurses	90	63
iii.	Paramedical Staff	47	37
District Health Office, Islamabad			
i.	Doctors / Clinicians	37	29
ii.	Nurses	09	03
iii.	Paramedical Staff	347	207
Federal Government Tuberculosis Center, Rawalpindi			
i.	Doctors / Clinicians	06	03
ii.	Nurses	01	01
iii.	Paramedical Staff	28	20

(b) During the last financial year, the availability of medicines and medical equipment remained consistent with indented requirements. Medicines were procured in accordance with approved demand, utilization, and budgetary provisions to ensure uninterrupted patient care. In instances of urgent need, essential medicines were procured locally to prevent shortages. All critical medical equipment remained operational, and no significant deficiencies impacting healthcare service delivery were reported during the period under review.

(c) It is submitted that case regarding non-gazzeted vacant posts meant for direct recruitment quota is under process in this Ministry and will be taken up with Finance Division shortly for acquiring NOC from Austerity Committee for the financial year 2026-27 to fill out these vacancies as per rules.

However, case regarding gazzetted vacant posts (BPS-16 & above) in hospitals is also under process. At PIMS, out of 883 vacant posts, 479 have been filled and remaining 404 posts were recently advertised by FPSC. At FGPC, case is under process in this Ministry and at FGH, recently, FPSC has recommended eight Medical Officers. On the other side, this Ministry also conducts regular proMotion though relevant DPCs/DSBs/CSB to fill out these vacant posts meant for proMotion quota in all aforesaid three hospitals.

DOCTOR SHORTAGES IN BALOCHISTAN

126. * Dr. Sharmila Faruqui:

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

a) whether provincial government of Balochistan has introduced over 15 major reforms in the past 18 months promoted 600-700 medical officers to address doctor shortages, and obtained cabinet exemptions to remove administrative obstacles, yet human resources remain the biggest challenge for round-the-clock service delivery; and

b) what federal support is being provided for above and also for accelerating digitization, telemedicine services, and satellite connectivity for 1,500 health centres with Suparco's cooperation?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Syed Mustufa Kamal): (a) Since the Question pertains to the Provincial government of Balochistan, it was referred to them for their response. The same is reproduced below: "During the last eighteen months, the Government of Balochistan has undertaken comprehensive reforms encompassing legislation, governance, human resources, digitization, primary and tertiary healthcare. **Eight landmark health laws** were enacted and over **twenty administrative** and financial powers decentralized. Approximately **2,739** healthcare workers were recruited and **4,254** health personnel promoted, including over **600** doctors facilitated through ACR waiver. In addition, 164 previously non-functional Basic Health Units were revitalized. Notwithstanding these measures, shortages of specialists and skilled health professionals, particularly in remote and underserved districts, continue to affect uninterrupted 24/7 service delivery owing to recruitment, retention and equitable deployment challenges."

(b) Health is a provincial subject under the Constitution. The initiatives relating to digitization, telemedicine and satellite connectivity referred to in the question have been conceived and are being implemented by the Government of Balochistan. **The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination** acknowledges these reform initiatives and remains committed to extending technical guidance, coordination and facilitation, within its mandate, whenever requested by the Government of Balochistan. The Ministry shall continue to support the Province through policy coordination, knowledge sharing, linkage with relevant federal entities and development partners, and technical assistance for digital health, telemedicine, disease surveillance and other priority public health initiatives as and when such support is sought.

HEALTH CARD SCHEME FOR RESIDENTS OF ICT

127. * Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro:

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

a) whether the Government has approved or is implementing any health insurance or health card scheme for the residents of the Islamabad Capital Territory;

b) the salient features of the said health card scheme including eligibility criteria, coverage limits, and medical services included; and

c) the time line for full implementation of the scheme and the number of beneficiaries till to-date?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Syed Mustufa Kamal): (a) Pursuant to the directive of the Honourable Prime Minister, the Prime Minister's National Health Programme (PMNHP) (Formerly Sehat Sahulat Program) under the umbrella of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination is implementing the Prime Minister's National Health Card (health insurance scheme) for all the permanent resident families of the Islamabad capital territory, as per **NADRA** database. Similarly, **PMNHP is also catering to the residents of AJK and GB**.

(b) Under the Prime Minister's National Health Programme of NHSR&C, all permanent resident families of Islamabad are covered for a coverage limit of **Rs. 1 million** per family per year. All inpatient medical services are covered, including chemo and dialysis.

(c) The scheme has been fully implemented since 16th, January 2026 and the permanent resident families as per **NADRA** database (approximately 281,103 families) are included in the district of Islamabad for the Program.

MEDICAL FACILITIES IN DISTRICT DUKKI, BALOCHISTAN

128. * Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasir:

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

a) the number of districts of Balochistan where hospitals with comprehensive medical facilities have been established for the Federal Government;

b) the number of additional districts in Balochistan where such hospitals are proposed to be established in future; and

c) whether any proposal is under consideration by the Federal Government to establish a hospital with comprehensive medical facilities in District Dukki, to solve serious health care issues?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Syed Mustufa Kamal): (a) The Federal Government has not established any hospital with comprehensive medical facilities in the districts of Balochistan.

(b) Tertiary Care Hospital Loralai, District Loralai, has been proposed. Balochistan Department of Health has forwarded the PC-I to Federal Government (Ministry of Planning, Development and Special initiative) for its consideration in the CDWP.

(c) No additional proposal is currently under consideration by the Federal Government to establish hospital in Dukki, Balochistan.

INDIAN HYDROELECTRIC AND RIVER DIVERSION PROJECTS

129. * Ms. Saba Talpur:

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

a) whether it is fact that the Federal Government has assessed the likely impact of Indian hydroelectric and river diversion projects on water availability for Sindh;

b) if so, the details of such assessment and its findings; and

c) what measures have been taken by the Government during the current year to safeguard Sindh's water share under the Water Apportionment Accord, 1991?

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Muhammad Mueen Watto): (a) & (b) The Office of Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters is mandated to safeguard Pakistan's rights and interests under the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960. In discharge of this mandate, the Office maintains and analyses historical data relating to inflows from India, examines Indian hydroelectric projects on the Western Rivers from the perspective of Treaty compliance, and monitors any unusual variations in transboundary river flows.

In April 2025, India unilaterally announced that it was holding the Indus Waters Treaty in “abeyance.” Pakistan has categorically rejected this unilateral action as being without legal effect and maintains that the Treaty remains in full force. The Government of Pakistan continues to safeguard the country's water rights through appropriate diplomatic, legal and Treaty-based mechanisms.

The Office of Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters examines such matters from the perspective of Pakistan's national rights and entitlements under the Indus Waters Treaty. The water to be distributed in under available quantum is the function of IRSA according to IRSA act, 1992. It remains fully cognizant of Pakistan's dependence on the Western Rivers and of the potential cumulative implications of Indian hydroelectric and storage projects for the timing and pattern of flows entering Pakistan.

The potential impact of Indian hydroelectric and diversion projects is expected to fall primarily on the Jhelum-Chenab Zone of Punjab. The extent of this impact depend on the actual quantum of water diverted by India. Based on the available information it will be of the order of 1.2 million acre-feet per annum once Chenab-Beas Link-3 project will be operational.

(c) IRSA continues to regulate and distribute the available river waters among the Provinces strictly in accordance with the Water Apportionment Accord, 1991, and the decisions of the IRSA Advisory Committee (IAC), ensuring equitable distribution based on water availability. During current on-going season Kharif 2026, IAC approved the 15% shortfall for Early Kharif and 5% for Late Kharif for Punjab & Sindh.

Regarding the actual water utilization during ongoing Kharif Season 2026, at the end of Early Kharif (Apr 01 – Jun 10), Punjab faced a shortfall of 17%, as compared with a shortfall of 13% in Sindh. For the period from (April 01 to August 10, 2026), Punjab experienced an overall shortfall of 12% whereas Sindh experienced a shortfall of 9%.

<u>WAR RELATED SURCHARGES ON SHIPPING</u>

130. * Dr. Sharmila Faruqui:

Will the Minister for Maritime Affairs be pleased to state:

a) that shipping agents have confirmed no war-related surcharges are being imposed on in-transit shipments or alternate routes, yet global lines had reportedly considered emergency surcharges of 3,500-4,000 per TEU;

b) what written guarantees have the Government secured to ensure these assurances are honored;

c) how many of the ten (10) complaints processed to date involved in such unjustified charges;

d) whether the terminal operators have agreed to demurrage relief for export containers arriving before March 3rd , 2026, and the Pakistan Ship's Agents Association and all Pakistan Shipping Association will issue advisories against retention fees on stranded containers and what monitoring mechanism exists to ensure compliance; and

e) what penalties will be imposed on agents found violating these commitments?

@Transferred to Finance and Revenue for answer on Next Rota Day.

<u>YEAR-WISE PRICES OF DIAMMONIUM PHOSPHATE (DAP)</u>

131. * Ms. Sehar Kamran:

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state:

a) the details of year-wise prices of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and other major fertilizers in the country during the last five years; and

b) the steps already taken or being taken by the Government to ensure availability of fertilizers on affordable prices to farmers?

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) Prices of Urea and DAP as reported by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics are given below:

Price of Urea and DAP in Domestic Market

(Rs. per 50 kg bag)

Year	Urea	DAP
2021-22	1913	8227
2022-23	2649	10924
2023-24	4219	11924
2024-25	4504	12068
2025-26	4378	14423
% Change	**129**	**75**

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

(b) Following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure availability of fertilizers on affordable prices to farmers:

i) Govt. has ensured uninterrupted gas supply to all urea manufacturing plants resulting in price stability in domestic market.

ii) The sole DAP manufacturing plant (FFC Port Qasim) is operational at full capacity.

iii) Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP), Morocco has been requested to facilitate Pakistani importers for timely import of DAP fertilizer.

iv) An import of 45,000 tonnes of DAP has arrived in June while another cargo carrying 15,000 tonnes of DAP is expected to arrive during July, 2026.

v) Federal Minister for NFSR has recently undertaken on an official visit to Morocco and remained engaged with his Moroccan counterpart. Prime focus was to facilitate supply of DAP to Pakistani importers, as well as the supply of raw materials to the FFC plant.

<u>TARGETED INCENTIVES TO SMEs</u>

132. * Syeda Shehla Raza:

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state:

a) whether Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have received any targeted incentives during Financial Year 2024-25; and

b) what impact such incentives had on employment and productivity?

Minister for Industries and Production: (a) During Financial Year 2024–25, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) received following targeted incentives and support interventions through SMEDA:

i. **Matching Grants & Capital Support –** 1000 Industrial Stitching Unit Project.

ii. **Productivity Support –** Industry Support Program.

iii. **Access to Finance Initiatives –** Financial Literacy Program and SME Credit Scoring initiative.

iv. **Cluster & Common Facility Support –** Sialkot Industry Development Centre (SIDC) Sialkot.

v. **Incentives for Women Entrepreneurs –** Business Skill Development Centre for Women, Digital Skills Training, and Women-Inclusive Finance.

vi. **Formalization & Market Access –** SME & Workers Formalization Project and Export Certification Programs, and SME Registration Portal.

vii. **Direct SME Facilitation Services through helpdesk**

(b) Productivity Improvements: Productivity gains were recorded through:

- Adoption of modern machinery and technology via matching grants.
- Implementation of productivity tools in 11 factories, exceeding annual targets.

- Improved product quality, compliance readiness, and reduced operational costs through energy efficiency and management improvements.

Employment Generation: The 1000 Industrial Stitching Units Project has contributed to employment generation primarily by expanding production capacity and formalizing operations within the textile and garment sector. By providing matching grants in the form of modern stitching machinery, the project enabled beneficiary SMEs to scale up from small, informal or semi-mechanized setups to organized, industrial-level units. The program has collectively created 1,835 full time and 1,375 part time jobs, marking significant progress towards its employment generation objectives.

In SIDC export-led SME expansion, resulting in employment stabilization and growth across participating firms, alongside higher productivity and improved worker skills in Pakistan's flagship sports goods export sector.

HIRING OF MOAVINEEN FOR HAJJ 2026

133. * Ms. Aliya Kamran:

Will the Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony be pleased to state:

a) the quota fixed for hiring Moavineen/Nazim for Hajj 2026 and its basis;

b) the selection criteria and procedure adopted, including the prescribed limit on the number of times a Moavin may be deputed for Hajj duties as to whether any relaxation was granted therein;

c) whether any court intervention occurred in relation to the said limit;

d) whether NTS was engaged for the process and whether PPRA Rules were complied with;

e) eligibility criteria, including policy on repeat applicants;

f) whether any allegations were made regarding paper leakage or other irregularities and action taken thereon;

g) measures taken to ensure transparency, merit, and fairness; and

h) total number of selected candidates, deployment details, and post-Hajj performance review, including shortcomings identified and corrective measures taken after completion of Hajj 2026?

Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony (Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Zaman): (a) A total of **880 positions** were allocated for **Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj/Nazims** for Hajj-2026, comprising of:

- **100 Supervisory Staff (BS-17 to BS-18)**
- **780 Field Supporting Staff (BS-7 to BS-16)**

The number of positions was determined after assessing operational requirements based on the nature of duties, previous Hajj operations, and the experience gained during past Hajj Missions.

(b) A committee was constituted to formulate the selection criteria and procedure for the selection of Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj/Nazims for Hajj-2026. The selection was conducted through a competitive process by a third party. The third-party was selected through an open bidding process i.e. National Testing Service (NTS). No restriction was imposed on the number of previous Hajj duties performed by an applicant.

(c) Yes. In compliance with the orders of the Honourable Islamabad High Court (IHC), the restriction on the number of previous Hajj duties was relaxed, allowing all eligible candidates to apply regardless of the number of their past Hajj duties. **<u>(Copy of the Court Order is attached.)</u>**

(d) Yes. The services of the National Testing Service (NTS) were procured through an open bidding process in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules. **<u>(Copy of the tender document is attached.)</u>**

(e) The eligibility criteria for selection of Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj/Nazims as follows:

i. The applicant must be a Federal or Provincial Government civil servant, including employees of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), serving in BS-11 to BS-18.

ii. Fresh candidates must be between **25 and 45 years of age** on the closing date for submission of applications.

iii. Repeat applicants must be between **25 and 50 years of age** on the closing date for submission of applications.

iv. Repeater applicants, irrespective of the number of their previous Hajj duties in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Pak-Based Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj/Nazims, were allowed to apply.

(f) No allegations regarding paper leakage or any other irregularities were reported to this Ministry.

(g) All possible measures were taken to ensure transparency, merit, and fairness throughout the selection process. The selection was conducted through a competitive process by a third-party (NTS). Federal, Provincial, and Regional quotas were observed in accordance with the prescribed FPSC formula.

(h) A total number of **880 candidates** were selected through a competitive process. During scrutiny process, **39 candidates** were found ineligible, and their nominations were withdrawn due to non-fulfilment of the advertised eligibility criteria. After extensive training, the selected Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj/Nazims were deployed in Accommodation, Transport, Food, Makatib Coordination, Airports, Lost & Found, Wheelchair desk, Harram Guide and any operational areas etc. during Hajj Mission in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). A disciplinary committee was also constituted to review the cases involving disciplinary matters and monitoring the performance of deployed personals. Total 108 Khuddam-ul-Hujjaj/Nazims were penalized due to lethetic performance of their assigned duties through deduction of Daily Allowances (DAs).

A de-briefing session to review the shortcoming challenges faced during Hajj Mission-2026 were held in this Ministry under the Chairmanship of Minister for RA&IH. Issues and challenges were discussed in detailed and in the light of recommendations of de-briefing session corrective measures will be taken during Hajj Operation-2027.

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

ESTIMATED COST OF MOHMAND DAM PROJECT

134. * Mr. Sajid Khan:

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that the initial estimated cost of Mohmand Dam project was around 309 billion rupees but despite spending more than 20 billion rupees so far, the project could not be completed, if so;

b) the details of initial approved cost and the current revised cost of Mohmand Dam;

c) the total amount spent on the project so far;

d) the reasons for delay in completion of the project and also the details of the extra ordinary increase in cost;

e) whether any inquiry or Audit has been conducted to determine the elements or institutions responsible for the delay and cost over run, if so, the details thereof; and

f) when the completion of project is expected and how much additional amount will be required for it?

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Muhammad Mueen Watto): (a) True, as per PC-I, the cost of Mohmand Dam is Rs. 309 billion. The project has achieved an overall physical progress of 54.42% as of 30.06.2026.

(b) The initial approved PC-I cost was Rs. 309 billion, whereas 1st revised PC-I cost is Rs. 665.743 billion which is under process of approval.

(c) Rs. 241.968 billion has been expensed as of 30.06.2026.

(d) **WAPDA has reported that:**

- Major reasons for delay in completion of project are Covid-19 Pandemic (2020-21), security issues during mobilization of Contractor, additional rock support works, exceptionally high flood in August, 2022 (1 in 500 years flood), insufficient PSDP allocation & delayed releases and adverse possession issue of Right Bank Irrigation Canal (RBIC) land (work activities halted since Jan, 2023).
- Major reasons for increase in cost are dollar parity, security cost, price escalation, impact of Contractor's bid price and revised cost of Consultancy Services.

(e) As such a specific inquiry to determine the elements of delay and cost overrun has not been conducted, however government audit of the project is conducted from to time.

(f) The project is scheduled to be completed in September, 2028 and it is expected that it will be completed within the revised PC-I cost if requisite funds are made available according to the financial phasing of the project submitted by WAPDA in the 1st Revised PC-1.

<u>TOTAL LAND OWNED BY PAKISTAN RAILWAYS</u>

135. * Mr. Muhammad Bashir Khan:

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

a) the total area of Railway land and property owned by Pakistan Railways in the country;

b) whether it is fact that Pakistan Railways has owns thousands of acres of land in the country;

c) if so, the reasons of deficit in Railway department at present;

d) whether it is a fact that hundreds of acres of Railways land have been illegally occupied by the unauthorized persons; and

e) if so, whether any concrete measures have been taken by the Government to retrieve the said land?

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi): (a) Pakistan Railways owns 168,858 acre of land across Pakistan. The province- wise breakup of Railway land is as under:

Province	**Area of land (acres)**
Punjab	91601
Islamabad	1102
Sindh	38723
Balochistan	9051
Khyber PakhtoonKhwa	28381
Total	**168858**

(b) Pakistan Railways owns total 168,858 acres of land. The breakdown of this land is as under:

Description	**Area in Acres**	**Area in %**
Under operational use	126426	74.87119
Land reserved for future operational use.	6750	3.997442
Used for Stations & Railway staff colonies	4385	2.596857
Land leased for various purpose	12203	7.226782
Land leased out to Govt./Defence Department	3295	1.951344
Land under encroachments (pvt. individuals)	8408	4.979332
Land forcibly utilized by Govt. and defence Deptt	3998	2.36767
Katchi Abadis (Regularized)	562	0.332824
Land having commercial potential (Approx)	308	0.182402
Barren/Cultivable Land.	2523	1.494155
Total	**168858**	

(c) As mentioned in the reply of agenda Item (b), more than 70% of railway land is being used for operational purposes, whereas, the leased-out land is around 9.1%.

Furthermore, in order to generate optimum revenue from its land assets, Pakistan Railways got approved Property & Land Rules 2023 for leasing of Railway land for different purposes through competitive and non-competitive bidding process. Pakistan Railways leases its land under three categories: short-term, medium/long-term, and non-competitive leasing in accordance with the approved policy. Short-term leases are awarded through open auction for various commercial and agricultural purposes, while prime commercial land is leased on a medium- and long-term basis through the Property & Land Directorate and REDAMCO for high-value development projects. Non-competitive leases are granted to government departments for public welfare projects and essential utility infrastructure, including roads, schools, healthcare facilities, pipelines, and optical fiber networks.

Since the implementation of these rules, Pakistan Railways has generated **Rs. 23,017 million** from short-term land leasing during the last three years. Although Pakistan Railways bears substantial pension and other exchequer-related liabilities, it is not operating at an operational loss, having achieved an **Operating Ratio of 89%** and **24.19% revenue growth** during the current financial year, reflecting improved financial and operational performance.

(d) Out of total Railway land measuring 168858 acres 4.97% railway land is encroached by private individuals and 2.36% is forcibly possessed by Govt./Defense Departments across the Railway System.

Province wise Details are as under:

(Area in acres)

Province	Encroachments by Private Individuals	Forcibly possession by Govt. / Defence Deptt.	Grand Total
Punjab	3061	2539	5600.7
Sindh	4242	764	5006.2
Balochistan	684	347	1030.54
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	421	349	769.51
Total	**8408**	**3999**	**12407.95**

(e) Railways Administration has undertaken several measures to retrieve encroached land over the last few years. Details of which are listed below:

- Pakistan Railways has launched a comprehensive anti-encroachment campaign in collaboration with provincial government authorities. Provincial Inspectors General and Chief Secretaries have been requested to provide full support, including deployment of law enforcement for maintaining order.

- Quarterly anti-encroachment plans have been formulated, and legal notices under the Possession Ordinance, 1965 have been issued, allowing a 14-day period for vacation of encroached land.
- All railway land records have been digitized, Geo-referenced, and integrated with provincial databases through the Pakistan Railways Land Management and Information System (PRLMIS), which is also accessible via a mobile application for real-time tracking and efficient decision-making.
- Unauthorized possession of railway land by Government departments is being regularized through leases under Railway land policy.
- Commercial encroachments are being reviewed under Remedial Policy through lease agreements involving upfront premiums and arrears.
- Any illegal occupation or encroachment is dealt with legal action as per rules and regulations of Pakistan Railways. Regular anti-encroachment operations are carried out to prevent fresh encroachments.

As a result of these operations a huge area of **2826 acres** valuing **Rs.21178 million** has been retrieved during last 6 financial years i.e. from 2020-21 to 2025-26 The details of retrieved land are as under:

(Area in acres)

Province	**ENCROACHMENT RETRIEVED IN LAST SIX YEARS**					**Value of Retrieved Land (Rs. In Million)**
	Commercial	**Residential**	**Agriculture**	**Others**	**Total**	
	1	2	3	4	5	
Punjab	430.74	165.06	632.91	7	1235.71	13920
Sindh	141.68	106.32	697.84	0	945.84	6007
Balochistan	11.1	6.058	203	0	220.158	118
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	196.5	0.95	226.63	0	424.08	1133
Total	**780.02**	**278.69**	**1760.38**	**7**	**2826.09**	**21178**

LIFESTYLE RESIDENCY PROJECT IN G-13/1 AND G-13/4, ISLAMABAD

136. * Mr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar:

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state:

a) the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) launched the Lifestyle Residency Project in Sector G-13/1 and G-13/4, Islamabad, more than 10 years ago under a public-private partnership;

b) whether it is fact that despite the passage of considerable time, the project remains incomplete, causing serious concern among allottees, particularly to the Federal Government employees;

c) what are the reasons for the inordinate delay in the completion of the said project;

d) what is the current status of construction in both phases of the said projects;

e) what concrete steps are being taken by the Ministry/FGEHA to expedite the completion;

f) what is the revised and definite time line for completion of the project; and

g) when the apartments will be handed over to the allottees?

Minister for Housing and Works (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) launched the Lifestyle Residency Project in Sectors G-13/1 and G-13/4, Islamabad, through a Joint Venture (JV) with M/s Progressive Motels and Resorts. For the implementation of the project, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely EHFPRO (Pvt.) Ltd., was incorporated with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on 24-05-2010. The project is being developed on FGEHA-owned land measuring 10.10 acres and 5.27 acres in two separate pockets under the possession of the Authority.

(b) &(c)

- The Lifestyle Residency Project has been delayed due to a combination of contractual, financial, and unforeseen circumstances, including the weak financial position of the project, disputes between the JV partners, excessive powers vested in the JV partner through the SPV structure, termination of the contractor following the contractor's illness and demise, termination of the Engineering Consultant, and the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent escalation in construction costs.

- These factors were largely beyond the control of the Authority and significantly affected the timely completion of the project.
- FGEHA acknowledges the concerns of the allottees, particularly Federal Government employees, and is actively pursuing all necessary legal, administrative, and financial measures to resolve the outstanding issues and facilitate completion of the project at the earliest possible stage.
- *Since taking over the project, FGEHA has focused on reviving it without transferring the burden of unprecedented construction cost escalation to the allottees, who paid at the rate of Rs. 4,100 per sq. ft. during 2016–2020, whereas comparable projects in the vicinity are now priced at around Rs. 19,000 per sq. ft. To achieve this objective, the Authority adopted a commercial inventory-based asset swap model and engaged a Transaction Adviser to develop a viable business plan that safeguards the interests of both the allottees and prospective private investors.*

(d) Current Status of construction work for 10.10 acre project (which was halted due to above reasons) is as under:

- Physical Progress is 70 %.
- Financial Progress is 68%.

Whereas for 5.27 acre project (Which could not be carried out as originally planned due to the issues affecting the project) is as under:

- Physical Progress is 8 %.
- Financial Progress is 5.9%.

(e) To revive the Lifestyle Residency Project and safeguard the interests of the allottees, FGEHA has undertaken the following key measures:

i. The Executive Board approved the sub-division of the remaining 5.27-acre land. The 13-kanal portion was further subdivided into three plots and offered for auction in 2024, out of which one plot was successfully auctioned.

ii. A formal notice and subsequent Show Cause Notices were issued to the JV Partner and the management of EHFPRO for violations of the Joint Venture Agreement.

iii. The Executive Board, in its 38th meeting held on 03-02-2025, approved the termination of the Joint Venture Agreement with immediate effect.

iv. The PC-I for the project's revival was approved by the Executive Board on 27-08-2025.

v. FGEHA has engaged **RSM Pakistan** as the Transaction Adviser to undertake asset valuation and prepare a comprehensive Business Plan. The EOI and RFP documents are being finalized and, upon approval, the EOI will be floated to attract prospective investors for the successful completion of the project.

(f) The grey structure of the project is substantially complete, except for one residential tower (10 storeys) and one commercial tower (5 storeys). The remaining finishing works for 1,869 apartments and external utility infrastructure are expected to take three years. However, a specific completion date cannot be committed at this stage, as commencement of work is subject to requisite approvals, market response to the EOI, and successful engagement of a private partner.

(g) Since taking over the project in 2025, FGEHA has been pursuing its revival through a PPP model utilizing the project's commercial inventory to avoid passing the increased construction costs on to the allottees. A Transaction Adviser has submitted the business plan, which, after approval by the Executive Board, will be followed by the floating of an EOI for selection of a private partner. The project is expected to be completed within three years from the commencement of the finishing works. Thereafter, apartments will be handed over to the allottees.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS TO ONE THOUSAND UTILITY STORES' EMPLOYEES

137. * Ms. Shahida Rehmani:

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that almost one thousand utility stores across the country are being closed; and

b) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken or being taken to adjust financial benefits of those employees?

Minister for Industries and Production: (a) Pursuant to the directions of the Prime Minister dated 1st July, 2025 and approval of the Cabinet vide decision under Case No.162/19/2025 date 22-08-2025, Utility Stores Corporation (USC) closed all its operations w.e.f. 31st July, 2025, across the country. Following the closure, 3,742 retail stores and 1,000 franchises were shut down.

(b) Due to closure of Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited operations, 11086 USC employees have been laid off and only 323 essential employees are retained for the completion of post closure tasks. Severance package is approved/granted to Regular employees and compensatory package to contractual and daily wages employees. Total 8.13 billion has been disbursed to 9119 employee's @ of 60 % to 8687 employees and 40% to 432 employees. Detail is as under:

Description	Regular	Contract	Daily	Total
Employees	4535	2529	2055	9119
Amount Paid	5.589	1.1431	1.12	8.14

The remaining amount of severance / compensatory package to above employees/remaining employees will be disbursed on release of funds by the Federal Government.

ESSENTIAL CARDIAC MEDICINES

138. * Ms. Gulnaz Shahzadi:

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

a) what collaboration exists between the Government and healthcare institutions for research into the causes and prevention of heart disease in Islamabad;

b) how many public awareness campaigns regarding heart health have been conducted during the past three years, alongwith outcomes achieved so far; and

c) what measures are being taken by the Government to ensure the availability and affordability of essential cardiac medicines for patients?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Syed Mustufa Kamal): (a) The Government of Pakistan, through the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (M/o NHSR&C), collaborates with federal health institutions, academic organizations, tertiary healthcare facilities, and development partners to strengthen research, policy development, surveillance, and evidence-based interventions for the prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Key areas of collaboration include:

1. **National Policy and Strategic Frameworks**

Ministry of NHSR&C has developed the National Action Framework for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health (2021–2030), while an updated framework is being aligned with the forthcoming National Health and Population Policy (2026–2035) to strengthen prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases.

2. **Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS)**

Cost-effective cardiovascular interventions have been integrated into the EPHS in collaboration with provincial governments and technical partners, emphasizing prevention, early detection, standardized clinical management, referral pathways and continuity of care.

3. WHO HEARTS Technical Package

In collaboration with WHO, the Ministry is implementing the WHO HEARTS Technical Package to strengthen hypertension control, cardiovascular risk assessment, availability of essential medicines, validated blood pressure devices and capacity building of healthcare workers.

4. Academic and Research Collaboration

The Ministry collaborates with universities, research organizations and professional societies to promote epidemiological research, implementation research and evidence generation for policy formulation.

5. Federal Tertiary Healthcare Institutions

The Department of Cardiology, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) conducts clinical research as an integral part of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. Faculty Members and trainees regularly undertake research on the causes, risk factors, prevention and management of cardiovascular diseases, while participating in national scientific meetings and collaborative academic initiatives.

PIMS has further highlighted the need to expand these collaborations to community-level research through more structured institutional partnerships.

6. International Development Partners

The Government works closely with WHO and other development partners to strengthen surveillance systems, develop evidence-based clinical guidelines, undertake risk-factor assessments and support implementation of cardiovascular disease prevention programmes.

(b) During the past three years, Ministry of NHSR&C, in collaboration with provincial health departments, tertiary healthcare institutions, professional societies, and development partners, has implemented and supported multiple public awareness initiatives on cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention as part of broader non-communicable disease (NCD) programmes. These activities included

World Heart Day observance, health education sessions, media campaigns, community awareness, and screening initiatives. The campaigns have contributed to increased public awareness of cardiovascular risk factors, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and strengthened early detection and prevention of CVD through primary healthcare services. A consolidated national count of campaigns is not maintained, as activities are implemented by multiple stakeholders across the country.

At the institutional level, both **PIMS** and **Federal Government Polyclinic (FGPC/PGMI)** regularly conduct awareness and health education activities on prevention of heart disease, lifestyle modification and early diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases. These activities have contributed to:

- Increased public awareness regarding cardiovascular risk factors;
- Promotion of healthy lifestyle practices;
- Improved awareness regarding early diagnosis and timely management of heart disease; and strengthened prevention and early detection through primary healthcare services.

(c) The Government of Pakistan, through Ministry of NHSR & C and Provincial Health Departments is strengthening access to essential cardiac medicines by integrating cost-effective CVD interventions into the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS), promoting the availability of essential medicines and standardized treatment protocols across primary healthcare facilities, and strengthening procurement and supply chain systems. These priorities are further reinforced through the updated National NCD and Mental Health Action Framework and are being incorporated into the forthcoming National Health and Population Policy (2026–2035) to improve equitable access to affordable medicines and quality cardiovascular care.

At the institutional level:

- **Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS)** provides free medicines to all admitted cardiac patients and free emergency medicines to patients presenting in the Emergency Department. Outpatient medicines are provided according to the hospital formulary, subject to availability and budgetary allocations. PIMS also provides round-the-clock Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (Primary PCI) services for eligible acute ST-elevation myocardial infarction patients, with most procedures covered under Government-funded healthcare programmes, while continuously coordinating with the Ministry to ensure uninterrupted procurement of essential medicines and consumables.

- **Federal Government Polyclinic (FGPC/PGMI)** procures essential cardiac medicines in accordance with the Essential Medicines List (EML) and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules through annual procurement planning based on patient needs. Essential cardiac medicines are provided free of cost to patients, and stock levels are continuously monitored to minimize shortages.

ML-1, ML-2 AND ML-3 CORRIDORS OF PAKISTAN RAILWAYS

139. * Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli:

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

a) what key targets have been set under the strategic reform road map recently approved to modernize Pakistan Railways and priorities freight services; and

b) how public private partnerships, digitization and the upgrading of the ML-1, ML-2 and ML-3 corridors will improve passenger facilities and the financial sustainability of the Railways?

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi): Strategic Reform Roadmap has been approved to transform Pakistan Railways into a modern, efficient, customer-oriented and financially sustainable organization. The Roadmap focuses on strengthening freight operations, enhance passenger experience by expanding infrastructure, enhancing private sector participation and accelerating digital transformation.

The major reforms include:

1. **Freight and Passenger Business Enhancement**
   - Increase railway freight market share from **8% to 20% after upgradation of ML-1** by expanding transportation of coal, containers, cement, fertilizers, rock phosphate and other bulk commodities.
   - Increase passenger share from existing 5% to 7.52% after upgradation of ML-1.
2. **Infrastructure Development**
   - Upgrade and modernize **ML-1, ML-2 and ML-3** corridors to increase line capacity, improve safety and reduce travel time.
   - Develop freight terminals, marshalling yards and multimodal logistics parks.
   - Improve passenger amenities at Railway stations.
3. **Digital Transformation**
   - Provision of Wifi System at major stations.
   - Introduction of E-ticketing system under RABTA.
   - Train tracking system for real time monitoring.
   - Complaint management services.
   - Introduction of safe and smart Railway stations.
   - Automated command and control systems for improving punctuality and safety in train operation.
   - Digital freight booking services.
   - Automated Weighbridges.
   - Freight parcel management services.
   - ERP.
4. **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**
   - Two Cargo Express Trains have been outsourced.
   - Agreements have been signed with M/S DP world, M/S Maple Leaf, M/S Mughal steel, M/S NLC, M/S HSR (Yusufwala coal power plant and M/S Jamshoro coal power plant to enhance freight traffic.
   - Outsourcing of passenger trains.
   - Introduction of two new freight trains.

- Outsourcing of 50 luggage/brake vans.
- Development of Freight terminals.
- Outsourcing of Hospitals and Schools.

(b) Pakistan Railways is implementing a comprehensive modernization program, envisaged under the Strategic Reform Roadmap, through the upgradation of the Main Line (ML) corridors, digitization, and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), to improve passenger services, increase freight transportation, enhance operational efficiency, and strengthen its financial sustainability.

Upgrading of ML-1, ML-2 and ML-3

The Karachi–Rohri section (480 km) of ML-1 is being upgraded with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Upon completion, the project will increase line capacity from 68 to up to 120 trains per day, enable passenger train speeds of up to 160 km/h, reduce travel time, improve safety and passenger comfort, increase freight haulage and in turn will increase the revenue of Railways.

Pakistan Railways is also pursuing the upgradation of ML-3, for which Detailed Engineering Design is in progress. The project is expected to be completed by the year 2029. This upgradation would play a key role in connecting the mineral-rich Reko Diq mines with the Pakistan Railways network. Since ML-3 connects the Pakistan Railways network with the Iranian Railway network, this upgrade will strengthen regional connectivity with Iran, Türkiye and the Central Asian Republics, promote international trade, and generate additional freight revenue.

Together, these upgradation initiatives will increase railway line capacity to operate more trains, improve train speeds, reduce travel and transit time, enhance punctuality, and strengthen safety through modern signalling, communications, bridge rehabilitation and track improvements. They will significantly enhance passenger facilitation, support economic growth through improved connectivity, and generate substantial freight revenue, with the freight share of Pakistan Railways expected to increase from 8% to about 20% after the upgradation.

Digitalization

Pakistan Railways has undertaken multiple digitization initiatives to modernize ticketing, reservation and operational systems to improve passenger convenience and freight monitoring. These include digital tracking and parcel management systems; smart digital ticketing (RABTA), real-time train tracking and passenger information services; ERP, centralized command and control offices, e-office, passenger complaint management, Wi-Fi services.

The RABTA App is already fully functional, providing passengers with seamless booking and payment solutions, while SAP ERP supports efficient management of financials, procurement, inventory and stores, and payroll and human resources, improving transparency, operational efficiency, and real-time decision-making across the organization.

These initiatives will help in the improved passenger patronization and freight haulage and thus will improve the financial sustainability of the Railways.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Pakistan Railways is encouraging private sector participation in railway infrastructure and services, including outsourcing of passenger trains, luggage and brake vans, schools, hospitals and commercial land development. This will improve service delivery, attract investment, and reduce the financial burden on the Government, while improving operational efficiency, service quality and revenue generation.

The above steps will help improve the passenger facilities and financial sustainability of the Railways.

TRAIN DERAILMENTS DURING LAST 5 YEARS

140. * Mr. Ali Muhammad:

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

a) the number of train derailments that occurred during the last five years;

b) the year-wise details indicating the location, train involved, casualties, injuries and financial losses in each case;

c) the findings of inquiries conducted into such derailments, including the principal causes identified such as track conditions, signaling failures, human error, equipment defects or operational deficiencies;

d) the disciplinary, administrative or legal actions taken against officers, officials, contractors or other persons found responsible; and

e) the measures adopted and implemented to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, including investments in track rehabilitation, signaling systems, rolling stock modernization and safety management systems?

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi): (a) The year-wise number of derailments during the last five years is tabulated below:

Category of Accident	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026 (upto 17th August)**	**Total**
Derailment of Goods Trains	40	29	33	58	40	13	213
Derailment of Passenger Trains	17	13	25	37	47	34	173
TOTAL	57	42	58	95	87	47	386

(b) The year-wise details of derailments during the last five years, indicating the location, train involved, casualties, injuries, and financial loss in each case, are attached **Annexure-A.**

(c) Based on the findings of the inquiries conducted into the derailment cases, the causes of derailments are tabulated below: -

Cause of Accidents	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026 (upto 9th July)**	**Total**
Road Users	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Track (defect)	25	20	25	33	23	15	141
Human failure	18	9	16	29	25	12	109
Rolling Stock	6	7	9	14	17	15	65
Signal & Interlocking	3	3	5	5	3	0	19
Sabotage Activity	0	0	3	1	6	2	12
Multiple causes	4	1	0	8	11	6	30
Natural Calamity	1	2	0	5	1	0	9
Total	57	42	58	95	87	47	386

Note: The detailed position is attached as **Annexure-B .**

(d) The summarized position of the disciplinary, administrative or legal actions taken against officers, officials, contractors or other persons found responsible is tabulated as under: -

Year	No. of cases	PR Staff Responsible	Disciplinary Action taken	Sabotage	Estimated Financial Loss (in million)
2021	57	160	152	-	374.8
2022	42	97	84	1	29.65
2023	58	121	101	2	107.72
2024	95	209	96	1	39.11
2025	87	160	71	7	220.67
2026	47	18	0	4	112.38
Total	**386**	**765**	**504**	**15**	**884.33**

The detailed position of such cases (year-wise) is also annexed as **Annexure-C**.

(e) Track Rehabilitation

To mitigate risks on weak and over-aged track infrastructure (comprising 72% of ML-1, 88% of ML-2, 92% of ML-3, and 98% of Branch Lines), Pakistan Railways has implemented the following measures:

- **Engineering Speed Restrictions (ERs):** Imposed 262 temporary speed restrictions across vulnerable sections (101 on ML-1, 45 on ML-2, 47 on ML-3, and 69 on Branch Lines) to ensure safe operations.
- **Track Renewals & Maintenance**: Executed 35.59 km of Complete Track Renewal (CTR) across key sections (including Tandoadam–Rohri, Rohri-Khanpur, Kotri–Akhundabad, and the Thar Coal Rail Link).
- **Material Replacements**: Replaced 37,388 unserviceable sleepers, 3,542 turn-out crossing timbers, and 800 bridge timbers.

- **Infrastructure Repairs:** Rehabilitated 42 bridges, overhauled 86 level crossings, completed 11 km of embankment repairs, and carried out 4,000,000 cft of earthwork.
- **Monitoring & Testing:** Conducts periodic Ultrasonic Rail Flaw Detection (USFD) testing, seasonal monsoon inspections, and continuous track geometry monitoring.

Upgradation of Signaling Systems

Pakistan Railways has modernized its signaling and communication network to eliminate human error and enhance train control:

- **Computer-Based Interlocking (CBI):** Modernized station interlocking in phases, with 52 key stations commissioned (23 under Project-I, 7 under Project-II, and 22 under Project-III).
- **Train Communication**: Introduced Push-to-Talk (PTT) radio systems for real-time, uninterrupted communication between locomotive crews and control offices.
- **System Upgrades & Audits**: Restored relay rooms, replaced worn signaling cables, installed Digital Voltage Regulators (DVRs), and enforced routine technical audits and preventive maintenance for signaling staff.

Rolling Stock Modernization

- **Locomotives**: Modernizing 16 AGE-30 locomotives with state-of-the-art diesel engines (scheduled for rollout in FY 2026–27) and rehabilitating two accident-damaged locomotives.
- **Coaching Stock:** Procured modern passenger coaches from China under the 230 Coaches Project (including complete Transfer of Technology for indigenous manufacturing). Features include enhanced secondary suspension systems, GPS speed displays, digital information screens, and dedicated accessible washrooms.
- **Freight Wagons:** Procured high-capacity, dual-commodity (container/ coal) freight wagons featuring:
- Increased operating speeds (upgraded from 80 km/h to 100 km/h).
- Higher loading capacity (upgraded from 44 tons to 60 tons).

- Improved component durability to lower failure rates and extend Periodical Overhaul (POH) intervals.

Safety Management Systems: To strengthen overall operational reliability and prevent mechanical failures, strict maintenance regimes are enforced across all depots, workshops, and back shops:

- **Trip Maintenance:** Mandatory pre-departure functional checks prior to train dispatch.
- **Intermediate Examination:** Scheduled mid-route operational screening.
- **Preventive Maintenance:** Structured time and distance-based maintenance to identify and rectify mechanical defects before failures occur en route.
- **Establishment of Dedicated Safety Directorate:** It has been established to oversee railway safety and issue safety directives.
- **Upgradation of Coaches:** Train rakes and passenger services have been upgraded to improve safety, comfort, and service quality.
- **Installation of Warning Signs in Urdu:** Warning signs in Urdu have been installed at conspicuous locations near unmanned level crossings.
- **Organization of Safety Seminars:** Regular safety seminars and workshops are conducted to strengthen staff capacity and safety awareness.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Public awareness campaigns on railway crossing safety are conducted through print, electronic, and social media.
- **Registration of FIRs:** FIRs are registered against negligent road users and trespassers responsible for railway accidents.
- **Strengthening of Inspection Regimes**: Regular inspections of all manned and unmanned level crossings are conducted as per prescribed schedules.
- **Issuance of Periodic Directives:** Monthly Safety Bulletins and Rules of the Month are issued to Operating Divisions for operational guidance.
- **Training and Refresher Courses**: Training and refresher courses are regularly conducted at Pakistan Railways Academy, Walton, Lahore.

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

COST OF HAJJ FOR 2026 COMPARED WITH 2025

141. * Ms. Shahida Begum:

Will the Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony be pleased to state:

a) the details as per-pilgrim cost of the Government Hajj Scheme for 2026 compared with 2025;

b) the head-wise break-up of that cost including airfare, accommodation and United Kingdom of Saudi Arabia charges;

c) the number of subsidized seats; and the basis of their allocation; and

d) the total amount of unspent or refundable money returned to the pilgrims after each of the last two Hajj operations?

Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony (Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Zaman): (a) The Hajj Accounts for Hajj 2026 are not yet finalized, therefore, per pilgrim cost cannot be worked out at this stage. On finalization of Hajj Account 2026, the information will be provided.

(b) The required information is also linked with the finalization of Hajj Accounts 2026.

(c) There was no subsidized seat during Hajj 2026.

(d) After Hajj 2024 a saving of Rs. 4,823,795,000 was refunded to the Hujjaj and Rs. 3,456,585,000 was refunded after Hajj 2025.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CLOSURE OF PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIAL UNITS

13. Syeda Shehla Raza:

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state:

a) whether any public sector industrial units have been closed during the last three years, if so; and

b) the reasons for closure and the status of their assets thereof?

Minister for Industries and Production: (a) The Ministry of Industries and Production does not maintain the subject data and surveys are conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and other relevant provincial departments. Ministry of Industries and Production has requested the concerned departments all over the Pakistan to share relevant data for preparing a suitable/ comprehensive reply. Copy of letter issued to *Central Monitoring Unit (Finance Division), Board of Investment, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), All Provincial industries departments,* etc. is **enclosed**. This Ministry needs more time to gather comprehensive data for submitting a well framed reply.

(b) -do-

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

<u>INCREASE IN NON-COMMUNNICABLE DISEASES</u>

27. Ms. Aniqa Mehdi:

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that there is an alarming increase in non-communicable diseases in the country, which has become a significant burden not only on the health care system but also on the national economy, in terms of the proportion of the population affected by diabetes, Pakistan, has ranked at the first position globally, according to health experts, ultra-processed foods and sugary beverages; and

b) if so, whether the Ministry of National Health Services has proposed any measures in the 2026-27 budget to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods and sugary beverages, if so, the details thereof?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Syed Mustufa Kamal): (a) The Government recognizes that non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and other NCDs, have emerged as a major public health challenge and impose a significant health, social and economic burden on the country. According to international estimates, Pakistan has one of the highest burdens of diabetes globally, with approximately 33 million adults living with diabetes. The rising prevalence of unhealthy dietary practices, including the increasing consumption of ultra-processed foods and sugar-sweetened beverages, along with physical inactivity, tobacco use and obesity, are among the major modifiable risk factors contributing to the increasing burden of NCDs.

Non-communicable diseases account for approximately **60% of all deaths in Pakistan**, with cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers and chronic respiratory diseases being the leading causes. The Government recognizes that prevention through healthier diets, increased physical activity and reduction in tobacco use is essential for reducing the growing disease burden.

The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSR&C) has undertaken several strategic interventions to prevent and control NCDs, including implementation of the National Action Framework on Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, promotion of healthy diets and physical activity, strengthening early diagnosis and treatment services, and implementation of public awareness and health promotion initiatives.

Major Achievements under the National Action Framework (2021–2030)

- Establishment of two NCDs Assessment Clinics at the PHC level in ICT to strengthen early detection, risk assessment, counselling, and referral for hypertension, diabetes, and other major NCDs.
- Adoption of WHO PEN/HEARTS approaches for CVD risk management in selected districts in ICT, AJK & GB.
- Strengthening procurement and availability of essential cardiac medicines and diagnostics.

- Public awareness campaigns promoting healthy diets, physical activity, tobacco cessation and reduced salt and sugar intake.
- Fiscal measures, including increased taxation of sugar-sweetened beverages, to discourage unhealthy dietary practices.
- Strengthened partnerships with WHO, development partners and academic institutions for research, surveillance and implementation of evidence-based interventions.
- Enhanced NCD surveillance through DHIS2 and national health information systems.

➢ The Government has further incorporated these priorities into the **forthcoming National Health and Population Policy (2026–2035),** which emphasizes prevention, early detection, risk-factor reduction, and integrated management of non-communicable diseases as key national health priorities.

➢ **Prime Minister`s Program for Prevention and Control of Diabetes Mellitus (2024–2029) with an approved allocation of Rs. 6.8 billion**, aimed at strengthening prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and management of diabetes across the country.

➢ **Provision of free-of-cost cancer treatment for eligible patients through Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS),** Islamabad, to improve access to life-saving oncology services and reduce the financial burden on patients. Implementation of national policies and awareness campaigns promoting healthy diets, reduction in the consumption of foods high in sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, and encouraging healthier lifestyles.

(b) Yes. The Ministry of NHSR&C has proposed and supported several policy and programmatic measures to reduce the burden of NCDs, including discouraging the consumption of ultra-processed foods and sugar-sweetened beverages. Technical recommendations by the Ministry supporting fiscal and regulatory measures to discourage consumption of unhealthy food products, including sugar-sweetened beverages and ultra-processed foods. Furthermore, the Federal Government, through the Finance Act/Budget 2026–27, has enhanced

Federal Excise Duty/taxation on sugar-sweetened beverages and certain ultra-processed food products as a public health measure to discourage their consumption. However, it is pertinent to mention that the imposition, revision and collection of taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages and ultra-processed food products fall within the mandate of the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). The Ministry of NHSR&C provides technical and public health recommendations to support evidence-based fiscal policies aimed at reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases. In addition to fiscal measures, the Ministry continues to support evidence-based interventions including proMotion of healthy diets, reduction of trans-fat intake, public awareness campaigns, nutrition education, strengthening front-of-pack nutrition labelling initiatives, and collaboration with provincial governments.

DETAILS OF THE OFFICERS WHO OBTAINED MEMBERSHIP UNDER DRIVE-II

28. Syed Rafiullah:

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state:

a) the names of the officers of the National Assembly Secretariat and Senate Secretariat who have so far obtained Membership under Drive-II, alongwith their Membership numbers and the corresponding dates of issuance; and whether such Memberships were subsequently upgraded by the said officers for allotment of plots under Category-I, together with the dates of such up-gradations;

b) the total number of Category-I plots presently available in various sectors of Islamabad under the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority, as well as the number of plots already allotted and those proposed to be allotted in the near future, together with sector-wise and date-wise thereof;

c) whether the said up-gradations have not been updated on the website of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority; and

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

Minister for Housing and Works (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) The detail is enclosed at **Annex-A.**

(b) Detail of Cat-I available plots in various Sectors of FGEHA under Membership Drive-II is at **Annex-B**. The remaining Officers of National Assembly and Senate secretariat in the waiting list under Membership Drive-II will be accommodated in up-coming future scheme in F-12/G-12. The LOP (Layout plan) and PC-I of the scheme are under preparation and number of plots in Sector F-12/G-12 will be available after finalization of LOP.

(c) All personal data and lists have been removed from the FGEHA website in compliance with the directions of NITSB/NTC to prevent online data theft and unauthorized access. However, FGEHA has introduced an Allottee Portal through which Members can securely access and view their personal information online.

(d) As above.

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

DEVELOPMENT WORK IN GARDEN HOUSING SOCIETY ENCLAVE, BHARA KAHU

29. Syed Rafiullah:

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that the development work in Garden Housing Society Enclave, Bahara Kahu, Housing Society Block-A has not been completed so far; if so, the reasons thereof;

b) the percentage of development work completed, so far;

c) the time by which development work will be started and completed; and

d) the plot wise amount received by the allottees, so far?

Minister for Housing and Works (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) All development activities in Package-I (Phase- IA) including block-A are ongoing. 80 plots in Block-A has been handed over for possession on 03-07-2025.

Furthermore, Block A, B & D has been prioritized and planned to be handed over by December, 2026.

(b) Approx. 77% earthwork cutting / filling for block A, B & D has been completed.

(c) The competent authority has decided to prioritize Blocks A, B and D, with a timeline for handing over of plots by December, 2026 and Block C & E by Mar-2027.

(d) Detail is at **Annex-A.**

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

EXPENDITURES INCURRED ON MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORTS

30. Mr. Muhammad Moin Aamer Pirzada:

Will the Minister for Maritime Affairs be pleased to state:

a) the details of receipts from different sources, by the Ports alongwith source wise breakup thereof; and

b) the total expenditure incurred on maintenance, repairs, development of the ports and procurement during the last three (03) years?

Minister for Maritime Affairs (Mr. Muhammad Junaid Anwaar):

(a)
- Karachi Port Trust **(Annex-I)**.
- Port Qasim Authority **(Annex-II).**
- Gwadar Port Authority **(Annex-III).**

(b)
- Karachi Port Trust **(Annex-IV).**
- Port Qasim Authority **(Annex-V).**
- Gwadar Port Authority **(Annex-VI).**

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

GOALS FOR ESTABLISHING THE SIFC

31. Ms. Shahida Rehmani:

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state whether the goals for establishing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in the country are achieved; and if so, the details thereof?

@Transferred to Special Investment and Facilitation for Answer on Next Rota Day.

PEOPLE's INVOLVEMENT IN SOLVING HEALTH ISSUES

32. Ms. Shahida Rehmani:

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

a) how can people get involved in solving the health issues in the country; and

b) whether it is a fact that each individual's involvement is crucial to resolving public health issues in the country; whether any awareness campaign is launched about health issues for its more significant impact?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Syed Mustufa Kamal): (a) People play a vital role in improving public health by adopting healthy lifestyles, observing preventive health measures, participating in immunization and disease screening programmes, maintaining hygiene and sanitation practices, donating blood voluntarily, and complying with public health advisories. Community participation in awareness campaigns and outreach activities organized by the Ministry and Provincial Health Departments also contribute significantly to disease prevention, early diagnosis and improved health outcomes.

(b) Yes. Individual and community participation is fundamental to the success of disease prevention and health proMotion programmes. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, in collaboration with the

National Institute of Health (NIH), the Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI), Provincial Health Departments and development partners, regularly conducts nationwide awareness and risk communication campaigns on major public health issues.

Major initiatives include:

Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

- Nationwide awareness campaigns are conducted before and during every **Polio Eradication Campaign** through television, radio, print and social media. Religious leaders, community mobilizers and door-to-door communication activities to improve vaccine uptake, reduce vaccine hesitancy and ensure vaccination of every eligible child as per the agreed target.
- The **Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI)** conducts regular awareness campaigns under the **Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)** to promote routine childhood immunization and address vaccine hesitancy.
- During **2025**, the Government launched the **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign** for eligible adolescent girls. The campaign was supported through extensive public awareness activities involving schools, parents, healthcare workers, community mobilization and mass media to increase awareness regarding cervical cancer prevention and improve vaccine uptake.
- Public awareness activities are also undertaken before **Measles Immunization Campaigns** to encourage vaccination and reduce disease outbreaks.

Communicable Diseases

- Under the **Prime Minister's National Programme for the Elimination of Hepatitis C Infection**, a comprehensive communication strategy is being implemented to promote voluntary screening, safe injection practices, infection prevention and early treatment. The programme provides population-based screening through Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs), followed by free confirmatory PCR testing and treatment for diagnosed patients.

Public awareness forms an integral component of the programme and soon a media campaign in this regard, will be launched.

- Prior to and during the **dengue season**, the Ministry, in coordination with Provincial Health Departments, launches dengue prevention campaigns through television and radio public service messages, social media, public advisories, and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. Dengue awareness posters and pamphlets are displayed in public healthcare facilities to educate the public on elimination of mosquito breeding sites and personal protective measures. The dengue surveillance teams visiting community also raise awareness while visiting the households.
- The **National Institute of Health (NIH)** regularly issues health advisories, weekly public health bulletins and outbreak alerts for **waterborne diseases**, including cholera, typhoid and acute watery diarrhea. Through its Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) framework, the NIH disseminates Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials promoting safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices.

Non-Communicable Diseases

- Under the **National Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health Framework (2021–2030)**, the Ministry promotes awareness on prevention, early detection and timely management of non-communicable diseases. The **National Cancer Control and Prevention Strategy** is also under development to further strengthen cancer prevention and awareness initiatives.
- During **Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October)**, the Ministry disseminates awareness messages through print, electronic and digital media to promote early detection and screening. Public awareness messages are also disseminated through mobile phone caller tunes and other mass communication platforms to encourage timely medical consultation. Awareness walk to demonstrate government’s commitment to this cause is also part of commemoration activities.
- The Ministry supports awareness seminars, screening activities and public education campaigns on **diabetes** and other non-communicable diseases,

particularly on **World Diabetes Day**, to promote healthy lifestyles, early diagnosis and effective disease prevention.

Population and Reproductive Health

- **World Population Day** is observed annually through seminars, media campaigns and community awareness activities to promote family planning, reproductive health, maternal and child health, and responsible population practices. The population awareness activities and initiatives by respective provincial governments and district health officer Islamabad continue throughout the year.

Through these coordinated awareness initiatives, the Ministry seeks to promote informed public participation, encourage healthy behaviors, improve utilization of preventive health services, and strengthen national efforts towards disease prevention and health promotion. However, given the magnitude of the issue, the efforts remain sub-optimal.

PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE FREIGHT-SPECIFIC TRAINS

33. Syeda Shehla Raza:

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

a) whether there is a plan to introduce freight-specific trains to increase revenue; and

b) the current capacity of freight movement and percentage of target achieved?

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi): (a) Yes. Pakistan Railways is continuously expanding its freight operations to increase revenue and improve logistics services. Freight-specific train services are already in operation, including Cargo Express Trains, Coal Trains, Container Trains, and Phosphate Trains, catering to different sectors of the economy. In addition, Pakistan Railways is introducing new commodity-specific services, including Edible Oil Trains and Automobile Trains, to meet the growing transportation requirements of various industries, attract additional freight traffic, and enhance revenue generation.

(b) The current capacity of Pakistan Railways freight traffic is almost 10 freight trains per day from Karachi to up-country. During the financial year 2025-26, Pakistan Railways has achieved almost Rs. 41 billion from the freight-trains against the budgetary target of Rs. 38 billion which is 7% above the budgetary target and 32% above the last year revenue from the freight-specific trains.

WHITEWASH TO THE HOUSES OF CATEGORY-II, G-10/3, ISLAMABAD

34. Ms. Aliya Kamran:

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state:

a) whether white wash to houses of Category-II has not been started in Street No. 2, G-10/3, Islamabad alongwith number of application submitted to white wash of that houses during last two years;

b) what is the detail of above applications and action taken by the Concerned Authorities thereon so far;

c) number of applications submitted to the chairman, CDA during the last year for white wash of houses in said street alongwith the detail thereof;

d) whether an estimate has been approved to white wash of said houses if so, the detail thereof; and

e) the time by which said work will be started and completed?

Reply not received.

STUDY CONDUCTED TO MEASURE GROUNDWATER IN MAJOR CITIES

35. Syeda Shehla Raza:

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

a) whether any study has been conducted to measure groundwater depletion in the major cities; and

b) the measures being adopted by the Federal Government to control it?

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Muhammad Mueen Wattoo): (a) After the 18th amendment the water including the groundwater is a devolved subject and the respective provinces are responsible for groundwater monitoring and management. As per aquifer monitoring carried out during 2025 by Punjab Irrigation Department, 9,602 out of 107,622 sq. km (8.9% of the total command area) have a depth to water table of 60 ft. or more. The critical districts in terms of depletion mainly include Lahore, Okara Sahiwal Lodhran, Khanewal, Vehari, Pakpattan and Multan details are provided in **Annexure-I**.

Additionally, data recorded in canal commands areas as monitored during 2014 and 2022 by SCARP Monitoring Organization (SMO) - WAPDA gives aquifer outlook over 9 years as follows:

Punjab:

- Aquifer depletion noticed in 5,717 out of 121,839 sq.-km (4.64% of total command area) at an average rate of 0.63 ft./year. It includes mainly the areas from Bari Doab (Lahore, Okara, Sahiwal, Khanewal, Vehari, Lodhran, Multan and Rahimyar Khan).

Sindh-Balochistan:

- As such no aquifer depletion noticed, only in pockets as minor area 2.2 out of 78,673 sq-km (0.004% of total command area) at an average rate of 0.21 ft/year.
- Instead of depletion Sindh has an issue of waterlogging over 5 - 11 % area in pre-monsoon which extends up to 35-40% by post monsoon.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

- Aquifer depletion noticed in 482 out of 6,041 sq-km (7.98% of total command area) at an average rate of 0.59 ft/year. It includes areas from Peshawar, Bannu, D.I Khan and Malakand.

In view of above, the depletion phenomenon prevails in various parts of the aquifer and pressure on groundwater resources is mainly increasing due to overall rising water demand associated with population growth, expansion of irrigated agriculture, climate change and the need to meet food and fiber requirements. Accordingly expeditious implementation of enactment of regulation mechanism and regimes by the provincial agencies to ensure sustainability are required on immediate basis.

(b) The National Water Policy (NWP) 2018 is to take cognizance of the emerging water crisis and provide an overall policy framework and guidelines for a comprehensive plan of action. This policy is a national framework within which the provinces can develop their master plans for sustainable development and management of water resources. The water resource is a national responsibility, but urban water supply, environment and other water related sub-sectors are provincial subjects.

Water Policy, provides policy guidelines for regulation of groundwater, recognizing its significance as a critical resource of the country. At Para 29.5.8, the policy stipulates as follows:

> *"....it would be paramount to establish regulatory bodies for ground water, with strict yet expeditious regulation mechanism and regimes to ensure sustainability, transparency, efficiency, safety and affordability. For this purpose, a new organization "Ground Water Authority" will be established in each province. This organization will issue, establish and enforce standards for the development and utilization of groundwater."*

Additionally, pertaining to monitoring efforts to determine sustainable groundwater potential and preparation of groundwater budgets for sub-basins and canal commands, NWP, 2018 in section 16 states that "Provincial governments shall be persuaded to enforce legislation and take regulatory measures".

At the outset it is clarified that the water, including the groundwater is a devolved subject. Steps taken to regulate, implement groundwater, monitoring and ensure sustainable water use in agriculture in respective Provinces are specified below:

Province	**Enactment**	**Implementation/ Institutional Setup**
Punjab	• Punjab province enacted Punjab Water Act, 2019 to manage and regulate surface groundwater resources in the provinces. As per Water Act, 2019, Punjab Water Resources Commission and Punjab Water Regulatory Authority has been notified.	• **Punjab Water Resources Commission,** to conserve, redistribute, and augment water resources as well as to make allocation for domestic, agricultural, ecological, industrial, or other uses in different divisions of the Punjab.

		• **Punjab Water Services Regulatory Authority's** role to support both the institutions in groundwater regulation, Water Resources Zones have been created which are responsible for groundwater monitoring, database development, groundwater management in Punjab.
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	• Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has enacted **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Water Act, 2020.**	• Irrigation Department. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has initiated the establishment of Groundwater Monitoring Division.
Sindh	• The process of drafting new legislation has been initiated. Proposed draft Law will create the formal basis for the new institutions in integrated water resource management.	• The Groundwater regulatory framework will be developed and approved immediately after the promulgation of new legislation anticipated in current year.
Balochistan	• Government of Balochistan has formulated the **Balochistan Ground Water Rights Administration Rules, 2014**, in accordance with the **Balochistan Ground Water Rights Administration Ordinance, 1978**, for regulating groundwater in the province.	• The Balochistan Water Policy 2024, includes a thorough roadmap for the Groundwater Regulatory Framework.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House is adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, 25th August, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

(The House was adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, 25th August, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.)
