

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT****“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”**

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

**Wednesday, the 11th May, 2022**

143. \* **Mr. Saad Waseem:**  
*(Deferred during 39th Session)*

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of oil, gas petrol electricity, have increased;*
- (b) the prices of edible items like oil, ghee, potatoes, sugar, lentils meat, milk, chicken have increased multiple times;*
- (c) the prices before 2018 and 2021; and*
- (d) how many times the prices have increased?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary):** (a) Yes, as globally and nationally the prices have increased.

(b) On average, the prices of edible oil, ghee, lentils, sugar, beef, chicken and petrol have been increased by 21.22%, 23.44%, 19.27%, 30.92%, 38.61%, 15.39% and 23.39% respectively comparing the average prices of period 2013-18 and 2018-21. Whereas, changes in international prices of related commodities between 2018 and 2021 were Palm oil increased by 83.94%, Soybean oil increased by 62.72%, Sugar increased by 29.55%, Beef increased by 37.43%, Chicken increased by 19.15% and Crude Oil increased by 29.09%.

(c) Average prices of 2011-12, 2017-18 and 2020-21 are attached **(Annex-I)**.

(d) The price change (increase/decrease) depends upon supply and demand mechanism, so such changes are observed due to supply and demand mechanism and macroeconomic policies.

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

1. \* **Mr. Riaz Ul Haq:**  
*(Deferred during 41st Session)*

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

- (a) total potential of potatoes production of the country at present;*
- (b) detail of the volume and value of export of potatoes during the last three years; and*
- (c) what steps are being taken by the Government to increase the production volume of potatoes?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** (a) Potato is the fourth most significant crop in term of bulk of production after wheat, rice and maize Pakistan's potato national yield is about 23 tons/ hectare. Annual production of potato is as under:

<b>Product</b>	<b>Production (000 tons)</b>		
	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>%Change</b>
Potato	4,552.7	4,681.0	2.8
Source: Economic Survey of Pakistan 2021			

Area and production of potato as provided by MNFS&R is placed at **Annex-I**.

(b) Export details of potato in terms of value and volume is given below:

Exports of Potatoes (HS 0701, fresh & Chilled) In Last 3 FYs			
Value: US\$ Million			
Financial Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Export Value</b>	96.36	79.59	87.39
<b>Quantity (tonne)</b>	561,272	344,090	316,264
Source: PRAL			

(c) Following steps taken by Ministry of NFS&R through PARC to Increase Production Volume of Potato:

- More than 20 new exotic potato varieties were approved by VEC in past three years for registration by FSCRD. These new varieties were selected on the basis of high yield and disease resistance.
- National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB). NARC is involved in tissue culture commercialization in Pakistan through potato nucleus seed production. CIP-China and Gansu Agriculture University will provide technical inputs for evaluation and DNA fingerprinting and germplasm.
- 27 clones were evaluated for dry matter content and among them 6 clones having high dry matter traits (>20.3-22.3%) were selected for further studies.
- Cooperation with provincial government (NUYT) in development of local germplasm which will help in the development of local potato varieties with disease resistance and high yield.
- RDA-KOPIA Pakistan Centre has established **Aeroponic Potato Seed Production** facility at NIGAB, NARC. Aeroponic is a modern technology for growing plants by providing a nutrient solution in the air without soil. Plants grow rapidly in the growth chamber due to the disinfected

environment and availability of sufficient oxygen that improves potatoes in the Aeroponic system. This can produce up to 10 times the yield of conventional production systems. Aeroponic techniques are credited for making potato production more efficient, and can reduce the number of steps in the potato seed multiplication costs as well as plant health and quality. National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB), is involved in tissue culture and aeroponically potato seed production on production on commercial scale and hopefully potato yield in coming three years will be enhanced up to 26-28 tonnes/ ha with total production 5.4 to 5.6 million tons in the country.

### Annex-I

#### **Potato Area under cultivation & Production in Pakistan**

Area “000” Hectare  
Production “000” Tons

Year	Punjab		Sindh		KPK		Balochistan		Pakistan	
	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
2016-17	166.4	3660.3	0.6	4.9	9.2	143.4	1.5	22.4	177.7	3831.0
2017-18	180.5	4264.4	0.6	5.7	10.8	152.6	1.5	22.8	193.4	4445.5
2018-19	182.8	4691.0	0.7	6.4	8.5	151.7	1.4	21.3	193.5	4870.4
2019-20	172.0	4372.0	0.7	6.3	2.6	29.5	1.3	20.8	176.6	4428.6
2020-21*	221.0	5682.0	0.6	5.9	2.6	29.9	1.8	24.8	226.1	5742.7

Source: Provincial CRS Departments  
Ministry of Food Security Division

#### 23. \* Syed Agha Rafiullah:

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

- (a) *whether the concerned authorities have taken notice of the fact that the benefit of adjustable General Sales Tax (GST), which is levied on the raw material or otherwise at the time of manufacturing of any product, is not passed to general public, though it is later on refunded to the individuals or companies*

*concerned because the price of an item is determined based on the cost involved in its manufacturing;*

- (b) if so, whether the institutions like FBR has formulated policies to levy taxes that are more regressive to the general public;*
- (c) whether the FBR has assessed such regressive impact on the people at large in recent years; if so, the details thereof;*
- (d) total value of adjusted GST collected during the last three financial years including the current financial year; and*
- (e) how much adjustable GST has been refunded during the last three years alongwith break-up of each year and how much during said period is shown as pending?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

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

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

- (a) details of value and volume of total proceeds of privatization, which had been made from August, 2018 to April, 2022;*
- (b) total expenditures incurred upon aforesaid privatization;*
- (c) the details of procedure adopted to said privatization;*
- (d) whether the benchmark price of privatized entity was assessed;*
- (e) if so, how it was assessed; if not, the reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Privatization (Mr. Abid Hussain Bhayo):** (a) During August 2018 to April 2022 following privatisation transactions have been conducted: —

<b>Transactions</b>	<b>Proceeds (Rs. Billion)</b>
10 Properties	0.933
Services International Hotel, Lahore	1.95

Heavy Electrical Complex	1.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.293</b>

(b) Following expenditures were incurred for the aforesaid privatisations:

<b>Transactions</b>	<b>Proceeds (Rs. Million)</b>
10 Properties	24.6
Services International Hotel, Lahore	28.9
Heavy Electrical Complex	25.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.81</b>

(c) The said privatisations were conducted through competitive bidding process, as per the provisions of the Privatisation Commission Ordinance, 2000.

(d) Yes. The benchmark (reference) prices of all the said privatisation transactions were assessed through a laid down process.

(e) The benchmark (reference) prices of the said privatisations were conducted by the respective Financial Advisors (FAs) [including Valuers on the Panel of State Bank of Pakistan] on the basis of international and domestic standards of conducting valuation. The recommendations of the FAs were considered by the Privatisation Commission Board, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation and were duly ratified by the Federal Cabinet.

25. **\* Mr. Muhammad Jamal-Ud-Din:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Ministry had referred the question of Riba to the Advisory of Council of Islamic Ideology in March, 1963;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the Council of Islamic Ideology had prepared its recommendations to the Ministry;*
- (c) *if the answers to part (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, the recommendations of the Council alongwith details of recommendation-wise implementation status?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

26. **\* Mr. Raza Rabani Khar:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Ex-Federal Minister for Finance claimed that certain elements, involved in speculative trade, are responsible for depreciation of rupee against US Dollar;*
- (b) *if so, the details of such elements;*
- (c) *if the claim of above said functionaries is deemed true then what steps has been taken to hold such elements accountable;*
- (d) *whether it is also a fact that speculative trade of such elements is tantamount to failure of responsible departments; and*
- (e) *what corrective measures are being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

27. **\* Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

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

- (a) *details of the total Pakistan's foreign debts at present; and*
- (b) *the details of amount in billion dollars which the Government has to pay under the head of foreign debts?*

Reply not received.

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

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

- (a) *the details of the progress of Balakot City;*
- (b) *total funds allocated/released so far;*
- (c) *name of the construction firms;*
- (d) *total works completed and remaining and reasons for delay;  
and*
- (e) *details of total amount spent by ERRA in Chitral during the  
last ten years?*

**Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office:** (a) Detail of progress of Balakot City is at **Annex-A**.

(b) Federal Govt. released PKR 1.5 billion for acquisition of land to the Govt. of KP in 2007. Land was acquired by the District Office Revenue of Estate Mansehra. PC-I of New Balakot City Development Project was approved by ECNEC amounting to Rs. 12,000 Million. So far a total of Rs. 2,969 Million (Rs. 2,821 million on Development expense & Rs. 148 million on Operational expense) has been released and spent on the project.

(c) Name of construction firms for Balakot City project is *M/s Mumtaz Construction Company (MCC)*.

(d) Details of completed works on Balakot City Projects is at **Annex-B**.

The work on the project delayed due to:

- i. Non-availability of encumbrance free land.
- ii. Resistance from locals.
- iii. Non-availability of funds.

(e) ERRA has been mandated by Government of Pakistan to work in 9 Districts of Earthquake-2005 affected areas which include Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Shangla and Kohistan in KP and Muzffarabad, Bagh, Poonch and Neelum in AJK. Chitral is out of ambit of ERRA.



ERRA did not spend any amount in Chitral during the last ten years.

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

29. \* **Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

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

*(a) the year-wise total quantity and amount of wheat imported during last three years so far; and*

*(b) the names of countries from where the wheat was imported?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** (a) The total quantity of wheat imported during the last 3 years alongwith the value of the imported wheat is shown below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Quantity imported MT</b>	<b>Value in million US\$</b>
2019-20	Nil	Nil
2020-21	3,612,638	983.33
2021-22 (July-Jan)	1,766,762	627.48

(Source:PBS)

(b)

<b>Country of origin</b>
Argentina
Brazil
Bulgaria
France
Germany
Romania
Russian Federation
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates

30. \* **Mr. Muhammad Jamal-Ud-Din:**

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

- (a) *whether any targeted plan has been devised by the Ministry for elimination of trade barriers and to enhance economic cooperation with regard to expand export of the country to the OIC countries;*
- (b) *if the answer to part (a) above is in affirmative, the details of such plan/strategy?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** (a) The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organisation after the United Nations, with the membership of 57 states, covering four continents. It covers Middle East; Africa; Central Asia; South-East Asia and Sub-continent. The Ministry of Commerce is working with OIC on various initiatives aiming to enhance Intra-OIC trade.

Yes, Pakistan actively participates in the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conference which have created various committees to implement its programs. The Standing Committee for Economic & Trade Cooperation (COMCEC) and Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) are responsible for trade and economic cooperation between OIC Countries. Major initiatives under the COMCEC are follows: •

- Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC) is one of the most important framework agreements of the COMCEC to foster intra-OIC trade. Pakistan has signed the Framework Agreement, with the objective to enhance trade and reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers adversely affecting the Intra-OIC Trade.
- COMCEC Working Group mechanism is one of the main instruments of the Strategy towards the realization of its objectives. Ministry of Commerce is the focal point for the COMCEC working group on Trade, Transport and Communication, Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation Working Group and Financial Cooperation Working Group and coordinates activities between various Ministries and COMCEC to enhance cooperation in all these areas.

- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) is the Subsidiary Organ of the OIC entrusted with the mission of promoting Trade & Investments in OIC Countries. It is headquartered in Casablanca, Morocco. The following activities have been undertaken to enhance economic cooperation with OIC member states under ICDT:
  - i. Pakistan was elected 1st Vice-chairman of the Bureau of the Board of Directors of ICDT in 2021;
  - ii. Pakistan is scheduled to participate in 17th Trade Fair of OIC member states scheduled to be held in Dakar Senegal from 13-19 June 2022;
  - iii. 18th Trade Fair of OIC member states is scheduled to be held in Pakistan in 2023 and the preparations for the event will commence once the 17th Trade Fair is organized in Senegal.

(b) Moreover, under STPF Ministry of Commerce has **separate plans/ regional strategies** to enhance trade with Muslim countries which are mostly non-traditional markets for Pak exports, detailed below:

**Middle East Region:**

- Ministry of Commerce has close Economic Cooperation with GCC countries and has Trade & Investment Sections in Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia and has also established JWG's on trade with Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Through these Trade Sections regular trade and investment promotion activities are undertaken in GCC.
- Pakistan and Gulf Cooperation Council, consisting of six member states, KSA, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman are negotiating Free Trade Agreement. The free trade agreement covers goods, services, investment and digital trade.
- In order to enhance trade with the non GCC members in the Middle East, Ministry of Commerce has established Commercial Section in Jordan, in 2020.

**Africa Region:**

Out of 57 members of OIC, 27 countries are in Africa. In order to enhance economic engagement with African countries, Ministry of Commerce launched its Look Africa Policy in 2017/18. Under the policy, the following major initiatives/ interventions have been taken to enhance economic cooperation and remove trade barriers with African countries:

- (a) Look Africa Trade Forums have been organized in all major cities of Pakistan;
- (b) Ministry of Commerce has relocated/opened six new Commercial Sections in Algeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Senegal and Sudan, in addition to four already established Commercial Sections in Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa, taking the total active Commercial Sections to nine. It may be noted here that Algeria, Egypt, Senegal and Sudan are also OIC members;
- (c) Negotiations on bilateral/ multilateral trade agreements for market access in Africa and proposals to establish Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on trade have been initiated. Egypt-Pakistan Joint Working Group on trade has been established and 1st meeting was held on 15th October 2019. As a result, Pakistan has gotten market access in Halal meat sector in Egypt;
- (d) Preferential Trade Agreement is being negotiated with Tunisia;
- (e) Special facilitation to delegations to/from Africa is being provided.
- (f) Enhanced facilitation is being provided by the government for the Pakistani companies' participation in trade fairs in Africa. TDAP has included major exhibitions in Egypt, Nigeria, Algeria, Sudan, South Africa and Morocco in its yearly calendar.
- (g) Two Pak Africa Trade Development Conferences/ Exhibition have been arranged in 2020 and 2021, for East and West Africa, whereas 3rd event is scheduled for Southern Africa this year.

**ECO Region:**

Ministry of Commerce is working on a policy to enhance trade and connectivity with Central Asia, through Afghanistan and Iran. In this regard, following measures have been taken by the Ministry to enhance economic cooperation:

- (a) Pakistan and Afghanistan have finalized and implemented main operational part of Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA 2021) which will ensure free movement of trucks between the two countries.
- (b) Agreement between Uzbekistan and Pakistan on Transit Trade was signed on 15th July, 2021. The agreement provides free movement of trucks between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The transit trade agreements are also being negotiated with Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.
- (c) Pak-Uzbekistan Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was signed on 3rd March, 2022. The Agreement provides preferential access of products of one country in the market of the other, by eradicating trade barriers. PTA is also being negotiated with Azerbaijan.
- (d) Pakistan has also established Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Trade with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. The JWGs help to ensure economic cooperation by holding business forums, exhibitions, seminars and eradicating technical barriers to trade by harmonizing standards.
- (e) Pakistan and Iran have established a framework of Joint Trade Committee, under which economic cooperation in the fields of trade, banking, customs are agreed.
- (f) Pakistan and Iran have signed MOU to establish six joint border markets.
- (g) Pakistan has also signed customs and banking cooperation agreements with Uzbekistan, Iran and Afghanistan.

- (h) Pakistan is also negotiating Mutual Recognition Agreements with Central Asian Republics on SPS and technical standards.

**South and South East Asia:**

Ministry of Commerce endeavors for meaningful trade relations with Islamic countries falling in its purview including Bangladesh, Maldives, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.

- (a) Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy a Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA), whereas Pakistan and Indonesia have a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in place. Similarly, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan are members of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and signatories of the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) which provides for preferential market access to each other.
- (b) Malaysia Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA):

Pakistan and Malaysia share strong economic and diplomatic ties, which have been reaffirmed at all levels. The Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) was signed on 8th November, 2007 at Kuala Lumpur Malaysia and is operational since 1st January 2008. The agreement is comprehensive as it covers Goods, Services and Investment in addition to Mutual Recognition Arrangements to facilitate entrepreneurs of both countries.

In Services, both countries have provided WTO plus market access to each other. In the field of computer and I.T related services, Islamic Banking, Islamic Insurance (Takaful) Pakistan has secured 100% equity in Malaysia.

- (c) Indonesia Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement (IP-PTA):

Indonesia and Pakistan signed Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in 2012. Under the agreement, Pakistan and Indonesia have offered market access to each other on preferential tariff. Currently, Indonesia and Pakistan are working on the possibility to expand the PTA coverage and upgrade it to the Indonesia-Pakistan Trade in Goods Agreement (IP-

TIGA). Two meetings of Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) on IP-TIGA have been held so far.

(d) The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC):

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established on 8th December, 1985 by Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with an aim to accelerate the process of economic and social development in the region.

The Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) was signed at Islamabad during the Twelfth SAARC Summit on 6th January, 2004 for promotion of trade in goods which is effective since 1st January, 2006. Later, to realize full potential of SAFTA, the need to integrate trade in services was stressed by the countries.

The SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) was signed on 28th April 2010. However, the agreement is not operational yet since processes on finalization of the Schedules of the Specific Commitments (SoSC) are underway which on finalization, would become an integral and substantive part of the Agreement.

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

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Covid-19 has affected livelihoods and economic activities in general and in particular rural areas, further, it is feared that millions more people have joined the ranks of the poor;*
- (b) *if so, whether the Government has assessed the impact of their social safety programmes, as to how Covid-19 impact affected the poorest of the poor person on their livelihoods, particularly with reference to increasing prices of every essential food items and commodities in use of daily life; if so, the details thereof; and*

- (c) *what steps are being taken by the Government to bring ease in the lives of poorest of the poor person?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary):** (a) **The said question partially pertains to PBS.** PBS conducted a special survey titled “**Evaluating Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Wellbeing of People**” to capture the Socio-economic impact of covid-19 lock down on wellbeing of population *i.e.* Employment, Food security and coping strategies adopted during Covid-19 lock down. This survey comprising of 6000 blocks all over Pakistan in October, 2020 with reference period of January to July 2020. The salient findings of this special Survey are given below:

- i. During Covid-19 as there is a large percentage of household faced problem of Job Loss especially from informal employment sector and reduction in salaries. Overall 27.31 Million population was effected by job loss or reduction in salaries during covid-19 lock down. After removal of lock down 24.23 Million population retained their jobs and salary loss, this is V shape recovery.
- ii. Effect on **Households Income** (Earned Or Un Earned)(%) (April July 2020) was observed 53%. (Urban 57% and Rural 49%).
- iii. **Food insecurity:** During Covid-19 lock down, 40% household felt food insecurity as compare to 16% household before covid-19.
- iv. Total 33% household *i.e.* approximately 10.56 million received **Financial Assistance** from Government (Ehsaas program, BISP etc.) and Private (Relatives, neighbor’s etc.) (Government 13.5%, private 12.5%, NGO/Other 2%, 5.5% from both Government and Private).
- v. Household adopts different **Coping Strategies** to manage their livelihood and it is observed that some households have adopted more than one coping Strategy to manage their livelihood. Following are the results of highly adopted percentage of coping strategy.



- Reduced nonfood expenses *i.e.* health, clothing etc. (54%)
- Switched to lower quality/Quantity of Food (50%)
- Spent savings or investment/Sold Property (47%)
- Loans from relatives/friends (30%)
- Delayed payment of loans (12%)
- Discontinuation of Education (8%)

(b) It partially pertains to PBS. It is informed that **PBS does not have information** regarding the point of “**increasing of prices of essential items on the livelihood of people**”. The impact of lock down during COVID-19 on livelihood based on the special survey is given above.

(c) It partially pertains to PBS and Financial Assistance data obtained through the said survey is given above at **Sr. iv.**

32. \* **Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the total quantity and value of sugar imported during the last three years and also by the incumbent Government alongwith year and country-wise break-up so far?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** During the last three years, 434,972 MT of Sugar was imported by TCP, details of which are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Volume (In Metric Tons)</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>
2019-20	Nil	Nil
2020-21	130,563	Algeria (25,250) Egypt (26,250) Brazil (26,562.8) Dubai UAE (52,500)
2021-22 (July to March)	304,409	Dubai UAE

(Source: TCP)

**33. \* SYED MEHMOOD SHAH:**

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

- (a) *the procedure adopted for the distribution of funds by the Ministry;*
- (b) *the distribution of PSDP during the last three year alongwith current financial year; and*
- (c) *whether Government has taken notice that Opposition Member's Constituencies were not made the part of PSDP; if so, the reasons thereof?*

**Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary):** (a) As per PFM Act, 2019, funds under PSDP are allocated only to approved projects, duly proposed by sponsoring Ministries/Divisions, by the competent fora like DDWP, CDWP & ECNEC. The detailed procedure for formulation of PSDP and general criteria / guidelines are attached at **Annex-I**.

(b) The Ministry-wise allocation/distribution of funds during last three years is attached as **Annex-II**. Whereas summarized position of overall PSDP is as under;

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Rupee</b>	<b>PSDP Allocation F. Aid</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
2018-19	530.70	144.30	675.00
2019-20	572.71	128.29	701.00
2020-21	577.52	72.48	650.00
2021-22	800.00*	100.00	900.00

\*Revised at Rs. 600 billion

(c) As indicated above, funds under federal PSDP are allocated to approved projects sponsored by Federal Ministries / Provinces. However, to remove regional disparity and bring equitable development in the country as per article 156 of the constitution, programmes/packages like Accelerated Development Plan for Southern Balochistan, Karachi Transformation Plan, Socio-Economic Development of Gilgit Baltistan,

Sindh Development Plan for 14+ Priority Districts, Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa etc. are being finance through federal PSDP.

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

34. \* **Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state whether the Government intends to provide the facilities to the exporters for increasing the exports of marble, granite, pharmaceuticals, IT services and rice?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** I. The Government is fully and wholeheartedly committed to provide all the needed facilitation to the business community of the country to enable them to increase exports of goods and services produced in the country. The Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2020-25, reflects the strong commitment of the Government, which contains numerous policy initiatives aiming meaningful facilitation to the business community. Major initiatives under the STPF 2020-25 are summarized as below:

- Competitiveness Enhancement
- Trade Related Investment
- Integration into Global Value Chain
- Export Econ System
- Trade Facilitation

II. The initiatives specified in the STPF 2020-25 with a total financial outlay of Rs. 44.72 billion will be financed through PSDP, EDF and PPP. The Key Enabler-Wise estimated financial outlay under STPF 2020-25 is at **Annex-I**.

III. **Specific Initiatives:** The Government has taken a number of measures to increase export of Marble & Granite, Pharmaceuticals, IT Services and Rice as detailed in **Annex-II**.

IV. **Export Performance:** Keeping in view the business friendly policies of the Government, visible improvement has been noted in export of Marble & Granite, Pharmaceuticals, IT Services and Rice as given below:

Product/Service	Value in Million US\$		
	2019-20 (July-June)	2020-21 (July-June)	2021-22. (July-March)
Marble and Granite	19.06	26.33	15.07
Pharmaceutical Products	206.11	270.44	191.64
Rice	2,168.39	2,037.31	1,782.47
Telecommunications, Computer, And Information Services*	1,439.97	2,107.80	1,947.90
<b>Source: PRAL/* Source is SBP</b>			

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

35. \* **Mr. Saad Waseem:**

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

- (a) *the total amount received from Privatization by the Ex-Government during the last three years including the names of the institutions which have been privatized; and*
- (b) *the details of various costs incurred on such privatization?*

**Minister for Privatization (Mr. Abid Hussain Bhayo):** (a) During August 2018 to April 2022 following privatisation transactions have been conducted:—

<b>Transactions</b>	<b>Proceeds (Rs. Billion)</b>
10 Properties	0.933
Services International Hotel, Lahore	1.95
Heavy Electrical Complex	1.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.293</b>

(b) Following expenditures were incurred for the aforesaid privatisations:—

<b>Transactions</b>	<b>Proceeds (Rs. Million)</b>
10 Properties	24.6
Services International Hotel, Lahore	28.9
Heavy Electrical Complex	25.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.81</b>

36. \* Ms. Shams Un Nisa:

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

- (a) *details of the volume of trade made between Pakistan and Sri Lanka during the years 2020, 2021; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to enhance trade with the said country and to ensure transparency in the same?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** (a) Details of the volume of trade made between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in FY 2020-21 are as under:

<b>Bilateral Trade Trends</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Exports</b>	<b>Imports</b>	<b>Total trade</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<i>(US\$ Millions)</i>				
2020-21	275.08	79.62	354.7	(+)195.46
<b>Source: TDAS</b>				

- (b) There have been high-level engagements with Sri Lanka:
- The 7th Session of the Commerce Secretary Level Talks was held on 18th February, 2021, during which both sides agreed to reactivate the forum of Joint Working Groups for redressal of technical issues.
  - The first ever Pakistan-Sri Lanka Trade and Investment-Conference was organized on 24th February, 2021. It was co-attended by around 200 top businessmen and investors from Sri Lanka.
  - The 2nd meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade, Investment and Auto sector was held on 21st May, 2021.
  - Ministry of Commerce facilitated the visit of the Sri Lankan Ministerial Business Delegation (20-27th January 2022), headed by Hon. Trade Minister of Sri-Lanka Furthermore,

representatives of 15 Sri Lankan companies also accompanied the delegation.

- The Ministry of Commerce to streamlined the process of Basmati rice quota of 6000 MT allocated to Pakistan under the Pakistan Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA), in consultation with REAP, to satisfaction of the rice exporters.
- Moreover, a number of specific interventions were made in coordination to ensure smooth trade flows:
  - Withdrawal of ban on export of cement in 50 kg packaging in which Pakistan enjoyed 55% share in Sri Lankan market.
  - Rationalization of CESS imposed on cement from 250 LKR to 150 LKR
  - Withdrawal of CESS on imported mandarins in Sri Lanka

37. **\* Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan has been entrusted with the task of providing health insurance to the people which has been initiated by the Federal and Provincial Government;*
- (b) *if so, the terms and conditions thereof including the annual amount that State Life will receive for this purpose and on what basis State Life offers its services;*
- (c) *whether State Life hired hospitals for this purpose or in hospitals peoples are recommended by the respective Governments;*
- (d) *whether the hospitals have hired by State Life the criteria for hiring such hospitals;*
- (e) *whether hospitals have been hired after conducting proper bidding; is treatment for the diseases for which this scheme has been started, available in the said hospitals; and*
- (f) *how it is being decided, or under what parameters observed that such number of hospitals would be enough for the population of that district?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** (a) Yes, State Life Insurance Corporation has been selected through the bidding process as per PPRA Rules. The Ministry of National Health Services initiated the bidding process along with the provinces. For the existing process, three companies/consortiums have applied. State Life is selected as the single most advantageous bidder for implementing Sehat Sahulat Program for the next three years.

(b) Brief terms & condition thereof including the annual amount that State Life will receive for this purpose and on what basis State Life offers its services are at **Annex-I**

(c) State Life has a well-defined mechanism for the empanelment of hospitals. Hospitals are encouraged to apply online for their registration. Each interested hospital is thoroughly assessed by Standard Empanelment Criteria. Hospitals that are qualified based on the criteria and required by State Life based on utilization and geographical area are shortlisted for further contracting.

The list of hospitals is also shared with the client for approval of their respective steering committees.

(d) Yes, State Life follows Standard Empanelment Criteria, which include 300+ questions and cover around 15 major sections for evaluation of hospitals.

(e) The hospitals are empanelled based on tariff rates devised by State Life and approved by Steering Committee. State Life tries to negotiate a maximum set of services for any hospital. The tariff rates are based on package rates, which means that all charges from admission to discharge are covered under a given package.

The range of package rates is set for each hospital to each hospital's grading. The website [ihealth.com.pk](http://ihealth.com.pk) has the complete list of panel hospitals and available services at each hospital.

(f) State Life has a team of actuaries that forecast the utilization pattern of each region and determine the requirements of beds/hospitals in the given region. The requirement of hospitals also varies according to the requirement of services, utilization, the concentration of hospitals, and access to hospitals.

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

38. \* **Ms. Shams Un Nisa:**

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

(a) *the steps being taken by the Government to increase profit through transit and border trade; and*

- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to ensure standard of quality of goods being imported and exported at present?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** (a) Ministry of Commerce has taken following steps to increase profit through transit and border trade:

- (a) Pakistan and Afghanistan have finalized Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA 2021) which will ensure free movement of trucks between the two countries. The modalities of free movement of trucks have been agreed and are being implemented.
- (b) Agreement between Uzbekistan and Pakistan on Transit Trade (AUPTT) was signed on 15th July, 2021. The agreement provides free movement of trucks between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The transit trade agreements are also being negotiated with Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.
- (c) As a result of finalization of APTTA 2021 and AUPTT, the transport sector witnessed increase of 27% from Jul-2021-Feb 22 as compared to same duration of the last year.
- (d) Pakistan shared MOUs on establishment of Border Markets with Iran and Afghanistan in November 2020. Afghanistan regretted to the proposal of the markets, but Ministry of Commerce is pursuing them for the establishment of border markets. However, Pakistan and Iran signed a MoU on establishment of Border Markets on 21st April, 2021. The two sides have agreed to form six border markets with pilot projects at Chegdi-Kohak, Mand- Pishin and Gabd-Rimdan. So far Pakistan side has completed construction of market at Mand, while construction of market by Iran at Mand will be completed by 20th May, 2022. The two sides also decided to complete construction of the remaining two pilot markets by September, 2022.
- (e) The construction of Border markets will cater to the sustenance needs of the people living along the border of the two countries.

(b) Ministry of Commerce would like to respond to this question in the following lines:

- **For Import of Goods:**
- Import Policy Order (IPO) 2022 is the main legislative instrument through which imports into Pakistan are regulated. As per IPO, goods of substandard quality cannot be imported. Some specific measures to ensure quality of imported goods are as under:



- i. Only those food products can be imported which are fit for human consumption, free from haram elements and have minimum 66% shelf life on the date of importation into Pakistan, and packages containing food items need to be properly labelled in Urdu and English and label of Halal affixed thereto.
- ii. Goods specified under Appendix-N of IPO 2022 are importable subject compliance with the Quality Standards as notified by Pakistan Standard and Quality and Control Authority (PSQCA).
- iii. Under Parts-III, IV, V and VI of Appendix-B, IPO 2022 import of goods of animal, plant, pharmaceutical origin and medical devices etc. are allowed subject compliance with regulatory measures enforced by Animal Quarantine Department (AQD), Department of Plant Protection (DPP) and Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), respectively. Their details are as under:
  - a. Under Part-III of Appendix-B, IPO 2022 some 495 items of live animals and products of animal origin including meat and products thereof are allowed import subject to health & safety and quarantine requirements administered by AQD of Ministry of National Food Security & Research.
  - b. Under Part-IV of Appendix-B, IPO 2022 about 489 items of plant and plant origin including fruits and vegetables etc. are allowed import subject to inspection, pest analysis and SPS requirements of
  - c. Under Part-V of Appendix-B, IPO 2022 around 213 items/chemicals/APIs/drugs etc. are allowed import after passing through standards and quality checks of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP).
  - d. Under Part-VI of Appendix-B, IPO 2022, import of medical devices is allowed subject to Clearance Certificate from DRAP.
  - e. Import of seeds is allowed subject to testing of quality and conformity to the standards of Federal Seed Certification and Research Department.
  - f. Import of certain mechanical/ engineering goods is allowed subject to conformity with international standards through third party inspections *i.e.* Pre-Shipment Inspection of Solar Panels etc.

- **For Export of Goods.**
- Export Policy Order (EPO) 2022 provides the regulatory framework for regulations of exports of goods from Pakistan. Some of the quality checks at export stage are as under:
  - i. For products of animal origin including meat and meat products, export is allowed on the basis of a health / Quarantine Certificate issued by AQD.
  - ii. Similarly, all exported goods of plant origin including fruits and vegetables etc. are being inspected by DPP and are allowed export on the basis of an SPS Certificate issued by DPP.
  - iii. For exports of pharmaceutical products, approval/clearance certificate is issued by DRAP.
  - iv. To ensure quality of exported surgical instruments, it is mandatory that shipment of surgical instruments is accompanied by a Certificate issued by Sialkot Material Testing Laboratory.

39. \* **Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

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

- (a) *how much a user actually receive balance in rupees on recharge of Rs.100/- after deduction of all applicable taxes, duties, service charges etc either being charged at the time of recharge or charged separately on calls or messages;*
- (b) *whether the Government has taken notice of the fact that imposition of withholding tax on mobile users is unjustified as 98% of them including students, daily wagers, beneficiaries of Ehsas Programme etc., whom income does not exceed the minimum threshold for filing tax return to claim such a tax adjustment or refund; if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard;*
- (d) *whether it is a fact that a person who obtains a certificate from the Income Tax Commissioner stating that his income does not exceed the minimum threshold for filing tax return during the tax year, then such person is exempted from such deduction;*
- (e) *if so, details for the people how currently such certification is given; and*

(f) *what corrective measures are being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Deferred for answers on Next Rota Day.

40. **\* Mr. Raza Rabani Khar:**

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

(a) *whether it is a fact that currently imported cell phones are taxed at a price set by the phone manufacturer, instead of the actual receipt of purchase;*

(b) *if so, if is not, that tantamount to an injustice to Pakistanis living abroad;*

(c) *whether there is a proposal to collect tax on actual receipt of purchase of every phone, including setting up a system to allow overseas Pakistanis to bring at least one mobile phone with them each year considering the record remittances from them in the country in recent years;*

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

Deferred for answers on Next Rota Day.

41. **\* Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the details of total monthly salary alongwith perks of Governor State Bank of Pakistan?*

Deferred for answers on Next Rota Day.

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

*Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state the details of amount received from Saudi Arabia, China and the United Arab Emirates during last three years and how did such amount play to maintain the balance of the country and terms and conditions upon which such amount received from said countries?*

**Minister for Economic Affairs (Sardar. Ayaz Sadiq):**

**CHINA**

A total amount of US \$ 2,035.58 million was received in the form of disbursements during the tenure of the last Government under the various ongoing loan projects signed with Government of People's Republic of China. Details at (**Annex-I**).

**SAUDI ARABIA**

The details of amount received from Saudi Arabia during last three years is at (**Annex-II**). The total amount received is \$4.835 billion.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

During the tenure of last three years, no amount had been received from United Arab Emirates through Economic Affairs Division.

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

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

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the details of the audit paras against the ministries/divisions during the last three years and the action taken against the responsible functionaries/financial advisors for such negligence?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

44. \* **Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

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

*(a) the total value of crypto currency purchased by Pakistanis during the last three years; and*

*(b) the impact evolved on country economy from the purchase of crypto currency?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

ISLAMABAD:  
*The 10th May, 2022.*

TAHIR HUSSAIN,  
*Secretary.*

PCPPI—2347(2022) NA—10-05-2022—500.

**(42nd Session)**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**

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**“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”**

**For Wednesday, the 11th May, 2022**

28. **Ms. Nuzhat Pathan:**  
*(Deferred during 40th Session)*

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the subsidy has been granted to the Sugar Mills from 2013 to 2018 alongwith subsidy granted to Sugar Mills during the present Government from 2019 to 2021?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** From 2013 to 2021, the following schemes were approved by the ECC of the Cabinet, whereby an inland freight subsidy or cash subsidy was granted to sugar mills against export of sugar:

- Subsidy of Rs. 1.75/ kg on export of sugar, across the board was approved **vide ECC Decision dated 10-01-2013.**
- Export of 650,000 MT sugar allowed at Rs. 10/kg subsidy, to be borne by Federal and respective Provincial governments on 50:50 sharing, **vide ECC decision dated 24-12-2014.**
- Export of 500,000 MT sugar allowed at Rs. 13/kg subsidy, to be equally shared by Federal and respective Provincial governments **vide ECC decision dated 07-12-2015.**
- Export of 500,000 MT. of sugar was allowed at Rs. 10.70/kg subsidy on a sliding scale between international price of US\$ 376/MT and US\$ 499/MT, to be borne by Federal and respective Provincial governments on 50:50 basis **vide ECC decision dated 14-09-2017.**
- Export of 1500,000 MT of sugar was allowed at Rs. 10.70/kg subsidy on a sliding scale between international price of US\$ 376/MT and US\$ 499/MT, to be borne by Federal and respective Provincial governments on 50:50 basis **vide ECC decision dated 28-11-2017.**

- Export of 1100,000 MT of sugar was allowed; no freight support/subsidy was to be given by Federal government, while respective provincial governments were allowed to determine/pay freight support *vide* **ECC decision dated 04-12-2018**. Government of Punjab allowed freight support @ Rs. 5.35/kg on a sliding scale of US\$ 383.80/MMT to US\$ 435.00/MMT subject to the maximum limit of Rs. 3.00 billion.

2. Year wise details of subsidy payments made by the State Bank of Pakistan against the above mentioned schemes are as tabulated below:

*Amounts in millions PKR*

Year	Federal share	Provincial share	Total Subsidy Paid
2014-15	2,832.121	449.089	3,281.210
2015-16	962.661	343.645	1,306.306
2016-17	1,598.971	1,543.864	3,142.835
2017-18	2,997.484	2,995.771	5,993.255
2018-19	6,042.342	5,151.909	11,194.251
2020-21	-	108.968	108.966

*Source: SBP*

3. Details of subsidy paid to each sugar mill for the above mentioned financial years are at **Annex-I**.

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

9. **Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the details of the audit paras of the Ministry and it's attached departments/ organizations, amount involved, the action taken against the responsible functionaries for their ineffectiveness and negligence, during the last three years?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

10. **Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**

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

- (a) *the number of applicants applied for loan under the P.M Kamyab Jawan Programme belonging to Sindh in particular district Jamshoro and Dadu have applied; and*

- (b) *the number of persons to whom loans have been given under the said program?*

**Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office:** (a) & (b) The detail regarding number of applications registered under **Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme** and loan disbursed therein to province Sindh and District Jamshoro and Dadu in particular are as under:—

Province/ Districts	No. of Applicants Applied for Loan	No. of persons to whom Loan Disbursed	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in million)
<b>Sind</b>	15,072	3,220	6,300
<b>Jamshoro</b>	2,235	59	227
<b>Dadu</b>	4,790	78	75.3

11. **Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**

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

- (a) *the details of employees regularly appointed/appointed on deputation, up-graded and promoted in the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan, during the last three years to till date alongwith the criteria adopted in this regard;*
- (b) *the name, date of appointment, designation, qualification experience at the time of appointment and present designation of said employees; and the particulars of those officers who have not been up-graded/promoted during the said period alongwith the reasons; and*
- (c) *present designations of such employees/officers thereof?*

**Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):** (a) The relevant information has been provided *vide* enclosed **Annex A, B, C & D** by State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan *vide* letter No. PL-10(49)/2022(04), dated 29-04-2022.

(b) The relevant information has been provided *vide* enclosed **Annex-E** by State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan *vide* their above referred letter.

(c) The relevant information has been provided *vide* enclosed **Annex-E** by State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan *vide* their above referred letter.

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



12. **Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the complaint cell is ignoring the complaints till several months;*
- (b) how much complaints are admitting on daily basis; and*
- (c) how much complaints have been solved till-date?*

Admissibility is being re-considered.

13. **Begum Tahira Bukhari:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Banks of Pakistan are processing the cases for loans under NAYA Pakistan Housing Scheme, very slowly and the peoples are waiting for six to ten months;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that cases in Meezan Bank Ltd, Tulsa Road Branch, Rawalpindi are pending for 6 to 10 months in particular the case of Muhammad Aamir, Sanitary Worker of Chaklala Cantonment Board, Rawalpindi; and*
- (c) what steps are being taken by the Ministry of Finance for monitoring of the above mentioned (b) bank for speedy process of the cases in particular the case of Muhammad Aamir?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

ISLAMABAD:  
*The 10th May, 2022.*

TAHIR HUSSAIN,  
*Secretary.*