

(42nd Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Monday, the 23rd May, 2022

23. *** Syed Agha Rafiullah:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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.

25. *** Mr. Muhammad Jamal-Ud-Din:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue 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?*

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

39. *** Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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 answer on Next Rota Day.

40. *** Mr. Raza Rabani Khar:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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 answer on Next Rota Day.

41. *** Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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 answer on Next Rota Day.

43. *** Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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

- (a) *the total value of cripto currency purchased by Pakistanis during the last three years; and*
- (b) *the impact evolved on country economy from the purchase of cripto currency?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

119. *** Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din**

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the Government policy to provide relief to salaried and middle class people keeping in view the increased inflation at national and international level?

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

120. *** Ms. Shams Un Nisa**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the salient features of the policy of the Government for export of Rice and its local price at present; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that the price of Pakistani Rice is lowest in the World as compared to the Rice of equivalent quality being produced by other countries?*

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar): (a) Rice is one of the major cash crops of Pakistan and the government has prioritized its facilitation for export. As an important tool of trade policy, the government vigorously tries to seek liberal market access for Pakistani rice from European Union, to China to USA and other countries. Due to such efforts, the export of rice hovers above the mark of US\$ 2 billion per annum. Besides, the government has constituted and notified a Council for Rice on 31-03-2022 to provide a platform where expertise of private and public sectors con converge to advise government to enhance production and increase export of rice.

As regards local price of rice, 50 kg bag of 1121 (Basmati Rice) fetches around Rs. 8000 per bag; whereas 1121(Steam Rice) fetches around Rs. 9000 in the local market according to the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan.

(b) No. Price of rice is determined by market based on many factors.

121. * **Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of textile factories alongwith their attached industries working in the country at present; and
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the same from energy crisis?

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar): (a) As per Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), the list of registered companies in textiles and allied industries are as under:-

Garments	Textile Allied (other)	Textile composite	Textile spinning	Textile weaving	Woolen textile	Total
1,583	2,305	1,317	489	384	108	6,186

(b) (i) **Petroleum Division**

Sui Companies have been providing gas to different sectors including textile industry. The gas supply to almost all sectors is available during summer months and no curtailment is undertaken. The Government has been trying to provide uninterrupted gas supply to the all kind of consumers especially industrial consumers (Export & Non-Export) even during the peak demand months. In case of any gap between demand and supply of natural gas, the Government has accorded top priority in supply of gas to export oriented industries after domestic and commercial consumers being at first in priority order. Furthermore, in order to boost the export and make them regionally competitive, the Government is providing subsidized gas/RLNG to export oriented industries (maximum of them are textile industries) or the Punjab.

(ii) **Power Division**

At present, there is no load management being carried out to the textile factories alongwith their attached industries.

122. * **Mr. Muhammad Jamal-Ud-Din:**

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the present Government to Constitute a Committee or a Panel of Economists for the purpose of devising plan for elimination of Interest from Pakistan's Economic System;
- (b) if yes, the Terms of Reference and Composition of such Committee or panel; if not, the reasons thereof; and
- (c) the time by which such Committee shall be constituted?

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

123. * Ms. Shams Un Nisa

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of net import and export with Australia; and
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance trade relations with Australia?

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar): (a) Details of the volume of trade made between Pakistan and Australia in the last five years:

Bilateral Trade Trends				
Million USD				
Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Balance
2016-17	221.6	588.7	810.3	-367.1
2017-18	249.5	404.5	654	-155
2018-19	228.7	301.1	529.8	-72.4
2019-20	207.7	260.2	467.9	-52.5
2020-21	281	472	753	-191
2021-22 (Jul-Apr)	256.3	439.4	695.4	-183.1

Source TDAS

(b) Some of the key steps taken to enhance trade relations with Australia are delineated below:

- A bilateral Joint Trade Committee (JTC) exists between the two countries. The 8th last meeting was held in October, 2019 at Islamabad where areas for enhancing bilateral trade were discussed.

- After strenuous efforts, Australia accredited additional two Mango Hot Water Facilities of Pakistan in May, 2021. This has increased Pakistan's export capacity for mangoes to Australian market.
- Pakistani dates have been introduced in Woolworths - the largest supermarket chains in Australia. This is the result of the efforts to explore new markets for Pakistani dates.
- To promote IT exports, an initiative has been launched by the Ministry of Commerce, Consulate General in Sydney and Pakistan Software Export Board. Under the initiative a series of B2B sessions on various IT issues were held last year. Assumedly, due to increased financing in the IT sector, Pakistan remittances from Australia have also increased (Remittances from Australia to Pakistan increased by 43% from US\$ 474 million in 2020 to US\$ 676 in 2021).
- A social media platform on Facebook and Twitter, named "Made in Pakistan for Australia" was launched to increase awareness and run different promotional campaigns about Pakistani quality products such as home textiles, spices, sports goods, mango etc. being sold in Australia, especially in the mainstream chain stores. The platform is also being promoted during different events organized / attended by the Consulate General for public outreach.

124. * Mr. Mohammad Aslam Bhootani:

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

- (a) *the number of employees including Auditor General of Pakistan which are working on deputation in the provinces of the country or outside the country during the last five years; and*
- (b) *the name of each officer who was appointed more than one time on deputation alongwith the interval between the first and last deputation of each officer?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

ISLAMABAD:
The 22nd May, 2022.

CHAUDHRY MUBARAK ALI,
Acting Secretary.

(42nd Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Monday, the 23rd May, 2022

9. **Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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.

12. **Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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?*

Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office: (a) Pakistan Citizen's Portal (PCP), is continuously receiving public complaints and the same are being processed without any delay. Hence, the contention that complaints are being ignored is *prima facie*, misplaced.

Infact, PCP is an automated system for processing and management of public complaints in real time. Resolution of public complaints on PCP is a continuous process that involves multi organizational role. Month-wise summary of statistics of PCP in Year 2022 is attached (**Annex-I**).

(b) Approximately, **3300+** complaints on average are received per day on PCP since its inception on 28th October, 2018.

(c) Since inauguration of PCP dated 28th Oct, 2018, out of the total **4,710,199** complaints, **4,595,787** (98%) have been processed & closed as per relevant rule / law & regulation with overall **46%** positive feedback received from the citizen.

Annex-I

MONTH WISE SUMMARY OF STATISTICS OF PAKISTAN CITIZEN'S PORTAL (PCP) IN YEAR 2022						
#	Description	Jan	Feb	March	April	May (as of 12-05-022)
1	No. of Lodged Complaints	116,745	104,063	109,532	55,418	14,996
2	No. of Closed Complaints	116,790	112,559	134,647	99,428	15,585
3	Total Feedbacks Received	70,678	63,716	60,713	38,498	4,262
4	Positive Feedback	25,495	22,678	21,317	13,614	1,495

13. **Begum Tahira Bukhari:**
(Deferred on 11-5-2022)

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 22nd May, 2022.

CHAUDHRY MUBARAK ALI,
Acting Secretary.