

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Thursday, the 13th October, 2022

@113. *Lapsed under Rule 247(3).

76. ***Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**

Will the Minister for Aviation be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No. 93 replied on 09-05-2022 and to state the monthly salary alongwith all kinds of privileges being given to each regular/contractual pilot of PIA?

Minister for Aviation (Khawaja Saad Rafique): Details of monthly salary along with their privileges being given to pilots (regular/contractual) are at **Annex-I**.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

77. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**

Will the Minister for Climate Change be pleased to state:

- (a) the main components of the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami alongwith role of the Federal Government in this regard;*
- (b) how much work has been done on each component since the formation of the present Government;*
- (c) how much funds have been spent annually on each component since the onset of the project and has the usage of these funds been audited;*

- (d) *has the Government noticed any change in the overall climate change scenario of the country by planting billions of trees and have the international fora, dealing with climate change that are predicting Pakistan to be one of the worst affected by climate change in the future, noticed any change in the country's rating after such large scale planting; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (e) *what corrective measures are being taken to reduce the severity of climate change in the country, in the future?*

Minister for Climate Change (Ms. Sherry Rehman): (a) During the year 2016, the Prime Minister of Pakistan launched Green Pakistan Programme (GPP) at a total cost of 4.7 billion with the aim to enhance forest cover and revival of wildlife resources across the country. Later during the year 2019 the Green Pakistan Programme was upgraded to the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTTP) with a total cost of 125.184 billion and the target of plantation /regeneration was enhanced to 3.296 billion.

The main components of the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTTP) are.—

- (A) Enhancement of Forest Cover;
- (B) Biodiversity Conservation; and
- (C) Institutional Strengthening of Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP).

(b) Since the formation of the present Government, following progress has been made in the main components of the programme.

(A) Enhancement of Forest Cover:

From April 2022 to July 2022, **261.36 million** plants have been planted/regenerated/distributed in the country by the Provincial/Territorial Forest Departments.

Province/Territory wise summary of the trees planted/ regenerated/ distributed is given as under;

Sr. No.	Province / Territory	No. of Trees Planted / Regenerated (No. in million)
1	Punjab	71.69
2	Sindh	93.377
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	87.414
4	Balochistan	3.17
5	Azad Jammu & Kashmir	2.73
6	Gilgit Baltistan	2.98
Total		261.36

(B) Biodiversity Conservation

Balochistan

- ☐ Improvement of 2 Ramsar Sites initiated.
- ☐ Hiring of 20 seasonal community Neghabans in Balochistan.
- ☐ Promotion of 7 private breeding programs in Balochistan.
- ☐ 30 game watchers hired for wildlife protection task force in Balochistan.

Punjab

- ☐ Completion of balance works of GIS nodes developed at different regions of Punjab.
- ☐ Purchase and disbursement of motorbikes to field staff to strengthen the in-situ conservation activities.
- ☐ Hiring of project staff for Balloki Nature Reserve.

Gilgit Baltistan

- ☐ Development of check posts in Diamer and Astore in progress.
- ☐ Vaccination of livestock programme initiated in valleys and villages of GB.

Sindh

- ☐ Improvement and rehabilitation of Khaar Center

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

- ❑ Dossier & Management Plan for Chitral Bashkar Garm Chashma Biosphere Reserve & Miranjani Mushkpuri Ayubia Biosphere Reserve have been prepared and submitted to MAB (Man and Biosphere Reserve) Section of Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), Islamabad for onward submission to UNESCO under the project activity “Up gradation of Protected Areas as biosphere reserve & development of dossier”.
- ❑ Final version of syllabi received from the consultant is being reviewed under the project activity “Improved syllabi of PFI & KP Forest School Thai Abbottabad”.
- ❑ Under the project activity “Engagement of Local Universities in Wildlife based research”, 16 Number of students of 04 Universities were finalized and cheques distributed. Under the project activity “Capacity Building of Wildlife Department hiring of Consultant for Drafting Rules”, Consultancy has been awarded & work is in progress.
- ❑ Development & Maintenance of MIS with Shared Database Integrated with Website & Mobile Application.

(C) Institutional Strengthening of ZSP

- ❑ Secondary data for mammals of Pakistan have been compiled. Taxon data sheets for the collection of sighting data of mammals of Pakistan have been developed and shared with experts for their input for the development of National Red Data Book for mammals of Pakistan.
- ❑ A biodiversity information portal is being developed for data collection and integration with digital dashboard.

(c) A total of **Rs. 22,240.03 million** have been spent so far. Year-wise funds spent on each component is given below;

Name of Component	Year-wise Expenditure (Rs. in million)			
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
Enhancement of Forest Cover	6558.87	5,144.74	8,795.25	20,498.86
Biodiversity Conservation	613.48	616.69	480.00	1,710.17
Institutional Strengthening of ZSP	14.00	8.00	9.00	31.00
Total	7,186.35	5,769.43	9,284.25	22,240.03

Audit teams of Auditor General of Pakistan are currently conducting audit of all the provincial forest and wildlife departments including the National Strategic Support Unit of the Project.

(d) The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) submitted by Pakistan to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2021 indicate that the plantation / regeneration under Green Pakistan Programme (GPP) will sequester 148.76 million Tons of CO₂ equivalent (MtCO₂e) over the next 10 years. It is anticipated that Pakistan's emissions as per INDC were 489.87 MtCO₂e in 2018.

The plantation under Billion Tree Afforestation Project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (BTAP) and Green Pakistan Programme (GPP) will jointly sequester around 500 MtCO₂e by 2040, if implemented fully. The efforts made by the BTAP and GPP have been acknowledged by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United National Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn Challenge and World Economic Forum (WEF).

(e) The main corrective measures taken to reduce severity of climate change in the country are as under:

- GPP/TBTTP was initiated to plant / regenerate ten billion trees in phases. A target to plant / regenerate 3.29 billion trees has been fixed during first phase (2019-20 to 2022-23).
- It is planned to expand the Protected Areas coverage throughout Pakistan from 12% in 2018 to 15% by 2023 under Protected Areas Initiative. The vegetation cover improvement in the protected areas shall serve as future carbon sinks to mitigate the impact of climate change.

- Standard Operating Procedures were prepared on forest fires prevention and control measure in consultation with the provinces/ territories. SOPs were circulated to all provinces/territories for reducing the incidences of forest fires.
- Clean and Green Pakistan Movement was launched to encourage city governments to undertake measures for reducing climate change impacts.
- Task force on heatwave has been constituted to suggest measures for reducing the effects of this calamity on humans, livestock, and other spheres of life.

In addition to the above other key initiatives are as under;

National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

Pakistan has officially initiated the process of creating a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for building resilience to climate change. NAP is widely seen as one of the most important mechanisms for adapting to climate change. They aim to reduce vulnerabilities to climate impacts by creating comprehensive medium and long-term plans, including the integration of adaptation measures into national policy. Pakistan will be using the National Adaptation Plan process and its outcomes to enhance the adaptation elements of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a central aspect of the Paris Agreement. Pakistan has been using nature-based solutions and ‘ecosystem-based adaptation’ in its national efforts to build climate resilience. The National Adaptation Plan process will be looking to build on these existing nature-based approaches which include the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Programme, the Ecosystem Restoration Fund and the Recharge Pakistan initiative.

Pakistan Climate Resilient Urban Policy Framework

Climate change is a real threat to the sustainability of our cities. MoCC is formulating Pakistan Climate Resilient Urban Policy Framework, which will take into account opportunities and challenges in achieving green and resilient urban development in Pakistan with special reference to climate change. PSDP Project “Climate Resilient Urban Human Settlements”(CRUHS) Unit to address the urban environmental

and climatic issues in a sustainable and resilient way is also under execution. The CRUHS Unit will serve for 05 years as the Secretariat to follow-up and arrange the conduction of various research studies on developing the Climate Resilient Sustainable Cities. The Ministry of Climate Change will be equipped to effectively look after at national level the subject of urban affairs & human settlements and efficiently deal with all related matters in coordination with the sectoral partners, including the provincial governments and local authorities; private sector and multilateral and bilateral agencies.

Participation in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)

Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is a concept adopted by the countries under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010. The concept relates to absorption of atmospheric carbon through forest resource. Due to accumulation of carbon in standing trees their financial value increases. Carbon stocked in forests is traded in carbon markets. The REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) is being implemented in Pakistan with a grant of \$ 3.8 million since July 2015. Pakistan was awarded the grant through a competitive process by Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank.

International and national consultants were hired to prepare documents for the four elements required to complete the REDD+ readiness phase. Meanwhile, in 2018, an additional grant of \$ 4.01 million has also been awarded by FCPF to further support the preparedness activities in Pakistan till June 2020. The Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) of Pakistan has been submitted to UNFCCC. The design of National Forest Monitoring System has also been finalized.

78. ***Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state the number of students receiving scholarships from the Federal Government in various disciplines with province-wise break-up?

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Rana Tanveer Hussain): Currently, a total of **121,596** (2538 foreign and **119058** local) scholars are receiving scholarships under various

scholarship schemes of the Higher Education Commission. The discipline-wise breakup is as under:

S.N.	Discipline	Foreign	Local	Total
1	Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences	125	10,503	10,628
2	Arts & Humanities	167	17,587	17,754
3	Biological & Medical Sciences	338	13,792	14,130
4	Business Education	225	11,389	11,614
5	Engineering & Technology	1034	18,872	19,906
6	Physical Sciences	351	31,394	31,745
7	Social Science	298	15,521	15,819
	Total	2,538	119,058	121,596

The province-wise breakup is as under:

S.N.	Province / Region	Foreign	Local	Total
1	Azad Jammu & Kashmir	86	6,330	6,416
2	Balochistan	277	7,651	7,928
3	FATA	35	3,235	3,270
4	Gilgit-Baltistan	53	3,888	3,941
5	Federal	146	4,646	4,792
6	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	351	19,405	19,756
7	Punjab	1250	55,804	57,054
8	Sindh	340	18,099	18,439
	Total	2,538	119,058	121,596

79. ***Ms. Wajiha Qamar:**

Will the Minister for Climate Change be pleased to state details of effort being made to achieve the international targets set in accordance with Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals?

Minister for Climate Change (Ms. Sherry Rehman): 1. Pakistan being a Party to the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) performed its role to support

the global efforts in combating climate change. Although the country is having minimalistic contributions towards the global GHG emissions still it is vulnerable to climate change.

2. The GoP has undertaken several policy measures since 2016 when Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were first submitted. Ministry of climate change leads the implementation of NDCs and also coordinates for climate proofing and planning process.

3. Pakistan updated NDCs in 2021 and intends to set a cumulative ambitious conditional target of overall 50% reduction of its projected emissions by 2030, with 15% from the country's own resources and 35% subject to provision of international grant finance. It also articulates ecosystem-based approaches, low carbon development, carbon sequestration, and adoption of renewable energy within the limited national resources. The additional sectors include health, waste, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), air pollution, gender and youth. Finally, the revised NDC reflects the GoP's long-term policy of reducing the country's climate vulnerability and accelerating economic growth by following a pro-active renewable energy policy and decarbonization pathways.

4. Ministry of Climate Change also created National Electric vehicle policy 2020-25 and Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) etc. It is also making interventions to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience. The adaptation actions include initiatives like nature based solution such as Ecosystem Restoration Initiative to restore 30% of degraded forests, National REDD+ program and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2018) etc.

5. The country envisages enhancing the access to international climate finance to deliver the contributions, and also considers employing the instruments on enhanced ambition provided in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Pakistan has already identified market and non-market-based approaches to help diversify the funding sources, including Nature Performance Bonds, Green/Blue Bonds, Carbon Pricing Instruments, etc.

6. In February 2016, Pakistan became the first country in the world to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of its national development agenda through a National Assembly Resolution. After adoption of SDGs, Pakistan established SDG support units and

submitted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2019 as well. Currently, Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) works on different plans and initiatives for the successful implementation of SDGs including:

- a. Ministry of Climate Change took lead role for WASH sector strategic planning, reporting and coordination at the federal level. For the achievement of targets related to SDG 6 *i.e.*, Clean water and Sanitation, MoCC is currently working on project **“Capacity building on water quality monitoring and SDG6 (6.1) reporting”** to ensure the supply of safe water in the country.
- b. The country developed its **“Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan”** (SCP NAP, 2017) to accomplish SCP targets pragmatically and systematically as delineated in SDG 12. In this regard, MoCC is working on sustainable management of natural resources to ensure climate resilience.
- c. In the context of SDG 11, Pakistan envisions strategic initiatives for transforming all urban human settlements into economic growth hubs and eco-friendly sustainable cities through improved governance, effective urban planning, efficient mobility infrastructure, better security & community participation in collaboration with city governments. MoCC is working on project titled as **“Climate resilient urban human settlements”** for sustainable cities in the future.
- d. Pakistan has ambitious goals for SDG 13 *i.e.*, Climate Action and is focusing on natural ways to sequester carbon. The country scaled up mass afforestation initiatives with the joint aims of countering the potential rise in emissions and providing new sources of revenue. Pakistan’s upscale Green Pakistan Program **(10 Billion Tree Tsunami)** initiative have potential of annual carbon sequestration of about 11.20 million tons. It also drastically reduced around 30429.64 tons of CO₂ emissions so far.

80. *Lapsed under Rule 247 (3).

81. ***Mr. Raza Rabani Khar:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state:

- (a) total number of vehicles currently owned by Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and what are the monthly expenses of each vehicle including usage of each vehicle;*
- (b) whether it is a fact that most of PTDC's vehicles are allegedly being used by non entitled officials because either their grade is not authorized to use the vehicle or they are benefiting from the monetization policy;*
- (c) if so, is there any proposal by the Government to independently verify the illegal use of such vehicles; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof; and*
- (d) has the PTDC submitted a report, which is required to be submitted to both the Ministry of Finance and the Cabinet, on vehicles utilization under the Monetization Policy?*

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: (a) Most of vehicles of PTDC are off road and are being auctioned, being old and having completed their mileage/life span. PTDC Board of Directors in its 96th meeting held on 23-02-2022 has already approved the auction of 30-vehicles as per list attached at **Annex-I**. Only 10-vehicles are being used by PTDC officers as per their entitlement in PTDC rules (**Annex-II**). The monthly average expenditure of vehicles are also mentioned against each.

(b) Vehicles of PTDC are being used by the officers of PTDC as per their entitlement. No vehicle is being used by any un-authorized official/officer. No officer of PTDC is obtaining benefits of monetization policy.

(c) No vehicle is being used illegally in PTDC, therefore, there is no such proposal of verification.

(d) Monetization policy is not applicable to PTDC, therefore, no such report is being submitted to Finance Division and Cabinet Division.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

82. ***Mr. Naveed Aamir Jeeva:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state the head-wise total amount, incurred by the Hilal-e-Ahmar Pakistan from 2018 to 2022 till date?

Transferred to National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

83. ***Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**

Will the Minister for Aviation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Roosevelt Hotel is functional at present or not; and*
- (b) whether the said hotel completely failed in business activities?*

Minister for Aviation (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) & (b) At present, Roosevelt Hotel is not functional. In fact, Covid-19 pandemic badly affected the business around the world particularly hotel business in USA during 2020. Consequently, Roosevelt Hotel's occupancy fell from 90% to a single digit. There was left no option with the PIA-Investment Limited except to shut down the hotel to avoid further losses Accordingly the hotel was closed in December, 2020 with the approval of Federal Cabinet based on the recommendations of a high powered committee headed by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission.

84. ***Ms. Shakila Luqman:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for grant of degree equivalence certificate to Doctor of Education (EdD) are lying pending with Higher Education Commission;*
- (b) if so, details of each pending case and reasons thereof?*

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) There is no pending request for a grant of degree equivalence certificate to Doctor of Education in Higher Education Commission (HEC) at the moment.

(b) Not applicable in the view of above Para (a).

85. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

- (a) *money spent on health card advertisements during Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches;*
- (b) *whether the brief content used by the commentators in both Urdu and English languages while promoting the benefits of such a health card was selected by the Government or by the PSL administration or any other body; if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *has the Government noticed that the brief content used by the commentators did not match the actual benefits of the card;*
- (d) *if so, is not, that tantamount to misleading the nation about health cards;*
- (e) *if so, who is responsible for such misleading advertisements; and what corrective measures are being taken, in this regard?*

Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb): (a)

Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC)

The Revenue to be collected by PTV for the advertisement of health card broadcasted on PTV during PSL amounts to Rs. 83,30,182/- **(Annexure-I).**

Press Information Department (PID)

Total amount spent on Health Card advertisements on electronic media by the Federal Governments released through PID is PKR. 1,745,800/- which was aired during TV Commercial break time of Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches telecast on PTV Sports on 10 to 12-02-2022 & 27-02-2022 (**Annex-II**).

(b) **Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC)**

The entire Production, Commentary, pre-post-match analysis is responsibility of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). PCB may be consulted to seek any or all answers regarding Health Cards.

Press Information Department (PID)

Brief content used by the commentators in both Urdu and English languages while promoting the benefits of the Health Card were not officially sponsored/commissioned by the then Federal Government.

(c) **Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC)**

The entire Production, Commentary, pre-post-match analysis is responsibility of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). PCB may be consulted to seek any or all answers regarding Health Cards.

Press Information Department (PID)

No content was aired / given to the commentators/nor were they asked/authorized to comment on the Health Card officially.

(d) **Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC)**

The entire Production, Commentary, pre-post-match analysis is responsibility of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). PCB may be consulted to seek any or all answers regarding Health Cards.

Press Information Department (PID)

There was no official authorization to the commentators, to comment or highlight the features of the Card.

(e) **Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC)**

The entire Production, Commentary, pre-post-match analysis is responsibility of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). PCB may be consulted to seek any or all answers regarding Health Cards.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

86. ***Ms. Saira Bano:**

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount allocated for the purpose of organizing and promoting various Independence Day activities and the details of each activity undertaken and the expenditure incurred thereon;*
- (b) was the poor economic condition of the country brought to the fore before allocating such a large amount of money and was it justified to spend it; and*
- (c) who conceptualized all the above activities and what is their impact on society?*

Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb): (a) After presenting list and nature of activities for Diamond Jubilee Celebrations to ECC, Finance Division granted Rs. 650 Million to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting List of events conducted by all departments is attached at annexure-I. However, the expenditure incurred thereon by each department is given as follows:

Sr. No.	Department	Proposed Funds (in millions)
1	Press Information Department	400
2	Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation	45
3	Directorate of Electronic & Media Publications	66
4	Information Service Academy	2.4
5	Pakistan Television Corporation	136.6
	Total	650

(b) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting requested Finance Division for provision of Rs. 1100 Million after presenting expenditure breakup to Finance Division as well as Economic Coordination Committee (ECC). However, based on ongoing economic conditions, ECC granted Rs. 650 Million instead of Rs. 1100 mn for conducting all Diamond Jubilee activities planned by attached departments and organizations of this Ministry. MOIB had to squeeze down its number of events due to cut-down in the budget provided.

(c) Year 2022 marks a milestone on completion of 75 years of independence of Pakistan. Cabinet Division conceptualized the idea of celebrating Diamond Jubilee of celebrations by incorporating all Federal and Provincial departments to show harmony as well as promote patriotism among citizens. Cabinet Division assigned the lead role to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in this regard. Our Ministry, coordinated all the activities conducted on national scale whose record can be provided if needed.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

87. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Climate Change be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.29 replied on 26-02-2021 and to state the number of the planted trees district-wise and tehsil-wise?

Minister for Climate Change (Ms. Sherry Rehman): So far 1828.49 million number of trees have been planted/ regenerated/ distributed (*i.e.* from FY 2019-20 till June 2022). Province / Territory wise summary is given below while District / Division & Tehsil wise details of Plants is attached as **Annex-I**;

Physical Achievements of Provinces/Territories

S. No.	Province	Plants in No.	Plants in million
1	KP	644,503,847	644.50
2	Punjab	268,123,111	268.12
3	Sindh	733,632,870	733.63
4	Balochistan	10,686,760	10.68

S. No.	Province	Plants in No.	Plants in million
5	AJ&K	141,843,842	141.84
6	GB	29,720,000	29.72
	Total	1,828,510,430	1828.49

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

88. *Lapsed under Rule 247(3).

89. ***Mr. Naveed Aamir Jeeva:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state:

(a) the goals of Hilal-e-Ahmar Pakistan; and

(b) whether Hilal-e-Ahmar Pakistan is fulfilling its goals?

Transferred to National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

90. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on low cost houses under NAYA Pakistan Housing Scheme of previous Government, the number of houses constructed so far;

(b) the number of units being constructed under local Government; and

(c) the amount paid by the banks for the construction of said houses alongwith the number of persons to whom possession of the houses has been given?

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: (a)**1. Amount Spent**

- a. Loan amount of **PKR 99.8 billion** disbursed for construction of 28,277 houses by banks.
- b. Government of Pakistan has given **PKR 96 million** as Cost Subsidy.
- c. Government of Pakistan has given **PKR 7 billion** to **Akhuwat Foundation** for housing finance on revolving basis.

2. Number of Houses Constructed. 3,564 Low Cost Housing Units (LCUs) of **Workers Welfare Fund (WWF)** and **18,499** of **Akhuwat Foundation** have been completed. **153,434** LCUs are under construction and planning all over the **Country**. Balloting for 1,508 LCUs of WWF in Zone-V, Islamabad; 4,000 LCUs of LDA City Lahore; 2,000 LCUs of Farash Town, CDA, Islamabad; 839 LCUs of Raiwind, Sargodha and Chiniot and 300 LCUs of PHA Housing Scheme, Jalozei, Nowshera, KP has been conducted. The Summary of the present status of the Projects at different locations is as under:—

a. Low Cost Housing Projects in collaboration with Development Authorities, Federal Government Employees Housing Authority and Workers Welfare Fund (WWF):-

Ser	Location	LCUs	Remarks
ICT, Islamabad			
(1)	CDA (Ali Pur Farash)	4,000	Under Construction
(2)	Resettlement of Kachi Abadis by CDA	12,500	
(3)	WWF Zone V, Islamabad	1,508	Completed
(4)	Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme Sangjani, Islamabad	2,300	PC-I approved
(5)	FGEHA (G-13)	1,467	Under Construction
(6)	FGEHA Skyline Apartments, New Airport	3,945	Under Construction
(7)	FGEHA Sky Garden Scheme, Bara Kahu	5,198	Under Construction
Sub Total		30,918	

Punjab			
(1)	Lahore Development Authority (LDA)	4,000	Under Construction
(2)	Sargodha Development Authority (SDA)	524	Modalities to be finalized
(3)	Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA)	3,736	Modalities to be finalized
(4)	FGEHA Chaklala Heights, Chaklala Scheme-3, Rawalpindi	3,432	Under Construction
(5)	FGEHA Lifestyle Residency, Bedian Road, Lahore	1,258	Under Construction
(6)	RUDA	5,200	Modalities being finalized
Sub Total		18,150	
KP			
(1)	Provincial Housing Authority (PHA), Jallozai	1,320	Under Construction
(2)	Workers Welfare Board (WWB), Regi Lalma	2,056	Completed
Sub Total		3,376	
Balochistan			
(1)	Quetta Development Authority (QDA) - Saryab Colony	-	Modalities to be finalized
AJ&K			
(1)	AJ&K Govt for IOK Refugees	1,314	Modalities to be finalized
Total		53,758	

b. **Punjab Peri-urban Low Cost Housing Projects:-**

Ser	Location	Area (Kanal)	LCUs	Remarks
Phase-I				
(1)	Rakh Paji, Raiwind, Lahore	90.83	245	Under Construction
(2)	Chak 48/NB, Sargodha	103.68	324	-do-
(3)	Chak 14/JB, Chiniot	81.81	270	-do-
Sub Total		276.32	839	
Phase-II				
(1)	Rakh Kot Qaisrani, Taunsa, DG Khan	100	323	Contract Awarded
(2)	Chak 25BC, Bahawalpur	280	879	Bid Opened
(3)	Chak 272 HR Fort Abbas, Bahawalnagar	100	286	Planning Phase
(4)	Kalor Kot City Area, Bhakkar	100	286	-do-
(5)	Abdul Hakeem, Kabirwala, Khanewal	150	429	-do-
(6)	Chak 329 WB, Dunyapur, Lodhran	95	271	-do-
(7)	Rakh Khanpur, Muzaffargarh	100	301	Bid Opened
(8)	Chak 19A, Liaquatpur, Rahim Yar Khan	100	228	Planning Phase
(9)	Kot Mithan Rakh, Ranjanpur	72	206	-do-
(10)	Chak Karia, Rojhan, Rajanpur	96	274	-do-
Sub Total	1,193	3,483		

Phase-III				
(1)	Attock / Hassan Abdal	-	139	Planning Phase
(2)	Attock / Pindi Gheb	-	134	-do-
(3)	Bahawalpur / Bahawalpur Saddar	-	1,143	-do-
(4)	Bhakkar / Mankera	-	326	-do-
(5)	DG Khan / DG Khan	-	91	-do-
(6)	Faisalabad / Faisalabad Saddar	-	1,056	-do-
(7)	Khanewal / Khanewal	-	109	-do-
(8)	Khushab / Khushab	-	157	-do-
(9)	Lodhran / Lodhran	-	297	-do-
(10)	Mandi Bahauddin / Mandi Bahauddin	-	117	-do-
(11)	Mandi Bahauddin / Malakwal	-	413	-do-
(12)	Mianwali / Mianwali	-	274	-do-
(13)	Sargodha / Sargodha	-	211	-do-
(14)	Vehari / Burewala	-	309	-do-
Sub Total		-	4,776	
KP				
(1)	Charsadda (Moaza Dehrizardad)	187	-	Modalities being finalized
(2)	Charsadda (Moaza Bar Behram Dehri)	190	-	-do-
(3)	Mansehra (Moaza Khaki)	205	-	-do-
(4)	Hangu	400	-	-do-
(5)	D I Khan (Moaza Rakh Zandani)	139.35	-	-do-
Sub Total		1121.35	-	
Total		2590.67	9,098	

- c. **Low Cost Housing Projects on Private Lands to whom Eligibility letters have been issued for development finance from their respective banks:-**

Ser	Location	Area (Kanal)	LCUs
ICT, Islamabad			
(1)	Paradise City	61.65	444
(2)	Bahria Enclave II, Phase II, Zone IV-B, Angoori Road	176	1,800
Sub Total		237.65	2,244
Punjab			
(1)	Rawal Palm City, KK Developers, Rawalpindi	160	200
(2)	JSC Builders & Developers, GT Road Rawat, Rawalpindi	70	242
(3)	Kallar Kahar Township-Sargodha Road, Chakwal, Samara Construction	50	197
(4)	Model Town, Chakwal (Sayyam Developers (Pvt) Ltd	105	100

(5)	M/s Nosheen (Pvt) Ltd) adjacent to AWT Housing Scheme, Phase-2, Lahore	166	500
(6)	Reverie Garden, Qila Sahab Singh, Sheikhpura	114	500
(7)	National Highway Qadirpur near DHA Pak-Turk Company, Multan	200	500
(8)	New Depalpur City, Depalpur Okara	500	100
(9)	Grand City GT Road, Gujrat	200	300
(10)	Royal Housing Society Al-Kareem Associates, Toba Tek Singh	272	150
(11)	Attock Road, opposite Fazaia Housing Society (Aftab & Co), Attock	197	200
(12)	Hashimi Property and Business, Village Kharpa, Pindigheb, Attock	238	100
(13)	Royal Garden Housing Scheme, Chak Janta, Tehsil Sambrial, District Sialkot	1,250	500
(14)	Khyber Construction, Khudda Near Burhan Interchange, Attock	2,000	100
(15)	Pak Euro City, Mouza Mehsam located on Bhimber Road Gujrat	850	100
(16)	Al Fateh Developers, Imperial Vista Chak No 115 GB	256	100
(17)	AU Square Builders, Mouza Dodhar Najjar & Abban Chak, Kallar Syedan Road, Rawat	-	200
Sub Total		6,628	4,089
KP			
(1)	Paradise City, Kaka Sahib Road, Nowshera	400	200
(2)	Turangzai Baba Town, Charsadda (Aftab & Company)	250	200
(3)	Khushal Garden, Al-Hashir Homes Construction Company (SMC-Pvt) Limited, District Nowshera (Cantt)	150	200
Sub Total		800	600
Sindh			
(1)	Hiltop Residencia on Indus Highway, Jamshoro	936	100
(2)	Satellite Town, Tando Adam (Omer Milestone Coy)	-	100
(3)	Bahria Greens, Bahria Town Super Highway, Karachi	100	3,000
(4)	M/S One World, Sector No 11, Surjani Town, Mangopir, Deh Surjani, Karachi (West)	40	400
(5)	Mateen City, Karachi	-	100
Sub Total		1,076	3,700
Total		8741.65	10,633

d. **Low Cost Housing Projects on Private Lands under planning Phase:-**

(1)	29 Projects negotiated / under process (list attached at Annex A)	-	55,232
Total		-	55,232

- e. Banks, MFBs and HBFCL have now received applications worth Rs 514 billion (125,200 applicants). Out of which, Loan worth Rs 236 billion has been approved (60,838 applicants) and an amount of Rs 99.8 billion has been disbursed: -

(1)	Loan amount of Rs 99.8 billion disbursed for construction of houses	28,277
Total		28,277

- f. Akhuwat Foundation: -

Ser	Location	LCUs	Remarks
(1)	All over the Country (Annex B)	18,499	Financed by Akhuwat Foundation
Grand Total		175,497	

- (b) 7,274 housing units are under construction by Government (Federal / Provincial) Authorities at locations mentioned against each. Detail is as under:—

Ser	Government Authorities	Project Location	Number of Housing Units
a.	Capital Development Authority (CDA)	Farash Town, Islamabad	2,000
b.	Lahore Development Authority (LDA)	Naya Pakistan Apartments near Haloki Interchange Ring Road, Lahore	4,000
c.	Provincial Housing Authority, Peshawar, KP	Jalozai Housing Scheme, Nowshera	435
d.	Govt of Punjab, Housing, Urban Development & Public Health Engineering Department, Lahore	Rakh Paji, Raiwind, Lahore	245
		Chak 48/NB, Sargodha	324
		Chak 14/JB, Chiniot	270
Total			7,274

- (c) a. Banks, MFBs and HBFCL have received applications worth **Rs. 514 billion (125,200 applicants)**. Out of which, Loans worth **Rs. 236 billion** have been approved (**60,838 applicants**) and an amount of **Rs. 99.8 billion** has been disbursed for construction of **28,277 houses**.
- b. The Banks have disbursed the loan to the applicants for construction / purchase of **28,277 houses** by the applicants themselves.
- c. **Akhuwat Foundation** has disbursed the loan to the applicants for construction of **18,499 houses** by the applicants themselves.

- d. No possession of the houses constructed under **Naya Pakistan Housing Programme (NPHP)** has been given to the applicants because their cases of housing finance are under process with banks.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

91. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

Will the Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division be pleased to state the function, responsibilities and performance of the Ministry, amount spent during the last five years province-wise including Malakand Division?

Minister for National Heritage and Culture: Reply at **Annex-I.**

In pursuance of 18th Amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan, entities located within provincial vicinity have been transferred to the respective Province hence, this Division has not been provided Province-wise budgetary allocation.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

92. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

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

- (a) the vehicles owned by Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), Islamabad, at present; and*
- (b) the names of officers/officials who are using the said vehicles and since when?*

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) Reply is at Annexure-I.

(b) Reply is at Annexure-II.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

93. ***Ms. Saira Bano:**

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.5 replied on 27-07-2022 and to state:

- (a) the head-wise amount of funds that have been spent so far on the project namely One Patient One ID;*
- (b) whether the software required to carry out the project has been developed;*
- (c) whether such software was developed by the Ministry or a subsidiary of the Ministry;*
- (d) whether it is a fact that the software that was initially doing the exercise was allegedly replaced by another software later on; if so, the details and justification thereof; and*
- (e) are federally managed hospitals specifically on board with regards to their automaton systems?*

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Syed Amin-ul-Haque): (a) **Following are the Head-wise cost and expenditure:**

(amount in million)		
Description	Cost as per PC-I	Expenditure
Software	40,000	1.1
Hardware	1.215	1.074
Hosting Services	24.048	13.270
Operating Expenditure	3.665	0.289
Project Management Unit	22.878	14.073
Contingencies 5%	3.194	0
Total:	95,000	29,806

(b) Yes.

(c) Developed by National IT Board (NITB), Ministry of Information Technology & Telecom an attached department of MoITT.

(d) Yes. As per approved PC-I HMIS software deployed in 2016 by NITB for only PIMS which was developed more than 7 years ago. This old Technology need to be customized and replicate with a state-of-the-art centralized software having latest frameworks that can be accessed in 7 Hospitals of federal government which is placing in centralized location.

(e) Yes.

94. ***Mr. Raza Rabani Khar:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) had planned to launch a brand to promote tourism in the country and the necessary materials were also prepared for the same but later due to reasons, known to the Corporation, the plan was shelved; if so, the reasons for its abandonment;*
- (b) *head-wise cost incurred thereupon, were various services procured for preparation of material required for the project were taken as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof;*
- (c) *whether it is also a fact that it is planning to re-launch the brand under a different name, as a result, the material that has been developed will be lost and it will have to be done anew that will put an additional burden on the national exchequer; if so, the justification thereof; and*
- (d) *does it not show poor planning; if so, what corrective measures are being taken in this regard?*

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: (a) 1. It is stated that a PSDP project titled “**Facilitation of Tourism in Islamabad — Marketing Promotion**” was approved by DDWP with a total cost of Rs. 161.026 million with the implementation period of 24 months. The objective of the Project was to create and secure a distinctive brand identity for Pakistan as an attractive tourist destination internationally and

to develop, promote and market tourism brand for Pakistan and launch a mass media campaign to attract especially foreign tourists and generally domestic tourists to visit touristic sites of Pakistan. The scope of the Project included creation and launch of Tourism Brand for Pakistan, development of E-portal and mobile application and development of publicity material to provide information and facilitation to the tourist sites all over the Pakistan.

2. It is pertinent to mention here that the logo of proposed tourism brand had been registered with Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan as trade mark of Brand Pakistan. All the components of the project including theme song/musical score, related publications & publicity material, E-portal and apps, National Tourism Strategy (2020-2030), National Action Plan 2020-2025 and National minimum Standards have been completed and approved by the Board of Directors, PTDC in its 97th meeting held on 30-05-2022 and are ready to launch.

3. The case for the Launch of Tourism Brand was forwarded to the Cabinet Division on April 21, 2022 (**Annexure-I**). In response, Cabinet Division *vide* letter dated May 24, 2022 (**Annexure II**) director PTDC to place the matter regarding launching of the proposed initiatives for consideration of the newly appointed Adviser to the Prime Minister (APM) on Sports and Tourism. As a result, MD, PTDC, briefed the Advisor to Prime Minister on the subject matter and a note for the Prime Minister for the above-mentioned event was forwarded by the APM on 31st May, 2022 (**Annexure-III**). Subsequently, The Prime Minister's Office, *vide* U.O dated 09th June, 2022 addressed to APM conveyed the approval of the Prime Minister for launching event on 14th June, 2022 which was received by PTDC through APM Office on 10th June, 2022 (**Annexure-IV**).

4. On 13th June, 2022 at around 11:00 am, it was verbally communicated by the Prime Minister Office that the said event has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances and new date for the said event will be communicated at a later stage (**Annexure-V**).

5. Now, on the directions of Prime Minister a two days conference on tourism is being organized on 12-13 October, 2022. It is expected that the Prime Minister will attend the final session of this conference, and, the tourism brand will also be launched on this occasion.

(b) Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules were strictly followed while hiring of services and purchasing of items required for the completion of the Project components. The details are enclosed at **Annexure-VI**.

(c) & (d) There is no plan to re-launch the tourism brand under a different name. PTDC intends to launch the same brand in collaboration with Board of Investment in the Tourism Conference to be held in mid of October, 2022, as per attached agenda (**Annexure-VII**).

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

95. ***Ms. Shams Un Nisa:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state when will 5G Internet services be provided to the major cities of the country?

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: MOIT&T has published draft policy guidelines for 5G on 15 December 2021 and published on its website. Based on the same, all stakeholders were consulted by MOIT&T and PTA for market readiness in relation to 5G adoption in the country. Approximately 8 to 10 months would be required after issuance of the Policy Directive by the GoP to complete the process of 5G launch in the country.

Since, it is a policy matter, and is being dealt by MOIT&T.

96. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Aviation be pleased to state whether loss of PIA being decreased gradually?

Minister for Aviation (Khawaja Saad Rafique): Losses of PIA are being decreased gradually as evident from the following tabulated data: -

Year	(Losses) PKR in Million
2018	(67,327)
2019	(52,601)
2020	(34,642)
2021	(50,101)

The pace of downward trend in the PIA losses could not be continued during 2021 due to following major reasons:—

- i. Limited flight operation due to restrictions imposed by various countries as a result of Covid-19 pandemic.
- ii. Ban on PIA flight operation to Europe by European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).
- iii. Suspension of Hajj/ Umrah operation by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

98. ***Ms. Aliya Kamran:**

Will the Minister for Aviation be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that pension trust of the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) pensioners is being dissolved; if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the CAA pensioner's hard-earned funds are being transferred to the Government, thereby, infringing upon the financial rights of the pensioners; and*
- (c) *what steps are being taken by the Government to protect the financial rights of the pensioners of CAA in lieu of abolition of the said pension trust?*

Minister for Aviation (Khawaja Saad Rafique): Reply of CAA

(a) There is no proposal under consideration to dissolve "CAA Employees Pension Fund Trust" of the Authority.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration to transfer the Employees Pension Fund of Civil Aviation Authority to the Federal Government of Pakistan.

(c) CAA Service Regulations-2014 (Revised version-2019) is the guiding document to protect the financial rights of the pensioners of Authority CAA has established "CAA Employees Pension Fund Trust" with the participation of indigenous employees being trustees of fund. To manage pension fund and to protect the financial rights of pensioners.

To ensure sustainability and growth of pension fund, funds are being invested with the highest return generating instruments, Payment of pension and retirement benefits is made in a timely manner and there are appropriate controls in place to ensure accuracy, transparency and timely disbursement of payment to pensioners.

99. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the function, responsibilities and performance of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) and Pakistan Press Council, names and qualifications of the Heads of the Departments, details of the officials grade-wise province-wise?

Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb): Associated Press of Pakistan (APP)

APP functions, responsibilities and performance is enclosed (Annex-I).

Mr. Akhtar Munir a BPS-20 Officer of the Information Group is serving as the Managing Director of Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation. His education/qualification is MA (Political Science).

However, a list of officials grade-wise province-wise is enclosed (Annex-II).

Press Council of Pakistan (PCP)

Detailed reply of Press Council of Pakistan is attached. (Annex-III).

The post of Chairman PCP (BPS-22) is vacant since 19th April 2019.

Chairman PCP is appointed by the President of Pakistan, in his discretion, from amongst retired judges of the Supreme Court or a person qualified to be a Judge of the Supreme Court.

The Post of Chairman PCP has been advertised in the press for appointment. The appointment of Chairman PCP is under way.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

100. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure digital literacy across the country; and*
- (b) the details of any milestones achieved so far?*

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) Reply by HEC

The following programs/activities have been initiated by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to ensure digital literacy (education) across the country:

- Smart Universities: Transformation through Smart Classrooms
- Digital Learning and Skill Enrichment Initiative (DELSI) 25000 Coursera licenses.
- Launch of HEC's own MOOCS platform over next 03 months as PakEdX
- National Video Conferencing Network
- Education Transformation Agreement (ETA)
- Microsoft Certifications
- Huawei ICT Academy Program
- National Research Program for Universities (NRPU)
- National Digital Library Program
- E-BOOKS
- Higher Education TV Channel

The detail is attached at **Annex-I**.

Reply by FDE

Following e learning / digital literacy initiative were taken:—

- **Tele School**
- **Radio School**
- **Online Classes**
- **E-Notes and Video Lectures**
- **E-Taleem Portal**
- **Google Tech Valley**
- **Pilot Project For Blended E-Learning in 200 Classrooms of Federal Capital : (Grade I-X)**

(b) Reply by HEC

The following achievements (or will be achieved) of said projects/activities are as under:

- **Smart Universities Transformation through Smart Classrooms:** This project is an implementation stage, and it is expected that by the end of this year 100 smart classrooms will be functional.
 - o *Off Campus Virtual Classrooms:* Providing opportunity to distant off campus students and learners for their virtual presence in the classroom along with their cohorts
 - o *Distance Learning:* Automatic creation and development of digital contents (*i.e.* lectures) for non-interactive and off-site learning
 - o *Smart Learning & Assessment:* Provide digital contents and e-learning platforms with assessments of all above teaching and learning modes
- **Digital Learning and Skill Enrichment Initiative:** The Program was officially launched dated 24th August 2021, All the Public and private Sector universities students and Faculty

members have been provided an opportunity to apply online and get unlimited access to over 1200+ of courses.

- **National Video Conferencing Network:** HEC, while supporting the mandate to develop e-Academia, established the national video conferencing network for higher education sector and provided world-class purpose-built video conferencing facility at all the public sector universities across Pakistan. Video conferencing has proven to be a cost-effective solution to higher education in Pakistan. It has emerged as an effective tool to enhance student-teacher interactions; bridge the gap of good faculty; and meet the shortage of faculty members at the universities located at far-flung areas.
- **Education Transformation Agreement (ETA):** HEC has been working with Microsoft over the past few years to ensure Universities across the country have access to digital tools and technology that can enable them in provision of Education services across the country. Tools and technology made available that help in enabling remote communication and management. HEC has signed an education transformation agreement with Microsoft through which capacity building trainings and workshops are delivered on the products being offered to HEIs. This ensures the Universities have both, access as well as the capability of using these products.

In terms of Microsoft Teams, HEC made the platform available for 80K+ faculty & 1M+ students across the country. During peak covid times, Universities reported an estimated 500K+ active usage on Teams platform for digital classes across the country. Moreover, more than 300 trainings have been conducted using both Microsoft Teams as well as HEC's video conference facilities across the country, targeting 30K+ Faculty & IT managers.

- **Microsoft Certifications:** Under this strategic partnership, a certification platform has been launched to provide students with a prescribed curriculum roadmap, a kind of a blueprint for technology skill development and certification. Specific

areas of study include Productivity, Computer Science, Data Science, and IT Infrastructure. The offered Certifications of MTA (Microsoft Technology Associate) and MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist) provide useful credentials for individuals seeking to validate their skills and advance their careers.

- **Huawei ICT Academy Program:** To promote the development and dissemination of ICT technologies, cultivate ICT talent for society, and meet the long-term talent requirements of the ICT industry chain and to promote the ICT and digital literacy. ICT Academies program (Phase-1) successfully launched at 13 Pakistani Universities in collaboration with Huawei, where the selection was made on competitive proposals from the Universities from all over Pakistan. During Phase - 2, out of 13, five (5) associate level ICT academies are upgraded to professional level training in fields of Data Communication, Data Security, and Data Storage while seven (7) new ICT Academies are established during the year 2020-21.
 - 48 Instructors certified through TTT Sessions
 - 1500+ students being trained
 - Huawei ICT Competition 2020-21 was the first online competition. Where 11000+ students from 70+ Pakistani HEIs participated and Pakistani student's teams stood 1st and 2nd in the Middle East Regional Finals while qualifying for the ICT Global Finals 2020-21, CHINA
- **National Research Program for Universities (NRPU):** HEC National Research Program for Universities (NRPU) support research projects on competitive merit for conducting high-level and promising scientific research, demonstrating strategic relevance and impact to local industry and society. So far five projects have been awarded.
- **National Digital Library Program:** Under National Digital Library program, public and private sector Universities and institutions have access to a wide range of digital resources (journals, research article, case studies, thesis, and databases)

that facilitate researchers to have access to worldwide international scholarly literature.

The detail is attached at **Annex-I**.

- **Higher Education TV Channel:** To address the critical need for improving communication with the stakeholders and building awareness about the National Higher Education Standards, quality assurance policies/procedures, financial management, governance and regulatory arrangement, the HEC has launched Higher Educational television channel. The initiative builds the image of Higher Education Sector, foster clear perception about programs and possibilities of HE Sectors presents, enhance public access to the information related to universities and encourage community engagement.

So far various programs on HEC Scholarships, Quality Assurance, Prime Minister Laptop Scheme, Degree Attestation, Entrepreneurship, Microsoft Imagine Cup and National Research program for universities etc. have been telecasted live on EDUTV. Queries of general public reported on social media (Facebook and Twitter etc.) are responded through EDUTV programs. Recording of EDUTV programs is then also made available on EDUTV web page, Facebook & Twitter pages for information and viewing of the general public. General Public queries/comments on social media are also considered as feedback for improving/revising HEC policies.

In order to engage broader Higher Education TV channel viewer space HEC is making efforts to transform EDUTV to other mediums such as Cable TV, IPTV and Satellite Television Channel. This mega transformation would however require EDUTV directorial / structural reforms and financial support that is being deliberated as a roadmap.

Reply of FDE

The details of milestones achieved so far are as under:

Envisioned by Honorable Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training. **TeleSchool** has been executed by FDE, Academics

Wing with the help of multiple stake holders in 2019 and still continued. The content developed by education technology partners was mapped according to National Curriculum and planned for the scheduled transmission's content. Viewership of TeleSchool is 40 million students.

The M/o FE&PT has also launched **“Radio School”** to cater to the educational needs of the students in second wave of COVID-19 which helped the students carrying out their uninterrupted learning where there is lack of access to the Internet or Television.

All the leading educational institutions working under FDE started **online classes** to keep the students engaged and help them accelerate their learning at home successfully. It helped the students to remain in touch with their teachers and seek their guidance as and when required. All colleges affiliated with Quaid-e-Azam University successfully utilized Microsoft Teams as an effective online mode of teaching.

E-Notes and Video Lectures have been especially prepared to help students to continue their learning during lock-down periods. They are provided on the official website of Federal Directorate of Education and can be accessed free of cost. E-Notes can be accessed at <https://fde.gov.pk/e-notes/> and Video Lectures can be accessed at <https://fde.gov.pk/video-lectures/>

E-Taleem Portal has been launched by the M/o FE&PT to facilitate online education of students with the collaboration of education technology partners. The portal provides access to lectures and learning material through the Internet.

Google Tech Valley

After a successful Pilot in the Federal Capital where schools were incorporated with Google Workspace for Education and provided training on how to use Google tools for distance learning and creating a digital infrastructure in the school, the project was scaled up as following:

- A total of 424 schools have been added in the Admin Portal.
- This amounts to over 220,000 entries comprising of Students, Teachers & Administration Staff.

- Provided FDE staff with several trainings on Google Workspace for Education and Certifications.

PILOT PROJECT FOR BLENDED E-LEARNING IN 200 CLASSROOMS OF FEDERAL CAPITAL: (GRADE I-X).

The total allocated capital cost of the project is Rs. 176.663 million with an execution period of two years (24 months). There are 03 components of the project *i.e.* Primary Components (Grade I-V), Middle Component (Grade VI-VIII) and Secondary Component (Grade IX&X). Contracts are separately awarded to the Solution Providers for each components *i.e.* Knowledge Platform executing Middle Components at the cost of Rs. 63.440 million. Tele-Taleem executing Secondary Component at the cost Rs. 33.880 million and PTCL & Mera Sabaq Executing Primary Component at the cost of Rs. 62.796 million. The total contract value collectively for all the three components stands at Rs. 160.116 million.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

101. ***Ms. Aliya Kamran:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the 4G data and voice call services are not available at Dheri Mera, Union Council Salhad, Abbottabad;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has conducted two extensive surveys of the said area during the last two years; if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) whether it is further a fact that PTA has requested the Universal Service Fund (USF) for providing data services at the said area under small lot/program; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (d) what steps are being taken by the Government and the USF to provide 4G data and voice call services in the said area and the time by which the same will be provided?*

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: (a) 4G services are available at Dheri Mera and adjoining areas. However, it is not possible to provide blanket coverage and same quality of service at each point in the area, due to hilly and uneven terrain.

(a) A joint survey by PTA along-with Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) was carried out at Dheri Mera and adjoining areas on **15th July 2021** in order to check 3G and 4G coverage. Survey results revealed sufficient ZonG and Telenor services at 5x locations provided by the complainant *i.e.* Mera, Mera Dheri Primary School, Trehri Market, Bhuraj High School, Bahgati. However, Ufone had no coverage in the area. Subsequently, PTA along-with the residents of the areas surveyed following 4x locations on **28th October 2021**:

Location	Area
1	Main Road just in Front of Mosque Abdullah Bin Masood (RA).
2	Ayesha Siddiqa (RA) Islamic Montessori on link road to Village Dheri.
3	Trehri Market
4	Shah Di Galli, in front Govt School.

Survey Observations:

- i. Location # 1 and 2 lack adequate data services.
- ii. ZonG has very good coverage and quality for both voice and data (4G) at location # 3 and 4.

(c) Yes. USF was requested *vide* letter dated 15th November 2021 for considering locations 1 and 2 under small lot/ program.

(d) Locations 1 and 2 have been included in USF Abbottabad Lot advertised on 20th June 2022. Currently, the bids against the advertised lot scheduled to be received in October 2022, tentative timeline for provision of coverage in the areas considered by USF is 12 to 18 months after award of the contract to successful bidder.

102. ***Jam Abdul Karim Bijar:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Establishment Division be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that upon being promoted to the post of Superintendent, an incumbent has to remain in BS-16 for three years before elevating his service to BS-17;*
- (b) *if so, what is the logic of retaining him in BS-16 for three years;*
- (c) *is it also a fact that in the pasts the post of Superintendent and Private Secretary were on the same scale i.e. BS-16 and with the passage of time post of Private Secretary has been upgraded to BS-17-19 whereas the post of Superintendent is still placed in BS-16;*
- (d) *if so, the justification behind this discrimination;*
- (e) *whether it is further a fact that the post of Superintendent has already been upgraded in BS-17 in the provinces; and*
- (f) *what corrective measures are being taken in this regard?*

Minister In-charge of the Establishment Division: (a) Yes.

(b) Grant of BS-17 to the Superintendent is an additional benefit that has been allowed by Finance Division *vide* O.M. No. 1(3)R-I/2010/2014 dated 10-09-2014.

(c) The posts of Superintendent and Private Secretary were in BPS-16 in 1986. With the approval of Prime Minister *vide* this Division's O.M. No. 9/2/74-F.II (R-6) dated 18-03-1986 the post of Private Secretary was up-graded from BPS-16 to BPS-17 and grant of BPS-18 after completion of 10 years satisfactory service was also allowed to Private Secretary. Finance Division with the approval of Prime Minister *vide* O.M. No. 19(55)Legal-II/2010-1055 dated 23-12-2011 allowed grant of BS-18 and 19 to Private Secretary. Similarly revised conditions/criteria for grant of Time Scale BS-18/19 to Private Secretary (BS-17) has also been issued by Finance Division *vide* O.M. No. 9(63)R-I/2016-167 dated 31-03-2021.

(d) The job description, qualification and criteria of both the posts are totally different from each other and therefore neither any analogy can be drawn between the two posts, nor it can be termed as discrimination.

(e) Yes.

Further, under Article 240(b) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973 the appointments to and the conditions of service of a Province and posts in connection with the affairs of Province are determined by or under Act of the respective Provincial Assembly and the respective Provincial Governments are, constitutionally independent to take decision in that regard.

(f) Finance Division with the approval of Prime Minister *vide* O.M. No. 9(7)R-I/2014-233/2022 dated 28-05-2022 has allowed grant of higher time scale to BPS-1 to BPS-16 to all Civil Servants of the Federal Government thrice during entire service including the Superintendent.

103. ***Ms. Shakila Luqman:**

Will the Minister for Climate Change be pleased to state:

- (a) *the quality and quantum of air pollution in the big cities of Pakistan;*
- (b) *the standards imposed on the industry, generally, thermal and coal fired plants to limit exhaust of air pollutants alongwith the mechanism evolved to monitor it; and*
- (c) *the steps being taken by the Ministry to effectively monitor the same and reduce carbon emissions by vehicles?*

Minister for Climate Change (Ms. Sherry Rehman): (a) Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency is mandated with its function under Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997, for protection, conservation and rehabilitation of environment in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), after 18th constitutional amendment.

Whereas, to the extent that ICT is concerned, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, Islamabad has two state of the art Automatic Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations, one is fixed at its premises at Sector H-8/2 while the other is mobile. Both the stations have same kind of equipment for air quality monitoring along with meteorological monitoring instruments.

Both ambient air quality monitoring stations are capable to monitor following parameters;

- Nitric oxide (NO), Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), Nitrogen oxides (NO_x),
- Sulphur dioxide (SO₂),
- Carbon monoxide (CO),
- Ozone (O₃),
- Methane (CH₄),
- Non-Methane Hydrocarbons (NMHCs) and
- Total Hydrocarbons (THCs).

The substantial / quantum of air quality data observed from January – August, 2022 including the format of daily reporting ambient air quality data of Islamabad are enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

(b) Environmental Quality Standards for Industrial Emissions:

Pak-EPA has notified National Environmental Quality Standards which include *inter alia* National Environmental Quality Standards for Industrial Gaseous Emission under Annex-II of S.R.O. 549(I)/2000 based on the source of the emissions of industries including oil fired and coal fired furnaces / plants (**Copy enclosed at Annex-II**).

Monitoring Mechanism:

Pak-EPA ensures the compliance of the said Regulations within ICT through routine monitoring/inspection of stack emissions of these industries through;

- Physical Inspection.
- Camera Surveillance Facility (24/7).
- Monthly Compliance Reports.

Pak-EPA takes legal actions against the industries whenever non-compliances of Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 and rules and regulations made thereunder, are observed.

(c) The motor vehicles are being accounted as one of the major sources of air pollution (carbon emissions) in the capital city due to huge increase in number of motor vehicles, particularly due to the old age diesel truck and buses.

Therefore, in order to control the vehicular emissions, following action have been taken:—

- Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) has notified National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) for motor vehicles *vide* S.R.O No. 72(KE)/2009 titled, “National Environmental Quality Standards for vehicular emission standards under (NEQS for motor vehicle exhaust and noise), 2009”. (Annexure-III)
- Government of Pakistan has mandated minimum penetration targets for Electric Vehicles. The National Electric Vehicle Policy has been developed to ensure meeting the penetration numbers set forth. This policy will begin an era of clean air in the country that we desperately need for our future generations.
- Pak-EPA in collaboration with Islamabad Traffic Police checks vehicular emission in order to ensure the compliance of National Environmental Quality Standards for vehicular emissions on a regular basis.
- For the protection of Environment, the motor vehicles causing the environmental pollution while emitting-smoke have also been banned to enter the Federal Capital. Therefore, checking environmental pollution of motor vehicles has now become as one of the permanent features / activities of ICT Administration. Accordingly, Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) regularly monitors the motor vehicles at various entering points including Sabzi-mandi of ICT and imposes fines on account of smoke-emission and pressure horn.

Pak-EPA ensures the compliance of these NEQS for vehicular emissions within the territorial jurisdiction of Islamabad only after 18th constitutional amendment. All the Provincial Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs) of Pakistan are regulating their motor vehicular standards through their Environmental Protection Laws within their

territorial jurisdiction through a monitoring mechanism mentioned in their relevant notified Regulations for control of vehicular emissions.

Pakistan has updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), pledging to cut its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2030 by 50% below the business-as-usual scenario (BAU). The reduction target is divided into an unconditional reduction target of 15% and a conditional target of 35%. To reach the target, the country aims to shift to 60% renewable energy, to set a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants, and to stop power generation from imported coal. Pakistan has shelved plans for two new coal-fired power plants in favor of hydropower and will focus on local coal gasification and liquefaction. It also aims to reach 30% electric vehicles by 2030. The investment needed to implement the NDC mitigation actions is estimated at US\$100 bn just for the energy transition.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

ISLAMABAD:
The 12th October, 2022.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

(45th Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Thursday, the 13th October, 2022

27. **Mr. Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state the number of students who applied for admission in Class-I and 1st year, number of students who were granted admission and arrangements for the unsuccessful during the last four years?

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Rana Tanveer Hussain): The detail of students who were granted admission in Class I and 1st year during the last four years is attached in **Annex-I**.

As regards arrangements for the unsuccessful students, it is stated that:

- i. Every institution offers admissions according to its intake capacity through admission committees in accordance with admission policy and if there is no vacancy then the applicant is referred to nearby institutions, thus no child who approaches school is denied admission.
- ii. Most of the parents wish to get their children admitted to particular institutions despite alternate institutions being available, which is not always feasible.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

28. **Mr. Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Aviation be pleased to state the details of the PIA routes in profit and loss and the restoring of the closed routes, in future please?

Reply not received.

29. **Jam Abdul Karim Bijar:**

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.6 replied on 20-05-2022 and to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that administration of Associated Press of Pakistan has failed to finalize to fill the 54 promotional posts by 31st May, 2022 as stated in the reply of the aforesaid question; if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that delay in such promotions amounts to depriving the employees of their rightful promotional benefits;*
- (c) if so, the reasons of delaying promotion of each post;*
- (d) has anyone been held accountable for such delaying tactics; and*
- (e) what steps are being taken to fill the promotional posts at the earliest?*

Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb): (a) It is submitted that APPC management was highly committed to hold DPC for promotion of APPC employees with effect from 31-05-2022. However, due to court cases and litigation it could not be materialized in the scheduled time.

(b) This organization has never delayed the promotion of the employees. It has promoted 66 employees in different grades in 2019-20. The current APPC Management believes that timely promotion of employees brings efficiency in the working of the employees.

(c) The promotion cases get delayed due to court cases.

(d) There is no deliberate attempt on the part of management to delay the promotion cases.

(e) The management is striving to resolve the court cases at the earliest. In the regard, an Anomaly Committee has been constituted to address the seniority issue and process the promotion cases of the employees.

30. **Jam Abdul Karim Bijar:**

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

- (a) *name and nomenclature of the post of BS-16 and equivalent employees who are currently working in the International Islamic University, Islamabad on same scale for the last ten years and despite being entitled to promotion benefits under various arrangements as per the promotion rules of the University, they are not being given such incentive promotion;*
- (b) *if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (c) *has anyone been held accountable on such delay; and*
- (d) *what steps are being taken by the Ministry to fill promotional posts at an earliest?*

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) There are **five** (three ex-cadre and two general cadres) employees in BPS-16 in International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad who could not be promoted to the next higher grade/scale:

Ex-Cadre:

- i. **Mr. Yasir Arafat**, Camera Man (BPS-16) Date of initial Appointment: 30-05-2011.

- ii. **Muhammad Khalil**, Associate Engr. (BPS-16) Date of initial Appointment: 24-05-2011.
- iii. **Mr. Ahsan-ul-Haq**, Associate Engr. (BPS-16) Date of Appointment: 24-05-2011.

General-Cadre:

- i. **Ms. Riffat Khan**, Superintendent (BPS-16) Date of Initial Appointment: 30-09-2009.
- ii. **Ms. Sadia Shafique**, Superintendent (BPS-16) Date of Initial Appointment: 30-09-2009.

(b) The **Ex-Cadre posts** have no promotional line in the University. The Board of Governors (BOGs) of IIU has declared that all such posts be dealt with under its Ex-Cadre Scheme duly approved by the BOG and notified *vide* No. Estab. 8(534)/2012-IIU-80 dated 03-02-2012 (**Annex-I**). As per its criteria, an Ex-cadre employee of BPS-16 becomes eligible for a grant of the next higher scale after rendering 10-year service and earning at least Good ACRs for the last 05 years.

The **General Cadre** posts are considered for promotion on the availability of vacant posts falling under the promotion quota of 50% of the total posts (**Annex-II**).

(c) No, as the delay is due to the unavailability of the promotion quota in the said posts.

(d) All above-mentioned positions are matured to be placed in the next Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC), scheduled to be held in the next two to three months. Accordingly, three cases of ex-cadre employees for placement and two cases of general-cadre employees for promotion shall be placed in it.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

ISLAMABAD:
The 12th October, 2022.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.