

(4th Group, 51st 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

Friday, the 31st March, 2023

@25. ***Mr. Nawab Sher:**
(Deferred during 47th Session)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that sugar mills have yet not started their crushing; if so, the reasons thereof alongwith the time by which crushing will be started;*
- (b) details of the total sugar stock of each sugar mill at present;*
- (c) whether it is a fact that the permission to export the sugar is possible keeping in view of above said stock;*
- (d) if so, the reasons for not deciding the same; and*
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to resolve this issue?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) The sugarmills have started the crushing season in the Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A copy of the notification by the provinces regarding the start of crushing season is attached at **Annex-I**.

(b) According to FBR Track and Trace System, the total stocks of sugar as of 02-12-2022 are 821,453 M. Tons. Copy of the reconciled stock position by FBR is attached as **Annex-II**.

(c) The ECC of the Cabinet has allowed export of 250,000 MT of sugar, inclusive of previously approved quantity of 100,000 MT. Copy of the OM by M/o Commerce on the subject dated 11-01-2023 is attached as **Annex-III**.

(d) Decision has already been taken by the ECC of the Cabinet

(e) Matter stands resolved at the moment.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

34. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**
(Deferred during 47th Session)

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

- (a) the details of the institutions managed by the Ministry;*
- (b) whether the Board of Directors of such institutions is responsible to the Ministry;*
- (c) when did the last appointment of members of each of the above Boards made and criteria adopted for such appointments;*
- (d) the details of experience of each of the above board members in the relevant field;*
- (e) whether the above board or any of its member has continued to serve or function despite the expiry of their term;*
- (f) the details of the perks and privileges given to each member of the above board;*
- (g) if any discrepancy is found during the above appointments; and*
- (h) time by which action is being taken by the Government for the above?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Syed Murtaza Mahmud): (a) Following institutions are attached with Ministry of Industries and Production:—

- i. State Engineering Corporation (SEC)
- ii. Engineering Development Board (EDB)
- iii. Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM)
- iv. Heavy Electrical Complex (HEC)
- v. Pakistan Engineering Company (PECO)
- vi. Republic Motors Pvt. Limited (RML)
- vii. Sindh Engineering Pvt. Limited (SEL)
- viii. Pakistan Automobile Corporation (PACO)
- ix. Morafco Industries Limited.
- x. Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA)
- xi. Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC)
- xii. Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC)
- xiii. Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Development Company (PGJDC)
- xiv. Pakistan Hunting and Sporting Arms Development Company (PHSADC)
- xv. Agro Food Processing Facilities (AFP)
- xvi. Utility Stores Corporation Pvt. Limited (USC)
- xvii. Technology Upgradation and Skill Development Company (TUSDEC)
- xviii. Karachi Tools, Dies & Moulds Centre (KTDMC).
- xix. Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC).
- xx. Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM).
- xxi. National Fertilizer Corporation (NFC).

- xxii. National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML).
- xxiii. Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA)
- xxiv. National Productivity Organization (NPO)
- xxv. Gujranwala Business Centre (GBC)
- xxvi. Pakistan Steel Fabricating Company (Pvt) Limited (PSFCL)

(b) In case of Public Sector Companies, the Boards of Directors are independent to make decisions under provision of Companies Act, 2017 and Public Sector Companies (Corporate Governance) Rules, 2013. However, Ministry is represented on all these Boards. Decisions are taken through majority vote.

In case of Authorities / other institutions, the business is also conducted through Boards of Directors appointed by the Federal Government in terms of their relevant statutes. As the representation of Ministry is there on the Boards, the policy input is given in Board meetings.

(c) Status of Board of Directors of each Public Sector Entities is placed as **Annex-I**. All Directors on Boards of companies are selected in terms of Criteria approved by SECP and under Section 166 of Companies Act, 2017. Other instructions issued by the Federal Government from time to time in this regard are also followed.

(d) List of Independent Directors with experience is at **Annex-II**.

(e) According to Section 165 of the Companies Act, 2017 all the Board Members of the Public Sector Entities continue to work till the pleasure of the Federal Government.

The companies where Directors are working beyond 03 years tenure is at **Annex-III**.

(f) Entity wise details is at **Annex-IV**.

(g) All appointments are made in the light of fit and perfect test, applied by SECP.

(h) N/A.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

76. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

- (a) the total cost which would be incurred on the construction of Mohmand Dam; and
- (b) whether necessary funds have been made available for construction of the said Dam?

Minister for Water Resources (Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah):

(a) The total cost to be incurred on the construction of Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project is Rs. 309,558.38 Million as per approved PC-I.

(b) The funds for the construction of Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project have been made available as per following details:

Rs in million

Description	Allocated	Released	Expenditure
Funds up to June 2022	49,510.036	49,510.036	49,510.036
Funds for FY 2022-23	12,060.310	7,412.062	7,005.753

However, the project needs further arrangement of PSDP funds of Rs. 3,939.690 million, in addition to the already allocated budget for current financial year 2022-23, which has been requested by Ministry of Water Resources for arrangement through Ministry of PD&SI.

Moreover, foreign component of the project is US\$ 716 million for which financial closure status with different Donors is as follows:

US\$ in million

Description	Amount	Status
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)	180	Formal loan agreement has been signed on March 03, 2022 b/w IsDB and Govt. of Pakistan through EAD.
OPEC Fund for International Fund (OFID)	72	Formal loan agreement has been signed on June 15, 2022 b/w OFID Fund and Govt. of Pakistan through EAD. The loan has been declared effective since July 27, 2022.
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED)	100	Loan agreement has been initiated while the official ceremony for signing of loan agreement will be held after the approval of KFAED Board.

Saudi Fund for Development (SFD)	240	Loan agreement has been initiated while the official ceremony for signing of loan agreement will be held during visit of HE Mohammad Bin Salman or Chief Executive SFD to Pakistan.
WAPDA Euro Green Bond	124	US\$ 124 million may be met from Euro Green bonds, which have already been arranged by WAPDA to achieve financial closure.

77. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) *whether the present Government has taken any step to make Islamabad an AIDS free city;*
- (b) *if so, the detail, thereof?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) Yes the present Government has taken multiple steps to make Islamabad an AIDS free city.

(b) HIV legislation drafted for ICT.

- A new HIV treatment center has been established in Federal government polyclinic Hospital for increasing free of cost testing and treatment
- Restructuring of CMU and establishment provincial CMUs
- Government of Pakistan is currently working with UN Partners to strengthen community system through which outreach, test and treat strategy will be adopted to enhance coverage
- NACP through its implementing partners provides free-of-cost HIV prevention, diagnostic, treatment, care, and support services to the infected and affected populations via 02 HIV treatment centers in Islamabad.

- One new HIV (ART) Treatment Centre was recently established in Poly clinic Islamabad, while previously HIV centre was working at PIMS Islamabad.
- Both centers are providing free-of-cost HIV prevention, diagnostic, treatment, care, and support services to the infected and affected populations
- A National HIV self-testing initiative has been launched
- A national migrant workers' HIV screening program has been launched.
- OST (Opioid substitution treatment) roll-out strategy has been launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Anti-Narcotics which will reduce HIV among IV drug users.
- A mass media engagement campaign has been launched to promote HIV literacy and increase mass awareness about HIV
- HIV testing has been increased in Islamabad periodically. The increase of HIV testing has been attributed to the following reasons: (i) Expansion of community outreach services and increased linkage of screened individuals to the ART facilities, (ii) sustained engagement with healthcare providers to destigmatize the disease, (iii) awareness campaigns to increase knowledge about the availability of HIV prevention, treatment, pre, and post-exposure prophylactic HIV treatment services.
- NACP team throughout the year in different Colleges/Universities of Islamabad to educate youth about the risks of HIV, preventive measures, and drug abuse routinely conducts awareness sessions. Youth Ambassadors (university students) have been engaged in raising awareness about HIV
- Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination has the government has planned to ban the use of reusable injections/syringes in the whole country including Islamabad. The Pharma industry is being encouraged to manufacture Auto-destructible syringes only.

- The Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination government has newly established 01 Regional Blood Bank (at the Divisional level in Islamabad for ICT). Where state-of-the-art equipment is installed to ensure the provision of safe blood across Islamabad. All blood banks working in Islamabad (Public & Private) are also screening all potential donors for HIV as per National Guidelines.

78. ***Syed Imran Ahmad Shah:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- whether the export oriented industries have received subsidies in terms of value and volume during the last five years including the current financial year;*
- how did such subsidies have been proved beneficial for the overall growth of exports during above years;*
- if such subsidies have failed to meet their intended targets, the reasons thereof; and*
- what corrective measures are being taken by the Government to make such subsidies more beneficial to the country?*

Transferred to Commerce Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

79. ***Ms. Saira Bano:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- whether the Government has taken notice of the fact that recently some certain industries partially have been shut down their operations are restricted during their working days, consequently a large number of the people associated with these industries have lost their employment;*
- whether any study has been carried out to determine the severity of such shutdowns both in terms of the value and volume of such shutdowns; if so, the details thereof;*

- (c) *the reasons for the closure and its magnitude in terms of value and volume; and*
- (d) *what remedial measures are being taken by the Government to redress the grievances of such industries so that they can resume their work at full capacity?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Syed Murtaza Mahmud): (a) • It is to inform that due to ongoing economic crises the industry is facing difficulties in opening LC's to import input materials/ components essentially required to produce industrial goods and due to said reason industrial units are operating at very low capacities.

- Due to low capacity utilization some manufacturers temporary closed down their plants and plan their operations on the basis of available raw materials kits.

- EDB has taken the matter with SBP and Ministry of Finance on numerous occasions.

(b) • No such study has been carried out by EDB and the data for estimated aggregate losses to the economy is not available with EDB. Federal Bureau of Statistics may be in a better position to provide the desired data.

(c) • Currently the manufacturing companies are facing excessive non production days and shut down due to supply chain issues however the magnitude in terms of value and volume is not available with EDB.

(d) • A high level committee consisting of Secretary Commerce, Secretary MOI&P & Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan was previously looking after the matter of LCs. EDB and MOIP have taken up the matter of difficulties faced by the manufacturers to every forum including the above committee.

- Under recent circular of SBP No. 20 of 2022 dated 27th December 2022 the quota has been abolished with effect from January 1, 2023 and companies have been asked to approach their banks directly for LC establishment.

- Since root cause of the problem is economic crisis and foreign exchange reserves of the country, State Bank of Pakistan or Ministry of Finance may be in a better position to give the timeline for resolution of this issue. The industries will start to operate on a normal pattern, once the hindrance of financial constraint and LC restrictions are removed.

80. ***Dr. Darshan:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that appointments have been made in the each department of the Ministry since 2018;*
- (b) the details, viz, name of each person with his details such as parentage, education, place of domicile, nature of appointment and whether the post to which each has been appointed was advertised or not, including other statutory requirements for appointment have been fulfilled since 2018 in each department under the Ministry;*
- (c) whether the statutory requirements for appointments have been completed; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof;*
- (d) if any discrepancy is found, what action is being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Reply not received.

81. ***Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a danger to the food security of the country due to rapid increase in the population;*
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) & (b) Rapidly increasing population in the country is root cause of many socio-economic problems of the country including food insecurity. According to latest available official data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics 1.8% of population is experiencing severe food insecurity.

Ministry of National Food Security and Research is vigilant regarding food security situation in the country. In this regard, Ministry is tracking the availability of food items in the country to ensure sufficient supplies in the country. The staple food — Wheat stocks are sufficiently available in all provinces of the country and harvesting of new crop has started in Sindh province. Anticipated new crop has been estimated as well and procurement plans are being finalized.

In order to address the issue of food security, this ministry has already initiated PSDP funded projects to enhance productivity of all major crops (wheat, sugarcane, Rice) oilseeds, pulses and livestock dairy development projects as well. Moreover, following important initiatives have been taken under the directions of Prime Minister:

1. Kissan Package.
2. Prime Minister Yield Enhancement Plan.
3. Edible Oil Enhancement Plan.

82. ***Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) *whether there was a plan under consideration of the Government to set up a public cancer hospital in Islamabad, during the tenure of the previous Government 2013 to 2018;*
- (b) *if so, the reasons for not setting uptill now; and*
- (c) *the time by which its construction would be started?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) Yes, a proposal was under consideration for establishment of Cancer Hospital in Islamabad during 2013-2018. The original PC-I for Establishment of Cancer Hospital in

Islamabad amounting to Rs. 1998.00 million was approved in CDWP on 12-02-2018.

(b) The project was then subsequently shelved by the Task Force on Health, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination in 2019.

(c) The first revised PC-I amounting to Rs. 3,406.169 million has been approved by CDWP on 06-02-2023. M/o PD&SI has issued authorization on 24-02-2023. Construction work will be started in current financial year.

83. ***Jam Abdul Karim Bijar:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) *whether the Ministry or any department under the administrative control of the Ministry has invested any money from its own funds or raised any money at present or in the past by disposing of any property within the country or abroad; if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *the current status of such investment;*
- (c) *the annual income of such investment;*
- (d) *the usage of such investment;*
- (e) *the details of authority which sanctioned such investment;*
- (f) *if any discrepancy is found while dealing with the matter, what corrective measure are being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony (Mufti Abdul Shakoor): (a) Evacuee Property Board (ETPB) is an autonomous body under the administrative control of this Ministry. It carries out its functions under the ETPB's Act, 1975. ETPB invests its surplus funds through competitive bidding with the approval of ETP Board. These funds are generated from the rent of ET properties.

(b) The investments are made in the banks through fixed deposit for the period of one year with profit at maturity (Detail is annexed).

(c) The profits are earned yearly on the interest rates offered by the Scheduled Banks through open bidding process, which is approximately Rs. 835.120 million per annum (Detail is annexed).

(d) The ETP Board uses its funds in line with the provisions of ETPB's Act 1975. The ETPB meets its administrative expenditures, carries out repair/maintenance of its properties as well as Gurdwaras/Mandirs of Sikhs/Hindu shrines. In addition to the above, it also provides Grant-in-Aid to run the educational institutions and Hospitals under its administrative control.

(e) The ETPB made its investment with the approval of ETP Board, which is constituted by the Federal Government.

(f) All investments are made in transparent manners, however, in past, in the years 2010-2013, ETP has invested its funds, which could not be realized. The cases of which are under litigation in different courts and FIA. However, afterwards, ETPB now invests in scheduled banks having AA/PACRA rating.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

84. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.75 replied on 14-11-2022 and to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the facilities of Angiography/Angioplasty and Heart Surgery are not available in Federal Government Polyclinic, Islamabad, and also at General Hospital Chack Shahzad, Islamabad, as the million of the people of Islamabad and its affiliated cities are deprived of; and*
- (b) *reasons for not paying attention by the Ministry to resolve this issue?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) The invasive Cardiac interventional procedures like angioplasty, heart surgery are not available in FGPC and only conservative management is undertaken there. The hospital however refers such patients for angiography/angioplasty and heart surgery to PIMS, AFIC and other hospitals. Also, no such facility is available in FGH, Chak Shahzad Islamabad as it is merely secondary care hospital, which can refer such patients to other hospitals, where such facilities are available.

(b) The ministry is paying attention to the matter as the said facilities are present in the PIMS hospital under this Ministry.

85. ***Ms. Asiya Azeem:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) *the present status of the Covid-19 in the country at present;*
(b) *total number of patients at present; and*
(c) *the time by which it will be ended in the country?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) Currently infection with Covid-19 still prevails in the country and its spread continues. The present status of Covid-19 in the country as reported till 16th March, 2023 is as follows:

Province	Total COVID-19 Cases (from PCR + Antigen Testing)		
	Till 16-03-2023	Total Cases in Last 24 hours	Total Cases till date
AJK	44,348	04	44,348
Balochistan	36,048	01	36,048
Gilgit Baltistan	12,096	00	12,096
Islamabad	139,953	14	139,953
KP	225,157	08	225,157
Punjab	524,363	49	524,363
Sindh	595,948	53	595,948
Grand Total (Cases)	1,577,913	129	1,577,913

(b) The total COVID-19 patients in Pakistan as reported till 16th March 2023 are 1,577,913. With reference to mortality the country can be classified as having experienced low mortality as compared to regional countries.

(c) The World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11th, 2020, had declared the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, a global pandemic and a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Recently, after the WHO's Emergency Committee meeting, the WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared that the COVID-19 still remains a PHEIC. The WHO communication to the member states is attached at **Annex-I**.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

86. ***Ms. Aliya Kamran:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a couple of major car manufacturing companies operating in the country have shut-down their plants recently; if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that due to suspension of operations of the above mentioned car manufacturers companies, a large number of work-force employed/consumers are suffering badly; and*
- (c) what steps are being taken by the Government to resolve this issue and by which date the operations of the above mentioned companies will become smooth?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Syed Murtaza Mahmud): (a) • No permanent shut down is reported so far. Due to import restrictions imposed to curb / reduce imports, the processes and operations of the car manufacturing industries have been reduced. As an outcome, capacity utilization of the companies were reduced to less than 50%.

• Since the capacity utilization is less than 50% so car manufacturer's temporary Shut down their plants every month and plan their operations on the basis of CKDs raw materials available to them.

(b) • Because of low capacity utilization the delivery period of the vehicles has increased.

- The operations of the companies have been reduced, whereas no permanent shut down is reported so far.

- No retrenchment of regular employees in the private sector has been reported.

(c) • A high-level committee consisting of Secretary Commerce, Secretary MOI&P & Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan was looking after the matter of LCs. EDB and MOIP have taken up the matter of difficulties faced by the manufacturers to every forum including the above committee.

- Under recent circular of SBP No. 20 of 2022 dated 27th December 2022 the quota has been abolished with effect from January 1, 2023 and companies have been asked to approach their banks directly for LC establishment.

- Since root cause of the problem is economic situation and dollar inflow in the country, SBP and Ministry of Finance may be in a better position to give the timeline for resolution of this issue.

87. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**
(*Deferred during 50th Session*)

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

(a) *details the annual productions of tea in the country during the last five years;*

(b) *the locations where tea is being cultivated in the country at present; and*

(c) *whether the tea is also being cultivated by the Government, if so, location-wise details thereof?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) Total Productions of Black / Green Tea in Pakistan approximately 800 kg / annual from Public and Private Sector.

Public Sector (5-Year):

PARC-National Tea and Horticulture Research Institute Shinkiari.

1. Black Tea	5518 kg
2. <u>Green Tea</u>	<u>18278 kg</u>
<u>Total:</u>	<u>23796 kg</u>

Private Sector (5-Years):

1. Black Tea	15000 kg
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(b) Presently tea is cultivated in Mansehra and Battagram districts.

(c) Tea is cultivated only at PARC-National Tea and Horticulture Research Institute, Shinkiari on the Government side in Mansehra District.

88. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that after admission on Seht Card bed and lab charges are included, in Seht Card coverage; if so, reasons demand of bed for night stay charges by Max Health Hospital G-8 Markaz, Islamabad, after patient admission on Seht Card;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that aforementioned hospital admitted and discharged a cardiac patient on same day, during December, 2022 with justification of faculty angiography equipment/machine; if so, justification of admitting serious cardiac attack patient for treatment; and*
- (c) steps being taken by the Ministry for continuous monitoring and accountability of hospitals on Seht Card in terms of best interest of patients of the country?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) Under Sehat Card admissions all expenses related to inpatient services including:

- Prescribed Medicines
- Lab Charges
- Hospital beds (Night stay Charges)
- Consultation Charges
- OT and anesthesia and other related to hospitalization expense are fully covered as per term and conditions of hospital and insurance company agreement.

(b) Sehat Sahulat Program's contracted insurance company *i.e.* State life Insurance Corporation is managing the panel hospitals and patients across Pakistan, including foresaid Max Hospital, Islamabad. All panel hospitals are obliged to comply with term and condition of the contract with insurance company to provide all necessary hospitalization services to eligible patients and incase of any patient can communicate their grievances to either Sehat Card counter working in every panel hospital or to 24/7 insurance helpline 080009889 for redressal.

(c) M/o NHR&C's and State Life Insurance Company's monitoring teams are monitoring the Sehat card patients at all empaneled hospitals and resolve all complaints of beneficiaries. Moreover, a 24/7 helpline (080009889) is also available for any complaints redressal. All panel hospitals have Sehat card Counters established by contracted insurance company to facilitate all Sehat card patients.

89. ***Dr. Darshan:**

(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that promotions have not been made in Export Processing Zone Authority since many years; if so, the reasons for such delay;*
- (b) *if not; the time by which promotions will be made?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Syed Murtaza Mahmud): (a) Yes, the promotions of employees are pending since long due to the following reasons:

1. FIA, CBC initiated the Enquiry No. 45/2013 in August/September, 2013 against the 549 illegal appointments in EPZA and promotion will be made against the employees' subject to outcome of enquiry.
2. The Audit during the year 2013-14, 2014-15 has also raised objections and made paras on illegal appointments. The matter was placed before PAC on 20-10-2021, wherein it was directed to resolve the matter at DAC level. EPZA has requested for early meeting of DAC, which is to be organized by Director General (Commercial Audit).
3. In EPZA quorum of Departmental Promotion committee was not completed due to non-appointment of higher posts *i.e.* Two Directors & Secretary. Now Federal Government has posted Director (IP) on deputation in EPZA and EPZA is in process .for conducting grievances committee meeting of the employees.

(b) Once the above stated matter is resolved, the Departmental Promotion Committee will convene a meeting for promotion of its employees without further delay.

90. ***Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Mahar:**
(*Deferred during 50th Session*)

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

- (a) *whether the Government has taken any notice of the fact that the recent floods in the country have affected the production of major crops that make up our food basket and there is a fear that their production (rice and wheat) may fall short of the country's requirements in the coming months and consequently, to meet the country's needs, products bearing such crops will have to be imported; if so, the details thereof; and*

- (b) *what steps are being taken by the Ministry, to ensure food security, to maintain stable food stocks at adequate levels in the country so that in case of shortage of such commodities, the national exchequer does not have to bear additional financial burden on their import at the last moment?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) During the floods of July and August, 2022 wheat was procured and was completely under the protective storage conditions. However, a small portion of PASSCO's wheat was affected in Dera Allah Yar region. In case of rice, which is the second food crop, its production is affected in the province of Sindh. For this year rice production was reported at the level of 5.4 MMT as compared to 9.32 MMT of the previous year. However, this production is still surplus as compared to the national consumption of 3.8 MMT.

(b) Government is endeavoring to compensate farmers and to ease out the prevailing situation through introduction of innovative technologies, seeds and other measures to boost up production of food crops.

(c) As the country is facing a shortfall between production and consumption of wheat since last 3 years, therefore, its availability through import is being ensured. This year around USD 2 billion have been spent on the import of 2.6 MMT of wheat to cater to the national requirement.

91. ***Ms. Aliya Kamran:**
(*Deferred during 50th Session*)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that services being provided in the emergency department of the Federal Government Polyclinic, Islamabad, are inadequate and substandard;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that there is a huge rush of patients who are regularly visiting the emergency department;*
- (c) *if so, the number of persons who visits daily along with type of medical care being provided;*

- (d) *how many doctors and paramedical staff have been deputed in the emergency department indicating the names of the doctors/paramedics, department/specialization and duty hours in detail;*
- (e) *what steps are being taken by the Government to improve and upgrade the above said emergency departments services?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel):

Federal Government Polyclinic, Post Graduate Medical Institute.

(a) No, the emergency services at FGPC are being offered optimally round-the-clock. The main Emergency Department has 25 beds (15 male + 10 female) and 09 additional couches. It operates 24/7 in three shifts with full backup of all clinical departments and diagnostic services, under a Director Emergency and a Chief Casualty Medical Officer.

(b) (i) Yes, there is a huge rush of patients who visit the emergency department on daily basis. All medicines / material / tests required are provided to all patients free of cost, except those which are not available in our stores / hospital (less than 10% instances). Even first inoculation of Rabies, ASV for snake bites, Trop-T for Heart Attack suspicious cases, fast scan (USG), digital radiology, Prosten-E2 for OBGYN and nebulization services are included, amongst many other free interventions.

(ii) The Emergency services have full support of surgical / medical specialized teams, Operation Theatres, Intensive care units, Cardiac Care Unit, in all three shifts. Referrals are provided ambulance services along with dead body transport within bounds of ICT. Mass emergency response and medical cover for national and international dignitaries, are also managed in all three shifts through pre-notified systems and protocol.

(c) About 1000+ patients visit in Emergency with different diseases. The detail of patients who visit the emergency department is at **(Annexed-A)**.

(d) Duty roster of all three shifts is attached at **(Annex-B)**.

(e) Many actions have been taken to improve the services of Emergency department, which are as under:

- To decrease the load of patients in emergency, Evening OPD has been started and medical, surgery, pediatrics, ophthalmology, dental, radiology & physiotherapy are working in Evening OPD from 02.00 PM to 08.00 PM. Due to this load of patients in the emergency at evening shift has decreased.
- Computerized emergency slips have been started to streamline and explore the process in emergency.
- Shortage of CMOs has been addressed and required numbers of doctors and staff have been posted to emergency by posting all new inductees and deputations to emergency department, first.
- Senior doctors having Post-graduation from Surgery & Allied and Medicine & Allied have been posted to emergency department in the evening shift from 02.00 PM to 08.00 PM.
- All the departments have been advised to depute at-least one Resident Doctor with two House Officers physically present round the clock to respond to any call from emergency.
- Pharmacy / availability of medicines for the patients of emergency has been made available in the emergency.
- To address the problems of patients and access the performance / presence of staff frequent rounds of Director (Emergency Services) and AEDs are being made.
- The Executive Director himself frequently visits the Emergency in odd hours to monitor the situation in the ER.
- A partnership has been reached with NUST through the Ministry for declaring FGPC as teaching hospital for their new School of Health Sciences (SHS) Islamabad and they have agreed to develop a master plan for restructuring of FGPC for 2050 including Emergency Block with dedicated treatment rooms, diagnostics, cardiac Cath lab and modular OTs, in a phased manner.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

92. ***Ms. Saira Bano:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

Will the Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony be pleased with refer to the Starred Question No.77 replied on 01-02-2023 and to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that an independent third-party has conducted audit to determine whether each mover performed his or her duties in prescribed manners in addition to financial audit;*
- (b) *if any of the above persons have been recommended for such duty for the next Hajj, the details thereof and how many times each persons has performed such duty in the past;*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that the Government has allegedly deliberately concealed the full details of the dues paid to each person on duty along with the date of arrival/departure in Saudi Arabia, including the deduction made against each person, which is tantamount to withholding such information from Parliament and breach of its privilege;*
- (d) *if so, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony (Mufti Abdul Shakoor): (a) As per Hajj Policy 2022 approved by the Federal Cabinet, Welfare Staff (Moavineen) are selected from the Federal Ministries / Departments / Provincial Governments, Armed Forces, Police, Civil Defense, Scouts and other Public sector organizations. However, final selection / approval of Moavineen is accorded by the Committee of M/o RA&IH in consultation with Director (Moavineen), Office of Pilgrims Affairs of Pakistan (OPAP).

According to provisions of the Hajj Policy, no such third-party audit is required. An effective and viable set up exists at the Directorate General of Hajj, Jeddah / Makkah / Madinah to monitor performance of each and every Moavin; either he / she came from Pakistan or locally recruited. Only best performers are recommended for future duty by the concerned Directors.

(b) Every Year after conclusion of Hajj Mission, performance report / recommendation for next Hajj is prepared by Director (A&T). In addition, selection of repeater / experienced Moavineen is made by the Selection Committee of Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony in the light of Policy approved by the Federal Cabinet.

(c) No detail of payment is concealed. The record of payment to the Moavineen is maintained by Accounts Section of OPAP, Jeddah in a transparent manner and no concealment is made in this regard. The payment made to each and every Moavin is ensured to be quite in conformity with their date of arrival / departure to Pakistan and the amount is deducted if there is found any failure in performance of duty. The detail of expenditure incurred on welfare staff is attached at **Annex-I**.

(d) -

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

93. ***Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Federal Cabinet in 2018 had banned for sending any person on Hajj duty more than three times;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that several persons were sent on Hajj duty more than three times in total disregard of such limitation in Hajj 2022;*
- (c) if so, whether the matter was placed before the Cabinet for such relaxation; if so, the details thereof;*
- (d) if such matter was not placed before the Cabinet for exemption, how many peoples were sent on Hajj duty over and above the prescribed limit in contrary to the approval of the Cabinet; and*
- (e) what corrective measure are being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony (Mufti Abdul Shakoor): (a) Yes, as per Hajj-policy-2018, approved by Federal Cabinet, “The Welfare Staff-Moavineen shall not be deputed for more than three consecutive years except the Director Welfare Staff Moavineen. 10% repeaters may be allowed, provided the repeater did not perform Hajj duty for three terms, to guide and supervise those who will be performing duties for the first time”, [Section 24 (III) of said policy is placed at **Annex-A**].

(b) No, the approved Hajj Policy-2022 did not limit the number of times for the selection of welfare staff, it allowed selection of “sufficient” number of moavineen [relevant page of Hajj Policy-2022 (section 23 (iii)) is placed at **Annex-B**].

(c) As above in “b” no person was selected for Hajj duty in violation of approved Policy of Cabinet.

(d) As above in “c”.

(e) Selection of Welfare Staff would be carried out in the light of Policy, criteria and Procedure approved by the Federal Cabinet in Hajj policy-2023.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

53. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that in recent years allegedly embezzlement and malpractices of millions of rupees have been reported at the Federal Government Services Hospital, commonly known as the Poly Clinic, Islamabad, which have also been reflected in the audit paras; if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) whether the Ministry or the hospital has made any inquiry to fix the responsibility of such embezzlement and malpractices; if so the details thereof;*
- (c) whether anyone has been held accountable in this regard; if so, the details thereof;*

- (d) *if such inquiry was not conducted by the Ministry or the hospital management; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (e) *what action has been taken by the government to hold the responsible accountable and install an independent setup to ensure transparent purchase in Federally owned hospitals?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) Yes, following issues are currently under inquiry / review regarding alleged embezzlement and/or malpractices, as reflected by the Audit and / or investigating agencies, in recent years:

Audit Report 2017-18

1. Loss due to procurement of medicines on higher rates Rs. 139.877 million.
2. Unauthorized expenditure on repair and maintenance of office building Rs. 50.095 Million.

Audit Report 2018-19

3. Loss due to procurement of medicines on higher rates Rs. 53.605 Million.
4. Irregular and unauthorized expenditure on repair of building Rs. 19.176 Million.

Audit Report 2021-2022

5. Irregular procurement on higher rates Rs. 27.850 Million on purchase of machinery/equipment under PSDP.
6. Forensic Audit of recent years regarding Medical and General stores by the Auditor General on directions of PAC

Under investigation / prosecution by FIA

7. Procurement of Expired/ Re-labelled Dengue NSI Kits.
8. Loss due to procurement of nitrous oxide gas cylinders on very high rate Rs. 4.049 Million.

9. Recruitment of 39 Junior Technicians during 2019-20.
- (b) i. The Inquiry Committee constituted by NHSR&C has submitted its report regarding S. No. (a) 01 above and its recommendations are under process in the Ministry, as directed by PAC Sub-committee.
- ii. Inquiry Committees constituted by the Ministry, are currently inquiring the matters included in S. No. (a)- 02, 03, 04., as directed by the PAC Sub-committee.
- iii. DAC is awaited regarding S. No. (a)-05
- iv. FIA has filed a case regarding S. No. (a)-06 above recently and two accused have been placed under suspension. The matter is included in the Forensic Audit too.
- v. FIA filed a case regarding S. No. (a)-07 above and currently statements of witnesses are underway in the FIA court. The departmental inquiry carried under a BS-22 Authorized Officer, who did not find any embezzlement against the accused employees and four of them were given minor penalties. FIA court decision is awaited and further matter is sub-judice.
- vi. FIA investigation is underway regarding S. No. (a)-08 and further action/report is awaited
- vii. The Auditor General of Pakistan has assigned the Forensic Audit team to FGPC and active process is underway. Report is awaited.
- (c) Inquiry reports are not finalized yet and findings are still awaited; except detailed departmental inquiry in case of alleged embezzlement in purchase of medical gases and allied items. This was carried under a BS-22 Authorized Officer, who did not find any embezzlement against the accused employees and four of them were given minor penalties, only on account of some misconduct.
- (d) All highlighted matters are under inquiry and / or prosecution and none have been left unattended.
- (e) Inquiries are still under process to hold the responsible accountable.

54. ***Mr. James Iqbal:**

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

- (a) whether any steps has been taken by the Government to make the country, polio free during the present regime;*
- (b) if so, the results of said steps surfaced so far; and*
- (c) the time by which Islamabad will be made polio free?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) Yes, the Polio eradication is among highest priorities for the current government. It has taken all the required steps and making all-out efforts to make the country Polio free as soon as possible. These include:

- The honorable Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for NHR&C are personally overseeing the eradication efforts. The Prime Minister chaired multiple meetings of the ‘National Task Force on Polio Eradication’ as well as the meetings with the ‘Deputy Commissioners of high-risk districts for Polio’.
- Likewise, there is strong commitment & ownership for Polio eradication among the government leadership at the provincial and district levels, in all provinces. The Provincial task force meetings were held regularly in the provinces.
- To ensure utmost focus on the high-risk districts for Polio, the districts risk categorization was revised based on thorough risk assessment. The endemic districts, outbreak districts, and the risk reduction districts were given highest focus and attention in all requisite strategies and plans.
- An aggressive Polio vaccination campaigns schedule is being implemented to give immunity boost to the children against Poliovirus. During last one year, eleven Polio campaigns were conducted including two nationwide campaigns, five sub-national campaigns and four case response campaigns wherein **181 million doses** of Polio vaccine were administered to the children.

- These campaigns were personally launched by the Prime Minister, Federal Minister for NHR&C and the top provincial leadership.
- To ensure quality of campaigns, the operational processes including microplanning, frontline workers trainings, teams selection, etc. were optimized. Special vaccination strategies are being implemented in the high risk districts i.e. directly observed vaccination, special mobile team approach, and community-based vaccination.
- Coordinated efforts were made to vaccinate all children missed during Polio campaigns. Tracking of vaccination teams was done using technology to identify missed houses and children to ensure their vaccination.
- During catastrophic floods last year, the Polio eradication continued to be given top priority at all levels of the government despite engagement of Provincial & district administration of flood affected districts in the relief activities. The vaccination of displaced population was ensured at the transit vaccination points. The Programme also provided financial support to the flood affected workers through partners.
- To further mitigate the risks, the children on the move between different areas in the country were vaccinated continuously at the transit vaccination points established at key locations including inter-provincial & inter-district borders, railway stations, bus stands, airports, etc. **Five Million** children were vaccinated at these transit points.
- Besides this, the nomad's immunization teams have also been deployed in high-risk areas which vaccinated **93,155** nomadic children.
- To address continuous Poliovirus transmission in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, special plan was developed and implemented in this zone with strategies and interventions tailored to local context.
- To quickly boost the immunity of vulnerable children in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, two rounds of injectable +

oral Polio vaccine were also conducted vaccinating **1 million** children in each round. A total of **ten** Polio campaigns were conducted in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during last one year.

- To prevent the spread of Poliovirus from South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to other areas, ring-fencing transit vaccination was done at the entry / exit Points of Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to vaccinate outgoing & incoming population. **317,911** individuals were vaccinated at these points.
- Ring fencing transit vaccination points with all age vaccination have also been established around mehsud belt wherein **108,069** individuals were vaccinated.
- Close coordination with the Afghanistan Polio Programme was maintained for vaccination of population on the move between two countries and the ones residing in bordering areas and settlements. All age vaccination was done at the border crossing points with Afghanistan vaccinating **3.7 Million** individuals.
- Close coordination with Law Enforcement Agencies is being maintained to ensure safe working environment for the frontline Polio workers as well as to reach all under five children for vaccination in the security sensitive areas.
- Sensitive Poliovirus surveillance is being ensured in all areas. The environmental surveillance network has been expanded to 113 sites. Every Polio virus detection is dealt with utmost urgency with detailed investigation and immediate vaccination responses.
- Impactful community engagement and extensive community awareness activities are conducted during all phases of campaigns to highlight the risks of Poliovirus and importance of Polio vaccination with special focus on refusal communities. A new initiative of truck art has also been launched recently to raise awareness regarding Polio through art and messages on trucks.
- To address demands of communities, the health camps are established during each Polio campaign in the high-risk areas

wherein other health services are provided to the communities. The soaps are also provided to communities during Polio campaigns in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- The synergy between Polio eradication and the EPI Programmes have been strengthened. The Extended Outreach Activities are regularly conducted in the high-risk areas.
- The Programme has planned a Polio campaign before upcoming Eid in all high risk areas and has also established seasonal transit vaccination points.

(b) As a result of these efforts and interventions by the government, tremendous progress has been made towards Polio eradication in the country during last one year:

- No Polio case has been reported from Pakistan since last six months.
- Punjab has not reported any Polio case in last 28 months, Sindh in last 32 months, Balochistan in last 25 months, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in last six months. In AJK, GB and Islamabad, there has been no Polio case since many years.
- The number of positive environmental (sewage) samples for Polio virus has also decreased substantially.

(c) There has been no Polio case in district Islamabad since 2008.

55. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.89 replied on 14-11-2022 and state:

- (a) *total number of vehicles including ambulance held by Red Crescent Pakistan; and*
- (b) *the location-wise authority using each of the said vehicles, at present?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has following number of available vehicles:

Ambulances	5
Trucks	5
Motor Cycle	5
Field Vehicles	8
Total:	23

(b) There are no specific dedicated vehicles. All vehicles are used for various donor supported projects, field operations and official use.

56. ***Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that Awami Express and Sir Syed Express have not been operating since last flood and rains; and*

(b) *when will these trains resume operations?*

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) Yes. Awami Express (13 Up/ 14 Dn) was plying between Karachi — Peshawar and Sir Syed Express (35 Up/ 36 Dn) between Karachi — Rawalpindi. The said trains were suspended on 26-08-2022, as all train operation was suspended due to heavy floods.

(b) Pakistan Railways is in the process of inducting new coaches besides upgrading the current available coaches. As soon as the availability of coaches is managed, decision regarding their restoration will be considered depending upon its commercial viability.

57. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

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

(a) *the province-wise total number of Government houses/flats constructed by the incumbent Government in the country, so far;*

(b) *if so, the category-wise breakup of the said houses/flats?*

Minister for Housing and Works (Mr. Abdul Wasay): (a) No Government Owned Housing Unit (house/ flat) of any category for serving Federal Government Servants (FGS) has been constructed by the incumbent Government in the country in any province so far.

(b) Nil

58. ***Mr. Salahuddin:**

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

(a) *the details of plots allotted to the officials of Grade-16 and above of the Ministry, Pakistan Housing Authority (PHA), Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) and Pak PWD since 2000; and*

(b) *the names, designations, grade, CNIC number, plot number and year of allotment?*

Minister for Housing and Works (Mr. Abdul Wasay): (a) 16-Plots have been allotted to the officials of Grade-16 and above of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) since 2022.

(b) The detail is placed at Annex-A.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

59. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

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

(a) *the number of employees working on deputation in the Ministry; and*

(b) *the location, where the said officers have been posted on deputation?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) There are total 8 employees working on deputation in this Ministry:

(b) The details of those officers are at (**Annex-A**).

POSTING & LOCATIONS OF OFFICERS ON DEPUTATION IN THIS MINISTRY

S.#	Name of officer	BPS	Name of parent department of officer	Designation & Location
1.	Mr. Abdul Raziq	19	Pakistan Tele Communication Limited	Director (Institution), Main Ministry
2.	Dr Fouzia Hanif	18	Federal Medical & Dental College	Deputy Director (Inst), Main Ministry
3.	Dr. Saima Yamin	18	Health Department, Government of Balochistan	Dental Surgeon, FGPC
4.	Dr. Andaleeb Umer	17	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government	Assistant Director, Main Ministry
5.	Dr. Sarah Ashraf	17	Punjab Government	Assistant Director (PPW), Main Ministry
6.	Dr. Nusrat Haider	17	Balochistan Government	Assistant Director (Attestation), Main Ministry
7.	Dr. Basharat ullah Baig	17	From GB, Health Dept	Assistant Director (DHO) Office, Islamabad
8.	Dr. Rabail Javed	17	National Institute of Health, Islamabad	Assistant Director (Tib/Unani), Main Ministry

60. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**

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

- (a) *the number of children below ten years in Pakistan who are suffering from iron deficiency and stunting at present; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government in order to deal with this alarming issue at present?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) The National Nutrition Survey (NNS-2018) gives only information/data for children below five (05) years. Among children less than five (05) years, anemia is 53.7% and stunting is 40.2% as per NNS 2018.

(b) Government is aware that Pakistan is suffering from high burden of malnutrition. The National Health Task Force directed to develop a comprehensive Nutrition PC-1 for the entire country including the Federal areas with the title, “Tackling Malnutrition Induced Stunting in Pakistan”. This PC-1 targets population especially mothers and children in 67 high burden districts of the country. The PC-1 has been prepared after thorough consultation with the provinces and has also been endorsed by the Council of Common Interest (CCI). The PC-1 was approved by the Planning Commission in the CDWP meeting held on 24 May 2021 and was presented in ECNEC in March 2022. The Nutrition Wing, M/o NHR&C is awaiting release of necessary funds for implementation. However multiple initiatives have been initiated through the Nutrition Wing, Ministry of NHR&C during past five (05) years in collaboration with Provincial Departments of Health, UN Agencies and development partners as continued nutrition response to prevent and treat malnutrition among most vulnerable especially children.

These interventions include:

1. Stunting Prevention for chronic Malnutrition
2. Counselling and Supplementation for prevention
3. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices
4. Breast Feeding promotion and protection
5. Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)
6. Food Fortification by (Salt iodization, Oil/Ghee (Vit A-D) & Wheat Flour fortification (Iron/Folic Acid)
7. Adolescent Nutrition (Young Girls & Boys)
8. Elimination of Trans-Fatty Acids (TFAs)

61. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Knee Arthroscopy and Ligaments reconstruction/repair facility is not available in any of the Federal Government Hospitals like PIMS, Federal Government Polyclinic and National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (NIRM), Islamabad, and even entitled patients are referred to private hospitals for treatment and they are allowed reimbursement;*
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above is in affirmative, the reasons for not providing this important facility in Federal Government Hospitals;*
- (c) whether it is a fact that NIRM, Islamabad functions under the administrative control of PIMS and Federal Government Polyclinic, Islamabad;*
- (d) if so, the reasons thereof; if not, why the NIRM, Director Technical for advises the entitled patients, referred by NIRM for Knee Arthroscopy from private hospitals, to get their reimbursement bills verified first from PIMS/Federal Government Polyclinic, Islamabad?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) It is fact that facility of knee arthroscopy is not available at PIMS, Polyclinic and NIRM. Therefore, patients whether entitled or otherwise requiring such surgical procedures are referred to other hospitals, where the said facilities may be available.

(b) Arthroscopic surgery is super-specialty of Orthopedics, which requires duly skilled Arthroscopy Surgeon and relevant equipment, in-purpose built operation theater. At the moment, the Federal Government Hospitals do not cater to this specialized procedure owing to lack of requisite manpower essential for this super-specialty along with necessary equipment.

(c) NIRM does not function under the administrative control of PIMS and Polyclinic and it is attached department of M/o NHR&C.

(d) The cases referred from NIRM have to be verified from other government hospitals that the said facility is not available there. This is in accordance with **Clause 3 (2) of the Medical Attendance Rules** issued by M/o Health in 1990 and thereafter published in the Gazette of Pakistan (Copy enclosed). Moreover, it is also pointed out that as per guidelines for submission and Scrutiny of medical claims issued by M/o Health vide **letter No. F. 5-38/2001- Chief-1) dated 16-03-2006**, treatment sought from private hospitals/ clinics is reimbursable only after adequate documentary proof is provided that said facility is not available in any public sector hospital.

62. ***Jam Abdul Karim Bijar:**

Will the Minister for Maritime Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that some officers including General Manager (Finance) are working beyond their period of deputation in Korangi Fish Harbour Authority, Karachi;*
- (b) *if so, the justification of over and above stay of such officers period in the Authority;*
- (c) *if each of the above had completed his authorized deputation period, how each person was paid salary and other pecuniary benefits by the Authority;*
- (d) *the Authority which allowed such officers to on deputation beyond the authorised deputation period;*
- (e) *the legal status of official work, performed by such officers during their un-authorized tenure in the Authority;*
- (f) *if so, what action is being taken by the Government, in the matter?*

Minister for Maritime Affairs (Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari):

(a) At present, no officers including GM (Finance) are working beyond the period of deputation at Korangi Fish Harbour Authority (KoFHA). Present GM (Finance) joined KoFHA on 20-08-2022 and his initial deputation period will expire/ complete on 19-08-2025.

(b) N/A due to the position at Sr. No. i

- (c) -do-
- (d) -do
- (e) -do
- (f) -do

63. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**

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

- (a) *the year-wise details of the sugarcane and cotton production during the last five years in the country; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to increase the said production in future?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) The Year-wise details of the sugarcane and cotton production during the last five years in the country are as below:

Year	Sugarcane	Cotton
	Production (Million Tons)	Production (Million Bales)
2018-19	67.174	9.861
2019-20	66.380	9.151
2020-21	81.009	7.064
2021-22	88.651	8.330
2022-23	88.587*	4.875

* : Second estimates provided by Provincial Agriculture Departments. Sources: Provincial Department of Crop Reporting Service.

(a) The following steps are being taken by the Government for increasing the production of two major crops in future:

Sugarcane:

- Fixation of Minimum Indicative Price (MIP) for sugarcane at Rs. 300/40 kg by Punjab and KP and Rs. 302/40 kg by Sindh and Balochistan.

- The purpose of MIP is to ensure a fair price for sugarcane farmers.
- Seed standards have been approved for Sugarcane.
- Research Institutes have developed over 32 commercial sugarcane varieties for increased productivity levels.
- Grants of permission to Export 250,000 MT sugar to help the industry for timely payments to farmers and earn foreign exchange.

Cotton:

- Enhancement in Minimum Intervention Price to Rs.8,500/40 kg for 2023-24 crop.
- Favorable prices and better management of the crop, besides better/conducive weather conditions, helping farmers in the improvement of yield.
- Approval of 24 high yield varieties by Punjab Seed Council during the last two years.
- Various programmes initiated to minimize losses due to Floods 2022, like; subsidy on fertilizers, import of fertilizers, irrigation infrastructure projects, Track and Traceability System for certified seed, etc.

64. ***Ms. Saira Bano:**

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

- (a) the total Government vehicles available in the Ministry, Division including the departments functioning under its administrative control by any arrangements;*
- (b) details of the use of each vehicle at present along with full details of officers to whom each vehicle has been allocated;*
- (c) details of the monthly fuel and other expenses of the vehicle fleet of each of the above departments;*

- (d) *whether the use of such vehicles has been assessed following the austerity measures announced by the Prime Minister;*
- (e) *if so, the details thereof; and estimated savings expected in coming months; and*
- (f) *what further corrective measures are being taken by the Government to rectify further misuse of vehicles, and ensure savings in future?*

Reply not received.

65. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

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

- (a) *whether there is any food security threats in the country, as its population is growing rapidly;*
- (b) *if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) Rapidly increasing population in the country is root cause of many socio-economic problems of the country including food insecurity. According to latest available official data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics 1.8% of population is experiencing severe food insecurity.

(b) Ministry of National Food Security and Research is vigilant regarding food security situation in the country. In this regard, Ministry is tracking the availability of food items in the country to ensure sufficient supplies in the country. The staple food – Wheat stocks are sufficiently available in all provinces of the country and harvesting of new crop has started in Sindh province. Anticipated new crop has been estimated as well and procurement plans are being finalized.

In order to address the issue of food security, this ministry has already initiated PSDP funded projects to enhance productivity of all major crops (wheat, sugarcane, Rice) oilseeds, pulses and livestock dairy development projects as well. Moreover, following important initiatives have been taken under the directions of Prime Minister:

1. Kissan Package
2. Prime Minister Yield Enhancement Plan
3. Edible Oil Enhancement Plan

66. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.68 replied on 14-11-2022 and to state:

- (a) *the total percentage of construction work of Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam and Dasu Dam which has been completed so far; and*
- (b) *the names of Dams which are under construction in the country other than the said Dams?*

Minister for Water Resources (Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah):

(a) The total physical progress achieved for the construction of Diامر Basha Dam Project, Mohmand Darn Hydropower Project and Dasu Hydropower Project is as under:

1.	Diامر Basha Dam Project	9.97%
2.	Mohmand Dam Hydropower Project	22.66%
3.	Dasu Hydropower Project	16.10%

The detail of under construction Dam Projects for storing rain / flood water is attached as **Annex-A**. These projects, once completed would store about 8.4 Million Acre Feet of water storage capacity for developing of 587,883 Acres Command area.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

67. ***Jam Abdul Karim Bijar:**

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

- (a) *details of each person currently working on deputation in Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) and Pakistan Housing Authority (PHA);*
- (b) *the names of the parent Ministries/ Divisions/ Department/ Organizations etc. from which services of each have been borrowed and since when each has been serving in the said authorities;*
- (c) *whether any of the above persons has served in any of the above authorities on deputation other than the present deputation;*
- (d) *grade-wise number of vacancies in each of the above authority currently lying vacant;*
- (e) *whether it is a fact that due to filling up of these posts through deputation or any other temporary arrangement, the job seekers are generally deprived of getting jobs through direct recruitment;*
- (f) *if the deputationists have been serving against on promotional quota seats denying the eligible employees their lawful right of promotion;*
- (g) *if so, what corrective measures are being taken by the Government to fix the issue?*

Minister for Housing and Works (Mr. Abdul Wasay):

(a) **PHAF**

Presently 37 employees of different cadres are working in PHAF on deputation basis. The requisite information is attached as **Annex-A**.

FGEHA

57 employees belonging to various organizations are working on deputation basis in FGEHA. The detail is at **Annex-B**.

(b) **PHAF**

The list of parent departments of the deputationists working in PHAF is at **Annex-A**.

FGEHA

The list of parent departments of the deputationists working in FGEHA is at **Annex-B**.

(c) **PHAF**

As per available record only Mr. Rizwan Ullah Shah, LDC has served in Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) on deputation basis.

FGEHA

Yes, four employees earlier worked on deputation basis in FGEHA, their names and detail are at **Annex-C**.

(d) **PHAF**

As per approved sanction strength and updated incumbency statement, presently 51 post of different cadre ranging from BS-02 to BS-17 are lying vacant against initial appointment quota in PHAF, detail of which is at **Annex-D**.

FGEHA

Currently, no post is lying vacant against initial appointment quota in FGEHA, due to recent recruitment.

(e) **PHAF**

PHA Foundation hired the services of deputationist against the post of BS-17 & below. In this regard, it is apprised that in PHAF the services of officers are hired on deputation basis as per transfer quota as specified in PHA employees Service Regulations 2020. However, to meet the organization goals, the services of incumbents of BS-16 and below are hired on deputation basis till the posting of regular incumbents. Moreover, to fill up the vacant post against direct quota, recruitment process is under submission and same will be completed in due course of time.

FGEHA

FGE Housing Authority made recruitments against vacant posts meant for direct recruitment quota. However, deputationists are being posted against available posts due to non-availability of eligible person for promotion/suitable candidate through direct recruitment.

(f) PHAF

Some deputationists are working against the promotional quota, however, their posting will be conditional subject to the posting/promotion of regular incumbent.

FGEHA

On eligibility of person for promotion, deputationists officers/officials are repatriated to their parent departments to consider promotion of eligible employees.

(g) PHAF/FGEHA

All cases of deputation are processed in accordance with Government deputation policy and service regulations. On eligibility of person for promotion, deputationists are repatriated to parent departments. The right of promotion of existing employees of the organizations is being protected by both the organizations.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

68. *Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Mahar:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that residents of Islamabad, who have Islamabad CNIC are privileged with Sehat card facility in different Federal Government Hospitals as well as in some private renowned hospitals;*
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above is in affirmative, the amount allocated for treatment of each resident of Islamabad alongwith the names of hospitals (both the government/private) for this facility; and*

(c) *the number of patients who have availed this facility, so far?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) All permanent residents of Islamabad (who have permanent address of Islamabad on CNIC) are eligible for Sehat Card and allowed treatments in more than 1000 panel hospitals countrywide.

(b) The amount allocated for treatment of each family is Rs:1,000,000/ family/year. The list of panel hospitals of Islamabad/Rawalpindi region is enclosed in **Annexure-A**.

(c) As per CMIS, the total number of families availed treatment in Islamabad and Rawalpindi are 187,790. A total of 4,337,917 families have availed treatment since the start of program.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

69. ***Ms. Saira Bano:**

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

- (a) *the total Government vehicles available in the Ministry, Division including the departments functioning under its administrative control by any arrangements;*
- (b) *details the use of each vehicle at present along with full details of officers to whom each vehicle has been allocated;*
- (c) *details of the monthly fuel and other expenses of the vehicle fleet of each of the said departments;*
- (d) *whether the use of such vehicles has been assessed following the austerity measures announced by the Prime Minister;*
- (e) *if so, the details thereof; and estimated savings expected in coming months; and*

- (f) *what further corrective measures are being taken by the Government to rectify further misuse of vehicles and ensure savings in future?*

Reply not received.

70. ***Mr. James Iqbal:**

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

- (a) *the steps being taken by the Government to make Pakistan Steel Mills, Karachi fully functional at present;*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to eradicate its losses alongwith details thereof; and*
- (c) *the benefits incurred from the results thereof?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Syed Murtaza Mahmud): (a) Detail regarding steps taken by Government for revival of Pakistan Steel Mills is placed at **Annex-A**

(b) In order to minimize the financial liabilities and losses, PSM initiated a Human Resource Rationalization plan. Brief on retrenchment process is at **Annex-B**

(c) Before retrenchment, government of Pakistan was paying net salaries of PSM employees to the tune of Rs. 350 million/month in the form of loan and after retrenchment, the monthly salary bill has reduced to Rs. 100 million.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

71. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the habitants living in the areas i.e Ishrat, Nagra, Swair, Sheshi Koh, Gahirat, Rambor, Sesen Lisht, Shaghour, Murdan, Sosom Kareemabad, Sengor,*

Bahroz Kor, Baroz Domoon and Faizabad Hoon of Chitral are facing difficulties due to non availability of Utility Stores;

- (b) if answer to part (a) is in affirmative, the steps being taken by the Government to set up the Utility Stores in these villages of Chitral;*
- (c) if so, when; if not, the time by which it will be set up?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Syed Murtaza Mahmud): (a) USC is currently operating 66 Utility Stores including franchise stores in Chitral. Details regarding the locations/areas identified by the Honorable MNA are attached at annexure "A".

(b) To cover the uncovered area USC is searching for feasible / commercially viable locations for opening of stores as per SOPs of USC.

(c) New Utility Store will be opened in 15 to 20 days after completion of the feasibility report and other codal formalities *i.e.* agreement etc.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

72. ***Mr. Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the purchases and sale by Railways Workshops as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rule (2) alongwith the names of the suppliers including food supplier contract firms/parties during the last three years; and*
- (b) action taken by the Government on poor quality and prices in the Railways?*

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) All the procurement in Railways workshops are made in accordance with PPRA rules. The details of sale and purchase cases finalized by Railways workshops during last three years are as follows:

<p><u>Sale:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale orders along with contractor names are attached as Annex-A. • Total amount of sale orders placed during last three years = 342.356 Millions 	<p><u>Purchase:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase orders along with contractor names are attached as Annex-B. • Total amount of Purchase orders placed during last three years = 2151.61 Millions
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Furthermore, the details of food suppliers during last three years is attached as **Annex-C.**

(b) **Actions on poor quality items procured by Workshops:**

Issues of poor quality are dealt agreements through warranty claims and no warranty claim is pending unattended. Moreover, as per PPRA rules a mechanism for blacklisting of bidders is devised which is being used to safeguard the interests of Pakistan Railways.

Actions on poor quality food items:

Teams comprises Railway officers regularly inspect the quality and prices of food items. Fines are imposed in case of any deficiency. In certain cases contracts are terminated where such penalties are imposed for three times in one calendar year.

Detail of fines imposed during last three years it attached as **(Annex-D)**

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

ISLAMABAD:
The 30th March, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

(4th Group, 51st Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Friday, the 31st March, 2023

16. **Syed Imran Ahmad Shah:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

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

- (a) *the number of employees alongwith names and posts working at present in the Pak PWD under Prime Minister's Assistance Package for the families of Government employees who died during their services; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that services of such employees have not been regularized despite clear instructions as contained in the Establishment Division's O.M F. No. 8/23/2021-E-2(pt) dated 23-12-2022; if so, reason thereof?*

Minister for Housing and Works (Mr. Abdul Wasay): (a) There are 376 employees appointed in Pak PWD under Prime Minister Assistant package. Detail is at **Annex-A**.

(b) There are 376 employees appointed under Prime Minister Assistant Package in this department. Regularization is subject to fulfilment of codal formalities. Necessary spade work has been done. Orders of regularization will be issued by 31st March, 2023.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

17. **Syed Imran Ahmad Shah:**
(Deferred during 50th Session)

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that present status/condition of Sulemanabad Railway Station, District Attock, is not good condition;*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to up-grade said station as per international standards;*
- (c) *if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) Sulemanabad is not a full-fledged station (Class-B type) having significant operational and commercial requirements. Rather it is a D-type commercial halt where 15-20 passenger take their trains on daily basis. Given the operational and commercial requirement, the condition of the Sulemanabad commercial halt is reasonable comparing to other similar commercial halts over the Pakistan Railway Network.

(b) Presently, there is no Government scheme under consideration for its up-gradation.

(c) The station is commercially not viable.

14. **Mr. Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the details of Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore, numbers of beds, number of patients admitted during the last six months, grade-wise strength of officials, vacant posts and budgets during the last three years?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): The requisite information in respect of Shaikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore is mentioned in seriatim as below:—

No. of Beds	1032
No. of patients admitted during the last six months	36,666
Grade-wise strength of officials, vacant post	List attached as Annex-A

Budget during the last three years	i. FY 2019-20 3450.502 million Rs.
	ii. FY 2020-21 4442.770 million Rs.
	iii. FY 2021-22 4547.714 million Rs.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

15. **Mr. Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state the details of the officers who traveled by other than Railways for official duties/meetings during the last two years alongwith reasons for not using Pakistan Railways Trains?

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): In terms of clause 3.10 and 3.13 of Federal Government's T.A Manual all the Railway officers, of BS-17 and above are entitled to travel by road and by air on official duty. However, mostly the Railway officers travel by train for official visits, except, in case of exigency *i.e.* court cases, emergent visits of accident sites or to attend, unavoidable high profile official meetings scheduled at the nick of time, in the interest of the department, the Railway officers are allowed to travel by road and by air. The detail of Railway officers who travelled during the last 2 years other than Trains is as under:

Year-2021

Officers traveled by road	21
Officers traveled by Air	11

Year-2022

Officers traveled by road	14
Officers traveled by Air	05

ISLAMABAD:
The 30th March, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.