(18th 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

Monday, the 8th May, 2023

3. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**
(Deferred during 47th Session)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to lower the losses as circular debt of Pakistan, in current year is Rs.343 billion, Rs.113 billion are under the head of line losses and overall losses through kundas are Rs.230 billion which are increased as cent percent; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to end the burden on consumers under the head of capacity payment alongwith the details thereof?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) As of December 2022, the circular debt stands at Rs. 2536 billion. In order to reduce the circular debt following major measures have been taken:

- Timely application of tariff
- Induction of cheap electricity through solar initiative
- Outsourcing of high loss feeders
- Negotiations with KE to finalize PPAA
- Negotiations with IPPs to reduce cost of electricity for consumers.

(b) The Government of Pakistan has taken the following steps to optimize the capacity payment cost:

(1) Negotiations with the Power Generation Companies, which gives the following benefits:

(a) Reducing the capacity payment component by 11% .

(b) USD indexation fixed on 50% of CPP, which is frozen at dollar exchange rate or Rs. 168/USS.

(c) Reduce ROE of Private and Public Sector generation projects.

(2) New capacity addition is on least cost basis subject to optimization in Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP).

(3) Tapping of renewable energy potential in country, which includes solar & wind.

9. ***Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Mahar:**
(Deferred during 47th Session)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite increasing the electricity rates by more than 50% and putting additional burden on the consumers in trillions of rupees, the circular debt continues to increase by every passing day;

(b) if so, how much its volume is increasing every month;

(c) whether it is a testament to the poor management of the Government in power sector that has failed to control and reduce it, despite imposing an additional burden on consumers; if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) what should have been the role of the institutions being responsible for dealing with issues related to circular debt;

(e) whether these institutions have played their role in contesting the increasing trend of debt day by day; and

(f) what corrective steps are being taken by the Government to permanently fix this issue?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) as of December 2022, the circular debt stands at Rs. 2536 billion. The circular debt flow fluctuates between positive and negative figures as it is linked with recoveries from DISCOs and payments to IPPs among others.

(b) The month wise circular debt flow is as under:

• July-21	44
• Aug-21	(30)
• Sep-21	85
• Oct-21	40
• Nov-21	(9)
• Dec-21	66
• Jul-22	108
• Aug-22	131
• Sep-22	(54)
• Oct-22	64
• Nov-22	8
• Dec-22	26

(c) Circular Debt is an amount of cash shortfall within CPPA that it cannot pay to power Companies. Government of Pakistan has devised a Circular Debt Management Plan to reduce existing circular debt flow and taken up multiple initiatives to reduce the stock as well as to manage the flow at the best possible level.

The initiatives are aimed at reducing burden of consumers by rationalizing the tariffs and improving governance at grass roots level. Initiates for reducing the cost of production includes negotiations with existing IPPs and introduction for renewable energy in the system.

Power sector also faces challenges such as theft of electricity which can only be tackled by effective enforcement. Government has taken up initiative of outsourcing high loss feeders and plan to introduce specific amendments in law to make theft of electricity a cognizable offense. The Circular Debt is a multi-dimensional problem which not only requires administrative response but also requires cultural change. The

resolution of issue of losses requires investment in the infrastructure of distribution companies.

(d) As stated, Circular Debt is a multi-dimensional problem which not only requires institutional response but also requires cultural change.

There are also Multi-sectoral institutional roles of key stakeholders for resolving structural issues like to adequate budgeting and timely development of infrastructure to reduce losses, substitutions to control high input costs of fuels, reduction in taxation burden, amendments in relevant laws to control theft of electricity, timely and full arrangement fund to cover subsidies.

(e) Power Division has prepared comprehensive circular debt management plan and the related institutional roles have been defined in the plan. Same are being performed to the best possible levels.

(f) The following steps are being taken to fix the issues:

- Timely application of tariff QTA, FCA.
- Outsourcing of high loss Feeders.
- Induction of cheaper electricity in the system by solar initiative.
- Capacity cost reduction
- Negotiations with IPPs reduce tariff.

69. *Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

113. ***Ms. Saira Bano:**
(Deferred from 50th Session)

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.22 replied on 16-01-2023 and to state:

(a) whether the draft of Oil Refining Policy is being finalized;

(b) if so, the details, in chronological order as to when the policy was discussed and approved at each of relevant forums;

(c) if not, the time by which it will be finalized;

(d) since when the country's existing refineries has not been upgraded lastly;

(e) the quality of petroleum products in the country as comparable to international standard due to non-up gradation of existing refineries; and

(f) whether it affects the environment, vehicle engines and consumption ratios therein?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) A draft policy for upgradation of refineries has been submitted to the CCoE for consideration. A separate draft policy for new/greenfield refineries is being finalized and will be submitted to the CCoE shortly.

(b) Views/comments from relevant stakeholders (Ministry of Finance, OGRA, FBR and Planning Division) have been obtained. The draft policies are yet to be discussed at the relevant forum (CCoE).

(c) The finalization/approval of the refining policy for upgradation of existing refineries is expected in the next meeting of CCoE.

(d) The refineries upgradation in the recent past is attached as **Annex-1**.

(e) Since 2020 all imports of Diesel (40 % of total consumption) and Petrol (70% of total consumption) have been shifted to Euro-V. Currently, The minimum specification limit notified for local refineries is Euro-II whereas their current production standards are as under:

- All refineries-produce Euro-V petrol in terms of Sulphur content.
- National Refinery Limited produce Euro-V diesel.
- PARCO and Attock Refinery Limited produce Euro-III diesel.

- Cnergyico and Pakistan Refinery limited produce diesel which is not Euro-II complaint (>500 ppm) sulphur content and have to pay penalty.

(f) Euro-V fuels have minimum adverse effects on environment and vehicle engines, whereas fuels below Euro-V have more adverse effects on environment and vehicle engines. Since, modern/high compression ratio vehicles need high RON petrol, therefore, use of low RON petrol in these engines affects efficiency/ performance of vehicles.

Annex-I

REFINERIES UP GRADATION POSITION DURING 2015-18

REFINERY	ISOM			DHDS			Total	
	Million US $	Million Rs.	Date of Installation	Million US $	Million Rs.	Date of Installation	Million US $	Million Rs.
ARL	146	14,600	Nov, 2016	102	10,200	July, 2016	248	24,800
NRL	63	6,256	Oct, 2017	285	28,500	June, 2017	348	34,756
PRL	50	5,000	July, 2015	-	-	Under Process	50	5,000
BYCO	103	10,300	July, 2018	-	-	Under Process	103	10,300
Total	362	36,156		387	38,700		749	74,856

PARCO is a built-in Semi-Conversion refinery (Inclusive of ISOM) they also installed DHDS in December, 2010 by investing 93.10 Million $ (Rs. 9,310 Million).

116. ***Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**
(Deferred from 50th Session)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) under which law/code the burden of free and pilferaged electricity is put on all other consumers in the name of feeder losses alongwith reasons thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to stop such kind of injustice?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) In DISCOs, no such burden of the theft and free of cost electricity under the head of Feeder loss are charged to consumers. Electricity tariff is determined by NEPRA and approved by the Government of Pakistan, after the Gazette Notification, the consumers are charged accordingly.

However, under longstanding Government policy, consumers across Pakistan are charged equal tariff. Under this policy, losses in DISCOs are consolidated by NEPRA in order to implement Government policy of equal National Tariff.

(b) In case of electricity theft, DISCOs make the assessment of cost of stolen/theft units and serve the detection bill to the energy stealer for payment. The case is also sent to Police Station for registration of FIR.

117. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(Deferred from 50th Session)

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state the names of countries, including Saudi Arabia, from which oil is being borrowed in the present Government regime?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): Crude Oil is being imported on deferred payment basis only from Saudi Arabia. The last agreement was executed between Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and Ministry of Finance (MoF)/ Economic Affairs Division (EAD) for period from 7th February, 2022 to March, 2023 which has been extended for further 10 months.

40. ***Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**
(Deferred on 30-03-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) the total of recovery of Southern Electric Power Company (SEPCO) during the last five years alongwith year-wise break-up of each year;

(b) total losses of the SEPCO during the said period; if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) details of increase or decrease found during the said years; and

(d) details of performance of responsible officers/officials of SEPCO in said period?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) Year-wise breakup of recovery of SEPCO from FY 2017-18 to FY 2022-23 is as under:

Year	Recovery			
	Billing (Rs.in Billion)	Payment (Rs. in Billion)	Recovery (% Age)	Inc / DEC (% Age)
2017-18	41.1	25.2	61.3	-
2018-19	42.1	26.9	63.9	2.6
2019-20	47.9	27.1	56.6	-7.3
2020-21	50.1	32.2	64.3	7.7
2021-22	62.3	40.3	64.7	0.4
2022-23 (7-22 to 2-23)	50.8	33.2	65.4	3.1

(b) Year-wise breakup of losses (with increase / decrease) of SEPCO from FY 2017-18 to FY 2022-23 is as under:

Year	Line losses				
	Units Received (M kWh)	Units Billed (M kWh)	Units Lost (M kWh)	Losses (% Age)	Inc / DEC (% Age)
2017-18	4679	2963	1716	36.7	-1.1
2018-19	4412	2781	1631	37.0	0.3
2019-20	4253	2710	1543	36.3	-0.7
2020-21	4291	2776	1515	35.3	-1.0
2021-22	4490	2890	1600	35.6	0.3
2022-23 (7-22 to 02-23)	2372	1607	765	32.3	-2.1

<u>Major reasons for Increase in Losses & Decrease in Recovery</u>

- The jurisdiction of SEPCO is spread over the area of upper Sindh Province covering 10 Districts with poor socio-economic condition.

- The area has no any industrial zones neither any big commercial plazas. SEPCO is supplying electricity to 80% domestic consumers.

- Last recruitment of staff was made during 2012, a large number of technical staff has retired and died during last 10 years but no any replacement / addition made due to ban on recruitment which has created the acute shortage of skilled labor.

- Shortage of Officers and Officials (Specially SDOs Operation & Revenue Officer).
- Worst Law and Order Situation under the jurisdiction of SPECO. Specially in the Rural / Kacha areas are also no-go areas where the Officers / official cannot move safely.
- Non-cooperation of Local Administration and Police regarding difficulties faced by SEPCO for registration of the FIRs against stealers of electricity.
- The theft of electricity where FIR lodged against culprits, they get bail easily from Honorable Courts. Hence no fear in public.
- Non establishment of dedicated Police Station / Magistrate for legal proceedings / cases of SEPCO.
- SEPCO from time to time has approached and requested for deployment of Rangers but no action has been taken by concerned authorities.

(c) As at part (b) above.

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

Annex-A

SUKKUR ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION NO. 40 MOVED BY
DR. MAHREEN BHUTTO

DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN AGAINST OFFICER/OFFICIALS ON ACCOUNT OF POOR PERFORMANCE DURING LAST YEARS (2018 TO 2022)

Q. No. 40 (d)	**Category**	**Major Penalties**	**Minor Penalties**	**Total**
Details of Performance of responsible officers/ officials of SEPCO in said period (last 05 years)	Officers (BPS 17 & Above)	32	267	299
	Officials (BPS 01 to 16)	299	3644	3943
	Total	**331**	**3911**	**4242**

43. ***Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**
(Deferred on 30-03-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) details the project-wise funds received by the Southern Electric Power Company (SEPCO) from the Federal Government or the Provincial Government of Sindh for various power system upgradation works during the last five years;

(b) whether each project is completed or not;

(c) if any of above said project is not completed, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the total cost increased in lieu of such delay, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken by the Government to complete each project as soon as possible?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) No funds have been received from Federal Government or Government of Sindh for the execution of Secondary Transmission & Grids (STG) works in the area under jurisdiction of SEPCO.

However, year-wise/district-wise detail of funds received from Federal & Provincial Governments during the last five years for execution of village electrification schemes under SDGs Achievement Program (SAP) & CMD Program is attached as **Annexure A-C).**

(b) Detail attached in **Annexure A-C.**

(c) Detail attached in **Annexure A-C.**

(d) Detail attached in **Annexure A-C.**

(e) Detail attached in **Annexure A-C.**

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

@45. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(Deferred on 07-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state:

(a) the latest legislation enacted by the Government for the safety of human rights in the country during the present regime; and

(b) the details of the benefits accrued to public from the said laws?

Minister for Human Rights (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) The Government of Pakistan is committed to ensure safety and protection of human rights in the country by adopting legal measures. In this context, during the present regime, a landmark legislation *i.e.* **"Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022"** has been made to provide protection to a person during custody from all acts of torture perpetrated by public officials.

(b) The latest legislation is beneficial for the public as it ensures safeguard against custodial torture and the conduct of humiliating citizens in custody while depriving them of their basic fundamental rights.

99. ***Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**
(Deferred on 07-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) sub-division-wise number of transformers of Southern Electric Power Company (SEPCO) that were either burnt or damaged especially in relation to recent floods in Sindh since August, 2018;

(b) the date on which each transformer got fault and the date on which each of the above was repaired and reinstalled;

(c) whether it is a fact that the majority of transformers are overloaded and as a result they get faults on repeatedly, the authorities concerned have fail to repair them in time and the people in large numbers of the area face hardships;

@ Transferred from Law and Justice Division.

(d) if so, whether any review has been carried out in recent times to rationalize the power load on the transformers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof;

(f) if such assessment is made, the phased time frame, in which the load management on the transformers in the said circle will be rationalized?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) Details attached as **Annex-I**

(b) Same reply at Serial (a)

(c) It is not true that the majority of Transformers are overloaded and thus they get faults. Our field formation teams are vigilant and continuously monitoring the system. Any damaged Transformer is being repaired or replaced timely and the proposals for Additional / Augmentation cases are prepared and processed on urgent basis. Furthermore, it is informed that, whenever Transformers are not available in the Regional Stores 200 KVA trolley Transformers are available in each Sub-Division are installed in place of the damaged Transformer till the availability of the Transformer in Regional Store.

(d) Sub Division/Feeder-wise teams are deputed for maintenance and balancing of Transformers. The teams regularly balance the load of Transformers and properly record the load in the Load Balancing Register.

(e) Load Balancing Registers are available.

(f) Regular Transformer maintenance and balancing is performed regularly to avoid damage of Transformer. The load management and load rationalization of Transformers is carried on daily basis during the peak load hours.

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

100. ***Mr. Muhammad Abubakar:**
(Deferred on 07-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise reserves of precious stones in the country at present alongwith the number of factories established and allowed for cutting these stones; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to export the precious stones?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) Constitutionally, all minerals other than nuclear ones are Provincial subject. Executive/ regulatory authority for mineral exploration & development/production and grant of exploration licenses/mining leases rests with the Provinces Federal Government is mandated with geological surveys, national policies/plans formulation and coordination at national and international levels.

By virtue of favorable geological environment, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (A.J.&K.) are considered as the potential gem-bearing regions. Location-wise details of precious stones found in the country are given below:

Name of Gemstone	Location	Estimated Reserves Potential
Ruby	**A. J.& K.:** Nangimali, Chitta Katha, Nari Nala, Shanter & Neelam Valley **Gilgit- Baltistan:** Hunza valley **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:** Mansehra, Timurgara, (Dir)	200.00 million carats (Not Assessed)
Emerald	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Shamozai Charbagh, Makhad & Fizagat Mingora , Gujar Kili (Swat), Shangla, Dandao Kandao, Mor DAra (Mohmand), Arang Barant (Bajaur) **Gilgit- Baltistan:** Khaltaro(Gilgit)	29.27 million carats (Not Assessed)
Topaz	Khyber Pukhtunkhwa: Katlang, (Mardan), Bajaur. **Gilgit- Baltistan:** Bulechi, Shingus & Gone near Dusso (Skardu)	(Not Assessed) (Not Assessed)
Tourmaline	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa:** Garm Chashma (Chitral) **Gilgit- Baltistan:** Haramosh Range, Bulechi & Shingus (Gilgit), Stak Nala (Between Gilgit & Skardu). **A.J.&K:** Donga Nar, District Neelum.	(Not Assessed) (Not Assessed) (Not Assessed)

Aquamarine	**Gilgit- Baltistan :** Gilgit, Skardu & Nagar **Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Gobor-o- Bakh (Chitral).	(Not Assessed) (Not Assessed)
Peridot	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Kohistan-Kaghan valley	(Not Assessed)
Epidote	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Kot, Pranghar,Bucha (Malakand), Swat & Mohmand **Gilgit- Baltistan**: Bunji (Gilgit)	(Not Assessed) (Not Assessed)
Garnet	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa:** Shangla, Kohistan, Chitral, Jambil (Swat), Targhao (Bajaur), Malakand **A.J.& K. :** Neelam Valley **Sindh :** Nagarparker **Gilgit- Baltistan :** Gilgit & Skardu **Balochistan:** Kharan and Chaghi	(Not Assessed) (Not Assessed) (Not Assessed) (Not Assessed) (Not Assessed)
Sapphire	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Malakand, Chitral & Mansehra **A.J.& K. :**	(Not Assessed)
Corundum	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :**Gobor-o-Bakh (Chitral) **Gilgit- Baltistan**: Karakoram, Gilgit & Skardu	(Not Assessed) (Not Assessed)
Beryl	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :**Chitral	(Not Assessed)
Amethyst	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Dir Upper	(Not Assessed)
Agate	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Haripur, Dir Kohistan **Sindh: Nagarparkar**	(Not Assessed) (Not Assessed)
Moonstone	**Gilgit- Baltistan**: Shingus & Bulechi (Gilgit) & Skardu	(Not Assessed)
Spinal	**Gilgit- Baltistan**: Hunza valley	(Not Assessed)
Quartz	**Gilgit- Baltistan**: Hunza, Skardu & Gilgit **Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Chitral **Sindh:** Nagarparker **Baluchistan:** Lasbela	(Not Assessed) (Not Assessed) (Not Assessed) (Not Assessed)
Lapis Lazulli	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Chitral and Afghan border **Baluchistan:** Chaghi	(Not Assessed) (Not Assessed)
Zircon	**Gilgit- Baltistan**: Chilas	(Not Assessed)
Kunzite	**Khyber Pukhtunkhwa :** Chitral (Garam chashma)	(Not Assessed)

As reported by the Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Development Company (PGJDC), Ministry of Industries & Production, about 116 Units across Pakistan are involved in cutting & polishing of gemstones.

(I) As reported by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Ministry of Commerce, the following steps have been taken to enhance the export of Gems & Jewellery sector.

A. **INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION**

- TDAP is providing subsidy to G&J Sector @ 60:40 *i.e.* 60% of the stall charges in international exhibitions will be borne by TDAP
- TDAP is providing subsidy in Africa Region @ 80:20
- During year 2022-2023, TDAP has approved the participation in following exhibitions:
  - Tucson Gems, Mineral and Fossil Show, Tucson, USA
  - Munich Show at Germany
- TDAP has participated in following International Exhibitions before covid-l9:
  - Tucson Gems, Mineral and Fossil Show, Tucson, USA
  - NJ Mineral, USA
  - Gems & Pearl Show Honk Kgong
  - Bangkok Gems & Jewelry Fair
  - General Trade Fairs/Single Country Exhibitions in different countries

B. LOCAL EXHIBITION / SEMINARS / WEBINARS

- TDAP sponsored the local exhibition "Pakistan Gems & Mineral Show" in collaboration with All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association of Rough & Un-polished Precious & Semi Precious stones (APCEA) for last many years.

- TDAP facilitated Gems & jewelry sector in all editions of its brand event Expo Pakistan and Wexnet.
- TDAP collaborated with Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry for smooth organization of all editions of Pakistan Gems Jewelry & Fashion Expo. The last edition was held in Islamabad in 2022.
- TDAP arranged five local / international webinars for promotion of gems & jewelry sector during 2022.

C. **OTHER FACILITATION**

- TDAP has launched a B2B portal wherein all the exporters are being facilitated and being connected with world buyers
- TDAP has been providing training on E-Commerce Platform (Amazon)
- TDAP has been running National Exporters Training program for all exporters on export documents, International Marketing etc.

In addition to above, Directorate of Mines & Minerals, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan has conducted various Seminars and Exhibitions of Gemstones in national level and participated in Seminars and Exhibition in international level.

101. ***Mr. Salahuddin:**
(Deferred on 07-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state the function, responsibility, performance and technical services of ENAR during the last three years?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): The detail of function, responsibilities, performance and technical of ENAR is attached at **Annex-I.**

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

102. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**
(Deferred on 07-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state the details of the action taken against the refineries and Operation Management and Control System (OMCs) for misconduct and violations of the rules etc. during the last five years?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) regulates mid and downstream oil sector under OGRA Ordinance, 2002 and Pakistan Oil Rules by the licensee, action is taken by the Authority, under the Rules. (Details of actions taken for last five (05) years at Annex-I, Annex-II & Annex-III.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

103. ***Mr. Muhammad Abubakar:**
(Deferred on 07-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to electricity and gas crisis, the Industries and Factories of Karachi are shutting down, reducing the revenues that comes to country through exports, while thousands of the people are becoming jobless which is contributing new crisis;

(b) if so, the strategy of Government for a permanent solution of these problems?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) No, it is not a fact that due to electricity crisis, the industries and factories of Karachi are shutting down. Currently, around 75% of Karachi is exempt from load-shedding with 100% exemption to industries.

(b) The Federal Government provides on average 900 MW daily to Karachi Electric to reduce electricity shortfall and serve the citizens of Karachi.

105. ***Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**
(Deferred on 07-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) project-wise 132 transmission lines and grid stations planned by Southern Electric Power Company (SEPCO) during the last five years and the current status of each project;

(b) whether each project is fully operational or under construction or has been abolished;

(c) whether any of the above projects are delayed beyond the stipulated period of completion, or abolished; if so, the reason thereof;

(d) the funds reserved, released and utilized against each project during the said period;

(e) whether it is a fact that majority of transmission lines and grid stations of SEPCO are overloaded;

(f) if so, the reasons thereof; and what corrective actions are being taken in this regard?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) **Period 2018-19 to 2022-23**

S #	Description	Proposed	Completed	Pending	Remarks
1	New Grid Stations (Nos.)	05	05	--	Detail Attached Annex-A
2	Conversion from 66kV to 132kV (Nos.)	02	01	01	Detail Attached Annex-B
3	Addition of Power Transformer Bay & Line Bay (Nos.)	20	20	--	Detail Attached Annex-C
4	Augmentations (Nos.)	17	17	--	Detail Attached Annex-D
5	New Transmission Line (km)	212.9	111.219	101.68	Detail Attached Annex-E

(b) Yes, all the projects are completed, except three circuits of transmission lines with total length of 101.68 km which are under execution.

(c) All above projects were completed in stipulated time except three Nos. transmission line circuits having length of 101.68 km delayed due to right of way (R.O.W) problems. These ongoing projects are 90% completed and efforts are being made for resolving of R.O.W issues for completion of these transmission lines at the earliest.

(d) The above projects were executed through own resources of SEPCO.

(e) Majority of Grid Station or Transmission Lines are not over loaded in SEPCO Network. The test run of whole network of SEPCO was carried out on 22-03-2023, in which no any constraints were found and whole of the system operated smoothly. Local overloading is rectified promptly.

(f) Nil.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

107. ***Mr. James Iqbal:**
(Deferred on 07-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state the percentage increase registered in the prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder from 2018 to 2021 and the reasons thereof?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): LPG cylinder (11.8 kg) price was Rs.1,332 on February, 2018 which increased to Rs. 2,390/11.8 kg cylinder on December, 2021. During last three years, OGRA's notified LPG consumer prices of 11.8 kg cylinder registered an increase of 79%. Month-wise OGRA's notified LPG consumer prices of 11.8 kg cylinder along with percentage increased or decreased are attached as **Annexure-I.**

As per LPG Policy, 2016, LPG prices are linked with Saudi Aramco Contract Price (CP) which are published by PLATTS (relevant Journal) in USD/Metric Ton on monthly basis. Due to variation in Saudi Aramco (CP) and dollar rupees exchange rates, LPG consumer's price also varies on monthly basis.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

109. ***Ms. Aliya Kamran:**
(Deferred on 07-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that main electricity line is passing over the houses of village Warwal, Tehsil and District Chakwal;
(b) whether it is also a fact that survey was carried out for the alteration of said line some time ago;

(c) if so, the current status of implementation on said survey; if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the time by which the main electricity line passing over the said houses would be shifted to an alternative location?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) Yes, it is fact that the main LT Line was crossing over the houses at village Warwal Tehsil & District Chakwal.

(b) It is also a fact that the survey was carried out by the SDO (E) Operation, Sub-Division Bhagwal and got sanctioned the estimate under "DOP" head for removal of safety hazards *vide* Memo No. 20791 dated 22-12-2022.

(c) The shifting of line delayed due to non-availability of material at Field Store Chakwal, now available at Field Store Chakwal.

(d) The line will be shifted to alternate location, as per approved layout plan till 10-05-2023.

139. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(Deferred on 26-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state the number of persons recruited on contract or regular basis in FESCO during the period from 2018 to 2021?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan):

A- Year 2018 (ECQ Quota)				
Sr. No	Designation	BPS	On contract Basis	On regular Basis
1	Commercial Assistant	15	13	
2	Account Assistant	15	2	
3	Assistant	15	5	
4	Data Coder	15		1
5	LS-II	14	6	
6	SSO-II	14	2	
7	Sub Engineer (Civil)	14	1	
8	Junior Store Keeper	14	6	
9	Store Clerk	11	4	1
10	UDC	11	5	1
11	Receptionist	09	3	1
12	Gate Clerk	09	3	
13	Meter Reader	09	6	
14	ALM	07	12	2
15	ASSA	07	2	2
16	Bill Distributor	07	2	
17	Helper	04	2	
18	Mali	02	2	
19	Naib Qasid	02	23	1
20	Sanitary Worker	02	3	1
Sub Total			**102**	**10**

B- Year 2019 (ECQ Quota)				
Sr. No	Designation	BPS	On contract Basis	On regular Basis
1	Commercial Assistant	15	6	
2	Account Assistant	15	5	
3	Audit Assistant	15	1	
4	Assistant	15	1	
5	Data Coder	15	4	
6	LS-II	14	6	
7	SSO-II	14	1	
8	Sub Engineer (Civil)	14	1	
9	Junior Store Keeper	14	2	
10	Store Clerk	11	1	

11	UDC	11	3	
12	Receptionist	09	4	1
13	Meter Reader	09	7	
14	ALM	07	10	1
15	Helper (M&T)	07	3	
16	ASSA	07	4	1
17	Bill Distributor	07	3	
18	Mali	02	9	
19	Naib Qasid	02	22	
20	Sanitary Worker	02	5	1
Sub Total			**98**	**4**

C- Year 2020 (Open Quota)				
1	SDO	17	27	
2	RO	17	3	
C- Year 2020 (ECQ Quota)				
Sr. No	Designation	BPS	On contract Basis	On regular Basis
3	Commercial Assistant	15	12	
4	Account Assistant	15	2	
5	Audit Assistant	15	1	
6	Assistant	15	2	
7	LS-II	14	5	
8	Sub Engineer (Civil)	14	3	
9	Junior Store Keeper	14	1	
10	Store Clerk	11	3	
11	UDC	11	1	
12	Receptionist	09	2	1
13	Meter Reader	09	8	
14	ALM	07	10	
15	ASSA	07	1	
16	Bill Distributor	07	7	2
17	Helper (M&T)	07	3	1
18	Mali	02	2	
19	Naib Qasid	02	6	
20	Sanitary Worker	02	6	
Sub Total			**105**	**4**

D- Year 2021 (ECQ Quota)				
Sr. No	Designation	BPS	On contract Basis	On regular Basis
1	Commercial Assistant	15	21	2
2	Account Assistant	15	3	1
3	Assistant	15	4	
4	Data Coder	15		1

5	LS-II	14	11	1
6	SSO-II	14	6	
7	Lab Assistant	14	1	
8	Sub Engineer (Civil)	14	1	
9	Junior Store Keeper	14	1	
10	Store Clerk	11	6	1
11	UDC	11	10	1
12	LDC	09	2	
13	Gate Clerk	09	2	
14	Meter Reader	09	2	
15	ALM	07	8	1
16	ASSA	07	3	3
17	Helper (M&T)	07		1
18	Moazzan Cum Khadim	05	1	
19	Naib Qasid	02	12	
20	Sanitary Worker	02	10	1
Sub Total			**104**	**13**
E (2018 to 2021)			**409**	**31**

140. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**
(Deferred on 26-4-2023)

Will the Minister for Science and Technology be pleased to state the details of the locations where the marijuana (bhang) is being cultivated under the control of Government in the country at present?

Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Agha Hassan Baloch): Subsequent to the Prime Minister's directive for initiation of legalized Cannabis and Hemp, PCSIR is working closely with ANF to ensure compliance of necessary security protocols. According to approved PC-1 (2021) for the project "Cultivation and Processing of Medicinal & Industrial Cannabis on Experimental Fields and Establishment of Testing and Product Development Facilities" five sites were approved for development of experimental fields out of which four sites (PCSIR Lahore, PCSIR Karachi, PCSIR Peshawar and Arid University site Rawat) had been security wise cleared by ANF. At present, cannabis / hemp is being cultivated at the following sites:—

(a) Arid University Hydroponic Research Centre, Rawat:—

In September, 2021, PCSIR on the behalf of Ministry of Science and Technology had signed and MoU with Arid

University, Rawalpindi to utilize their Hydroponic Research Centre, Rawat for cultivation of cannabis crop. So far 02 crops have been cultivated and harvested at this facility.

(b) PCSIR Labs Complex, Lahore:

At PCSIR Lahore, cannabis / hemp have been cultivated in a greenhouse (0.75 acres) and also in field (05 acres). So far, two successful crops at greenhouse have been harvested. In addition, complete processing, analytical and production facility has been established at the same location.

(c) PCSIR Labs Complex, Peshawar:

At this site, a 0.75 Acre state of the art Green house has been established for cannabis cultivation and 4 Acres field has been prepared for the cultivation of industrial hemp.

(d) PCSIR Labs Complex, Karachi:

Cultivation of cannabis will be initiated soon after the construction of a greenhouse at PCSIR Karachi.

(e) PCSIR Labs, Quetta:

Moreover, in the next phase, PCSIR is planning to establish a greenhouse facility for the cultivation of cannabis at PCSIR Labs Quetta. In this regard, a request has been submitted to the Ministry of Narcotics Control through MoST for security clearance.

141. ***Mr. James Iqbal:**
(Deferred on 26-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Science and Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether "National Hemp Policy" is being formulated in the country; If so, the time by which it will be framed; and

(b) the benefits to be accrued to the country and nation therefrom?

Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Agha Hassan Baloch): (a) Yes, As per the directions of Prime Minister's Office dated

04-11-2021, DRAFT National Industrial Hemp and Medicinal Cannabis Policy was formulated after thorough consultation with relevant stakeholders.

In light of the instructions given by Cabinet Division, the Summary dated 01-09-2022 for the draft National Industrial Hemp and Medicinal Cannabis Policy was submitted to Cabinet Division which was routed through Ministry of Narcotics Control, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFS&R). Cabinet Division forwarded the Summary to Prime Minister Office.

Summary has been returned by the Prime Minister's Office dated 21-02-2023 with the direction that Ministry of Science & Technology shall move a fresh summary for the Cabinet in accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Business, 1973 while incorporating views/ comments tendered by stakeholder Ministries.

The summary for the revised draft National Industrial Hemp and Medicinal Cannabis Policy has been submitted for the approval of Federal Minister for Science and Technology before submission to Federal Cabinet.

(b) The global Industrial Hemp and Medicinal Cannabis industry is expected to grow from current US$ 25 billion to approximately US$ 100 billion by 2026, recording a Cumulative Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 34%. Pakistan needs to act swiftly to join this rapidly growing industry and earn foreign exchange worth billions of dollars. Additionally, hemp cultivation will create thousands of jobs in a variety of industries.

Hemp industry has robust potential to contribute in the exponential growth of manufacturing business. It can be processed into a variety of products such as textile, paper, chemical, medicine, seed oil, engineering material etc.

142. ***Mr. Muhammad Abubakar:**
(Deferred on 26-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Law and Justice be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge number of cases backlog is pending in different courts of law across the country, whether

it is also a fact that despite passing of many years as millions of litigants have not received any relief in their cases;

(b) whether it is further a fact that the reasons of above pending cases are the less number of judges and non hearing of cases in double shift in a day;

(c) as to why the Government is not increasing the number of judges for providing the speedy justice to the people alongwith the reasons of non-hearing of cases in double shifts in order to dispose of such pending cases?

(Minister for Law and Justice (Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar): (a), (b) & (c) Since the information is not available in the Ministry of Law & Justice, the Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan has been requested to provide the requisite information *vide* this Ministry's letter dated 14th April, 2023 (copy attached). As the requisite information is awaited, the same will be provided in the House upon receipt from the Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

143. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**
(Deferred on 26-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an electricity Pole is erected without having earth and concrete electric in St No. 5, new Naqshband colony, Sub-Hassanabad, Khanewal Road near Ali Hospital, Multan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such street is located in thickly populated area for the aforesaid purposes XEN, Multan MEPCO was approached but no any action has been taken yet;

(c) the time by which the needful will be done in the interest of saving the lives of public;

(d) if not, who will be responsible in case of unforeseen loss of lives in future?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) MEPCO team visited the site of Street No.5 New Nacishband Colony backside of Ali Hospital Multan and found substation of 02 No. structure poles and 100kVA distribution transformer is existing in narrow street which is earthed but is existing without concrete foundation. 01 stay wire is also fixed in the premises of the complainant. The complainant was contacted telephonically who visited MEPCO office and provided his consent to make concrete foundation of substation and remove stay wire. Further, contractor has been bound to construct concrete foundation of substation within 10-days positively by MEPCO. Copy of complainant's statement is attached **Annex-I.**

(b) Same reply at serial (a).

(c) Same reply at serial (a).

(d) Same reply at serial (a).

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

144. ***Mr. Salahuddin:**
(Deferred on 26-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state the details of referring and recommending investigations and inquiries in respect of any incident of violation of human rights, including details of rights of disadvantaged and also child rights during the last three years?

Minister for Human Rights (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada): The Ministry of Human Rights is mandated to obtain information, documents and reports, on complaints and allegations of human rights violations, from Ministries, Divisions, Provincial Governments and other agencies. Accordingly, the Ministry of Human Rights through its four Regional Offices located at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and its headquarters based at Islamabad takes up cases of human rights violations with concerned authorities for redressal, as per law. The details/breakup of **23173** cases/complaints/allegations taken up during the last three years based on applications received from the aggrieved persons and cases identified through media monitoring are at **Annex-I**. Out of total 23173 cases/complaints, 882 cases related to child rights and 22291 include cases of other disadvantaged which were taken up/referred to the concerned organizations/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) for redressal, as per

law. Besides this details of complaints that were handled by the other allied oganizaitons of Ministry of Human Rights during the said time period are at **Annex-II.**

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

145. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**
(Deferred on 26-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state how many Gas schemes/projects have been given to the provinces during the last three years alongwith province-wise break-up of such gas schemes/projects?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): The details of gas development schemes/ projects approved during last three years with the Province-wise breakup are as follows:—

Gas Schemes Approved During Last Three Years				
Province	**No. of Schemes**	**Total Cost (Rs. In Million)**	**Cost within Criteria (to be funded by gas companies) (Rs. In Million)**	**Cost Above Criteria (to be funded by GoP) (Rs. In Million)**
Punjab	228	43,220.13	17,300.15	25,920.00
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	150	29,498.09	20,169.39	9,328.70
Sindh	175	3,180.15	648.19	2,531.95
Balochistan	No new gas development scheme has been approved in last three years.			
Total	**553**	**75,898.37**	**38,117.73**	**37780.65**

146. ***Mr. Salahuddin:**
(Deferred on 26-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Law and Justice be pleased to state Federal functions in respect of the Family Law Ordinance and the conciliation courts ordinance during the last three years?

Minister for Law and Justice (Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar): During last three years (2021 – 2023), the Federal Government performed

functions for enactment of following two laws in respect of the Family Laws Ordinance:—

(i) The Muslim Family Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 (XXVIII of 2021); and

(ii) The Muslim Family Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2021 (XXIX of 2021)

However, no law has been enacted in respect of Conciliation Courts Ordinance during said period.

147. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**
(Deferred on 26-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state:

(a) details of the names of those laws which are presently enforced in the country to stop child labour including all other forms of child labour in the country by the Government; and

(b) the details of such laws with respect to their provincial as well as country wise jurisdiction/applicability in the country?

Reply not Received.

148. ***Mr. James Iqbal:**
(Deferred on 26-04-2023)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the construction of Sialkot-Kharian Motorway started;

(b) the percentage of work completed so far; and

(c) the time by which it will be completed alongwith detail of its cost; and the name of the firm constructing it?

Minister for Communications (Mr. Asad Mahmood): (a) The construction work of Sialkot (Sambrial)-Kharian Motorway was started in October, 2022.

(b) Achieved percentage of the progress is 06%.

(c) It will be completed within 02 years. Construction cost of the project is 27.327 Billion and it is being constructed by M/s SKIM (Pvt) Ltd.

166. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state the details per day quantum of electricity purchased from Iran by the present Government so far?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) In order to meet the demand of Makran Division, Government of Pakistan was entered into a contract on 06-11-2002, for a period of 30 years for sale and purchase of 32 MW electricity. The quantum of import of electricity from Iran was subsequently enhanced to 39 MW in 2006, 74 MW in 2010, 104 MW in 2016 and 204 MW in 2022.

However, details of per day quantum of electricity being purchased from Iran is attached at **Annex-I.**

ANNEX-I

Total Units Received from Iran for the month of March 2023

1	2	3	Total Units	Average Units
Mir Javeh-Taftan	**Jalgh-Mashkail**	**Jackigur-Mand**	**(kWh)**	**Received per Day**
1904000	582000	29015200	31501200	**1016168 kWh**

Note: Polan (Iran)-Jiwani (Pakistan) units received from 16.03.2023 to 31.03.2023 (16 Days)

Polan-Jiwani total Unit Received	**Total Units (kWh)**	**Average Units Received per Day (16 Days)**
	11888710	743044
Total Units received from Iran per day		**1759212 kWh**

Rate per Unit = Rs 23/-

Therefore price of electricity per day = 1759212 x 23 = Rs 40,461,876

167. ***Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**

Will the Minister for Science and Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sea water purification plants have been installed by the Ministry in the cities located at coastal area of Pakistan; if so, details thereof;

(b) if not, whether is there any plan under consideration of the Government to install such plants in near future?

Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Agha Hassan Baloch): (a) The installation of sea water purification plants does not fall under the ambit of Ministry of Science and Technology rather it pertains to the provincial Governments.

In this regard, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) under the administrative control of Ministry of Science and Technology has conducted the following survey studies with regard to desalination plants at coastal area of Pakistan:

1. Site Suitability study / survey for the installation of desalination plant along the Coast of Pakistan

2. Biochemical analysis of sea water at desalination installed plant site.

(b) Does not fall under the mandate of Ministry of Science and Technology.

168. ***Mr. Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state details of the human rights situation in the country and implementation of laws, policies and measures taken by the Government during the last three years?

Minister for Human Rights (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada): The The Government of Pakistan is committed to ensure the safety and protection of human rights in the country by adopting all possible measures. The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) is mandated to review

the human rights situation in the country including the implementation of laws, policies and measures. Accordingly, MoHR through its four Regional Offices *i.e.* Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and its headquarter based in Islamabad monitors the human rights situation besides coordinating the implementation of laws, policies and measures with the concerned authorities. MoHR also takes up cases of human rights violations with concerned authorities for redressal, as per law. The details/ breakup of **23173** cases/complaints/allegations taken up during the last three years based on applications received from the aggrieved persons and cases identified through media monitoring and referred to the concerned organizations/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) for redressal, as per law. Details are **Annex-I**.

Besides the Ministry, Toll-Free Helpline 1099, Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency (ZARRA) and the following Commissions are also functioning as per their mandates respectively:

i. National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR),

ii. National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW),

iii. National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC).

The details/breakup of **12939** cases taken up by Helpline, ZARRA, NCHR, NCSW & NCRC during the last three years is at **Annex II**.

During the last three years, the following major laws have been implemented by the concerned stakeholders to ensure human rights, *i.e.* rights of women, children, senior citizens and persons with dis-abilities (PWDs), etc. The latest major laws include:

i. National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act, 2017

ii. Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018.

iii. The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020;

iv. Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020;

v. The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of persons with Disability Act, 2020;

vi. The Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Act, 2021;

vii. Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021;

viii. The Protection of Parents Ordinance, 2021;

ix. Proscription of "Child Domestic Labour" through insertion in the list of occupations in Part-I of the Schedule of the Employment of Children's Act, 1991 (to ban at ICT level).

x. Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022;

xi. Protection of Journalists & Media Professionals Act, 2021;

xii. The ICT Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021;

xiii. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 (to effectually tackle the pervading instances of rape & sexual abuse in respect of women & children).

xiv. Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

169. ***Mr. Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Law and Justice be pleased to state the function, responsibilities and performance of the Council of Islamic Ideology during the last three years?

Minister for Law and Justice (Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar): Part IX of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan is about the "Islamic Provisions" and Article 227 of the Constitution enshrines the basic functions of the Council which is that all existing laws shall be brought in conformity with the Injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

Article 230 (1) provides that the functions of the Islamic Council shall be—

(a) to make recommendations to 3 [Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament)] and the Provincial Assemblies as to the ways and means of enabling and encouraging the Muslims of Pakistan to order their lives individually and collectively in all respects in

accordance with the principles and concepts of Islam as enunciated in the Holy Quran and Sunnah;

(b) to advise a House, a Provincial Assembly, the President or a Governor on any question referred to the Council/as to whether proposed law is or is not repugnant to the Injunctions of Islam;

(c) to make recommendations as to the measures for bringing existing laws into conformity with the Injunctions of Islam and the stages by which such measures should be brought into effect; and

(d) to compile in a suitable form, for the guidance of Majlise-Shoora (Parliament) and the Provincial Assemblies, such Injunctions of Islam as can be given legislative effect.

(2) When, under Article 229, a question is referred by a House, a Provincial Assembly, the President or a Governor to the Islamic Council, the Council shall, within fifteen days thereof, inform the House, the Assembly, the President or the Governor, as the case may be, of the period within which the Council expects to be able to furnish that advice.

(3) Where a House, a Provincial Assembly, the President or the Governor, as the case may be, considers that, in the public interest, the making of the proposed law in relation to which the question arose should not be postponed until the advice of the Islamic Council is furnished, the law may be made before the advice is furnished : Provided that, where a law is referred for advice to the Islamic Council and the Council advises that the law is repugnant to the Injunctions of Islam, the House or, as the case may be, the Provincial Assembly, the President or the Governor shall reconsider the law so made.

(4) The Islamic Council shall submit its final report within seven years of its appointment, and shall submit an annual interim report. The report, whether interim or final, shall be laid for discussion before both Houses and each Provincial Assembly within six months of its receipt, and [Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament)] and the Assembly, after considering the report, shall enact laws in respect thereof within a period of two years of the final report.

As far as the performance of the Council during the last three years is concerned, it convened 13 meetings during this period and compiled 132 recommendations **(Annex-I)**. The Council also arranged publication of 19 different reports **(Annex-II)**. Likewise 20 different conferences/ seminars discuss etc. were organized by the Council **(Annex-III).**

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

170. ***Mr. James Iqbal:**

Will the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise total voters in the country at present; and

(b) whether in upcoming all elections Electric Voting Machine (EVM) would be used?

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs (Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi): (a) District-wise, total number of voters is placed at **Annex-A**.

(b) No, the EVM will not be used in up-coming general elections in the light of newly passed clause of the Election Act section 103. Further the ECP has evaluated different EVM machines and is in the process of going into pilot testing soon.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

171. ***Mr. James Iqbal:**

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil and gas deposits have been discovered recently in Lucky Marwat, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; and

(b) if so, when were discovered alongwith the quantity thereof?

Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) Oil and gas deposits have been discovered in district Laki Marwart, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, recently by M/s Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL).

(b) The details of above said deposits are as under:

				Initial Flow Rates	
Company	**Deposits**	**Date of Discovery**	**Status of Discovery**	**Oil (BCPD)**	**Gas (MMCFD)**
OGDCL	Kawagarh	July-2021	Gas Condensate	945	11.8
	Hangu	Aug-2021		895	11.36
	Lockhart	Sept-2021		1010	13.69

BCPD = Barrels Condensate per Day

MMSCFD = Millions Standard Cubic Feet per Day

172. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of Kharian Rawalpindi Motorway has been started;

(b) if not, the time by which its construction work will be started; and

(c) how much time would take for completion of construction work?

Minister for Communications (Mr. Asad Mahmood): (a) National Highway Authority intends to extend Lahore-Sialkot Motorway by building Sialkot-Kharian and Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorways on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis under PPP arrangement, Lahore to Sialkot Motorway has been Completed whereas the construction work for Sialkot-Kharian Motorway is in progress since October, 2022.

The construction work of Kharain-Rawalpindi Motorway has not yet started,

(b) The procurement for the project is in progress and Letter of Intent (LOI) to the successful bidder has been issued.

Thereafter, the successful bidder has to furnish firmed up proposal, negotiate the contract with NHA and achieve financial close (arrange funds for the project) which under the contract is a six month period. Subsequent detailed design will be prepared & submitted. It is anticipated that after successful completion of the said activities, the construction **work at site will be started in first quarter of 2024**.

(c) The construction work of the motorway will be **completed within 24-months**.

173. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

Will the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs be pleased to state the total number of persons recruited in Election Commission of Pakistan from the year of 2018 to 2021?

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs (Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi):

Year	**No of persons appointed**
2018	18
2019	188
2020	55
2021	136
Grand Total	**397**

ISLAMABAD:
The 7th May, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

PCPPI—7488(2023) NA—07-05-2023—350.

(18th Group, 51st Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

"UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES"

For Monday, the 8th May, 2023

1. **Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**
(Deferred during 47th Session)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Advocates on the panel of PESCO, WAPDA and other Advocates hired for deceased employees pension claims, who died during service; and

(b) names of the Advocates, CNIC and Advocate Registration Numbers in High Court, Supreme Court of Pakistan, law degree number, year and name of the University, fees paid, since 2015?

Reply not received.

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

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Mohallah Choran Mera, Union Council Bandi Atai Khan, Tehsil Havelian, District Abbottabad, the electricity voltage is very low due to non-availability of transformer which creates many problems for the local peoples;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to install a transformer in said area to solve the local people's problem;

(c) if so, the time by which it will be installed?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) There is no voltage problem at Mohallah Choran Maira, as a 50kVA transformer is installed at the edge of Mohallah and only 23 electricity meters are being fed from the said transformer.

(b) There is no proposal under consideration.

(c) As at part (b) above.

9. **Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**
(Deferred on 30-03-2023)

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Village Meerak, Sub-Division Ranipur, Tehsil Sobhodero, District Khairpur Mirs, the electricity polls fell due to last year flood and rain, have not been reinstalled till date; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite identifying several times about the said issue by the local people and concerned representatives, the issue has not been yet resolved;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the concerned staff who is responsible for neglecting the complaints of public representatives; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to solve the above said issue immediately?

Reply not received.

31. **Mr. Salahuddin:**
(Deferred on 26-4-2023)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state the details of the maintenance of Motorway and National Highways during the last two years, alongwith names of the firms, category,

amount of contract, responsibilities, action taken for misconduct and violations of the contract made by the parties, names of the firms to whom contracts awarded / granted for more than once?

Reply not received.

32. **Mr. Salahuddin:**
(Deferred on 26-4-2023)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the names, designations, date of posting of the officers of Grade-18 and above in the Pakistan Embassies of Australia, Newzealand and Bangkok and their performance?

Reply not received.

37. **Mr. Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Science and Technology be pleased to state:

(a) the details of terminated project of employees of Programme Standard and Quality Assurance (PSQA) science 2018;

(b) whether the order of the Sindh High Court is implemented and the assurance is given by the Secretary of the Ministry for its implementation; if so, reason for not implementing; and

(c) details of the fresh appointments made so far alongwith reasons of such appointments?

Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Agha Hassan Baloch): (a) Services of the project titled "Purchase of Lab Equipment/ Provision of Furniture & Fixture for PSQCA, Laboratories/Complex at Karachi" were discontinued upon completion of the project on 31-12-2018. Their details are at **(Annex-A).**

(b) The orders of Sindh High Court dated 16-11-2020 whereby assurance was given by the Secretary, MoST was challenged by MoST in Supreme Court and Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 30-03-2022 remit the case back to Sindh High Court with the directions that:

"learned High Court Shall consider the contents of the said reply to the show cause notice, and after hearing both parties decide the case in accordance with law". SHC has not fixed the date of hearing.

The matter was placed before the 24th PSQCA BoD on 28-11-2022 **(Annex-B),** the BoD decision is as under:

Decision: The Board decided that the cases of 22 employees (petitioner) are to be sent to Cabinet Special Committee on sacked employees.

The matter was taken up in the Special Committee on Sacked Employees. The case will be placed in the up-coming BoD meeting and processed in the light of its decision and relevant court orders.

(c) No fresh appointment / recruitment has been made in PSQCA. However posts in BS-01 to BS-17 have been advertised on 25-1-2023 and on 14-2-2023 and are under process.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

38. **Mr. Salahuddin:**

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Selection Committee of Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) for interviewing the candidates for Grade-17 and above; and

(b) their names, relevant qualifications of Engineering, names of the University and year of passing, grading and division secured, details of registration of above with the Pakistan Engineering Council?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): The following Departmental Selection Committees were constituted with the approval of Chief Executive Officer PESCO for interviewing the candidates for the posts of BPS-17 in recent recruitment:

Category	Detail of Interview Panel
Junior Engineers & Revenue Officers	Fazli Rabbi Chief Engineer (Dev:) PMU Tahir Moeen Chief Commercial Officer Muhammad Zubair Khan Chief Operation Officer Muhammad Imran Director General (FIR)
AM (HR), AM (MM), AM (Accounts), AM (Civil) & AM (PR)	Tahir Moeen Chief Commercial Officer Altaf Hussain Director General (MM) Muhammad Imran Director General (HR) Yasir Naseem Finance Director

(b)

Name of officer	Relevant Qualification	Name of university	Year of passing	Grading & Division	Detail of PEC registration
Fazli Rabbi	M.Sc (Engg.)	UET Peshawar	1998	A Grade	Registered
Tahir Moeen	M.Sc (Engg.)	UET Peshawar	2005	3.84 (1st position)	Registered
Muhammad Zubair	B.Sc (Engg.)	UET Peshawar	1989	77.08% (1st Division)	Registered
Altaf Hussain	M.Sc Math	Peshawar University	1986	1st Division	Not applicable
Muhammad Imran	M.Sc Chemistry / MBA	Peshawar University/ Abasyn University	1988 2019	1st Division 3.73 CGPA	Not applicable
Yasir Naseem	ACMA	ICMA	2006	-	Not applicable

39. **Syed Imran Ahmed Shah:**

Will the Minister for Energy (Power Division) be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that three phase electricity is provided in Chack No. 224/TDA, Tehsil Karor, District Layyah:

(b) Whether it is also a fact that some areas of the said Check is still in single phase electricity which cause low voltage; if so the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which single phase electricity wires will be placed in three phase for smooth electricity supply?

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) Yes, three phase electricity is provided in Chak No.224/TDA Tehsil Karor District Layyah.

(b) Yes, in Chak No.224/TDA Tehsil Karor there is one area of 02-spans only, which is with single phase supply.

An additional 100-kVA distribution transformer has been installed alongwith existing 100-kVA transformer and so, now there is no any low voltage issue.

(c) Only 2-spans of single-phase LT line exist where only 4 No. connections have been installed. Hence, there is no need / requirement of converting it into three phase.

ISLAMABAD:
The 7th May, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

PCPPI—7488(2022) NA—7-5-2023—350.