

**(1st Group, 52nd 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*

**Thursday, the 20th July, 2023**

69. **\*Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Mahar:**  
*(Deferred during 50<sup>th</sup> Session)*

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that several employees of electricity distribution companies have been working in such companies for years are not being regularized despite having many years of service to their credit; if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) the details of such employees working in;*
- (c) whether it is also a fact that some contractual employees working in few companies have been regularized in recent years while hundreds of workers are still waiting for regularization;*
- (d) if so, whether it is not discrimination amongst workers; and*
- (e) what steps are being taken by the Government to get regularize the services of the above contractual employees working in electricity distribution companies?*

**Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan):** (a) To avoid any permanent financial liability in the future and keeping in view the critical financial position of the DISCOs, Power Division had issued instructions to all Distribution Companies on 22-11-2021 (**Annex-A**) to make initial appointments on contractual basis and to never resort to regularization of Contingent/ Daily wages/ Contractual human resource.

(b) DISCO-wise detail of such employees is as under:

<b>Name of DISCOs</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>
FESCO	849
IESCO	1032
GEPCO	507
LESCO	764
MEPCO	881
HESCO	530
SEPCO	119
PESCO	273
TESCO	0
QESCO	102

(c) Since issuance of instructions by Power Division on 22-11-2021, no regularization of employees has been made in DISCOs. However, IESCO has regularized 135 employees appointed on the Prime Minister's Assistance Package for the employees who die during the service and Two employees have been provisionally regularized by HESCO on orders of the Courts for which HESCO has also filed petitions / resorted to appropriate legal forums for reviewing the said orders. IESCO has also been asked to clarify as to how 135 employees have been regularized despite clear policy directions by this Division.

(d) Regularization of contractual employees is not a vested right. There are many Public Sector Companies/ SOEs, where regularization of contractual/ contingent/ daily wages employees has not been made since long.

(e) The Government/ Cabinet regularized the contractual employees in BS- 01 to BS-15 of all Ministries/ Divisions/ Departments/ Autonomous Bodies etc. appointed up to 03-06-2008 *w.e.f.* 04-06-2008 vide its decision in Case No. 76/10/2008 dated 04-06-2008 (**Annex-B**) on specific criteria. However due to critically weak financial health of these DISCOs. Services of the employees on Contractual / daily wage / contingent basis cannot be regularized since it shall entail huge financial liability upon already financial weak entities.

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

167. **\*Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**  
(Deferred on 08-05-2023)

*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.

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):** Since the information is not available in the Ministry of Law & Justice. Accordingly, this Ministry approached the Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) to provide the requisite information. In response thereof, the LJCP has informed that the requisite information may be obtained directly from the quarters concerned (*i.e.* Provincial High Courts). Therefore, the Provincial High Courts were requested to provide the requisite information. The response from the Provincial High Courts are as under:-

(a)

Lahore High Court	Peshawar High Court	High Court of Sindh	Balochistan High Court	Islamabad High Court
The Hon'ble Chief Justice was pleased to decline the request qua provision of information against Starred National Assembly Question No. 142 asked by Mr. Muhammad Abubakar, MNA.	Peshawar High Court introduce case management policy by the name of District Judiciary Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Policy 2020-25. At the onset of the policy backlog was 219794 cases in entire district judiciary of KPK, whereas the current status of backlog is 43711 includes 5054 periodical payments and execution petitions. The actual backlog status is 39120 cases approximately 80% backlog cases have been decided in two years and seven months.  In the light of the directives of 51st NJPMC meeting held on 09-12-2022, the Peshawar High Court prioritize the old cases currently 235 old cases are pending in the District Judiciary of KPK.	The High Court of Sindh has informed that 7998 cases are pending in the High Court. 40731 cases are pending in the District Judiciary of Sindh. 1773 cases are pending in the Ex-Cadre/ Special Court of Federal Govt. and 1423 cases are pending in the Ex-Cadre/ Special Court of Provincial Government upto 30-04-2023.	In Balochistan District Judiciary 33 D&SJ, 36 Addl.D&SJ, 17 Sr. Civil Judge, 19 Judicial Magistrate / Civil Judges (JM/CJ), 19 Qasiz, 21 Members of Majlis-e-Shoora and 7 Family Judges are working and they are confronted with 16295 cases throughout Balochistan.  The Balochistan is vigilantly monitoring. The performance of District Judiciary and very few cases are falling in category of old cases. Directions have already been issued to the Judges of Trial Courts to fix such matters on weekly basis.  In the High Court of Balochistan 13 Judges are confronted with 4693 cases. All the Judges of High Court are vigilantly proceeding with the pending for early disposal.	The Registrar, Islamabad High Court has informed that 902 Criminal cases and 14489 Civil cases are pending in that Court upto 30-04-2023.  The D&SJ West of ICT has informed as per record 12517 Civil cases, 2910 family cases and 8826 Criminal cases are pending in the D&S Division West, ICT. 3272 cases are pending in the Courts of D&SJ, Addl.D&SJ of Session Division West of Islamabad, which have been filed after the year of 2015.

(b)

Lahore High Court	Peshawar High Court	High Court of Sindh	Balochistan High Court	Islamabad High Court
As above.	The matter of fact is that the pendency is directly proportional to number which lead towards speedy disposal of cases and decrease the pendency ultimately. Currently total sanctioned strength of Judicial Officer is 634, whereas working strength is 522. It means that there are total of 112 positions are vacant. Peshawar High Court has already initiated the recruitment process of vacant position of Adl. D&SJ and the recruitment of CJ/JM has been taken with KPK Public Service Commission. As far the double shift in a day is concerned, there is no such legislation is observed.	In the High Court of Sindh 05 posts of Judges are vacant. In District Judiciary of Sindh 12 AD&SJ, 05 SCJ/Assistant Sessions Judges and 100 posts of CJ/JM/ Family Judges/ Consumer Protection Courts are lying vacant.	In District Judiciary of Balochistan 03 posts of D&SJ, 09 posts of Adl. D&SJ, 43 posts of JM/CJ and 5 posts of Qazi are lying vacant.  Advertiserr ent for the 03 posts of D&SJ has already been made. For 09 vacant posts of Adl. D&SJ, advertisement will be made within two weeks and out of 43 available posts of JM/CJ 15 posts will be advertised in June, 2023 on need basis.  In the High Court of Balochistan 02 posts of Judges are lying vacant. Presently the process for elevation to the same cannot be initiated as 05 Additional Judges were appointed in June, 2022 for one year and their cases for confirmation will be send in the end of May, 2023 in the Judicial Commission.	There is shortage of Judges which is being fulfilled gradually. However, at present disposal of cases rate is higher than the institution rate.

(c)

Lahore High Court	Peshawar High Court	High Court of Sindh	Balochistan High Court	Islamabad High Court
As above.	The Provincial & Federal Government were repeatedly requested to increase the number of Judges (both of District Judiciaries and High Court) as on account of the merger of Tribal Districts in KPK the pendency has been increased.	No proposal/request for increasing Subordinate Courts Judges strength in Sindh have been made. However, recently on the requested of M/o Law & Justice, the Hon'ble Chief Justice has given his concurrence for establishment/ creation one more Special Court (Custom, Taxation & Anti-Smuggling) at Karachi.	No doubt, the vacant/ sanctioned posts of Judges should be filled but increasing the number of Judges is not the solution to clear the backlog as its depends upon sensitive and responsible attitude of the Judges as well as lawyers to proceed expeditiously with the pending cases.	No relevant to this Court.

190. **\*Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:***Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the country-wise total number of Pakistanis detained/ imprisoned in jails at present; and*
- (b) *whether some of the them are innocent; if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

**Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari):** (a)  
The country-wise total number of Pakistanis detained/imprisoned in jails at present are as follows:

**Information Pertaining to Pakistani Prisoners Abroad**

S. No.	Country	Mission Name	No. of Pakistani Prisoners in Jail Abroad	
1.	Ivory Coast	Abidjan	Nil	
2.	UAE	Abu Dhabi	1612	3100
		Dubai	1488	
3.	Nigeria	Abuja	8	
4.	Ghana	Accra	Nil	
5.	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	Nil	
6.	Algeria	Algiers		
7.	Jordan	Amman	12	
8.	Turkey	Ankara	329	
9.	Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	Nil	
10.	Greece	Athens	811	
11.	Iraq	Baghdad	672	
12.	Manama	Bahrain	208	
13.	Accredited to Azerbaijan	Baku	11	
		Georgia	03	
14.	Thailand	Bangkok	31	
15.	Spain	Barcelona	115	153
		Madrid	38	
16.	China	Beijing	124	239
		Chengdu	14	
		Guangzhou	90	
		Shanghai	11	
17.	Lebanon	Beirut	01	04
		Cyprus	03	
18.	Serbia	Belgrade	08	
19.	Germany	Berlin	Nil	119
		Frankfurt	119	
20.	Switzerland	Berne	08	
21.	Kvrzvzstan	Bishkek.	13	
22.	Brazil	Brasilia	02	
23.	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei	Nil	
24.	Belgium	Brussels	02	
25.	Romania	Bucharest	02	
26.	Hungary	Budapest	11	

27.	Argentina	Buenos Aires	2	
28.	Egypt	Cairo	11	
29.	<b>Australia</b>	Canberra.	37	<b>44</b>
		Melbourne	6	
		Sydney.	01	
30.	Sri Lanka	Colombo	94	
31.	Denmark	Copenhagen	32	
32.	Senegal	Dakar	Nil	
33.	Syria	Damascus	02	
34.	Tanzania	Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania	01	
35.	Bangladesh	Dhaka	31	
36.	Djibouti	Djibouti	Nil	
37.	Qatar	Doha,	209	
38.				
39.	Ireland	Dublin	02	
40.	Tajikistan	Dushanbe	Nil	
41.	Vietnam Lao	Hanoi	02	
			0	
42.	Zimbabwe	Harare	01	
43.	Cuba	Havana	Nil	
44.	<b>Afghanistan</b>	Herat	Nil	<b>13</b>
		Kabul	13	
		Mazar-e-Sharif	Nil Report	
45.	<b>USA</b>	Houston	03	<b>98</b>
		Los Angeles	06	
		New York	40	
		Washington	49	
		Chicago	Nil Report	
46.	Indonesia	Jakarta	06	
47.	<b>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</b>	Jeddah	1504	<b>3100</b>
		Riyadh	1596	
48.	Uganda	Kampala	Nil	
49.	Nepal	Kathmandu	24	
50.	Sudan	Khartoum	Nil	
51.	Rwanda	Kigali	Nil	
52.	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	151	
53.	Kuwait	Kuwait	55	
54.	Ukraine	Kviv	02	



55.	Portugal	Lisbon	03	
56.	UK	London	275	
57.	Maldives	Male	21	
58.	Philippines	Manila	07	
59.	<b>Iran</b>	Mashhad	01	<b>104</b>
60.		Tehran	103	
61.		Zahidan	-	
62.	Mexico	Mexico	Nil	
63.	<b>Italy</b>	Milan	291	<b>586</b>
		Rome	295	
64.	Belarus	Minsk	Nil	
65.	<b>Canada</b>		Nil	<b>05</b>
		Montreal		
		Toronto	02	
		Vancouver	03	
66.	Russian Federation	Moscow	Nil	
67.	Oman	Muscat	540	
68.	Kenya	Nairobi	06	
69.	India	New Delhi	683	
70.	Niger	Niamey	Nil	
71.	Kazakhstan	Nur-Sultan	01	
72.	Norway	Oslo	03	
73.	France	Paris	109	
74.	Cambodia	Phnom Penh	03	
75.	Mauritius	Port Louis	Nil	
76.	Czech Republic	Prague	Nil	
77.	South Africa	Pretoria	53	<b>53</b>
		Mozambique	Nil	
		Namibia	Nil	
78.	Morocco	Rabat	Nil	
79.	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Sarajevo	03	
80.	South Korea	Seoul	09	
81.	Singapore	Singapore	01	
82.	Bulgaria	Sofia	Nil	<b>03</b>
		North Macedonia	03	
83.	Sweden	Stockholm	04	<b>06</b>
	Finland		02	
84.	Uzbekistan	Tashkent	Nil	

85.	Netherlands	The Hague	07	
86.	Japan	Tokyo	16	
87.	Libya	Tripoli	Nil	
88.	Tunisia	Tunis	Nil	
89.	Austria	Vienna	07	
90.	Poland	Warsaw	02	
	Lithuania		01	
91.	New Zealand	Wellington	Nil	
92.	Myanmar	Yangon	Nil	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>12080</b>	

(b) As per information provided by our Missions abroad, prisoners found innocent are released. Ministry of Foreign Affairs is fully cognizant of its responsibilities towards Overseas Pakistanis especially those who are imprisoned in foreign jails. Our Missions are continuously engaged with the local governments in order to facilitate prisoners in the best possible manner. The Pakistan Community Welfare and Education Fund (PCW&EF), being administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is utilized to extend legal assistance to Pakistanis imprisoned abroad, including payment of lawyers' fees, fines and cost of repatriation of destitute Pakistani prisoners.

As soon as Pakistan Missions come to know about arrest and/or detention of any Pakistani, they immediately contact the concerned local authorities through Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country for consular access. After consular visit, all necessary steps are taken accordingly for release, consular service and repatriation.

Our Missions provide legal assistance to Pakistani prisoners on need basis. The assistance includes hiring of lawyer, payment of lawyers fee, hiring of law firm and provision of translator for cases. Some countries provide, facility of interpreters/translators and lawyers to all prisoners on their own, whereas in: other countries (European countries specifically) prisoner's information is-provided only upon prisoner's consent, However, if any Pakistani prisoner requests for provision of legal assistance, all efforts are made for provision of effective assistance.

Apart from consular visits, Missions also reach, out to prisoners/detainees on occasions like Independence Day as well as on Eid holidays. During such visits, prisoners are provided items of daily use including toiletries and sweets are also distributed among them.

Missions also initiate mercy petitions in the royal courts of the host countries on behalf of the convicted prisoners. Besides, our Missions extend all possible assistance to the families of the prisoners in terms of arranging their telephonic call and to facilitate them to visit the prisoners in person.

191. **\*Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**

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

- (a) *when fresh Local Government Elections will be held in Islamabad; and*
- (b) *steps being taken by the Government to give more powers to the Local Government Institutions in future?*

**Minister for Parliamentary Affairs (Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi):** (a) Consequent upon increase in number of Union Councils (from 101 to 125), by the Federal Government, the Delimitation of Union Councils and Wards has been carried out by the Election Commission and as per timeline, the preliminary lists of Union Councils/Wards have been published on 07-05-2023 and after due process, the final list of Constituencies will be published on 09-06-2023. Thereafter further steps will be taken for the Conduct of Local Government Elections in Islamabad Capital Territory.

(b) On 21-02-2023, following amendment has been made in the Section 6 of the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act to strengthen the Local Government Institutions in the Islamabad Capital Territory:

(1) “There shall be one hundred and twenty five Union councils within the Islamabad Capital Territory under this Act, the Federal Government on recommendations of Ministry of Interior by Notification in the official gazette may increase or decrease the number of union councils from time to time.”

The number of Union Councils within Islamabad Capital Territory has been increased from 101 to 125 to strengthen the public representation in the Local Government Institutions.

192. **\*Mr. Salahuddin:**

*Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state the initiative for harmonization of legislation, relations and practices with the international human rights conventions and agreements to which Pakistan is a party and monitoring their implementation during the last three years?*

**Minister for Human Rights (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada):**  
Ministry of Human Rights is mandated to implement following Seven Core Human Rights Conventions, ratified by the Government of Pakistan and Universal Periodic Review (UPR):

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) (1965)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)
- International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1966)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (1966)
- Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) (1984)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) (1989)
  - Optional Protocol on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
  - Optional Protocol on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

**Significant initiatives taken in this regard during last three years are as under:**

- Ministry of Human Rights is implementing National Plan of Action for Human Rights consisting of six thematic areas. National Plan of Action focusing on promotion and protection of human rights including implementation of ratified Human Rights Conventions.
- Follow-up Reports ICERD, UN CAT and CEDAW forwarded to MoFA.
- 5th Periodic Report on Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) Report Presented to UN CEDAW Committee in February, 2020.
- 24th - 26th combined Report on International Covenant on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), submitted to the concerned Treaty Body through Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September, 2021.
- 2nd Periodic Report on International Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment CAT Report submitted to the concerned Treaty Body through Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 16th June, 2022.
- 2nd Periodic Report on International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (ICCPR) submitted to the concerned Treaty Body on 16th June, 2022 through MoFA.
- 2nd Periodic Report on International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) prepared and shared with MoFA for comments on 21st June, 2022.
- 6th - 7th combined Periodic Report on CRC has been forwarded to the concerned Treaty Body through MoFA in September, 2022.

- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for Women (Beijing+25) prepared and shared with UNESCAP through MoFA.
  - Final Review of Incheon Strategy (Make the rights real for PWDs) prepared and forwarded to UNESCAP.
  - Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023-32 has been adopted by UNESCAP member countries during the meeting held in October, 2022 in Indonesia.
  - Constituted a Committee to look in to the procedural delays and flaws in the existing system of pardon/ mercy petition.
  - Constituted Steering Committee for Implementation of Human Rights Coordination and Monitoring Unit for National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up.
  - National Committee to facilitate implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
  - Treaty Implementation Cells have been established at Federal and Provincial level for monitoring and implementation of human rights Conventions ratified by the Government of Pakistan.
- **Following Laws have been enacted:**
- Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Act, 2021
  - ICT Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020
  - Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020
  - Protection of Journalist and Media Professionals Act, 2021

- Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022
- Torture, Custodial Death and Custodial Rape (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022

➤ **Following Bills have been prepared and are in process:**

- Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2020
- Prepared Forced or Involuntary Disappearances (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2021 and forwarded to Ministry of Interior being the relevant Ministry on the subject.

193. **\*Ms. Nasiba Channa:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the electricity loadshedding/load management is being carried out in the country at present;*
- (b) *if so, the locations thereof alongwith reasons of loadshedding?*

**Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan):** (a) At present, no load shedding is being carried out in the country due to generation shortfall.

In order to reduce circular debt and revenue shortfall, presently load management is being carried out by DISCOs on the basis of their Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT &C) losses recorded on each feeder, given as under:

CATEGORY	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
AT&C LOSSES	Upto 10%	10- 20%	20- 30%	30- 40%	40- 60%	60- 80%	80- 100%
LOAD MANAGEMENT HOURS	Zero	02 Hrs	02 Hrs	04 Hrs	06 Hrs	08 Hrs	12 Hrs
<i>Note: Zero load management hours are being further relaxed for Category-II&amp;III also by the DISCOs as per their daily allocated quota by NPCC.</i>							

- (b) Same reply at Serial (a).

194. **\*Mr. James Iqbal:**

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

- (a) *the thickness, length and width of Sialkot-Kharian Motorway; and*
- (b) *the number lanes will be made?*

**Minister for Communications (Mr. Asad Mahmood):** (a) Length of Project including Kharian Link road is 69.9 KM, Width of Motorway is 24.2 meter Where as thickness of pavement structure is 68 cm (2.23 ft).

(b) This Motorway is 4 Lane (2+2) project, However bridges and other structure will be constructed as 6-lane to accommodate further two lanes in future.

195. **\*Mr. Salahuddin:**

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

- (a) *the details of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Customs, Central Excise and Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal; and*
- (b) *further details the names, age of the judges alongwith break-up of the cases filed, details of pending, accepted (allowed), dismissed during the last three years?*

**Minister for Law and Justice (Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar):** (a) The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) and Customs Excise and Sales Tax Appellate Tribunal (CEST AT) were renamed as Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue (A TIR) and Customs Appellate Tribunal (CAT), respectively. Presently, twenty (20) Benches of A TIR and nine (09) Benches of CAT are functioning across the country under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law & Justice.

(b) The detail of the names, age of the judges alongwith break-up of the cases filed, pending, accepted (allowed), dismissed during the last three year is attached (**Annex-I**) as received from A TIR HQ, Islamabad and CAT HQ, Islamabad.

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



1. **\*Syed Imran Ahmad Shah:**

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

- (a) *whether the Government have any intention to sign a visa abolition agreement with Saudi Arabia for Pakistanis holding at least official and diplomatic passports;*
- (b) *if so, the details thereof and what is the status of aforesaid proposal at present;*
- (c) *if not, the reasons thereof alongwith the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

**Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari):** (a) The Government of Pakistan has already initiated the discussions on Visa Abolition Agreement for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(b) The Agreement was proposed to the Saudi side by Pakistan and has been under process. During such negotiations timeline for concluding the agreement is not part of the agreement itself.

(c) N/A.

2. **\*Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

*Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state the month-wise total amount collected from the toll tax of Highways and Motorways till date during the tenure of present Government?*

**Minister for Communications (Mr. Asad Mahmood):** The detail of total month wise amount collected from the toll taxes of Highways and Motorways is as under:

**Earned Toll Revenue Collection During Tenure of Present Government (w.e.f. 11<sup>th</sup> April-2022)**

<b>Rs. In Millions</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>Earned Toll Revenue</b>
w.e.f. 11 <sup>th</sup> -April-22	1,979.36
May-22	2,961.38

<b>Month</b>	<b>Earned Toll Revenue</b>
Jun-22	2,961.94
Jul-22	2,857.67
Aug-22	2,806.52
Sept-22	2,796.03
Oct-22	2,814.84
Nov-22	2,810.68
Dec-22	2,762.87
Jan-23	2,737.02
Feb-23	2,700.97
Mar-23	2,836.52
April-23	2,710.77
May-23	2,758.45
Jun-23	2,832.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,354.85</b>

3. **\*Ms. Aliya Kamran:**

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

- (a) *the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority has taken the notice of a fact that various types of soft drinks available in Pakistan such as stings and other drinks having very harmful effects on human health and especially in some cases the risk of their harmfulness to a human being have extremely been increased;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that such drinks are available in open market without any restriction and protective precautions;*
- (c) *if so, the details thereof; and*
- (d) *what corrective measures are being taken by the Government to control the sale of such unhealthy drinks, and ensure the printing of cautions more visible and prominent?*

**Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Agha Hassan Baloch):** (a) The Government of Pakistan has empowered Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) under Section 14 of Act VI of 1996 to check the quality of Food and other consumer's items in the country as per International Guidelines, practices and National Standards.

PSQCA monitors the quality of the 43 food items including Carbonated Beverages in the country which were brought under mandatory product certification through SROs issued by the Govt. of Pakistan time to time as per PSQCA Act-VI of 1996 and Pakistan Conformity Assessment Rules 2011.

PSQCA follows complete mechanism to monitor the quality of the products through inspections of the manufacturing units and market surveillance. Where in, the sample of Carbonated Beverages are also taken from open market and sent to labs for testing and analysis in accordance to the PSS No. 1654-2019 (Carbonated Beverages).

(b) Almost all the available Carbonated Beverages products are registered with PSQCA in accordance with PSS 1654-2019, therefore, they abide by the minimum labeling and nutritional requirements as declared in the relevant Pakistan Standard. Furthermore, some additional labeling comprising precautions etc. is done by the manufacturers according to the product variants.

However in case of any health advisory PSQCA may be intimated accordingly by stake holders, so that it may be presented before the concerned Standardization Technical Committee for consideration.

(c) As a reference the label of STING Brand Carbonated Beverage is attached herewith (**Annex-A**).

**(d) PSQCA has mandated to control unhealthy drinks / sub-standard products in the country:**

- Hygienic conditions of plants are being monitored alongwith quality control process and production.
- Issues notices to units if product found non conformity and guidelines are provided for improvement of quality as per Pakistan Standards.
- Warnings being issued through notices and print media.
- To seize the units if found the products noncompliant as per relevant Pakistan Standards Specifications.

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

4. **\*Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

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

- (a) the names and designations of the employees deputed in foreign Embassies of Pakistan at present; and*
- (b) when they have been deputed there along with the details each of the above employees?*

Deferred for answer on Next Rota Day.

ISLAMABAD:  
*The 19th July, 2023.*

TAHIR HUSSAIN,  
*Secretary.*

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**

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**“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”**

**For Thursday, the 20th July, 2023**

1. **Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**  
(Deferred during 47<sup>th</sup> 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.

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?

**Minister For Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan):** (a) Electricity supply is running properly in village Meerak, Sub Division Ranipur, as reported by SEPCO. However, 1x25 kVA transformer which had fallen on 26-08-2022 was restored on the same day.

(b) No complaint in this regard has been received by the concerned field formation.

(c) N/A

(d) N/A

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?*

**Minister for Communications (Mr. Asad Mahmood):** NHA is custodian of 39 national highways/ motorways/ expressway/ strategic routes having a total length of 12,131 KMs. It is 4.6% of total national roads network *i.e* 263,775 KMs, however, it carries 80% of commercial traffic and N-5 which is blood-line of Pakistan, carries 65% of this load in the country.

The Details of the maintenance of National Highways and Motorways during the last two year is given Zone Wise as under:-

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| i. Central Zone | <b>Annex-A</b> |
| ii. South Zone  | <b>Annex-B</b> |
| iii. West Zone  | <b>Annex-C</b> |
| iv. North Zone  | <b>Annex-D</b> |

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

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?*

**Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari):**

**Canberra, Australia**

S. No.	Name	Title	Grade	Date of Posting
1.	Mr. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri	High Commissioner	21	09 September 2021
2.	Ms. Ayesha Saeed	DHM/ Counsellor	19	30 December 2020
3.	Mr. Zain ul Abidin	Counsellor	19	06 October 2020
4.	Ms. Asiya Mahar	Third Secretary	17	02 December 2021

**Wellington, New Zealand**

S. No.	Name	Title	Grade	Date of Posting
1.	Mr. Murad Ashraf Janjua	High Commissioner	21	11 September 2020
2.	Mr. Imran Ullah Khan	First Secretary /HOC	19	18 October 2022

**Bangkok, Thailand**

S. No.	Name	Title	Grade	Date of Posting
1.	Mr. Sahebzada A. Khan	Ambassador/PR to UN-ESCAP	21	22 August 2021
2.	Mr. Yassir Hussain	Counsellor/DHM	19	01 September 2022
3.	Ms. Faiza Haseeb	Counsellor (Political)		19 December 2021
4.	Ms. Naila Israr	First Secretary-I	19	15 October 2020

<b>Defence Wing</b>				
5.	Col Muhammad Tayyab	Defence Attache	19	22 August 2020
<b>OM Wing</b>				
6.	Mr. Tanvir Ahmad	Counsellor (Consular Affairs)	19	09 March 2022
7	Mr. Ghulam Ali Mirani	First Secretary-II	19	03 October 2021
<b>Commercial Wing</b>				
8	Mr. Muhammad Farukh Sharif	Counsellor (Trade & Investment)	19	10 January 2020

### **Performance:**

Our Missions in Australia, New Zealand and Bangkok have been working hard for strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and their respective countries in multiple areas including political, economic and trade education, agriculture, IT, defence and security, science and technology, sports and development. They are also working on a number of initiatives aimed at the facilitation and empowerment of the Pakistani diaspora. An overview of the tasks performed by our officers is as under;

- Assisting in holding of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and their respective countries;
- Organizing cultural/art events to promote Pakistani culture, art, history, films, and tourism;
- Organizing trade promotion events such as Mango festivals to promote Pakistani mangoes and products in the international markets;
- Assisting and coordinating in exchange of High Level Visits between Pakistan and their respective countries;
- Arranging. special flights to repatriate the stranded Pakistanis in their respective countries during COVID-19 pandemic;
- Organizing Agricultural and Educational Exhibitions;
- Extending consular services to the Overseas Pakistanis in their respective countries; -
- Organizing webinars on Roshan Digital Account in



collaboration with the Pakistani banks to create awareness among the Pakistani Diaspora;

- Making efforts to increase bilateral trade between Pakistan and their respective countries;
- Organizing Town Hall Meetings/ Open Kachehries to address the grievances of Pakistani Diaspora;
- Organizing events on Kashmir and raise the humanitarian crisis in IIOJ&K at international level;
- Organizing fund raising activities in order to collect donations during the flood and other national disasters;
- Mobilizing Pakistani community in their respective countries to takepart in the economic development of Pakistan.

1. **Begum Tahira Bukhari:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that despite depositing the amount for demand notices for electricity meters by the residents of different parts of Rawalpindi the authorities concerned have neither issue the demand notices nor install the electric meters against the applications particularly tracking ID 14625001245 dated 14-06-2023;*
- (b) *if the answer to part (a) above is in affirmative, the reasons of delay thereof; and*
- (c) *what steps are being taken by the Government to install meter against above said tracking ID as well as to entertain other requests?*

Reply not received.

2. **Begum Tahira Bukhari:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the survey for electricity work was conducted by the surveyor, city construction Sub Division, IESCO Rawat, Imtiaz Ranjha in Village Bilawal, Union*

*Council Kolian Hameed, Rawalpindi and SAP-2 work was approved in the departmental working under the supervision of SDO-I, City Construction Sub Division (CCSD), Marir Chowk Office, Rawalpindi and Line Superintendent, City Construction Sub Division, Marir Chowk Rawalpindi is working on it;*

- (b) whether it is also a fact that SDO-I and Line Superintendent starts this work 18 months ago and was stopped due to the political intervention by the than Government;*
- (c) if the answers to part (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, the reasons of delay thereof; and*
- (d) what steps are being taken by the Government to instruct SDO-I, IESCO, CCSD, Marir Chowk Office, Rawalpindi to complete this important work?*

Reply not received.

ISLAMABAD:  
*The 19th July, 2023.*

TAHIR HUSSAIN,  
*Secretary.*