

(4th 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

Monday, the 31st July, 2023

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

Will the Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister’s Office be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in recent years a programme was launched in the name of Kamyab Jawan Programme;*
- (b) if so, the criteria on which the programme was based;*
- (c) whether such criteria have been evaluated to assess programme success;*
- (d) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof;*
- (e) whether its frame work included a one-on-one or group job counseling programme for youth;*
- (f) the details of the years-wise budget reserved, released and utilized for the programme since its inception; and*
- (g) whether it was a successful programme or otherwise?*

Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister’s Office: (a) In January 2019, the then government changed the name of “Prime Minister’s Youth Programme” (PMYP) that was started in 2013 under the leadership of the then Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, to KamyabJawan Programme”. The programme was based on 3Es model of

Education, Employment and Engagement given in UN Human Development Report published in. 2017.

(b) KamyabJawan Programme adopted two major initiatives of PMYP, Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan and Skills Development Programme but changed its nomenclature to Prime Minister's KamyabJawan Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (PMKJ-YES) and Prime Minister's Skills for All respectively.

(c) Following Programmes and Projects were initiated under the KamyabJawan Programme implemented by different organisations. Each programme has its own objectives and deliverables.

1. **EMPLOYMENT**

Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES)

Implemented by Ministry of Finance, State Bank of Pakistan & 21 Commercial banks

Entrepreneurship was encouraged through easy access to finance by young people to star or expand their own business.

2. **EDUCATION**

Skills for All

Implemented by National Vocational and Technical Training Commission

Vocational training in conventional and hi-tech trades that are in demand by the job market.

3. **ENGAGEMENT**

Co-Curricular and Sports PSDP Projects

Implemented by Higher Education Commission

- a. Establishment of **KamyabJawan Markazat** 90 Public Sector Universities

- (b) Establishment of 12 KamyabJawan **Sports Academies** and 1 High Performance & Resource Centre
- (c) KamyabJawan **Talent Hunt Sports Drive** for 12 Sports in 25 districts
- (d) KamyabJawan **Innovation League** in eight thematic areas
- (e) Establishing 137 Green Youth Movement (GYM) Clubs on universities to work on climate change.

(e) Under KamyabJawanMarkaz (KJM), career counselling and Job placement was one of the objectives, however, it remained in conceptualisation stage and could not be materialized.

(f) **Details at Annex-I**

(g)

1. **EMPLOYMENT**

Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES)

- ✓ Loans Disbursed: 29,977 (51.74 billion Rupees)
- ✓ Jobs Created: 53,699

2. **EDUCATION**

Skills for All Programme

- ✓ Skill Scholarships Awarded: 160,000
- ✓ Jobs Created: 14,875

3. **ENGAGEMENT**

Co-Curricular and Sports PSDP Projects

- a. Establishment of KamyabJawanMarkaz at 90 Public Sector Universities

- ✓ 45 Centres established at public sector universities, mostly at conceptual stage
- b. Establishment of Green Clubs under Green Youth Movement (GYM)
 - ✓ 137 Clubs were announced but remained at conceptual stage.
- c. Establishment of 12 KamyabJawan Sports Academies and 1 High Performance & Resource Centre
 - ✓ Procurement process was initiated
- d. KamyabJawan Talent Hunt Sports Drive for 12 Sports in 25 districts
 - ✓ Sports Talent Hunt for Wrestling and Weightlifting was done.
- e. KamyabJawan Innovation League in eight thematic areas
 - ✓ was in planning phase

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

233. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the total credit disbursement in the Micro Finance Sector alongwith the detail of interest rates and the regulatory framework of this sector?

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): The Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP), which represents the total outstanding credit disbursement in the microfinance sector stood at PKR 509.5 billion at the end of first quarter of 2023 Out of total, MFBS' GLP stood at PKR 377 billion, while Non-Banking Microfinance Companies' (NBMFCs) GLP remained at PKR 132.5 billion.

Interest rates on various microcredit products generally vary from bank to bank. This variation in interest rates mainly depends on the cost of funds, operational cost, nature of credit products, size and duration of loan, risk profile of customers, etc.

Pakistan has a separate legal framework to govern activities of the Microfinance Banks (MFBs). The MFBs are licensed and regulated by the State Bank under the provision of Microfinance Institutions Ordinance 2001 (MFIO). The MFIO was promulgated in 2001 to encourage private sector led sustainable growth of microfinance in Pakistan. The MFIO is further supplemented with a set of Prudential Regulations (PRs). These PRs laid out a comprehensive set of criteria to regulate MFBs' operations. Cognizant of peculiar dynamics and evolution of microfinance sector, SBP maintains a proportional regulatory approach to promote innovation and stability.

234. ***Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state what steps Government has taken to address the country's economic challenges and to reduce inflation?

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): The steps being taken by the SBP and the government to address the economic challenges:

- In order to contain inflationary pressures and to reduce current account deficit, the country had to pursue a tight monetary policy and regulatory stance. The SBP has increased the policy rate by 725 basis points so far in FY23, to 21 percent currently, to slow domestic demand and reduce inflationary and external account pressures. Tight monetary policy is aimed at anchoring inflation expectations so that inflation could be brought down to the medium-term target of 5-7 percent over the medium term. As a result of SBP's efforts, demand-side pressures on inflation have moderated substantially, whereas the current account deficit has narrowed by over 76 percent to \$3.3 billion during Jul-Apr FY23, against \$13.7 billion in Jul-Apr FY22.

- The government announced significant fiscal consolidation in FY23 budget and subsequently via the supplementary finance bill. The fiscal deficit narrowed to 3.6 percent during Jul-Mar FY23, against 3.9 percent in Jul-Mar FY22. Proactive and sustained implementation of contractionary fiscal stance would supplement monetary tightening to further reduce inflation.
- The government increased the budgetary allocation for the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) from Rs. 250 billion to Rs. 400 billion in FY23.
- During Ramzan, the government had announced a Rs. 5 billion Ramzan Relief package, with targeted support of Rs. 1.2 billion and general support of Rs. 3.8 billion. Under this package, the government announced providing 19 essential food items – including flour, sugar, vegetable ghee etc. – at subsidized rates via the Utility Stores Corporation. In addition, provincial governments have announced their own supportive measures.
- To lessen the impact of inflation, the government has reduced administered prices of High Speed Diesel (HSD) and petrol by a cumulative Rs. 35 and Rs. 20 respectively, during May 2023. Active price monitoring is, however, necessary to ensure that the benefit of this fuel price reduction is passed on to prices of other consumer products, especially perishable and non-perishable food items.
- Recently, the government announced sizable reduction in prices of essential food items — including vegetable oil, ghee and wheat flour — sold at Utility Stores Corporation outlets.
- To further lessen the impact of rising prices on the most vulnerable segments, the government has increased power and gas tariffs by a smaller margin for the lowest consumer slabs.

235. ***Mr. Muhammad Abubakar:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistan is facing financial and trade deficit gradually due to which progress during the years 2008 to 2023 has not been made possible; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for rehabilitation of the industries which have been shut down during the last fifteen years?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a)

- Over the last two decades, Pakistan's economy had suffered with many domestic and global challenges; war against extremism, recurrence of floods, geo-political tensions, political instability and COVID-19 pandemic which severely impacted sustainable economic growth.
- Regime-wise average between FY2008 — FY2022 shows higher GDP growth and lower fiscal deficit during the tenure of PML-N. GDP growth during FY 2008-13 was 3.2 percent, it was 3.5 percent during FY 2019- 22 and highest growth at 4.7 percent was recorded during FY 2014-18.
- Similarly average fiscal deficit during FY 2008-13 recorded at 6.27 percent of GDP, during FY 2019-22 estimated at 7.25 percent and in PMLN tenure during FY 2014-18 recorded lowest at 4.98 percent.
- When present government assumed the office, the economy was at the, brink of default and confronted by multiple challenges like shrinking fiscal space, inflationary pressure, mounting current account deficit, growing financing needs, exchange rate pressure, depleting foreign exchange reserves and energy crisis.
- These challenges were exacerbated by the complete lack of confidence and trust in the government of Pakistan by the IMF and other multilateral/bilateral interlocutors due to the PTI's renegeing on its commitments.

- The situation further aggravated by flash flood at the start of FY2023, which severely affected all sectors of the economy. Flood damage is estimated at US\$14.9 billion, loss to the GDP at US\$15.2 billion, and need for rehabilitation of damages at US\$16.3 billion.
- Trade deficit deteriorated during previous government tenure by 27% and reached to US\$39.1 billion which has decreased by 38.4% to US\$24.1 billion in FY2023. Current Account Deficit declined by 85% from US\$17.5 billion in FY2022 to US\$2.6 billion during FY2023.
- Under these trying circumstances and unprecedented exogenous and endogenous challenges, present government took the economy from vulnerability to stability and how firmly on a path of growth.
- Higher growth target of 3.5% in FY2024 through various measures like the Kissan package, industrial support, export promotion, encouragement of IT sector, and revenue mobilization, etc.
- Increased the national foreign exchange reserves to over \$ 14 billion, including US\$8.6 billion reserves of the SBP.
- Stand By Arrangement signed with the IMF for the period July 2023 to March 2024. Received US\$ 1.2 billion after IMF Board granted approval of SBA on 12 July, 2023.
- Resumed bilateral and multilateral policy inflows which Will pave the way to macroeconomic stability and confidence of the domestic market.
- Took various policy measures to harness the potential of the IT sector. A few of these initiatives include:-
 - Rs. 43 billion allocated for the promotion of science and IT sectors,
 - Extension of concession of 0.25% tax on exports for another 3 years,

- No sales tax return by freelancers with the export of \$2,000 per month,
- One pager Income Tax return for IT and IT-enabled services with annual exports of \$24,000.
- Increased agriculture credit limit from Rs. 1,800 billion to Rs. 2,250 billion, and introduced solarization of tube wells to reinforce positive impact of Kissan package.
- Increased PSDP allocation for the next fiscal year (Rs. 1150 bn). The PSDP funding is focused on projects which support the 5Es Framework (i.e., Exports, Equity, Empowerment, Environment, and Energy), CPEC, and 4RF (i.e., Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework) in the aftermath of disastrous flood 2022.
- Present Government is committed to achieve sustainable and higher economic growth with prudent & effective economic policies over the medium term, which will also improve confidence of the economic agents.

(b) Part (b) of the question related to Ministry of Industries and Production which has already been informed.

236. ***Mr. James Iqbal:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the status of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Malaysia, China, Indonesia and Pakistan alongwith detail of trade volume of country with these countries during the last three years?

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar):

i. **Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA)**

Both countries signed MPCEPA on 8th November 2007.

Status: Active and operational since 2008.

Detail of trade volume with Pakistan during last three years is as follows:-

| Values in Million USD | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Years | Exports | Imports | Total Trade Volume |
| 2019-20 | 267.8 | 932 | 1199.8 |
| 2020-21 | 239.3 | 1,003 | 1,272.3 |
| 2021-22 | 459.6 | 1263.4 | 1723 |

Source: TDAS

ii. Status of Free Trade Agreements with China is as under:-

- a. Early Harvest Program between China and Pakistan was enforced on 1st January, 2006 wherein Pakistan gave tariff concessions on 486 items while China offered preferential market access on 744 items. Later on, both sides entered into Phase-I of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) on 24th November, 2006, which became operational in July 2007, which completed in 2012.
- b. Phase-II of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) is operational since 01.01.2020. Under Phase-II of CPFTA, China will liberalise 75% of its Tariff line within 10 years. This also includes immediate liberalization of 313 tariff lines of high priority for Pakistan, including textiles and garments, seafood, meat and other animal products, prepared foods, leather, chemicals, plastics, oil seeds, footwear as well as engineering goods including tractors, auto parts, home appliances, machineries etc.

Trade figures of Pakistan with China during last three years is as given below:

| Trade with China; USD Million | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Year | Exports | Imports | Total Trade |
| 2019-20 | 1,709 | 12,006 | 13,714 |
| 2020-21 | 2,354 | 15,297 | 17,651 |
| 2021-22 | 3,095 | 20,839 | 23,934 |
| 2022-23 (Jul-Apr) | 2,208 | 9,849 | 12,058 |

iii. **Indonesia-Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement (IP-PTA)**
IP-PTA was signed in February, 2012.

Status: Active and operational since 2013.

Detail of trade volume with Pakistan during last three years is as follows:

| Values in Million USD | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Years | Exports | Imports | Total Trade Volume |
| 2019-20 | 111.56 | 2106.17 | 2217.73 |
| 2020-21 | 149 | 3015.19 | 3164.19 |
| 2021-22 | 131.77 | 4593.22 | 4724.99 |

Source: TDAS

237. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

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

- (a) *whether the Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL) is providing any subsidized credit to facilitate to the farmers in the affected areas of Sindh;*
- (b) *if so, what are the details, particularly, for Sukkur-Khairpur region?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) ZTBL is providing subsidized lending through following 4 schemes under PM Kissan Package-2022 in Sindh Province;

1. Prime Minister's Youth Business & Agriculture Loan Scheme (PMYB&ALS).
2. GOP Markup Subsidy Scheme (GMSS) for Revival of Agriculture/Livestock Sectors.
3. Interest Free Loans and Risk Sharing Scheme for Landless Farmers (IF&RSLF).
4. Markup Subsidy and Risk Sharing Scheme for Farm Mechanization (MSRSSFM).

Details of the aforementioned Schemes are at **Annexed**.

(b) Zone-Wise detail of Agri. loan disbursement under PM Kissan Pacakge 2022 in flood affected areas of Sindh Province as mentioned below;

(Rs. In million)

| Province | Zones | PMYB& ALS | GMSS | IFRS & LF | MSRSSFM |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Sindh | Hyderabad | 78.00 | 378.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Karachi | 29.00 | 135.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Larkana | 20.00 | 401.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | MirpurKhas | 25.00 | 368.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Shaheed Benazirabad | 16.00 | 276.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Sukkur | 16.52 | 537.88 | 0.40 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 184.52 | 2,095.90 | 0.40 | 0.00 |
| Grand Total | | | | | 2,280.82 |

District-Wise detail of Agri. Loan Disbursement (Sukkar, Khairpur & Ghotki):

(Rs. In million)

| Districts | PMYB& ALS | GMSS | IFRS & LF | MSRSSFM |
|------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Sukkur | 7.92 | 109.64 | 0.00 | - |
| Ghotki | 2.50 | 185.26 | 0.00 | - |
| Khairpur* | 6.10 | 242.98 | 0.40 | - |
| TOTAL | 16.52 | 537.88 | 0.40 | - |

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

238. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the details of the visits of audit teams to Pakistan Embassies, grade-wise, expenditure on their visits, audit Paras and amount involved, amount recovered, action taken against the higher responsible functionaries on negligence or involvement during the last three years?

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): Reply of O/o Auditor General of Pakistan.

Requisite details are attached as (**Annex-I**).

Annexure-I

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF AUDIT FOREIGN & INTERNATIONAL

Audit Report outcomes and resource utilization during last 3 years

(Amount in Rs. Million)

| Audit Report | No of Teams* | BPS of Officers* | | Missions Audited* | Expenditure* | No of Audit Paras on Missions* | Amount of Audit Paras | Recovery at Instance of Audit** |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | 19 | 18 | | | | | |
| 2022-23 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 25 | 18,201 | 29 | 15,492.523 | 74.771 |
| 20321-22 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5,943 | 72 | 18,875.384 | 362.648 |
| 2020-21 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 35 | 22,275 | 36 | 1,123.58 | 19.638 |
| TOTAL | 15 | 10 | 20 | 65 | 46,419 | 137 | 35,491.487 | 457.057 |

*Data pertaining to corresponding Audit Report

**Recovery during the FY

Note: No. PAC meeting for the Above mentioned Audit Reports has been held, hence, audit paras have not been discussed yet.

239. ***Ms. Shakila Luqman:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the year-wise total number of bullet proof vehicles imported by the Government during the last three years; and*
- (b) *the name of politicians to whom those vehicles have been allotted during the said period?*

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar): (a) & (b) The Question does not fall within the purview of Ministry of Commerce, as in terms of Sr. No.20, Part II Appendix-B of Import Policy Order, 2022, the bullet proof vehicles (both in new and used condition) are importable on the recommendation of **Ministry of Interior** subject to following conditions;

- (i) Requests for import of bullet proof vehicles are routed through concerned Provincial Government, which will

determine the genuineness of the requirements of the applicant;

- (ii) The applicant will clearly indicate the features of the vehicle proposed to be imported by him;
- (iii) Undertaking be obtained from the applicant that he will ply the vehicle only in high security risk areas; and
- (iv) The vehicle will only be disposed of after obtaining NOC from Ministry of Interior;
- (v) The same conditions and procedures mentioned above shall apply *mutatis mutandis*, if bullet proof vehicles are imported under Personal Baggage, gift and Transfer of Residence Schemes.

240. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *details of the Pakistan's trade volume with Sri Lanka and Nepal; and*
- (b) *what steps are being taken by the Government to increase our exports to these two countries?*

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar): (a) The volume of bilateral trade of Pakistan with Sri Lanka and Nepal since 2013-14 may be perused at **Annex-I**.

Sri Lanka:

The data on bilateral trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the past three years is as follows:

All values Million USD

| Year | Exports | Imports | Total Trade Volume | Balance |
|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|-----------|
| 2019-20 | 300.98 | 59.2 | 360.18 | (+)241.78 |

| Year | Exports | Imports | Total Trade Volume | Balance |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 2020-21 | 275.08 | 79.62 | 354.7 | (+)195.46 |
| 2021-22 | 392.57 | 75.96 | 468.53 | (+)316.61 |

Source: TDAS

Nepal:

The volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Nepal for the past three years is as follows:

All values Million USD

| Years | Exports | Imports | Total Trade Volume | Balance |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 2019-20 | 20.77 | 0.54 | 21.31 | (+)20.23 |
| 2020-21 | 3.85 | 2.57 | 6.42 | (+)1.28 |
| 2021-22 | 4.08 | 2.63 | 6.71 | (+)1.45 |

Source: TDAS

(b) Sri Lanka:

- Pakistan and Sri Lanka are members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and have preferential market access under the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) since 2006.
- Pakistan also has a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Sri Lanka 2005.
- The trade balance between Pakistan and Sri Lanka has remained in favor of Pakistan.
- Under Ministry of Commerce, two forums exist to enhance mutual trade interests between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, where the two countries frequently engage in discussions on enhancing trade:
 - Commerce Secretary Level Talks; and
 - Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade, Investment, and Auto Sector.

- The most recent JWG meeting took place on December 15, 2023, during which both sides agreed to expedite the resolution of outstanding technical issues to enhance trade.
- In 2021-22, Pakistan's exports reached an all-time high of US\$ 392.57 million.
- In 2016, 2017 and 2018, Pakistan held three Single Country Exhibitions. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan is considering a proposal to hold 4th Single Country Exhibition in Colombo.

Nepal:

- There are challenges to smooth trade flow between the two countries as Nepal is a landlocked country and land access is possible only through Indian territory. This limited connectivity results in very high transportation costs.
- Pakistan and Nepal are members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- Both countries already have preferential market access under the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA).
- The bilateral trade volume between the two countries in 2021-22 was US\$ 6.71 million.

Annex-I

VOLUME OF TRADE WITH SRI LANKA AND NEPAL

Sri Lanka:

The volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka since 2013-14 is given hereunder:-

| Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade with Sri Lanka | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Years | Exports | Imports | Total trade | Blance |
| | | | | Million \$ |
| 2013-14 | 260.239 | 61.933 | 322.172 | (+) 198.306 |
| 2014-15 | 266.907 | 57.795 | 324.702 | (+) 209.112 |
| 2015-16 | 247.11 | -74.60 | 321.71 | (+) 172.51 |
| 2016-17 | 249.40 | 102.34 | 351.74 | (+)147.06 |
| 2017-18 | 289.66 | 67.31 | 356.97 | (+)222.35 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|-----------|
| 2018-19 | 316.36 | 59.98 | 376.34 | (+)256.38 |
| 2019-20 | 300.98 | 59.2 | 360.18 | (+)241.78 |
| 2020-21 | 275.08 | 79.62 | 354.7 | (+)195.46 |
| 2021-22 | 392.57 | 75.96 | 468.53 | (+)316.61 |
| Source: TDAS | | | | |

Nepal:

The volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Nepal since 2013-14 is given hereunder:

| Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade with Nepal | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Years | Exports | Imports | Total trade | Blance |
| Million \$ | | | | |
| 2013-14 | 0.69 | 0.80 | 1.49 | (-)0.11 |
| 2014-15 | 2.38 | 0.74 | 3.12 | (+)1.64 |
| 2015-16 | 0.76 | 0.65 | 1.40 | (+)0.11 |
| 2016-17 | 0.72 | 1.91 | 2.63 | (-)1.19 |
| 2017-18 | 2.78 | 0.40 | 3.18 | (+)2.37 |
| 2018-19 | 0.96 | 0.51 | 1.47 | (+)0.46 |
| 2019-20 | 20.77 | 0.54 | 21.31 | (+)20.23 |
| 2020-21 | 3.85 | 2.57 | 6.42 | (+)1.28 |
| 2021-22 | 4.08 | 2.63 | 6.71 | (+)1.45 |
| Source: TDAS | | | | |

241. ***MR. SALAHUDDIN:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

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

- (a) *the details of the defaulters with outstanding dues to Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL), National Bank of Pakistan and other public sector financial institutions since 2010; and*
- (b) *the details of action taken against the responsible superior functionaries against their involvement and negligence committed by them?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) The detail of the defaulters with outstanding dues to ZTBL since 2010 to 31-05-2023 is at Annex-I and that of NBP is at Annex-II.

(b) **ZTBL**

The financing for agriculture purposes is extended as per defined policies and procedures and against collaterals/tangible assets, after completing all codal Formalities. Default of loans and their recovery is an ongoing process where new cases keep pouring in while the old ones are dealt with The Bank, however, takes action against bank officials where officer(s) are willfully involved in any of the irregularity in loan proposals and are proceeded against under disciplinary proceedings.

NBP

NBP has a strict Employee Disciplinary Policy which provides for disciplinary action to be taken against any employee involved in any kind of wrong doing, fraud or other illegal or unethical practices. NBP endeavours to ensure that enquiries are undertaken and actions taken as disciplinary proceedings against the Bank's officers where so required to deal with alleged fraud etc., from time to time. This remains an ongoing process of the bank.

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

242. ***Mr. Ghous Bux Khan Mahar:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

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

- (a) details of the structural reforms that are being endorsed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in ongoing discussions with the fund by the country;*
- (b) what changes will follow such structural reforms and how they will affect the lives of the common man;*
- (c) how will such reforms be beneficial, particularly, to the common man;*
- (d) whether it is a fact that such so-called structural reforms in the past have not yielded the desired results and ultimately such approval from the IMF becomes a financial burden for the common man;*

- (e) *if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (f) *what will this time be different from the past experience to make this program beneficial for the common man?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) The Government of Pakistan has agreed to increase taxes, reduce the flow of circular debt, increase energy prices and petroleum development levy, remove energy subsidies, increase budgetary allocation for BISP and undertake structural reforms in governance, fiscal and monetary sectors.

(b) The IMF Program conditionality such as increasing electricity and gas rates, imposing additional taxes, hiking policy rates and others, increase inflation and affect the well being of the citizens, in particular the most vulnerable. But the implementation of these adjustments was necessary to reduce fiscal and external pressures and create a sustainable growth path for the economy. Had these actions not been taken, the economic condition would have become more challenging for all segments of society in the coming days. The adjustments made under the program ensure that the country's economy remains on the path of stability and growth and are, therefore, in the country's interest.

(c) Same as above.

(d) The enormity and complexity of the economic and structural issues faced by Pakistan require time as well as financial and technical assistance of other International Financial Institutions, Multilateral Development Banks, friendly countries etc., to strengthen Pakistan's macroeconomic resilience and achieve sustainable growth. As the reform agenda has usually not remained consistent, therefore, they have not resulted in desired results. However, the present Government has taken policy decisions that are focused on putting Pakistan on the path of sustainable and inclusive growth and to reduce the need for external financial assistance.

(e) Same as above.

(f) Same as above.

243. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that sales tax, being charged on petrol and diesel, is the highest in the history of Pakistan; if so, the reasons thereof?

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): In order to provide relief to common man in the wake of international increase in prices resulting in high inflation in Pakistan, Federal Government has kept sales tax on supply of petrol and diesel at zero-percent.

In this regard SRO 321(I)/2022 dated 01st March, 2022 was issued and same is still in field which provides that no sales tax is to be charged on supply of petrol and diesel.

Above SRO is enclosed as ready reference.

Annexure

**Government of Pakistan
Revenue Division
Federal Board of Revenue**

Islamabad, the 1st March, 2022.

Notification
(Sales Tax)

S.R.O. 321(I)/2022.—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, the Federal Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made *w.e.f.* 1st February, 2022, in its Notification No. S.R.O. 57(I)/2016, dated the 29th January, 2016, namely:—

2. In the aforesaid Notification, for the existing table, the following shall be substituted, namely: —

“Table

| S. No. | Description | PCT heading | Rate |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| 1 | MS (Petrol) | 2710.1210 | 0.00% |
| 2 | High Speed Diesel Oil | 2710.1931 | 0.00% |
| 3 | Kerosene | 2710.1911 | 0.00% |
| 4 | Light Diesel Oil | 2710.1921 | 0.00% |

[C. No. 1/42-STB/2012.

245. ***Mr. Salahuddin:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

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

- (a) *the details of the interest policy of the Government and interest rates during the current financial year; and*
- (b) *whether the Government intends to increase interest rates in future?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a)

- **As outlined in the SBP Act (Amended in 2021), the primary responsibility of the SBP is to ensure price stability and to carry out this responsibility the SBP Act also authorizes an independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to set interest rates in the economy.** Currently, MPC meets eight times a year to review the evolving macroeconomic developments particularly having implications for future inflation path and to accordingly set the interest rate that it deems appropriate in achieving its objectives. While deciding the interest rate policy, the MPC looks at the trends and outlook of a range of global and domestic economic variables. Nevertheless, the prime consideration is the inflation outlook *vis-a-vis* its target. The other important consideration is to promote sustainable growth.

- **During FY23 so far, the MPC has raised the policy by 725 bps to reduce inflationary pressures and anchor inflation expectations.** The inflationary pressures were emanating from multiple domestic and global supply shocks, exchange rate depreciation, increase in administrative prices and reversal of subsidies, flood related devastation and the consequent rise in food inflation. MPC were of the view that in order to keep inflation expectations anchored and achieve price stability, interest rates should increase.

Interest Rate During FY23 so far

| MPC Meeting | Interest Rate % | Increase (bps) |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jul-22 | 15 | 125 |
| Aug-22 | 15 | 0 |
| Oct-22 | 15 | 0 |
| Nov-22 | 16 | 100 |
| Jan-23 | 17 | 100 |
| Mar-23 | 20 | 300 |
| Apr-23 | 21 | 100 |

(b)

- **The future course of monetary policy/interest rates depends on the prevailing economic conditions and their outlook,** especially the inflation outlook *vis-a-vis* its target and evolving trends in other macroeconomic variables having implications for inflation and its expectations.
- **The MPC thoroughly analyses unfolding economic developments and takes appropriate action required to achieve the objective of price stability.** In other words, the future course of monetary policy decisions will be dependent on macroeconomic fundamentals and data outturns, especially expected inflation.

246. ***Jam Abdul Karim Bijar:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the concerned authorities have taken notice of the fact that Naib Qasids were appointed by the Directorate General, Internal Audit, Islamabad vide Office Order No. C.No. 3(39)/2011-Admn/692, dated January 31, 2023 for its subordinated offices across the country;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that monthly salary has not been paid to such Naib Qasids despite the fact that they have joined their respective place of postings from the date of their appointment;*
- (c) *if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (d) *whether the concerned authorities have also taken notice of a fact that the responsible person either of the recruiting agency or Accountant General Pakistan Revenue (AGPR) in particular Sukkur Office are deliberately evading payment of salary under one pretext or the other;*
- (e) *if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (f) *what corrective measures are being taken by the Government to hold the responsible accountable for such failure and ensure payment of salaries to the said employees as soon as possible?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) Yes. The Directorate General of Internal Audit (IR) Islamabad; after prior NOC from the Establishment Division, appointed officials in BS-01 to BS-15 against the 57 vacant posts including Naib Qasids at the Directorate General of Internal Audit (IR), Islamabad and its subordinate offices (Copy of advertisement as **Annex-A**).

(b) **Finance Division**

Eight (08) cases of Naib Qasids, appointed *vide* Office Order No.3(39)/2011-Admn/69, dated 31-01-2023, of Directorate General, Internal Audit, were received in the Office of AGPR in February, 2023, which were processed and salaries are being disbursed to them regularly.

Federal Board of Revenue

No. All Naid Qasids who joined their respective places of posting are drawing salaries from the date of their appointment according to their basic pay scales.

(c) Nil.

(d) **Finance Division**

Office of DAO, Sukkur, Sindh has informed O/o Controller General of Accounts (**Annex-B**), that they had received the letter No. C.No.3(39)/2011-Admn/938, Islamabad, dated 04-04-2023, confirming the appointment by Directorate General, Internal Audit (**Annex-C**). After receipt of the confirmation of appointment letter, DAO, Sukkur released the relevant salaries in the same month *i.e.* April, 2023 (**Annex-D**).

DAO, Sukkur has also submitted the above mentioned facts to the Section Officer (Treasury), Government of Sindh, Finance Department, Karachi (**Annex-E**).

Federal Board of Revenue

The District Accounts Office Sukkur Sindh requested verification of the Appointment letter /office orders of the Naib Qasids/Chokidar *vide* letter No.DAO/DAD/403 dated 31.03.2023 (**Annex-F**) and the Directorate General of Internal Audit (IR) Islamabad *vide* letter No.3(39)/2011-Admn/938 dated 04-04-2023 sent the confirmation of appointment letter/office orders of Naib Qasids/Chowkidar posted in the office of Additional Director Internal Audit (IR) Sukkur (**Annex-G**). The District Accounts Office Sukkur has started the Salary of newly appointed Naib Qasids deputed in the office of Additional Director Internal Audit (IR) Sukkur copies of pay slips are attached as **Annex-H**.

(e) Nil.

(f) As the said employees are being paid regular salary, there is no failure of the Government which may require any corrective measure.

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

247. ***Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

Will the Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Kamyab Jawan Programme, was started in PTI-led Government;*
- (b) whether such programme remained successful or otherwise unsuccessful;*
- (c) whether it was evaluated to know the reasons of its failure; and*
- (d) whether alternative programme is started by incumbent Government; if so, details thereof?*

Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office: (a) Prime Minister's Youth Programme for national youth development was envisioned in 2013 by the then Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Following initiatives were started under the programme:

- i. Prime Minister's Interest-Free Loan Scheme
- ii. Prime Minister's Youth Business Loans Scheme
- iii. Prime Minister's Youth Training Scheme for internships
- iv. Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Scheme
- v. Prime Minister's Scheme for Provision of Laptops
- vi. Prime Minister's Scheme for Reimbursement of Fee of Students from the less developed areas.

The PTI government change the name of the programme to "KamyabJawan Programme" wherein some of the initiatives like business loan scheme and skills development programme were continued whereas the remaining were discontinued.

(b) Since most of the initiatives were discontinued which were essential for youth development, therefore, it raises some questions on the overall effectiveness of the programme. Moreover, the modifications made in the youth business loan scheme by providing 25 million rupees collateralized loans reflects that the government subsidy was not targeted towards those young people who actually deserve to be subsidized.

Under the renamed business loan scheme “Prime Minister’s KamyabJawan Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme” (PMKJYES) during the period 2019 to 2022, an amount of Rs. 51.74 billion was disbursed to 29,977 beneficiaries.

Under the renamed “Skills for All Programme”, 160,000 trainings were given at the cost of 4,843 million rupees.

Some other new initiatives were designed by the PTI led government like KamyabJawan Markaz, Sports Academies and Innovation League, however, these projects were not started.

(c) In “Prime Minister’s KamyabJawan Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme” loan size was increased to 25 million rupees. It is important to note that this loan was collateralized which means that the borrower can secure this loan by furnishing a collateral worth 30 to 40 million rupees as the bank appraise the same on Forced Sale Value basis. It was noted with concern that a borrower who already has such assets should not be entitled to loans on government subsidy.

Similarly, the project “KamyabJawan Markaz” was designed to establish physical spaces in universities but the funds allocated were not sufficient to meet the desired outcomes conceived under the project, besides that the utility and objectives of these spaces were also not clear.

(d) The incumbent government critically reviewed the PMKJ programme and made appropriate changes to make it more focused and targeted towards the youth development.

The business loans scheme was revised by lowering the maximum loan amount to 7.5 million rupees. Agriculture loans including loans for crop production were also introduced under the scheme besides SME loans, particularly to facilitate small farmers whose livelihoods were suffered during the last year’s devastating floods. Under Tier-1 of the

scheme interest free loans up to 0.5 million rupees were introduced to be disbursed through microfinance institutions like Akhuwat, NRSP etc. Under Tier-2, loans up to 1.5 million rupees are being given without any collateral so that young people who want to start a small business but do not have a collateral, can also avail this opportunity. It is worth mentioning that since 2013 to 2022, an amount of Rs. 78.5 million worth loans were disbursed to 56,740 beneficiaries. The current scheme was launched by the honourable Prime Minister on 24th January, 2023 and within less than six months we have been able to disburse Rs. 21.03 billion to 42,151 beneficiaries despite harsh financial situation that speaks volume of the effectiveness and success of the scheme.

The Markaz project was also reviewed and it was decided to go for a Digital Youth Hub by combining all available opportunities for the youth development at a single digital platform and a mobile app. The opportunities were categorized in four core areas namely Education, Employment, Engagement and Environment. The portal will serve as a single platform to provide various scholarship opportunities both nationally and internationally. Similarly, a single integrated National Job Portal will be available at the Hub, connecting job opportunities in public, private as well as overseas market. A

The Green Youth Movement project was also extensively revised. Under the project, the members of the green clubs established in 137 public universities across Pakistan will be given trainings to build their capacity in order to enable them to bring innovative solutions of climate challenges.

The Prime Minister's National Innovation Award was customized to encourage young people between the age of 15 to 30 years to provide innovative solutions around 10 priority thematic areas with the objective to convert these ideas into viable businesses. 100 young people with top innovative ideas will be given financial as well as technical support to enable them to start their businesses.

Last but not the least Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme was again revived and this year we are providing 100,000 laptops to talented university students across Pakistan based on merit. Under the special directive of the honourable Prime Minister, the quota for Balochistan has been doubled. By providing laptops, we are in fact enabling our young people to contribute towards digital economy by earning precious foreign exchange through freelancing and digital businesses like E-commerce.

248. ***Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that a trade agreement has recently been signed between Pakistan and Afghanistan;*
- (b) *if yes, details of the said agreement and the status of its implementation?*

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar): (A) & (B) No trade agreement has recently been signed between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

249. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

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

- (a) *how many micro-credit banks are functional presently in the country;*
- (b) *what is total credit disbursement in the micro finance sector alongwith details of interest rates; and*
- (c) *the details of regulatory framework of this sector?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) Currently, eleven (11) Microfinance Banks (MFBs) are operating in the country including nine (9) MFBs operating nation-wide and two (2) MFBs operating at the provincial level.

(b) The Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) which represents the total outstanding Credit disbursement in the microfinance sector stood at PKR 509.5 billion at the end of first quarter of 2023 Out of total, MFBs GLP stood at PKR 377 billion, while Non-Banking Microfinance Companies` (NBMFCs) GLP remained at PKR 132.5 billion.

Interest rates on various microcredit products general vary from bank to bank. This variation in interest rates mainly depends on the cost of

funds, operational cost, nature of credit products, size and duration of loan, risk profile of customers etc.

(c) Pakistan has a separate legal framework to govern activities of the microfinance Banks (MFBs). The MFBs are Licensed and regulated in Pakistan by the State Bank under the provisions of Microfinance Institutions Ordinance 2001 (MFIO). The MFIO was promulgated in 2001 to encourage private sector led sustainable growth of microfinance in Pakistan. The MFIO is further supplemented with a set of Prudential Regulations (PRs). These PRs laid out a comprehensive set of criteria to regulate MFBs' operations. Cognizant of peculiar dynamics and evolution of microfinance sector, SBP maintains a proportional regulatory approach to promote innovation and stability.

250. ***Mr. Ahmad Hussain Deharr:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state whether Government intends to chalk out Charter of Economy for 10 years in order to eradicate poverty?

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar):

- Yes, the Government intends to chalk out Charter of Economy for 10 years in order to eradicate poverty.
- Present Government generated the debate that there is need to chalk out the Charter of Economy that can outline the framework to undertake the required reforms on which all the political parties and stakeholders must have consensus.
- The Charter will primarily focus on economic fundamentals to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth with ultimate objective to eradicate poverty.

251. ***Mr. Muhammad Abubakar:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *details the current price (market rate) of 19013 acres land of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), Karachi;*
- (b) *the current price of structure of PSM;*
- (c) *the price of iron mines situated in Makli, Jhampir and Kara Kot, from which iron is used in PSM;*
- (d) *whether it is a fact that PSM is being privatized; if so, the procedure thereof to ensure its transparency?*

Minister for Privatization (Mr. Abid Hussain Bhayo): (a), (b) & (c) Questions pertains to Ministry of Industries & Production / PSM and response may kindly be solicited from MOIP/PSM.

(d) Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) is not being privatised.

A new entity wholly owned by Government of Pakistan namely Steel Corp. (Pvt.) Ltd. has been incorporated, which owns the building, plant, equipment and Office Complex spread over 1229 acres of land only which will be leased to Steel Corp (Pvt) Ltd. by PSM. PSM will remain owner of this land. Only Steel Corp is being privatized.

The PSM will continue to operate and function under the administrative supervision of MIOP and will continue to operate and manage its assets including land.

With regards to privatization of Steel Corp, Privatisation Commission (PC) on 31 August 2021 invited Expression of Interest (EOI) from prospective investors for acquisition of majority equity stakes and management control of newly incorporated entity.

In response, PC received interest from eight (08) foreign investors/consortiums/entities of which six (06) parties submitted their Statement of Qualification (SOQ) by due date of 15th December 2021 and PC Board on 20 January 2022 pre-qualified the four Qualified Bidders. Buyer-side due diligence is underway.

The privatisation process of Steel Corp. (Pvt.) Ltd. is being conducted in terms of provisions of the PC Ordinance, 2000 and rules & regulations made thereunder in a competitive and transparent manner.

252. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office be pleased to state the location-wise total number of Economic Zones which will be established under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office: In the 6th Pak-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) meeting held in December 2016, nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were agreed between Pakistan and China to be established under the framework of CPEC Industrial Cooperation (IC). Out of these nine SEZs, one in each province, one each in Gilgit-Baltistan, then FATA and Azad Jammu Kashmir and two SEZs were agreed to be developed by the Federal Government. Location-wise total number of Economic Zones which will be established under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are as under:-

| Ser | Name | Location | Status |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1 | Bostan Special Economic Zone (BSEZ) | Pishin | Approved |
| 2 | Rashakai Special Economic Zone—(RSEZ) | Nowshera | Approved |
| 3 | Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) | Faisalabad | Approved |
| 4 | Dhabeji SEZ [In-Principle] | Thatta | Approved |
| 5 | Moqpondass SEZ | Gilgit Baltistan | In Process |
| 6 | Islamabad Model SEZ | Islamabad | In Process |
| 7 | Mohmand Marble City | KP | In Process |

| Ser | Name | Location | Status |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| 8 | Mirpur SEZ | Mirpur | In Process |
| 9 | Federal SEZ on Pak Steel Mill Land | Karachi | In Process |

253. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

(Transferred from 51st Session).

Will the Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has got the facility of air ambulance at present;*
- (b) if so, the number of such air ambulances, at present, on strength of NDMA;*
- (c) if not, when it will be possible to have such ambulance?*

Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister's Office: (a) As present NDMA does not have any facility of air ambulance. No aviation assets are at NDMA's disposal. The capability of aerial support only exists with armed forces. However, that is not specifically available for disaster management tasks unless requisitioned.

(b) Nil.

(c)

- As per mandate immediate rescue operations fall under Provincial Governments (being a devolved subject). However, in the 5th meeting of National Disaster Management, issue of aviation support to NDMA was raised but could not materialize due to overall economic condition/financial constraint in the country.
- Nevertheless, there is critical need for such central facilities under NDMA for immediate federal intervention/support to acute disasters, which do get beyond provincial control, or in

case of National Emergencies which quickly overwhelm the lower tier capacities.

- Phase-I needs may be of 4 x forest fires / mega spray aircrafts and 4 x air ambulances.

254. ***Mr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

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

- the time-frame for review of the International Monetary Fund (IMFs) Programme which was supposed to be done;*
- whether each review was made as per schedule time-frame;*
- whether it is a fact that aforesaid reviews were not made as per time-frame consequently; the economy of the country badly suffered;*
- if so, the reasons thereof;*
- who was responsible for such delay;*
- whether there is any negative impact of such delay; and*
- what corrective measures are being taken by the Government to fix the matter?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) Pakistan entered the IMF program in July 2019. The agreed time-frame for quarterly reviews was as follows:

- **First Review:** December 6, 2019
- **Second Review:** March 6, 2020
- **Third Review:** June 5, 2020

- **Fourth Review:** September 4, 2020
- **Fifth Review:** March 5, 2021
- **Sixth Review:** September 3, 2021
- **Seventh Review:** March 4, 2022
- **Eighth Review:** September 2, 2022

Later on, in August 2022, the time frame of the IMF program was extended by one year *i.e.* till June 2023 and the following Reviews were added:

- **Ninth Review:** November 3, 2022
- **Tenth Review:** February 3, 2023
- **Eleventh Review:** May 3, 2023

(b) The 1st Review was held as per the schedule.

(c) Yes; the remaining reviews could not be held as per time.

(d) Due to Covid-19, 2nd to 5th Reviews were combined and completed in March 2021. Subsequently, the new time-frame for completion of the 6th Review was June 4, 2021. However, due to prolonged technical discussions, the 6th Review was completed in February 2022. Due to change in government in April 2022, the 7th and 8th Reviews could also not be held as per the new time line (March 4, 2022 and June 3, 2022, respectively) and were completed together in August 2022. Thereafter, the IMF program was extended by one year that is till June 2023. The 9th Review was supposed to be completed by November 9, 2022 but due to catastrophic floods and other reasons, the Review was delayed. The Review mission was held in February 2023 with IMF Board's approval expected soon.

(e) The delay has been for different reasons in different points at time which have been elucidated above.

(f) The delay has caused markets to react negatively affecting the economic situation. The government has been engaged with the IMF team to ensure urgent completion of each review and has taken proactive measures to restore market confidence. As a result new SBA has been signed and USD 1.2 billion approximately have been received by Pakistan.

255. ***Ms. Saira Bano:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *how much amount Pakistan has received so far that was pledged by various countries, as well as by private donors and international financial institutions gathered at the conference in Geneva in January 2023;*
- (b) *whether the amount received was a loan or grant;*
- (c) *whether such pledges are being fulfilled in accordance with the expected framework and time;*
- (d) *if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof; and*
- (e) *the details of further distribution of the received amount?*

Minister for Economic Affairs (Sardar Ayaz Sadiq): (a) The International lenders and governments have announced a total commitment/pledges of US\$ 10953.6 amid recovery for Pakistan during donor conference in Geneva on 9th January, 2023 out of which confirmation of US\$ 73.1 is still awaited.

(b) Out of US\$ 10953.6 million, US\$ 10330.0 million is received as loan and US\$ 550.4 million is grant. Details at (**Annex-I**).

(c), (d) & (e) EAD's mandate is limited to arranging the funds falls under the preview of different stakeholders, which include NDMA, PDMA's, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives and different executing agencies.

Annex-I**Pledges by International Partners****In US\$ Million**

| Sr No. | Country/Entity | Amount Pledged | Loan | Grant |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Multilateral | | | | |
| 1 | World Bank | 2199.94 | 2199.94 | 0 |
| 2 | Asian Development Bank | 1557.28 | 1544 | 13.28 |
| 3 | Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) | 1000 | 1000 | 0 |
| 4 | Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) | 4200 | 4200 | 0 |
| 5 | United Nations | 5.5 | 0 | 5.5 |
| Total (Multilateral) | | 8962.72 | 8943.94 | 18.78 |
| Bilateral | | | | |
| 6 | Australia | 6.6 | 0 | 6.6 |
| 7 | France | 370 | 360 | 10 |
| 8 | European Union | 94.35 | 0 | 94.35 |
| 9 | China | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| 10 | USA | 100 | 0 | 100 |
| 11 | United Kingdom | 11.67 | 0 | 11.67 |
| 12 | Denmark | 3.79 | 0 | 3.79 |
| 13 | Italy | 24.9 | 21.7 | 3.2 |
| 14 | Germany | 91.1 | 0 | 91.1 |
| 15 | KSA | 1000 | 1000 | 0 |
| 16 | Japan | 77 | 4.4 | 72.6 |
| 17 | Norway | 18.12 | 0 | 18.12 |
| 18 | Canada | 18.21 | 0 | 18.21 |
| 19 | Azerbaijan | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total (Bilateral) | | 1917.7 | 1386.1 | 531.64 |

| Sr No. | Country/Entity | Amount Pledged | Loan | Grant |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Details Awaited | | | | |
| 20 | South Korea | 48 | - | - |
| 21 | Qatar | 25 | - | - |
| 22 | Vietnam | 0.1 | - | - |
| Total Details Awaited | | 73.1 | - | - |
| Grand Total* | | 10953.6 | 10330.04 | 550.42 |

*Grand Total= Total Loan + Total Grants + Details Awaited

256. ***Ms. Asiya Azeem:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the value of medicines exported every year from Pakistan;*
- (b) *the value of raw material imported for manufacturing medicines;*
- (c) *the countries to which the medicines are exported; and*
- (d) *the countries from where raw material for medicines is being imported?*

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar): (a) The total Export of Pharmaceutical Sector from Pakistan from July 2022 to April 2023 is UD\$ 282.45 Million, whereas from July 2021 to April 2022, it was US\$ 223.09 Million

(b) Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) is the major component of the raw material imported by pharmaceutical industry. Total import of API from July 2022 to April 2023 is UD\$ 1,225.85 Million (US\$ 1.2 Billion), whereas from July 2021 to April 2022, it was US\$ 1,202.78 Million (US\$ 1.2 Billion). Major imported items categorized under API are:

| Sr # | Description | HS Code | 2021-22 (Jul-Apr) Million US\$ | 2022-23 (July-Apr) Million US\$ |
|------|--|----------|---|--|
| 1 | Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes | 30049099 | 293.57 | 375.80 |
| 2 | Antibiotics | 29419090 | 96.80 | 83.61 |
| 3 | Chemical products and preparations of the chemical or allied industries | 38249999 | 89.51 | 81.51 |
| 4 | Nucleic acids and their salts | 29349990 | 76.70 | 81.45 |
| 5 | Isocyanates | 29291000 | 74.74 | 64.89 |

(c) Major importers of Pharmaceutical Products (medicines) from Pakistan are Afghanistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, France, Kenya, Sudan, Myanmar/Burma.

(d) Pakistan Pharmaceutical Industry imports Raw materials mostly from China, India, United States, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Korea (South), Italy, France, Malaysia.

257. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that several projects of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) are facing shortages of funds and consequently, such projects are either moving at slow pace or have halt at all;*
- (b) *if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *the reason for not granting funds for each project, which were actually required to be granted during the current financial year; and*
- (d) *what steps are being taken by the Government in this regards?*

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary): (a) Due to limited fiscal space, fast moving ongoing projects are provided adequate funds about 70% PSDP resources on priority. Ministries/Divisions/Sponsoring Agencies are empowered to make project-wise releases and appropriation as per requirement of projects within the allocated and authorized funds during the Fiscal Year.

(b) The Ministry wise details indicating respective allocation of funds/authorization and utilization is attached as **Annex-I**.

(c) As stated in part “A” above, Ministries are managing their respective development portfolios within the overall allocated funds while following guidelines/sectoral priorities issued by the Government from time to time.

(d) The following steps/measures have been taken to fast track utilization and timely completion of the projects;

- i. Core national projects are being given priority
- ii. Provincial nature schemes are being discouraged
- iii. Non-performing projects are being reviewed
- iv. Land Acquisition/RoW are being addressed
- v. Project Management Units/Cell instituted in major Ministries/Divisions
- vi. Separate PC-Is for Land Acquisition & Construction
- vii. Delegated financial and administrative powers to Project Directors (PDs)
- viii. Dedicated Project Directors for mega projects
- ix. Incentivized Project Pay Scales for project staff

- x. Three layers of Monitoring System established *i.e.* at Project Director, Ministerial and Planning Commission levels
- xi. Outsourced third party monitoring of projects
- xii. Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for Public Private Partnership (PPP) /Build Operate Transfer (BOT)
- xiii. Regular Training to PDs and project staff by Pakistan Planning & Management Institute (PPMI) of M/o PD&SI

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

258. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government intends to sign a free trade agreement between Iran and Pakistan in future; and*
- (b) whether there is any transit agreement to bring and take trade goods from Iranian territory to Turkey, Azerbaijan and other countries; if so, the details thereof?*

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar): (a) Four rounds of negotiation on Pakistan-Iran Free Trade Agreement (FTA) were held between 2017 and 2019. The 4th round of negotiations was held in Islamabad so it is Iran's turn to host the next round. Government of Pakistan intends to sign FTA between Pakistan and Iran, which has also been announced by the Prime Minister of Pakistan during a recent visit to jointly inaugurate Mand-Pishin Border Sustenance' Market Place with President of Iran.

(b) There is no Transit Trade Agreement between Iran and Pakistan to bring and take goods from Iranian territory to Turkiye, Azerbaijan and other countries. However, there is an Agreement on International Transport of Passengers and Goods by Road signed in 2008 with Iran, which can be explained by Ministry of Communications.

259. ***Ms. Shakila Luqman:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the steps being taken by the Government to increase the trade with Asian countries; and*
- (b) *the details of trade made with Asian countries during the last three years to till date?*

Minister for Commerce (Syed Naveed Qamar): (a) The steps being taken by the Government to increase the trade with Asian Countries, region wise, are detailed below:

➤ **China**

- Pakistan has signed a Free Trade Agreement (China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement CPFTA) with China. The Phase-II of CPFTA is operational *w.e.f.* 01-01-2020 wherein more than 90% of Pakistan's exports to China (in terms of volume) are covered under the CPFTA.
- The Ministry of Commerce in consultation with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan launched an awareness campaign for the unutilized tariff lines for exports under CPFTA-II. Pakistan participated in renowned exhibitions in China such as China-ASEAN Expo and China International Import Expo. A delegation of around 88 Chinese businessmen participated in TEXPO held on 26th to 28th May, 2023.
- Ministry of Commerce-China and Ministry of Commerce-Pakistan have established a Joint Working Group on Trade, Investment and E-Commerce. The first virtual meeting of the JWG was held on 1st September, 2022.
- In order to boost Pakistan's exports in the Chinese market, through utilizing leading Chinese e-Commerce platforms, the Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan finalized an MoU on e-Commerce Cooperation with the Chinese Ministry of

Commerce, which was signed during visit of the Prime Minister to China in November, 2022.

- With the support of Ministry of Commerce, China, online country pavilions on famous E-commerce platforms including JD.com and Douying (tik tok) have been established. This Ministry through its trade missions in China is facilitating contacts between operators of these platforms and Pakistani exporters.
- After continuous engagement for last many years, China has allowed the import of cherries from Pakistan *w.e.f.* 15th November, 2022. Process for enabling market access for many Agri-products such as dry chili, dairy, poultry meat, mutton, etc. is in the pipeline. In the recent financial year (2021-22), the overall exports to China have increased by 32.6% to USD 3.06 Billion from USD 2.33 Billion in the corresponding period of previous year. Details of steps taken by the Ministry are as follows:

➤ **South Asia & East Asia**

- In the financial year 2021-22, the overall exports to South Asia & East Asia witnessed an increase of 44.8% and 38.5% respectively compared to last year. Key initiatives/projects undertaken to increase trade with the region are as under:
- The Ministry of Commerce engaged with Indonesia to review the existing Preferential Trade Agreement with Indonesia (IP-PTA) to make it equally favorable for Pakistan. As a result of successful negotiations, Indonesia agreed to grant unilateral concession on 20 tariff lines of Pakistan's export interest which became operational on 1st March, 2019.
- Two meetings of the Joint Negotiation Committee between Pakistan and Indonesia have also been held in August, 2019 and April 2021 to explore the possibilities for expansion of the existing Preferential Trade Agreement into a Free Trade Agreement:

- MoU on establishment of a Joint Trade Committee with Indonesia has been submitted to the Cabinet for approval.
- A quota of 600 MT Basmati rice is allocated to Pakistan under Pakistan Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA). Initially, only two varieties were allowed under the FTA, however, in December 2019, 3 new varieties of Basmati rice have been added to the list of quota as a result of trade diplomacy efforts of Ministry of Commerce.
- The first meeting of the Monitoring Committee, established in 2019 between the two countries as cross institutional mechanism to resolve issues faced by the business community of both sides, was held on 26th November 2020 wherein both sides shared the willingness to promote discussions to facilitate and further strengthen bilateral trade and address issues faced by businesses.
- The 7th Session of the Secretary Level Talks between Pakistan Sri Lanka was held on 18th February, 2021 wherein the issues of bilateral interest were discussed in detail and it was decided to re-activate the forum of Joint Working Group (JWG) lying dormant since 2014. The second meeting of this JWG was held in May 2021 and the third meeting was held in December 2022 wherein technical details of outstanding issues were worked out.
- First High-level contact between Pakistan and Japan was established after 8 years and 7th Session of Japan-Pakistan Joint Dialogue was held in September 2022. Japanese side was led by its Parliamentary Vice Minister.
- The 9th Session of Pakistan-Australia Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held on 16th March 2023, at the Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad after four years. Both sides discussed matters of bilateral trade and mutual importance. Matters pertaining to market access, rights related intellectual property rights especially with regard to Pakistan rice exports, import procedures in agricultural, Information Technology and Trade promotion were also discussed.

- Ministry of Commerce is also working on the “1st Pak-ASEAN Trade Development Conference & Single Country Exhibition”, an initiative being undertaken for market diversification. The objective of the initiative is to diversify Pakistan’s export basket to the ASEAN countries, increase B2B linkages, create awareness about our products and explore new avenues to enhance trade and investment relations with ASEAN as a bloc and also with the countries. To this end, the First Pakistan-ASEAN Trade Development Conference (PATDC) and a Pakistan Single Country Exhibition (PSCE) is being organized at Jakarta (Indonesia) tentatively in first half of 2. It will be a major initiative to bring together the public and private stakeholders at one place to explore the opportunities of enhancing trade potential between Pakistan and ASEAN member states.
- As a result of trade diplomacy efforts of Ministry of Commerce, Philippines has removed the duty on rice exports from Pakistan at par with ASEAN for the second year running.
- As a result of an active follow up, the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), Malaysia and the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) have approved certification of two Pakistani companies, namely, Fauji Meat Limited and Abedin.
- International Private Limited in October, 2022 for export of meat from Pakistan to Malaysia which is a breakthrough as Malaysia is lucrative market for export of halal meat.

➤ Middle East Region:

In the current financial year, the overall exports to Middle East increased by 26% to USD 2.58 Billion from USD 2.05 Billion last year. Details of steps taken by the Ministry are as follows:

- Ministry of Commerce has close Economic Cooperation with GCC countries and has Trade & Investment Sections in Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia and through these Trade Sections, regular trade and investment promotion activities are

undertaken in GCC. Moreover, Ministry of Commerce has established Joint Working Groups on trade with Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Syria.

- Pakistan and Gulf Cooperation Council, consisting of six-member states, KSA, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman held 3rd round of FTA Negotiations from 30th May-2nd June 2022. Free Trade Agreement covers trade in goods, services and investment. The 4th round is scheduled in Sept 2022.
- In order to enhance trade with the non-GCC members in the Middle East, Ministry of Commerce has established Commercial Section in Jordan, in 2020.

➤ Central Asian Region:

- In the current financial year, the overall exports to Central Asian Republics increased by 64% to USD 239 million from USD 145 Million last year. Ministry of Commerce is working on a policy to enhance connectivity with Central Asia, Afghanistan and Iran. In this regard, following measures have been taken by the Ministry to enhance economic cooperation.
- Pakistan and Afghanistan have finalized Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA 2021) which will ensure free movement of trucks between the two countries.
- Agreement between Uzbekistan and Pakistan on Transit Trade was signed on 15th July, 2021. The agreement provides free movement of trucks between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The transit trade agreements are also being negotiated with Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.
- Pak-Uzbekistan Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was signed on 3rd March, 2022. The Agreement provides preferential access of products of one country in the market of the other, by eradicating trade barriers.
- PTA is also being negotiated with Azerbaijan.

- Pakistan has also established Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Trade with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. The JWGs help to ensure economic cooperation by holding business forums, exhibitions, seminars and eradicating technical barriers to trade by harmonizing standards.
- Pakistan and Iran have established a framework of Joint Trade Committee, under which economic cooperation in the fields of trade, banking, customs are agreed.
- Pakistan has also signed customs and banking cooperation agreements with Uzbekistan, Iran and Afghanistan.
- Pakistan is also negotiating Mutual Recognition Agreements with Central Asian Republics on SPS and technical standards.
- Pakistan is negotiating Transit Trade Agreements (TTA) with Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Krygyz Republic.
- TTA with Tajikistan was signed in Dec 2022.

Trade Promotional Activities

- **Participation in Exhibitions/Trade Fairs in China:**

Pakistan participated in renowned exhibitions in China such as China-ASEAN Expo and China International Import Expo. The Hon'ble President of Pakistan also delivered an online recorded speech on the opening of 18th Session of China-ASEAN Expo held in September, 2021.

- **First Trade and Investment Conference in Sri Lanka:**

The Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Sri Lanka on 24th February, 2021 and as a sideline event to the visit of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Commerce organized a first ever Trade and Investment Conference in Colombo. The Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka graced the event with their presence. The conference was also attended by the top dignitaries from both sides including the

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Pakistan and the Sri Lankan Trade Minister. The conference aimed at promoting the trade and investment interests of both trading partners. It was a step forward towards further cementing the bilateral ties between the two countries.

- An MoU was also signed between the Investment Promotion agencies of the two countries during the visit.
- **Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Forum 2021:**

1st Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Forum was held on 15-17th July, 2021 at Tashkent. More than 2000 business meetings took place during the forum and approximate US\$ 50 million agreements/deals were signed. 14 MOUs were also signed during the business forum.
- **Pakistan-Tajikistan Business Forum 2021:**

Pak-Tajikistan Business Forum was held on 16th September, 2021 at Dushanbe. B2B meetings for 67 Pakistani companies from diverse sectors of pharmaceutical, textile, logistics, fruits & vegetables, mining etc. were organized with Tajik companies. More than 150 Tajik companies participated in the B2B meetings. Eight (8) Agreements/MoUs signed during the Prime Minister's visit to Tajikistan, several MoUs/contracts were signed and exchanged between business delegates from Pakistan and Tajikistan during the business forum.
- **2nd Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Forum 2022:**

The 2nd Pakistan-Uzbekistan Business Forum was organized on 2nd March 2022 at Islamabad in which 46 Uzbek Companies and 150 Pakistani companies participated and B2B meetings were held and at least six MOUs signed.
- **Pak-Kyrgyzstan Trade and Investment Forum:**

Pak-Kyrgyzstan Trade and Investment Forum was held from 19-20 April 2022 in Islamabad and 22nd April in Lahore.

During the Business Forums the business communities of the two countries have B2B meetings. Pakistani government bodies like State Bank of Pakistan, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Board of Investment etc. gave presentation regarding trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan. Around 50 businessmen from Kyrgyzstan attended these forums.

- **Made in Pakistan 2022 Trade Exhibition, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

Pakistan Regional Integration Economic Agency (PRIEA) in coordination with Ministry of Commerce organized ‘Made in Pakistan 2022’ Trade Exhibition from May 19 — 23, 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in order to enhance trade and promote regional connectivity with Central Asian Republics. Sixty (60) Pakistani companies, from various sectors, participated in the Exhibition, with total number of business delegates amounting to one hundred and five (105). Pakistani exhibitors from Pharmaceuticals, textiles and food sector received positive response.

- **Pakistan’s participation in Expo-2020, Dubai**

Pakistan participated in Expo 2020 from 1st October, 2021 to 31st March, 2022. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) was the Responsible National Agency (RNA) for the management of Pakistan’s participation in Expo-2020. Pakistan Pavilion was rated among top-15 National Pavilions in Expo 2020 by CNN. At the end of the Expo, International jury was invited to select the best pavilions among 192 pavilions and Pakistan Pavilion was given Silver Award, which is a huge achievement. Over a million people visited Pakistan pavilion during the Expo.

(b) Details of trade with major Asian Countries is enclosed as **Annex-I**.

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

260. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Federal Sharia Court gave the decision against the interest system during the year 2022 (26th Ramzan);*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the State Bank of Pakistan was advised to eradicate the interest from 31st, December, 2022;*
- (c) *if the answers to part (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, the steps taken or being taken for elimination of interest system previously from 31st December, 2022 so far?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) Response:

It is correct that the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) announced its judgment relating to Riba case on April 28, 2022 (26th Ramzan 1443 Hijri).

(b) In its judgment, FSC has given number of directions pertaining to deletion of word “interest” from various laws, necessary legislative amendments and finally concluded to convert economy of Pakistan into equitable, asset based, risk sharing and interest-free by 31st December, 2027.

(c) State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Government of Pakistan remain committed in promoting Islamic banking and finance in the country and eliminating Riba from the economy. In this regard, the federal government has constituted a high-level Steering Committee for providing strategic guidance regarding implementation of FSC’s judgment on Riba under the patronage of Minister for Finance and Revenue, and Chairmanship of the Governor, SBP.

Under the Steering Committee (SC), SBP has formed a committee for transformation of conventional banking into Islamic banking, comprising of SBP senior executives and presidents/CEOs of commercial banks. Under the committee for transformation, various working groups are engaged in diverse areas like legal reforms; regulatory & supervisory reforms; awareness creation & capacity building; review of conversion plans of banks; fast track adoption of international standards and coordination with government and other stakeholders for developing Shariah compliant Sukuk structures to address market needs. These

working groups will provide policy and operational recommendations in their respective areas to ensure transformation of conventional banking system into Shariah compliant banking.

261. ***Mr. Ahmad Hussain Deharr:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state whether Government intends to allocate quota separately for the South Punjab in National Finance Commission (NFC) Award as the South Punjab Secretariat has come into being; if not, the reasons thereof?

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): Article 160 of the Constitution *inter-alia* provides legal framework for fiscal relationship between the Federation and the Provinces. As per Clause 2(a) of Article 1 of the Constitution the provinces include Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh (Copy enclosed). South Punjab is part of Province of the Punjab, therefore, cannot be considered for NFC share separately. Moreover, 7th NFC Award, promulgated in the year 2010, is still in the field and shall remain valid till announcement of new Award.

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

10. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

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

- (a) the total amount of loans borrowed from International Monetary Fund (IMF) during the tenure of present Government till date; and*
- (b) details of the terms and conditions under which the said loan was borrowed?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) Government of Pakistan entered into the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) on 3rd July 2019. EFF was to expire on 30th September 2022, but during the tenure of the present Government, it was extended for another one (01) year *i.e.* till 30th June 2023. USD 1.1 billion were disbursed after the completion of 7th and 8th reviews in August 2022, bringing the total disbursements under the EFF to USD 3.9 billion.

Recently, on 12th July 2023, the Government entered into a nine-month (09) Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) of USD 3 billion, of which USD 1.2 billion has already been disbursed.

(b) The economic reform agenda adopted by the Government for EFF program in July 2019 was to address structural imbalances in the economy for sustainable and inclusive growth in the future. The reform measures aimed to improve (i) fiscal discipline; (ii) debt sustainability; (iii) tax base and revenue generation; (iv) cost recovery in energy sector through timely tariff adjustments and rationalization of subsidies; (v) performance of state owned enterprises (SOEs), and (vi) the effectiveness of AML/CFT regime;

The SBA builds on the progress of the EFF program and includes (i) improving public finance management through prudent spending and broadening of tax base; (ii) strengthening the viability of the energy sector; (iii) improving debt sustainability; (iv) improving SOE governance; (v) increasing social protection through increased budgetary allocations under BISP; (vi) introducing monetary and financial reforms such as returning to a market-determined exchange rate, targeting inflation, and rebuilding foreign exchange reserves; and (vii) strengthening the public investment management framework, including climate change related investment.

@11. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

(Transferred from 51st Session).

Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of loans borrowed from America during the tenure of present Government till date; and*
- (b) details of the terms and conditions under which the said loan was borrowed?*

Minister for Economic Affairs (Sardar Ayaz Sadiq): EAD has not acquired any loans from the United States of America, during the tenure of the present Government.

@ Transferred from Finance and Revenue Division

ISLAMABAD:
The 30th July, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

(4th Group, 52nd Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Monday, the 31st July, 2023

52. **Mr. Salahuddin:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that conveyance allowance an amount of Rs.6,000/- (six thousand) per month have been given to the disabled Government employees of province of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK);*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that Federal Government has allowed only Rs.2,000/- per month such allowance for Federal Government employees;*
- (c) *if so, why Federal Government employees are not allowed the said allowance at the rate of Rs.6,000/-; and*
- (d) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to fix the same allowance equal to provinces level rate; if so, when it will be implemented?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar) : (a) Federal Government does not fix the rate of conveyance allowance for provinces. However, Notifications obtained from websites intimate that conveyance allowance @ **Rs. 6000/-** per month is admissible to the disabled Government employees of the Punjab *vide* notification dated 25th October 2022 (**Annex-I**), whereas in case of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, this allowance is **Rs. 3000/-** per month as per notification dated 30-11-2018 (**Annex-II**).

(b) The rate of conveyance allowance admissible to Federal Government disabled employees was **Rs.2000/-** per month. Now it has been enhanced to **Rs. 4000/-** per month *w.e.f* 01-07-2023 as per recommendations of Pay & Pension Commission.

(c) As recommended by Pay & Pension Commission, Federal Government has increased this allowance by 100 % during the current Budget 2023-24.

(d) No.

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

53. **Mr. Salahuddin:**
(Transferred from 51st Session).

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

- (a) the details of the taxes/duties paid by the private doctors and public sector doctors on their private practices;*
- (b) mention the names of private hospitals, clinics, laboratories established in Islamabad who have not yet paid tax during the last three years;*
- (c) if so, the reasons thereof and the details of any action initiated against those defaulters?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar) : (a) It is stated that 155 private doctors have paid Rs. 41.101 Million Taxes/duties on their private practice and 392 public sector doctors have paid Rs. 8.648 Million Taxes/duties on their private practice, in the jurisdiction of Islamabad, during tax year 2022.

(b) It is stated that 102 private hospitals/clinics/ laboratories located in Islamabad have not paid tax during the last three year.

(c) It is stated that notices under Section 114(4) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 have been issued for enforcement of tax declarations and payment of taxes thereof.

@54 Disallowed on re-consideration.

@55 Disallowed on re-consideration.

56. **Mr. Ahmad Hussain Deharr:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

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

- (a) *whether Government intends to increase the minimum wage of labour in new budget; and*
- (b) *whether the Government intends to increase it from Rs.25,000/- to Rs.35,000/- which is extremely necessary due to current inflation rate?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) Yes, Government has already increased the minimum wage of labor in new budget.

(b) No, instead, Government has increased it from Rs. 25000/- to Rs. 32,000/-.

57. **Jam Abdul Karim Bijar:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*).

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Division's Office Memorandum dated 15-01-2016 had ruled that the act of an agency i.e. Ministry, Division and Department of the Federal Government to challenge the decision of Wafaqi Mohtasib after its affirmation by the President is not legally in order; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the Cabinet Division has duly informed the office of the FBR regarding the instructions contained in the above said Office Memorandum and the FBR is bound to follow the said instructions;*
- (c) *if so, why the Office of FBR has illegally challenged, the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib and which is finally affirmed by the President, before Islamabad High Court through Writ Petition No. 1510 of 2023; and*

(d) *the reasons for challenging the final order by Wafaqi Mohtasib, affirmed by the President as well?*

Minister for Finance and Revenue (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar): (a) Yes.

(b) As the Cabinet Division's O.M. No. 1/12/2003-Imp-II dated 15-01-2016 addressed to all Secretaries / Additional Secretaries Incharge of the Ministries/ Divisions, therefore, Revenue Division / FBR is bound to follow these instructions.

(c) The aforesaid instructions of Cabinet Division are not applicable in the specific case wherein Writ Petition No. 1510 of 2023 has been filed by the FBR. In the instant case, the Hon'ble Wafaqi Mohtasib in its Final/Revised Findings dated 24-11-2022 had rejected the petition filed by the complainant and upheld the view point of FBR. It was the complainant (not FBR), who challenged the aforesaid findings of the Hon'ble Wafaqi Mohtasib before the Hon'ble President of Pakistan. The Hon'ble President of Pakistan *vide* order dated 03-02-2023 directed the FBR to reconsider the appointment of the complainant against the post of Assistant (BS-15), which was duly implemented through a detailed self-speaking order dated 24-03-2023 under intimation to the complainant and Hon'ble President of Pakistan. However, during implementation hearing held on 05-04-2023, 13-04-2023 and 02-05-2023, the Deputy Advisor (Implementation), Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat, Islamabad verbally directed the officers of FBR, who attended the hearing, either to appoint the complainant or to file a Writ Petition before Hon'ble Islamabad High Court under Article 199 of Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973. Accordingly, Writ Petition No. 1510 of 2023 has been filed before the Hon'ble Islamabad High Court, Islamabad, which has also been admitted for regular hearing directing FBR "to maintain status-quo" *vide* interim order dated 10-05-2023. The case is sub-judice before the Hon'ble court.

(d) As already explained at (c) above.

ISLAMABAD:
The 30th July, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.