

(6th 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

Friday, the 4th August, 2023

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

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Government to specifically focus on those policies which have resulted in high cost of imports of Pakistan's energy products that has affected the trade balance which is further worsening and pushing the current situation of account deficit dangerously high?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)
(Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): There are no such policies which may affect the cost of imported Petroleum Products as the Prices of Petroleum products are determined based on international prices as per approved formula by the Government.

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

Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state the details of either pursuing or defending issues, complaints, representations and matters for and against Pakistan relating to human rights before any official/Non-Governmental Originations (NGOs), or forum in Pakistan and international levels during the last three years?

Minister for Human Rights (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada):
 Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) defends issues, complaints and related matters on human rights through Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The

concerns are usually conveyed by United Nations, EU, and USA State Department. Some INGOs such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch also share their concerns against the state of Pakistan on human rights issues. Such concerns include freedom of expression, custodial torture, extra judicial killings, enforced disappearance, protection of minorities, women rights and child rights etc. Accordingly, the MoHR submits its responses through Ministry of Foreign Affairs as per given mandate under rules of business. Additionally, various UN treaty bodies communicate their observations/ recommendations as a result of review of obligatory reports submitted by Pakistan on ratified human rights conventions.

2. Besides, the Universal Periodic Review Report of Pakistan that provides a holistic overview of human rights situation, is also presented in Human Rights Council after every 4 years. Pakistan has recently defended/ presented its fourth Universal Periodic Review report in Human Rights Council on 30 January 2023. During review of Pakistan's Human Rights record, concerns shown by various states on the human rights issues, were vehemently defended by a high-level delegation of Pakistan comprising Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Secretary Ministry of Human Rights, and representatives from Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Religious Affairs. Additionally, Government of Pakistan, submits Periodic Reports on ratified human rights conventions and optional protocols through MoFA and defended before relevant treaty bodies.

3. Lastly, Pakistan being the GSP + beneficiary regularly submits biannual implementation reports on 27 Conventions related to human rights, labour, environment, anti-narcotics and good governance to European Union through Ministry of Commerce. European Union Parliament also communicate their concerns regarding human rights issues. During last three years, they also have communicated above mentioned issues along with few individual cases which were responded in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

290. ***Mr. Muhammad Jamal-Ud-Din:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*)

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

- (a) *the date & the deadline for the completion of Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline at Pakistan side;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that the Government will have to pay a fine of Rs.18 billion for failing to comply with contract/MOU of the Project;*
- (c) *whether it is further a fact that other neighboring countries have been directly enhancing trade-relations despite UNSC's;*
- (d) *if the answer to part (b) above is in affirmative, the reasons, justifications for delaying the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project?*

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)
(Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) The Iran Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project is stalled due to international sanctions on Iran. The project activities will begin once sanctions on Iran are removed and there is no threat that State Owned Entities would be hit by sanctions. Given that, no date and deadline can be given for the completion of the Iran Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project.

(b) Pakistan has issued a Force Majeure and Excusing Event notice to Iran under the Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement (GSPA), which resultantly suspends Pakistan's obligations under the GSPA. Iran, however, disputes the validity of the Force Majeure and Excusing Event notice under the GSPA. The matter will be finally settled through arbitration, should Iran takes this matter to arbitration. The exact amount of penalty, if any, is subject to the outcome of the arbitration to be determined by the arbitrators.

(c) The trade-enhancement related matter falls within the domain of Commerce Division. Petroleum Division is not aware of neighboring countries enhancing their trade-relations with Iran despite prevalent sanctions on Iran.

(d) Despite being fully committed to its contractual obligations under the GSPA, the Government of Pakistan has been unable to start construction of the pipeline due to US sanctions on Iran. The Government of Pakistan is engaged with the US authorities, through diplomatic channels, to seek exemption for the Project. All necessary actions are being taken to construct the gas pipeline at the earliest.

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

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

- (a) *the procedure for appointment of members of Board of Governor of Pakistan Standard and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) including the detail of their numbers, qualification and tenure;*
- (b) *details of the decisions taken by the BOG during the last two years; and*
- (c) *the detail of officers presently working in PSQCA on deputation basis?*

Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Agha Hassan Baloch): (a) As per the Section 5 of Act of PSQCA, the constitution of members of Board of PSQCA is as under:—

1	Minister for S&T, Govt. of Pakistan	Chairman
2	Director General of the Authority	Vice-Chairman
3	A representative of Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of Pakistan	Member
4	A representative of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry	Member
5	Deputy Director General (Finance) of the Authority	Member
6	Deputy Director General (Standards Development) of the Authority	Member
7	Deputy Director General (Quality Control) the Authority	Member
8	Deputy Director General (Technical Services) of the Authority	Member
9	Secretary of the Authority	Member / Secretary

There is no specific qualification and tenure of the members of Board of PSQCA in pursuant to the Act of PSQCA.

(b) Two BoD meetings of PSQCA were held during the last 2 years. The decision taken by BoD during the last 2 meeting may be seen at the following Annexures:—

S. No.	Date of Meeting	Annexure
01	23rd BoD held on 20-10-2021	Annex-A
02	24th BoD held on 20-11-2022	Annex-B

(c) The following officers are working in PSQCA on deputation basis:—

6. Mr. Wahab Feroz udin, Director TSC
7. Engr. Ejaz Ali Panhwar, Deputy Director Import & Export
8. Mr. Ehsan Kareem, Deputy Director (Audit)
9. Ms. Amina Zulfiqar, Deputy Director (Technical TSC)
10. Mr. Noor Ahmed Jamali, Assistant Director (Media)

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total number of Pakistani prisoners in Russia and Ukraine at present; and*
- (b) *the assistance being provided by the Government to said prisoners at present?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari): (a) The total number of Pakistani prisoners in Russia and Ukraine is 10 and 06, respectively.

(b) In Russia majority of Pakistani prisoners is detained on charges of illegal migration. Pakistan Mission has taken up the matter with the concerned Russian authorities to verify their credentials and grant of consular access.

Five detainees in Ukraine are held for illegal border crossing and one is convicted on grounds of murder of a civilian and has been awarded 13 years sentence. Embassy remains in contact with Ukrainian authorities for provision of necessary assistance to Pakistani nationals including processing of their cases for early deportation.

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

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

- (a) *the number of cases of Gas theft at CNG Stations registered during last five years alongwith the locations thereof and punishments awarded for the same; and*
- (b) *the number of wells of Gas in the country and the locations thereof and the period for which it is likely to be used?*

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)
(Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) **SNGPL**

The number of gas theft cases at CNG Stations registered during the last five years along-with their location is given below:-

FY 2017-18 to FY 2021-22			
Region	No. of Cases	Vol. Booked	Amt. Booked
		(MMCF)	(Rs. Million)
Bahawalpur	3	13.13	21.53
Gujranwala	1	0.2	0.33
Gujrat	29	31.49	31.81
Islamabad	4	22.36	32.48
Lahore East	7	67.81	151.37
Lahore West	4	9.08	16.1
Mardan	3	13.27	25.06
Multan	1	0.17	0.14
Peshawar	8	209.56	373.96
Rawalpindi	9	54.04	70.62
Total	69	421.1	723.4

In addition to above criminal proceedings also initiated against owner of the CNG stations which were directly involved in meter tampering and using gas directly through bypass.

SSGCL

SSGC has reported that three CNG stations were involved in gas theft and detail of action taken against them is given at **Annex-A**.

(b) The field wise and location wise number of gas production wells in the country and expected period (forecast) of production is placed at **Annex-B**.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan's Embassy in Iraq does not have an exclusive building, consequently, people at large who visit Iraq face great difficulties;*
- (b) if so, when they need to visit the embassy;*
- (c) if so, there is any proposal to establish the embassy in an exclusive building;*
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and*
- (e) if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari): (a) The Embassy of Pakistan due to volatile security situation was closed in 2005 and reopened in May 2010 after a period of 05 years. On the recommendation of the host government the Embassy was established in hotel Al-Mansoor. Mission facilitates the Pakistani Diaspora visiting Pakistan Embassy in Baghdad and also establishes Consular Camp on regular basis in Najaf, Basra and Kurdistan Region for redressal of issues.

(b) The Embassy provides services to visitors through its existing premises.

(c) Foundation stone for the new Embassy building was laid down by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during his recent visit to Iraq (5-7 June 2023), in the extended Diplomatic Area earmarked by Iraqi Government for all Diplomatic Missions in Iraq.

(d) As noted the ground breaking ceremony was performed by our Foreign Minister along with his Iraqi counterpart in Baghdad during recent visit of the Foreign Minister (5-7 June 2023). In compliance of Foreign Minister's directives, necessary processing has been initiated towards early start of work on the project.

(e) N/A.

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

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

- (a) *the total number of LNG power plants in the country and the capacity at which they are running at present;*
- (b) *details of negotiations conducted between Government of Pakistan and Qatar on the LNG agreement and the terms and conditions agreed upon; and*
- (c) *what is the status of previous agreements?*

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)
(**Mr. Musadik Masood Malik**): (a) The detail of total number of LNG power plants in the country and their capacity at which they are running at present are as under:—

S. No.	Stations	Location	Capacity (MW)	Primary Fuel
1.	Quid-e-Azam Thermal Pvt. Limited (QATPL) Bhikki	Bhikki, Punjab	1,180	RLNG
2.	National Power Parks Management Company Ltd (NPPMCL), Haveli Bhadur Shah	Haaveli Bahadur Shah, Jhang, Punjab	1,230	RLNG
3.	National Power Parks Management Company Ltd (NPPMCL), Balloki	Balloki, Punjab	1,223	RLNG
4.	Punjab Thermal Power Ltd (PTPL), Jhang, Punjab	Jhang, Punjab	1,263	RLNG

(b) Pakistan has signed two long terms Government-to-Government (G2G) LNG supply deals with Qatar. Contract durations, prices (slope linked to Brent) and firm quantities of both contracts are as follows:

Contract	Duration	Cargoes / Month	Price (Slope of Brent)
PSO-QG (2015)	15 years	5	13.37%
PSO-QP (2021)	10 years	Jan 22 – Jun 22: 2	10.2%
		Jul 22 – Dec 23: 3	
		Jan 24 – Dec 32: 4	

Currently, Qatar is supplying LNG to Pakistan through these long-term contracts. The salient features of both the above agreements are as follows:

Agreement	SPA with Qatar gas	SPA with Qatar Petroleum
Tenure	2016-2031 (15 years)	2021-2031 (10 years)

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

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

- (a) *whether the Government is taking any steps to equip houses, factories, offices, educational institutions and bazaars/markets with solar power in the country; and*
- (b) *the number of those Government institutions which have been shifted to solar energy?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) Alternative Energy Development Board is proactively promoting the use and deployment of solar energy systems all across the country. The net-metering based solar installations are being promoted and facilitated in domestic, commercial, industrial and agriculture sectors. With active facilitation of AEDB, the number of net-metering based solar installations had reached up to 56,471 by April, 2023 with a cumulative capacity of 952.35 MW.

In the recently approved Federal Budget 2023- 24, all inputs for manufacturing of solar cells, batteries & inverters in Pakistan have been allowed to be imported on zero custom duty. Sales tax on solar cells, which was infused previously, was reduced to zero by present government in the Federal budget 2022-23.

In order to reduce the impact of prevailing high prices of oil and LNG in the international markets resulting in high electricity tariffs and drain of precious foreign exchange, the Government has approved the Framework Guidelines for Fast-Track Solar PV Initiatives 2022 for fast-track deployment of solar PV. These initiatives include:

- i. **Substitution of Expensive Imported Fossil Fuels with Solar PV Energy**
- ii. **Solar PV Generation on 11 kV Feeders**
- iii. **Solarization of Public Buildings**

Solarization of public sector buildings will help in meeting certain portion of electricity load through clean solar energy technology, reduce electricity bills of public offices and relieve electricity utilities/distribution companies from long-term dues. Under this initiative, building-specific Solar PV net-metering based systems will be installed

through bidding on (i) Lease Model (10-year BOOT basis); and (ii) Own-cost model. AEDB has been tasked to carry out the solarization of public buildings through competitive bidding on behalf of the public sector entities (the “Procuring Agencies (PAs)”).

(b) Under the Framework Guidelines for Fast Track Solar Initiatives 2022, the Government is targeting to solarize public sector buildings. AEDB has been tasked to carry out the solarization of public buildings through competitive bidding on behalf of the public sector entities.

Till date, AEDB has tendered **eighty-five (85)** public sector buildings for solarization all across the country upon confirmation and consent of the relevant Ministries / entities. The contracts for solarization of 02 public buildings (i.e. PM Office & PM House) have already been awarded by the relevant entities. Successful bidders for solarization of another 15 public buildings have been selected whereas evaluation of bids against the remaining public buildings are underway.

AEDB is ready to initiate tendering process for another 188 public buildings for which technical designs have been completed.

It is worth mentioning that several public entities are carrying out the solarization of buildings owned by them on their own. Moreover, the provincial governments are also carrying out solarization of public buildings at provincial level.

The list of 85 buildings which are being solarized is placed at **Annex-I**.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

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

- (a) the number of LT poles installed in NA-154 alongwith the number of augmentation cases implemented there during the last five years; and*
- (b) the time by which the remaining poles will be installed?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) • The number of LT poles installed in NA-154 is 1155 Nos.

• The number of augmentation cases implemented there during the last five years in NA-154 is 190 Nos.

(b) Remaining 39 number of LT poles will be installed during the first half of the upcoming fiscal year 2023-24.

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

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

(a) *whether it is a fact that Agri-feeder installed by the WAPDA in Hyderabad/Jamshoro, Sindh;*

(b) *if not, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to construct more Agri-feeder in the above district; if not, the reasons thereof; and*

(c) *the time by which said agri-feeder will be constructed?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) The Agriculture-I feeder was constructed in the area of District Jamshoro in the past by the HESCO. The detail is attached at **Annex-I**.

(b) In HESCO, mostly consumers of all tariffs (domestic, commercial, agriculture, industry etc.) exist in the same area, so it is difficult to separate the 11kV feeders for Agriculture and other consumers. However, at present there is no proposal under consideration for construction of separate 11kV feeders for Agriculture consumers.

(c) No proposal is under consideration.

Annex-I

The detail information of Agriculture-I feeder is as under:

Length of feeder	152.35 km
Name of grid station	Kotri Site
Name of Operation Sub-Division	Kotri
Name of Opr. Division	Kotri
Line Losses	38%
AT&C Losses	61%

Consumer Category	No. of Connections	Sanctioned Load (KW)	%age of Load	Arrears (Rs.)
Tubewell	164	3067	51.5	9,805,132
Domestic	413	459	7.7	32,816,621
Others	72	2423	40.7	1,674,737
Total	649	5949	-	44,296,490

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

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

- (a) *the steps being taken by the Government to decide all the cases, pending in lower and higher courts in the country on urgent basis;*
- (b) *the reasons for not filling the vacant posts of judges in different courts; and*
- (c) *whether court proceedings can be managed in two shifts for speedy decisions in the pending cases?*

Minister for Law and Justice (Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar): (a), (b) & (c) Since the information is not available in the Ministry of Law & Justice, the Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan as well as the Registrars of Provincial High Courts have been requested to provide the requisite information *vide* this Ministry's letter dated 13-06-2023

along-with reminder dated 26-07-2023. As the requisite information is awaited, the same will be provided in the House upon receipt from the quarters concerned *i.e.* Provincial High Courts.

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

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state whether there is any circular debt accumulated on account of the LNG charges; if so, the details thereof?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)
(**Mr. Musadik Masood Malik**): SNGPL has reported that circular debt amounting to Rs. 597,959 million (as on 24-07-2023) has been accumulated against RLNG. While no circular debt accumulated on account of the LNG charges in the books of SSGC.

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

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state the quantity of Gas and Petroleum products being extracted daily from each well in the country at present?

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)
(**Mr. Musadik Masood Malik**): The daily average quantity of Oil and Gas produced during the current fiscal year is as under;

Oil (BOPD)	Gas (MMCFD)
70162.86	3257.17

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

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

(a) *the total number of Petrol Pumps in the county and the number of staff working to maintain the quality of these pumps;*

- (b) *the number, name and details of those pumps where substandard petrol/diesel has been found during the last five years alongwith the fine imposed on those pumps; and*
- (c) *the time schedule for inspection/rechecking of the pumps is carried out?*

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)

(Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) License for petrol pumps are being granted by the Explosive Department (Ministry of Energy) and as per record, there are a total of **11.102** petrol pumps of different Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operational in the country. Every OMC has its own requirement for sales and quality checking staff, however, 08-10 persons are working / employed for each pump.

(b) OGRA conducts inspections on retail outlets of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on random basis or on receipt of any specific complaint. The details of petrol pumps having reportedly substandard quality product inspected by OGRA in last five years is attached at **Annexure-I**.

(c) OMCs conducts their quality inspection through their mobile quality testing units on regular basis and take action against the violating outlets. However, OGRA being regulator conducts inspections of randomly selected outlets of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to counter check self-monitoring system of the OMCs. Nevertheless, all OMCs are obliged to ensure quality of POL products at their respective retail outlets across the County.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

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

- (a) what were the reasons for the recent power breakdown in the country including how much was the damage of this breakdown in rupees;*
- (b) total amount spent on its maintenance;*
- (c) whether it is a fact that an inquiry has been conducted in this regard; if so, the details thereof including the deficiencies identified in this regard;*
- (d) who is held responsible for such failure;*
- (e) whether it is also a fact that Government does not have a state-of-art system that can identify the fault first as per international standards and help in rectifying the fault as soon as possible; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (f) what corrective measures are being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) As per the findings of Inquiry Committee, incident occurred at a time of lowest nationwide demand, due to stressed HVAC network connecting Southern and Northern part of the System, which caused small Signal Oscillations Stability phenomenon, leading to tripping of HVAC lines followed by tripping of HVDC line in a cascaded effect.

(b) No amount was spent on the maintenance of the system during said breakdown.

(c) Yes. The recommendations of the Inquiry Committee are attached at **Annex-I**.

In order to implement the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee, Power Division has constituted 7 sub-committees. The reports of these sub-committees, once finalized, will be placed before the Federal Cabinet.

(d) On the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee, duly approved by the Federal Cabinet, Power Division directed Board of NTDC to initiate inquiry proceedings to pin point the system operator-officers/officials responsible for the said incident and to take disciplinary action against them accordingly.

Proper protection schemes are in place in NTDC Grid System which trigger in case of faults in the system and isolates the faulty network equipment to safeguard the equipment from damage. Moreover, protection system also helps to avert the detrimental transient effect on rest of the system. It is further added that the protection system is validated from time to time by concerned formations of NTDC to ensure its healthiness.

Regarding the overall Power System monitoring by the System Operator, SCADA* system is being used at the nerve center of National Power Control Centre. Existing SCADA System has limited visibility, however, in upcoming SCADA-III project (which is under progress) its scope is being expanded to cover all Power Plants and NTDC 500 / 220kV Grid Stations. After the completion of SCADA-III Project NPCC will have to be enhanced visibility of whole power system and it will also help the NPCC to operate, monitor and control the Power System more effectively and reliably.

Besides SCADA-III, NTDC has also taken up the matter for installations WAMS** System Pilot Project. PC-I has been sent to the Planning Commission for approval and further necessary steps will be taken accordingly. This System will support NPCC control room engineers to monitor the small Signals Frequency Oscillations as well.

(f) In order to avoid such concurrence in future, Inquiry Committee has furnished recommendations in its report. For the implementation of these recommendations Power Division has constituted 7 sub-committees.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

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

- (a) *where is over and above collection of Neelum-Jhelum (NJ) surcharge parked at the moment;*
- (b) *whether such amount has been used against any head/work; if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons and justification of such usage; and*
- (c) *what steps are being taken by the Government to refund over and above NJ surcharge to consumers; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Reply not received.

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

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that there are huge mountains of precious stones in the country, such as Ruby, Emerald, Granites, Zircon, Sapphire, Agate etc. and why are they not being discovered and sold in foreign markets;*
- (b) *those precious reserves are not being evaluated and estimated, the reason thereof; and*
- (c) *whether the country's economy and treasury will get enlarged by acquiring these minerals?*

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)
(Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) It a fact that Pakistan is naturally blessed with reserves of various precious stones. By virtue of favorable geological environment, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) are considered as the potential gem bearing regions.

Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) has conducted a number of geological and geophysical surveys from time to time in the country and explored the Aquamarine, Emerald, Ruby, Tourmaline, Topaz, Quartz, Moon stone and feldspar etc.

However, the reasons for these stones not being discovered, processed and sold in international markets can be attributed to the following factors.

- (a) Pakistan's remote and mountainous regions with extreme weather conditions, where various gemstone deposits are located, often lack proper roads, electricity and other infrastructure.
- (b) Accessing international markets and establishing distribution networks for gemstones is complex and competitive. Developing reliable processing, supply chains, establishing quality assurance measures and building trust with international buyers remain challenging. The entire value chain is marred by limited identification and certification facilities and poor linkages with the domestic and international players.

(b) Discovery of precious stones requires detailed exploration for quantification and financial valuation of reserves. As briefed above, GSP has conducted a number of geological and geophysical surveys from time to time in the country and explored various precious stones. However, detailed exploration covering reserve estimation is carried out by the lease holders and respective provincial governments. The following factors are seen as impeding reserves evaluation and estimation:

- (a) Pakistan's remote and mountainous regions, where gemstone deposits are located, often lack proper roads, electricity and other infrastructure.
- (b) The exploration and mining of precious stones require substantial investment in terms of technology, equipment and expertise. Limited investment resulted in lack of systematic identification and evaluation of gemstone deposits.
- (c) The gemstone industry requires specialized knowledge and skills for extractions, cutting, processing, and marketing the gemstones.
- (d) Security, law and order issues; one of the major hurdles for attracting foreign investment.

Due to insufficient investment needed skill set, Pakistan has faced challenges in building a robust gemstone industry ecosystem requiring skilled lapidaries, gemologists and gemstone experts.

However, with the objective of enhancing the value chain productivity of gems and Jewellery (from Mine to Market), Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Development Company (PGJDC) was established in 2006 as a subsidiary of Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), working under the Ministry of Industries & Production, Government of Pakistan. Moreover, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has been taking various initiatives and interventions for development, promotion and marketing of Gems and Jewellery across the globe.

(c) Yes. Development, processing and marketing of precision stones/ minerals can have significant contribution in the national economy/ treasury by generating revenue through mining taxes and royalties, creating employment opportunities and stimulating related industries.

308. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

(Transferred from 51st Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the audit paras and amount of the Ministry and Pakistan Missions abroad, amount recovered, action taken against the responsible functionaries for their negligence, involvement and ineffectiveness during the last three years; and*
- (b) as well as details of the pending audit Paras alongwith amount details?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari): (a) Total 96 Audit Paras from Audit Reports for the year 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 have been considered by the. Public Accounts Committee. The work on settling these audit paras is in active progress under guidelines/monitoring of DAC and PAC. The recoverable amount pointed out by the Audit for Ministry of Foreign Affairs was Rs. 285.21 million out of which Rs. 163.579 million has been recovered / settled and work continues to recover / settle the remaining amount. Where there is

evidence of irregularity or negligence, the Ministry proceeds against such individual as required under the relevant rules and regulations.

(b) An amount of Rs. 93.286 million will be recovered / settled in due course. Majority of paras are of procedural nature like non-settlement of TA/DA bills etc.

309. ***Ms. Shams Un Nisa:**

(Transferred from 51st Session)

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

- (a) how is the Government addressing the issues related to energy security and ensuring a reliable supply of electricity; and*
- (b) how is the Government promoting public private partnerships in the energy sector for sustainable development?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) in order to address issues related to Energy Security, Energy mix of the country is being indigenized by the Government Hydel, Local Coal and Renewable Energy resources are being promoted.

Moreover, NPCC being the System Operator makes best possible efforts to optimally utilize the available generation resources for ensuring smooth and reliable supply of electricity in the country.

(b) The GOP, encourages establishment of power projects in public private partnership, the policy in vogue that is Power Generation Policy 2015. In line with the scope of this Policy, the incentives/ concessions available to private power; projects will also be available to projects implemented under PPP made in accordance with the applicable law.

310. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

(Transferred from 51st Session)

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

- (a) *the number of projects were started to meet the Gas requirement in the country at present; and*
- (b) *the plan designed by the Government to ensure uninterrupted provision of gas in next winter season?*

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)
(Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) The following pipeline projects have been started by the gas utility ' companies to meet the gas requirements of the country at present.

SNGPL

- 18" dia x 230 Km from Bunnu West Well to Daudkhel Valve Assembly.
- 8" dia x 50 Km from OGDCL's processing facility to Kaka Khel Valve Assembly (Mixing Station).
- 8" dia x 16 Km from Wali Well to OGDCL's processing facility as a contract line for OGDCL.

SSGCL

- 30" diameter x 116 Km pipeline from Sindh University to SMS Pakland.
- Transmission pipeline for supply of gas to Karachi West Region.
- Execution of 8" diameters x 102 Kms Jhal Magsi gas pipeline project.
- Sibi Compressor Project.
- Installation of 01 new Compressor Unit at HQ-2 Daur, Nawabshah.

(b) In order to manage the demand supply shortfall during the winters, the government devises a comprehensive Load Management Plan

wherein uninterrupted gas supply to the top priority domestic sector is ensured during the cooking hours.

Beside the above, the Government has also taken several other mitigation measures to arrest the growth in demand as well as to improve supplies which include import of LNG, award of new blocks for oil and gas exploration, ban on expansion in domestic network and media campaigns are also being run during winters for energy conservation.

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

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

- (a) *the details of existing gap between supply and demand of Gas among domestic users of gas in Pakistan; and*
- (b) *the present share of supplying gas to domestic consumers from local based gas supply and imported gas supply each separately, indicating also the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the above gap?*

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) The indigenous gas supplies in Pakistan are depleting rapidly, whereas the demand of gas is increasing every year, thus widening the demand supply gap. At present, uninterrupted natural gas is being supplied to the existing domestic customers during the peak cooking hours.

(b) Currently, around 450 MMCFD indigenous gas is being provided to domestic customers and 1 MMCFD RLNG to the domestic customers in privately developed new housing schemes by SNGPL whereas around 368 MMCFD indigenous gas is being supplied to domestic customers by SSGCL.

However, during the winter season, the demand of domestic sector increases many folds. In order to manage the demand supply shortfall during the winters, the government devises a comprehensive Load Management Plan wherein uninterrupted gas supply to the top priority domestic sector is ensured during the cooking hours.

Beside the above, the Government has also taken several other mitigation measures to arrest the growth in demand as well as to improve supplies which include import of LNG, award of new blocks for oil and gas exploration, ban on expansion in domestic network and media campaigns are also being run during winters for energy conservation.

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

Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state what initiatives have been taken by the Government to address issues of gender inequality and human rights violations in the country?

Minister for Human Rights (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada): The Government of Pakistan is committed to ensure protection and promotion of Women Rights and to address the issue of gender inequality as well as human rights violations in the country in line with its national and international commitments. These commitments include the Constitution of Pakistan, Human Rights Core Conventions, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Sustainable Development Goals, and especially Goal 5 concerning Gender Equality.

In today's world, women's participation is phenomenal and women's active involvement and presence in all fields of life is need of the hour. Today, women occupy important positions in various fields i.e. education, health, social welfare, police, judiciary, armed forces, IT, engineering, sports, politics, media and business etc. The Government of Pakistan is fully cognizant of its responsibilities concerning women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making. Therefore, addressing the issue of gender inequality is one of the major priorities of the Government. To effectively address this issue, specific quotas have been reserved to ensure women's participation in the Parliament as well as Government jobs.

Moreover, following the 18th Constitutional amendment, the subject of Women Development was devolved to the provinces thus mandating provinces to implement women's empowerment agenda within their respective policy and legislative framework. However, the following initiatives have been taken up by the Ministry:

- i. The Government of Pakistan has set up National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) with the mandate to review and assess laws, government policies, programs, measures and their implementation. The Commission has also mandate to make recommendations to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment besides the elimination of discrimination at various levels.
- ii. The Ministry of Human Rights is mandated to review the human rights situation in the country and to take initiatives including the implementation of laws, policies and measures to address human rights violations. Accordingly, MoHR through its four Regional Offices *i.e.* Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and its headquarter based in Islamabad monitors the human rights situation besides coordinating the implementation of laws, policies and measures with the concerned authorities. MoHR also takes up cases of human rights violations with concerned authorities for redressal, as per law. The details/ breakup of **23173** cases/ complaints/ allegations taken up during the last three years based on applications received from the aggrieved persons and cases identified through media monitoring and referred to the concerned organizations/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) for redressal, as per law. Details are **Annex-I**.
- iii. Action Plan for Human Rights, approved by the Prime Minister of Pakistan is being implemented in the country by the Ministry of Human Rights in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, through a full-fledged PSDP Project

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

- i. National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR),
- ii. National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW),
- iii. National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC).

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

The following major laws are being implemented by the concerned stakeholders to ensure human rights, i.e. rights of women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other vulnerable segments, etc:

- i. National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act, 2017;
- ii. Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018;
- iii. The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020;
- iv. Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020;
- v. The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights Persons with Disability Act, 2020;
- vi. The Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Act, 2021;
- vii. Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021;
- viii. The Protection of Parents Ordinance, 2021;
- ix. Proscription of “Child Domestic Labour” through insertion in the list of occupations in Part-I of the Schedule of the Employment of Children’s Act, 1991 (to ban at ICT level);
- x. Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022;
- xi. Protection of Journalists & Media Professionals Act, 2021;
- xii. The ICT Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021;
- xiii. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 (to effectually tackle the pervading instances of rape & sexual abuse in respect of women & children);
- xiv. Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022;

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

313. ***Prince Muhammad Nawaz Alai:**
(Transferred from 51st Session)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that a tender for 133KV up-gradation of Thakot Grid Station 33KV and connection of electricity from Alai Power House has been floated but the work has not commenced up till now; and*
- (b) *the time by which the work would be started?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) The scope of work under this project includes:

1. Construction of new 132 kV Grid Station with 01x20/26 MVA Power Transformer.
2. Construction of 132 kV associated Transmission Line in place of 33 kV system.
3. Estimated cost of the complete project *i.e.* 132 kV Grid Station and 132 kV Transmission Line is Rs. 752 Million.

(a) **Current status for construction of 132 kV Grid Station:**

Construction of the Grid Station is under process. Civil works of the Control House Building (CHB), Electrical Equipment Foundations and Residential colony has been completed. Partial material is installed except Power Transformer. The remaining material will be installed after completion of the Transmission Line which is expected to be completed by 30th June, 2024.

(b) **Current status for construction of 132 kV Transmission Line:**

The tender for the civil works of the 132 kV Transmission Line from Allai Power House to Thakot Grid Station with an estimated amount of Rs. 304 Million was approved by BoD PESCO. Letter of Acceptance (LOA) was issued to the contractor on 15-06-2023 for submission of 10% Performance Guarantee. The work on the Transmission Line will

commence on the issuance of work order to the Contractor on submission of 10% performance guarantee by the contractor.

(b) One month time is given to contractor for bank guarantee submission. So, Expected time for start of work is tentatively two months.

314. ***Ms. Shams Un Nisa:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*)

Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state:

- (a) *what steps are being taken by the Government to protect the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups in the society; and*
- (b) *how is the Government addressing issues related to gender-based violence and ensuring the safety of women and girls in the country?*

Minister for Human Rights (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) The Ministry of Human Rights is responsible to ensure protection of rights of all citizens with special focus on the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups i.e. women, children/girls, persons with disabilities, minorities and transgender persons. According to the Rules of Business, 1973, the Ministry is mandated to obtain information, documents and reports, on complaints and allegations of human rights violations, from Ministries, Divisions, Provincial Governments and other agencies. Accordingly, the Ministry of Human Rights through its four Regional Offices located at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and its headquarters based at Islamabad takes up cases of human rights violations with concerned authorities for redressal, as per law. The details/breakup of **23173** cases/complaints/allegations concerning rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups in the society, taken up during the last three years based on applications received from the aggrieved persons and cases identified through media monitoring are **Annexed**. These cases were referred to the concerned organizations/Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) for redressal, as per law.

(b) The Government is taking appropriate legislative, programmatic and administrative measures to address human rights violation issues including issues related to gender-based violence and ensuring the safety of women and girls in the country. Action Plan for

Human Rights, approved by the Prime Minister of Pakistan is being implemented in the country by the Ministry of Human Rights in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, through a full-fledged PSDP Project.

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

- i. National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR),
- ii. National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW),
- iii. National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC).

The following major laws are being implemented by the concerned stakeholders to ensure protection of human rights, and to address issues related to gender-based violence and the safety of women and girls in the country:

- i. National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act, 2017
- ii. Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018.
- iii. The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020;
- iv. Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020;
- v. The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020;
- vi. The Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Act, 2021;
- vii. Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021;
- viii. The Protection of Parents Ordinance, 2021;
- ix. Proscription of “Child Domestic Labour” through insertion in the list of occupations in Part-I of the Schedule of the Employment of Children’s Act, 1991 (to ban at ICT level).
- x. Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022

- xi. Protection of Journalists & Media Professionals Act, 2021;
- xii. The ICT Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021;
- xiii. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 (to effectually tackle the pervading instances of rape & sexual abuse in respect of women & children).
- xiv. Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022.

ANNEX

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Details of the human rights situation in the country and human rights violation taken up by MoHR during the last three years?

(2020-2022)

Sr#	Regional Offices/ MoHR's Section	Total
1	Regional Office of HR, Lahore, Punjab	7303
2	Regional Office of HR, Karachi, Sindh	6913
3	Regional Office of HR, Peshawar, Khyber Palchtunkhwa	4874
4	Regional Office of HR, Quetta, Balochistan	2620
5	Media monitoring by Head Office, Islamabad	289
6	Direct Applications Received in MoHR (Head Office)	1174
	Total	23173

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

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

- (a) *what is mandate of NTDC for upgrading both high voltage lines and secondary transmission lines and the budget reserved, released and utilized for the purpose during the last five years alongwith details thereof;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that system losses in the power sector due to obsolete and old transmission lines have either remained*

static or increased in recent years and the burden of such losses is ultimately borne by consumers;

- (c) *whether it is also a fact that NEPRA, being a regulator, is reprimanding and fining NTDC for failure to upgrade transmission lines in recent times; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (d) *what remedial measures are being taken by the Government to upgrade the transmission lines to international standards to not only reduce transmission losses but also ensure uninterrupted power?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurrum Dastagir Khan): (a) The mandate of NTDC is to install, operate and maintain 220 kV and above transmission network and it has upgraded/installed the said transmission system/network as per planning of approved projects in timely manner. The requisite details regarding the budget reserved and utilized for the transmission lines/system for last five years is given as under:

Financial year	PDP Budget (Rs. In Million)	Utilization (in Million)
2021-22	75,593	53,876
2020-21	66,088	55,691
2019-20	53,162	36,337
2018-19	58,191	44,659
2017-18	53,853	44,832

(b) i. Transmission losses of NTDC system in last 05 years have remained within permissible limits *i.e.* Less than 3% and its impact on end consumers is negligible.

- ii. Statistics of NTDC. 500 & 220kV T&T losses are regularly reported to the regulator *i.e.* NEPRA. During the last 3 years NTDC is within the allowed limit of losses. NTDC losses have gradually decreased (improved) over time. Detail is as follows:

Year	%Losses	Remarks
FY 2023 (July 22 —May 23)	2.44%	Within NEPRA allowed limits
FY 2022	2.62%	Within NEPRA allowed limits
FY 2021	2.71%	Within NEPRA allowed limits
FY 2020	2.73%	Within NEPRA allowed limits

Any losses within the allowed limit are passed on to end consumers by NEPRA accordingly as per rules.

(c) It is not a fact that NEPRA has imposed fines on non-upgradation of transmission lines rather it has imposed fines on NTDC for partial blackouts and other reasons (each is a separate proceeding for different reasons), which have been challenged as per remedies available under NEPRA Act and at law. These are sub-judice matters and will be implemented once decided.

- (d) (i) Replacement of outdated and obsolete equipment installed at Grid Stations (Transformers, Circuit Breakers, Isolators, Bus Bars, CTs, and PTs) and Transmission Lines in NTDC system to reduce system losses for providing uninterrupted and economical power / electricity to the consumers.
- (ii) Up-gradation of old type protection system with new protection schemes for enhancing reliability of the system is being carried out as per routine/ requirement.
- (iii) In recent 5 years, new 500kV and 220kV Transmission Lines have been constructed and energized to reduce load/burden on old Lines ultimately to reduce losses.

Note: Supplementary Information in respect of DISCOs is also attached as detailed below:

- (i) Detail of Up-gradation of High Voltage Transmission Lines & Grid Stations during last five years.
- (ii) Detail of proposed works for FY 2023-24 for improvement of 132kV Transmission & Grid Network.

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

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the project of ADP Ring Road, Multan will be completed for the welfare of the public; if so, the updated information in this regard; and*
- (b) *what is the present status of the construction of such road?*

Minister for Communications (Mr. Asad Mahmood): (a) It is apprised that no project namely “ADP Ring Road Multan” is under execution in Punjab-South Region/any other office of NHA.

(b) N/A

4. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**
(*Deferred on 20-7-2023*)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the name 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?*

Reply not received.

ISLAMABAD:
The 2nd August, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Friday, the 4th August, 2023

1. **Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**
(Transferred from 47th Session)

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

- (a) the details of the Advocates on the panel of PESCO, WAPDA and other Advocates hired for deceased employees pension claims, who died during service; and*
- (b) names of the Advocates, CNIC and Advocate Registration Numbers in High Court, Supreme Court of Pakistan, law degree number, year and name of the University, fees paid, since 2015?*

Reply not received.

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

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

- (a) the details of the PSO Petrol Pumps, given on lease, rent, Joint Venture alongwith procedure adopted for awarding and rent received so far; and*
- (b) details of any increase made names of the allottees of petrol pumps and CNIC number thereof?*

Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum Division)
(Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) The details of PSO petrol pumps, given on lease, rent, joint-venture are attached as **Annex-I**, along-with procedure for awarding at **Annex-II**.

(b) The requisite information is hereby attached as **Annex-III**.

(Annexure have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that removal of electric pole from streets is the duty of the IESCO;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that in Village Mohra Gorya, Tehsil Gujar Khan, there is an electric pole unfortunately installed in the middle of the street and yet it has not been removed despite many requests made by Mr. Arshad Mehmood, by aforesaid resident;*
- (c) if the answers to part (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, then why the delay in removing of the electric pole and when the work will be executed?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) IESCO does not erect electric poles in the middle of the roads or streets. Sometimes, due to ill-planned and unpermitted construction activities by the residents, distribution facilities come to exist in the middle of roads and streets etc. IESCO can remove such poles etc. subject to payment of cost by the consumers.

(b) The LT pole erected in Village Mohra Gorya is not in center of street. IESCO does not install poles in center of streets. Due to widening of road / enhancement of street's width, consequently the poles came in the center of the road/ street.

(c) It has further been informed by SDO IESCO Operation Sub-Division, Daultala that neighbors of Mr. Arshad Melunood are not

allowing IESCO to relocate the said pole even on cost deposit basis. They have fierce enmity against each other and often lodge complaints in the police. Copy of report lodged in local police station against Mr. Arshad Mahmood is attached at Annex-A. This indicates that serious right of way issue will have to be encountered for shifting of the said pole.

IESCO cannot become a party in this dispute until and unless it is amicably resolved by both parties.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

68. Ms. Shams Un Nisa:

(Transferred from 51st Session)

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 by the residents of different parts of Rawalpindi the authorities concerned have neither issued the demand notices nor installed the electric meters against the applications particularly Tracking ID Nos.14622035650 dated 29-03-2023, 14622035648 dated 29-03-2023 and 14623031263 dated 01-03-2023;*
- (b) if the answer to part (a) is in affirmative, the reasons of delay thereof; and*
- (c) what steps are being taken by the Government to install meters against above mentioned (a) tracking IDs?*

Reply not received.

69. Mr. Sikandar Ali Rahoupoto:

(Transferred from 51st Session)

Will the Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) be pleased to state the time by which the Government has taken any steps to remove gas loadshedding from District Jamshoro?

Reply not received.

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

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Gas meter has not been installed in Street No.03/B, H. No.B-6, Nai Abadi Harno Thanda Pani, Islamabad in particular against CNIC No.37403-7780165-7, Account ID 1037761984; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the time by which the said meter will be installed?*

Reply not received.

71. **Begum Tahira Bukhari:**
(Transferred from 51st Session)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Executive Engineer (E) IESCO, Operation Division, Gujar Khan sent a feasibility of new electrification works to PD Construction IESCO, Islamabad vide its Letter No.1113-15/GKD dated 23-02-2023;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that after sending the feasibility of work nothing has been done so far;*
- (c) *if the answer to part (a) above is in affirmative, the reasons of delay thereof; and*
- (d) *what steps are being taken by the Government to process the mentioned in para (a) above; and*
- (e) *whether is there any proposal to sort out the matter through safety hazards ahead of IESCO?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Mr. Khurram Dastagir Khan): (a) Yes, it is a fact that Executive Engineer, IESCO, Operation Gujar Khan sent a feasibility of new electrification works to Project Director (PD) Construction, IESCO, vide Letter No. 1113-15/GKD dated

23-02-2023. This report was then forwarded to Executive Engineer (Construction) Division IESCO Jhelum for preparation of feasibility Report / Technical Data in accordance with SDI/SOP, as stated in PD (Construction) IESCO Letter No. 3820-23 Dated 08-03-2023.

(b) & (c) Yes, it is a fact that no progress has been made after sending the feasibility report. The reasons for no progress on the matter are as under:-

- i. In response to the letter mentioned in Para (a) addressed to Executive Engineer (Construction) Division Jhelum, the site was inspected and it was reported *vide* his letter No. 2501-04 dated 06-06-2023 that the **area is already electrified and it does not fall under the criteria for village electrification.**
- ii. However, a demand notice for removal of HT PC Pole No. 484 dated 24-2-2023 amounting to Rs. 1,18,104/- has already been issued to the consumer by the SDO (Operation) Sub-Division Gulyana, which has not been paid as yet. However, there is no delay on the part of IESCO as demand notice has not been paid by the complainant as yet.

(d) A demand notice has already been issued for removal of the HT PC pole and payment is still awaited from the consumer.

(e) The case is neither covered under village electrification criteria nor removal of safety hazards, accept on cost deposit basis as per NEPRA's Consumer Services Manual 2021, Chapter No. 3, Section 3.1 (RELOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION FACILITY) Sub-Section 3.1.3 **Annex-I.**

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

72. **Begum Tahira Bukhari:**
(Transferred from 51st Session)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Government of Pakistan imposed ban only on issuance of new demand notice of Sui Northern Gas*

Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) but the demand notices already issued by SNGPL are required to be processed to provide SNGPL connection on priority at the earliest;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that despite depositing the amount of demand notices by the residents of Rawalpindi, the SNGPL authorities have not installed meters against demand notices particularly account IDs 45044581327, 48736855775, 8914826966 month May, 2018 and account ID 1528938658 dated 10-01-2020;*
- (c) if the answers to part (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, the reasons thereof; and*
- (d) what steps are being taken by the SNGPL to install the meters against mentioned demand notices?*

Reply not received.

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

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that huge number of Pakistanis are detained in Saudi Arabia Jails;*
- (b) if (a) above is affirmative, the detail of each detainee with his/her particulars, nature of crime, sentence awarded, so far sentence completed, name of jail where detained;*
- (c) the steps taken by the Pakistan Embassy for early release of detained Pakistanis from Saudi jails, the detail of efforts made by the Embassy for the last five years, in response to efforts the number of prisoners released from Saudi jails (complete detail) and the names of jails from where prisoners released.*
- (d) how many Pakistanis shifted in Pakistani jails from Saudi Arabia under agreement on transfer of convicted individuals signed by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in 2021;*

- (e) *the complete detail of staff posted in Pakistan Embassy in Saudi Arabia and its consulate offices with their names, designation posting date, tenure of posting and if any action initiated against ambassies authority on their poor performance or not meeting the target/ help assigned to them for early release of detained Pakistanis?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari): (a) There are over three thousand Pakistani prisoners detained in various Jails of KSA.

(b) Information regarding prisoners detained in various Jails is being collected and will be submitted once the same is completed.

(c) The jails in Saudi Arabia house prisoners who are convicted by a court of law, after proper investigation and trial. Expatriates and Saudis are strictly dealt in accordance with law. If a detainee is proven guilty as per the rules & regulations of the Kingdom, his punishment / penalty can neither be reduced nor waived off except by a Royal decree or amnesty. No foreign Mission has the authority to influence/interfere in decisions of the courts.

As a consequence of Missions' efforts 5433 Pakistanis from central jails were released / deported while 5379 prisoners have been released/deported from detention centers from 2019 to May 2023. The Missions have also released/repatriated 250 Pakistanis after arranging payment of their fines/penalties.

(d) This agreement was signed between Pakistan and KSA in 2021 and was ratified in 2022. However, so far no transfer of the prisoners has taken place as consent of the prisoner is a pre-requisite for transfer of any prisoner to Pakistan. Prisoners prefer to stay due to better facilities in Jails in KSA.

(e) There are 16 officers and 77 officials, working in Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh. There are 20 officers and 108 officials (Pak-based + local based staff) in Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah. Details are being collected.

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

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

- (a) *details of the procedure for grant of House Building Advance (HBA) in Pakistan Standard and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA);*
- (b) *the eligibility criteria of HBA in PSQCA;*
- (c) *names, designations, CNIC Nos. and parent department of officer/officials working in PSQAC who have been granted HBA multiple times during the last five years?*

Minister for Science and Technology (Mr. Agha Hassan Baloch): (a) A Committee has been constituted by PSQCA for grant of loans and advances to their employees. House Building Advance (HBA) is being disbursed to the officers / officials of PSQCA on the recommendations of Committee (**Annex-A**). PSQCA follows the procedure of long term advances in line circulated by Finance Division from time to time.

(b)

Loan Type	Category	Length of Service	Amount
HBA	Gazetted	No minimum service required for FPSC recruited permanent employees	Equals to 36 Basic + Any type of pay
	Non-Gazetted	10 years regular service or permanent class-IV employees can apply after completing their probation period	Equals to 36 Basic + Any type of pay

(c) Fifty Six (56) officers / officials of PSQCA have been granted HBA multiple times during the last 5 years. The detail may be seen at **Annex-B**.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that no room or shed has been built for the Bait-ul-Khala staff on Motorway M-4, so they feel compelled to spend their rest time (day/night) in open sky facing the whether extrmes;*
- (b) *whether separate rooms will be built for said staff by the National Highway Authority?*

Minister for Communications (Mr. Asad Mahmood): (a) It is to apprise that three Rest Areas at Makhdumpur (70-KM), Shorkot (128-KM) & Gojra (168 KM) and one Mini Service Area at Sahianwala (263-KM) on M-4 are operational to facilitate the commuters.

(b) Construction of New Service Areas at Khanewal (38-KM), Jumani (148-KM) and Dandewal (205-KM) is near completion to facilitate the general public travelling on Motorway (M-4), separate rooms for the staff of Bait-Ul-Khala at said service areas will be provided by NHA.

NHA has passed instruction for provision of resting facilities (Sheds/rooms) for workers of the washroom staff. Copy of the letter is placed at **Annex-A**. Compliance of the instruction will be sharted with the honorable member of the National Assembly.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

1. **Begum Tahira Bukhari:**
(Deferred on 20-07-2023)

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:**
(Deferred on 20-07-2023)

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 2nd August, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.