

(7th 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 7th August, 2023**

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

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the number of doctors of mental health and cancer in each Government Hospital of Islamabad at present?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): The hospital wise reply of the said question is as below:

(i) **PIMS:**

The following doctors are working in Mental Health and Cancer Department, PIMS Hospital, Islamabad. Detail is as under:

Psychiatry / Mental Health Department

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Number of working
1	Professor	01
2	Associate Professor	01
3	Assistant Professor	01
4	Medical Officer	03
5	Postgraduate Trainees	13
Total:		19

Oncology / Cancer Department

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Number of working
1	Associate Professor	01
2	Senior Registrar	01
3	Postgraduate Trainees	09
Total:		11

(ii) **Polyclinic:**

The name and number of doctors working in mental health and cancer (oncology), FGPC are attached (Annex-A).

(iii) **NIRM:**

There is one qualified Psychiatrist and six Psychologists providing mental health care to patients suffering from all types of psychiatric disorders.

The National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine is a tertiary care hospital for persons with disabilities for their long-term rehabilitation and treatment. As such no facility of cancer treatment is available.

(iv) **FGH:**

The FGH is secondary care hospital and these departments are meant for tertiary care hospital. So, information in this regard may be treated as Nil on part of FGH.

(Annex-A)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLYCLINIC (PGMD), ISLAMABAD

Department of Neurology:-

S. No.	Name of officer	Qualification	Domicile	Date of Birth	Ist entry Into Govt. Service	Date of Promotion in BS-18/19
01	Dr. Riaz Mehmood	MBBS, MCPS (Medicine) FCPS (Neuro)	KPK	10-12-1967	19-2-1996	14-2-2014 as Associate 17-01-2017 as Physician
02.	Dr. Sadaf Nisar	MBBS FCPS (Neuro)	KPK	01-09-1978	28-05-2005 on contract 12-04-2006 FPSC	10-8-2006
03	Dr. Ghulam Mujtaba	MBBS FCPS (Neuro)	Sindh-®	06-01-1986	01-12-2015	02-12-2022

Department of Oncology:-

S. No.	Name of officer	Qualification	Domicile	Date of Birth	Ist entry Into Govt. Service	Date of Promotion in BS-18/19
01	Dr. Muhammad Kashif Khan	MBBS, FCPS (Surgery/ Oncology)	Punjab	02-05-1981	13-04-2006	10-10-2019 as Associate Surgeon (Oncology)

Department of Psychiatry:-

S. No.	Name of officer	Qualification	Domicile	Date of Birth	Ist entry Into Govt. Service	Date of Promotion in BS-18/19
01	Dr. Ibad-ul- Haq, M.O	MBBS, FCPS (Psychiatry)	Punjab	28-06-1991	14-06-2021	-

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

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

- (a) *the number of residences available for doctors and other staff in each of the Government Hospital/Dispensary in Islamabad; and*
- (b) *whether illegal occupants are also residing in it?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) The hospital/healthy facility wise reply of the said question is as below:

(i) **PIMS:**

- (a) PIMS has 356 Flats / Bungalows in PIMS colony for residence of doctors and other staff's families:

Category	Number of Block	Number of Flats / Bungalows	Total
F-Type		16	16 Bungalows
E-Type	03	08	24 Flats

Category	Number of Block	Number of Flats / Bungalows	Total
D-Type	06	08	48 Flats
D-Type (BCC)	01	04	04 Flats
C-Type	08	12	96 Flats
B-Type	06	28	168 Flats
Total:			16 Bungalows
Total:			340 Flats
Grand Total:			356

Medical Officer Hostel	84 Rooms
PG Hostel	74 Rooms
Female Doctors Hostel	102 Rooms
Nursing Hostel	115 Rooms
CMT Hostel	38 Rooms
Total:	413 Rooms

(b) There are no illegal occupants residing in PIMS colony or Hostels.

(ii) **Polyclinic:**

It is stated that this hospital has following residential facilities for doctors / nurses;

A. Residences / Hiring:-

- i. Through Self Hiring (Doctor-38 and Nurces54).
- ii. Through Rental basis Hiring (Doctor-111 and Nurces-96).
- iii. Through State office (Doctor -100 and Nurces100).

B. Hostel Accommodation: -

- i. Male doctor hostel (Room-32, Allottes-56).

ii. Female doctor hostel (Room-38, Allottes-53).

iii. Nursing hostel. (Room 28, Allottes-77).

(iii) **NIRM:**

(a) No residence is available for doctors and other staff of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (NIRM), Islamabad. The reply on behalf of NIRM may please be treated as nil.

(b) Nil.

(iv) **FGH:**

(a) No residence is available in FGH for doctors and other staff. So, the reply in this regard may be treated as Nil.

(b) Nil.

(v) **DHO, Islamabad**

(a) 110 number of quarters are available for residence of doctors and other staff of Health Department, Islamabad.

(b) No illegal occupant is residing.

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

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

(a) *the number of MRI, CT Scan, X-Ray, Ultrasound machines available in each of the Government Hospitals in Islamabad;*

(b) *the number of out of order machines against the total number of machines; and*

(c) *the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the aforesaid problems being faced by the patients due to out of order machines?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a), (b) and (c) The hospital wise reply of the said question is as below:

(i) **PIMS:**

(a) The details of MRI, CT Scan, X-ray, Ultrasound machines of PIMS is as under:

Name of Equipment	Total Quantity	Status
MRI	01	Under installation
CT Scan	03	02 in main hospital 01 under installation in Children Hospital
Ultrasound	11	10 in working condition 01 has completed life
X-Ray	06	5 in working condition 01 has completed life

(b) 01 Ultrasound and 01 X-ray machine are out of order due to completion of their life.

(c) The out of order machines cannot be repaired owing to their completion of life.

ii. **FGPC:**

(a) The facility of CT-Scan, X-Ray and Ultra-sound machines are available in FGPC hospital. However, the procurement of MRI machine through Japanese grant, is under tendering process. The list of equipment/ machines that are working in the Radiology department is attached at **Annex-A**.

(b) The detail of working and out of working is as under.

Only one X-Ray machine is out of order. The total number of working equipment/ machines installed *i.e.* CT-Scan, X-ray and Ultrasound. The detail is as given below: -

Sr.#	Name of Equipment	Total machine	Out of order
01	MRI	-	-
02	CT-Scan,	01	-
03	X-ray	08	01
04	Ultrasound	05	-

(c) The out of order machine is not repairable. Therefore bio-medical engineer has recommended for its condemnation.

iii. **FGH:**

(a) The Federal General Hospital is a Secondary Care Referral Hospital providing round the clock basic health facilities. The hospital has two x-ray machines and two ultrasound machines available in the hospital. MRI and CT Scan machines are used in Tertiary Care Hospitals.

(b) All machines are in working condition.

(c) No machine is out of order.

iv. **NIRM:**

Number of available MRI, CT Scan, X-Ray and Ultrasound machines in the National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine is as under: -

i.	MRI	01
ii.	CT Scan	01
iii.	X-Ray	03
iv.	Ultrasound	01
v.	CARM	01

(Image Intensifier)

(b) All of the above machines are in working condition except MRI machine. The MRI machine is out of order since 04-05-2023.

(c) The MRI machine was installed in this Institute in the year 1996 and has completed its life. Purchase of new MRI machine is under process. PC-I was launched for purchase of new machine. Supply order has been issued to the relevant firm.

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

321. ***Ms. Shams Un Nisa:**

(Transferred from 51st Session)

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) what measures are being taken by the Government for efficient maintenance of railways assets; and*
- (b) whether the Government provides an update on the progress made in improving railways connectivity with the neighbouring countries?*

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) Pakistan Railways assets are mainly related to the Track (11881 KM), Rolling Stock (15699 Nos.) etc. Most of these assets have lived its useful life. Therefore Railway administration has taken following measures for efficient maintenance of these assets:

- i. Increase fiscal space for maintenance through transfer of pension, reduce utility bills through solarization, improved procurement management through prioritized procurement and efficient fuel management system.
- ii. Outsourcing of maintenance service of locomotives.
- iii. Gradually shift from manual to mechanized track maintenance regime for enhanced productivity and quality.
- iv. Improved governance of maintenance system through introduction of IT related interventions (ERP, etc.), and provision of professional HR.

(b) Regional Connectivity is an important aspect of Pakistan Railway development framework, Presently, Pakistan Railway has

planned to improve its functional links with the regional countries *i.e.* India and Iran.

Furthermore, following new rail links will be established:

- (1) Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (UAP) Railway connectivity Project through Kohat-Kharlachi.
- (2) Chaman-Spinboldak-Kandahar Project through Chaman-Spinboldak Rail Link.
- (3) Multimodal rail link with China through ML-I and Havelian Dryport.

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

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

- (a) *has the Government taken notice of the fact that several industrial units have either been closed down or near to close their operations completely or partially, as a result, thousands of people would have either lost their jobs or there is fear that they will lose their jobs in the coming days; if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *has any estimate even been calculated to find out the actual number of such layoffs;*
- (c) *if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof;*
- (d) *the reasons for such closures of industrial units; and*
- (e) *what steps are being taken by the Government to correct such problems as soon as possible?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Syed Murtaza Mahmud):

(a)

Engineering Development Board

- It is to inform that due to ongoing economic crises the industry is facing difficulties in opening LC's to import input

materials/ components essentially required to produce industrial goods and due to said reason industrial units are operating at very low capacities.

- Due to low capacity utilization some manufacturers temporary closed down their plants and plan their operations on the basis of available raw materials kits.
- EDB has taken the matter with SBP and Ministry of Finance on occasions.

Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA)

The Authority (EPZA) has taken the notice regarding closure of the industrial units and is trying to overcome this issue. There are nearly 47 closed/ sick units.

(b) & (c) The data for retrenchment of employees, layoffs is available on Federal Bureau of Statistics may have such data available.

(d)

Engineering Development Board

Currently the manufacturing companies are facing excessive non-production days and shut down due to supply chain issues.

Export Processing Zones Authority:

The reasons are as under:

- i. Impact of Covid-19 pandemic.
- ii. Business recession through the world.
- iii. Foreign Currency exchange issue.

(e)

- A high level committee consisting of Secretary Commerce, Secretary MOI&P & Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan

was previously looking after matter LCs. EDB and MOIP have taken up the matter of difficulties faces by the manufacturers to every forum including the above committee.

- Under recent circular of SBP No. 20 of 2022 dated 27th December 2022 the quota has been abolished with effect from January 1, 2023 and companies have been asked to approach their banks directly for LC establishment.
- Since root cause of the problem is economic crises and foreign exchange reserves of the country, State Bank of Pakistan or Ministry of Finance may be in a better position to give the timeline for resolution of this issues.

Export Processing Zones Authority.

EPZA has taken concrete steps to help investors to revive their business activity. EPZA is in close contact with the investors to diversify the business activity. EPZA has submitted a proposal to FBR to allow export of same state goods from Export Processing Zones to abroad which will further enhance business activity. EPZA is also moving towards Private and Public Participated EPZs for which amendment in relevant Law and Rules is under process.

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

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state the number of hectares in Balochistan, KPK, Sindh and Punjab to which are irrigated through canals under water disbursement agreement 1991, as well as the canal system in the country alongwith total number and length of the cannals?

Minister for Water Resources (Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah):

The number of hectares of the land irrigated through canals under Water Agreement, 1991 in the four provinces is as under:-

Irrigation Department Punjab	(Annex-I)
Irrigation Department Sindh,	(Annex-II)
Irrigation Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	(Annex-III)
Irrigation Department Balochistan.	(Annex-IV)

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

324. ***Mr. Ramesh Lal:**
(Transferred from 51st Session)

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that railways routes from Larkana-Dadu to Kotri and Sukkur-Larkana to Kotri have been closed down in the recent past; if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) the detail of total number of railways routes which have been closed during recent flood in Sindh; and*
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to open these railways routes at the earliest?*

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) Initially train operation on Kotri-Dadu-Habib Kot sections was suspended during Covid-19 lock down from March, 2020 and train operation was restored in June, 2020. The routes were severely affected during flood of 2022. Pakistan Railway restored the track infrastructure of said route on 04-12-2022 through its own resources as no financial support was provided for restoration of damaged infrastructure.

(b) Two Pakistan Railway routes in Sindh Province *i.e.* (1) Kotri-Dadu-Larkana-Habib Kot on (ML-2) and Jacobabad-Sibi on (ML-3) sections were closed due to severe damages caused by floods in August and September, 2022.

(c) Given details mentioned above, the train operations was suspended for 41 days due to flood damages and the said route was restored through own resources. Train operation including Jaffar Express running through Sindh province has also been restored after flood damages. Furthermore, Pakistan Railways has restored Moenjo Daro

Express train service from Kotri to Sukkur via Dadu- Larkana w.e.f. 20-07-2023.

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

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state the function, responsibilities and performance of Federal agencies and institutions for promotion of specified studies in water sector, institution of engineers, tube well construction company, Indus River System Authority (IRSA) and Pak Trans border water organization during the last three years in the country?

Minister for Water Resources (Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah):
Ministry of Water Resources was created on 04 August 2017. Through an SRO dated October 08, 2020 various organizations departments / autonomous bodies / authorities were attached with this Ministry. Details of the organization mentioned in the Question of the Hon'ble Member of the National Assembly is given under.

Institution of Engineers:

It is stated that this institute came into existence in 1948 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The vision of the institute is to promote and advance the science, practice, and business of Engineering in all its branches throughout Pakistan and promote efficiency in the engineering practices. The institute has private setup rather than Public.

Tube well Construction Company:

It is apprised that this is a defunct organization which was attached with this Ministry. Liquidation process of this organization is under process on the directions of Hon'ble Lahore High Court.

Pakistan Trans-border water organization

Pakistan Trans-border water organization (PTWO) was setup as a new agency by the then Prime Minister, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani to look into construction of dams and water sector projects by upper riparian countries, India and Afghanistan, and coordinate steps to protect Pakistan's water rights on rivers flowing from the

neighboring countries. However, practically this organization never came into existence, since Pakistan's water issues with India are being dealt by the O/o Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters, an organization constituted under Indus Water Treaty. Further, Pakistan is presently not facing any major challenge with other neighbouring countries, in the field of water resources.

Indus River System Authority

IRSA came into existence after promulgation of IRSA Act of 1992. Main duties and responsibilities of the Authority, *inter alia*, are: Regulation and distribution of surface waters amongst the provinces as per Water Apportionment Accord (WAA) 1991; river & reservoir operations; coordination and regulation of activities of WAPDA in exchange of data between the provinces in connection with gauging & recording of surface water flows; compilation & review of indents as received from the provinces and to issue consolidated operational directives to WAPDA for reservoir operations.

IRSA during the last three years and also since its creation in 1993, has been performing and discharging its mandated duties as per its above stated responsibilities, under the umbrella and policies of the WAA 1991. The Authority with the help of its Advisory Committee - having representation from provincial irrigation and agriculture departments, MoWR and WAPDA - has been preparing advance Seasonal Water Availabilities and Reservoir Operational Criteria, under which the whole Indus River System is operated on seasonal basis.

IRSA, by and large, is performing its duties satisfactorily.

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

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state what progress has the Government made in addressing the water scarcity and management issues in the country?

Minister for Water Resources (Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah):

Water is a devolved subject, and provinces have developed their policies and plans to address issues pertaining to the water sector accordingly. However, steps taken by Government of Pakistan, through Ministry of Water Resources for addressing water scarcity and management issues are as follows:

1. Government of Pakistan approved the first-ever National Water Policy of Pakistan on 24th April 2018 to take stock of the emerging water crisis.

2. Under the National Water Policy, following targets have been set for the period 2018-2030:

- Reduction of 33 percent in the 46 MAF river flows that are lost in conveyance, through accelerated programme of water course lining specially in saline or semi saline areas.
- The existing water storage capacity of 14 MAF shall be increased by immediately starting construction of Mohmand Dam and Diamer-Basha Dam. The existing water storage capacity is thus planned to be increased up to 10 MAF with construction of Diamer-Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam and other additional storages.
- Increase of at least 30 percent in the efficiency of water use by producing “more crop per drop”.
- Gradual replacement and refurbishing of decades old irrigation infrastructure in accordance with an adequate asset management plan.
- Real-time monitoring of river flows by IRSA is to be ensured through *inter alia* telemetric monitoring to maintain transparent water accounting system and to check the increasing trend of unaccounted for water in the Indus System of Rivers.
- Development of a standardized and uniform mechanism for data collection of various parameters of water resources including but not limited to rivers/canals gauge and discharge,

rainfall/snowfall, depth to groundwater table, surface/subsurface water quality parameters, river/canal and reservoirs sedimentation.

3. Ministry of Water Resources through Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) is finalizing the first ever National Water Conservation Strategy for Agriculture, Domestic and Industrial sectors. This document will provide a detailed overview of the interventions needed to be adopted in the respective sectors with science-based evidence. It will also define the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and put forward a comprehensive awareness raising plan for the general public.

4. Status of projects being executed/ planned to address water scarcity and management issues are attached as **Annex-A**.

5. Brief on National Water Policy is attached as **Annex-B**.

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

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

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite being an agricultural country, Pakistan agricultural exports are very less although comparatively small countries are meeting their domestic needs by increasing their agricultural products and increasing their revenue by exporting; the steps taken to increase the domestic revenue and to meet the domestic requirement and bring the agricultural reforms; and*
- (b) the access acquired from the International Markets including Europe, Africa and Arab Countries to export our agriculture products?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) Pakistan's export sector heavily relies on agriculture, particularly the export of food products, raw cotton, and other

agricultural-based good. This is worth citing that agriculture also contributed 58% of the exports of Pakistan. Additionally, the government's measures to curb demand have also impacted export performance. Nevertheless, the government has implemented policy incentives to stimulate exports.

Pakistan's major export items continue to be concentrated in three categories: Cotton manufactures, Leather, and rice. This pattern indicates that Pakistan is still heavily reliant on a limited number of export items. Regarding to export destinations, the United States remained the largest market for Pakistan's exports.

M/o NFS&R through attached departments has taken following steps to increase domestic revenue and to meet the domestic requirements and bring the agricultural reforms are attach as **Annex-I**.

(b) Engagement of Pakistan with its trading partners in the current financial year are mentioned below:

- 3rd Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference (PATDC) and Single Country Exhibition (SCE) was held in South Africa.
- MoU between the Pakistan and Mozambique on the establishment of Pakistan-Mozambique Joint Trade and Investment Committee was signed on the sidelines of 3rd PATDC in South Africa.
- Bilateral Trade Agreement between the Ethiopia and Pakistan have been finalized and will be signed soon.
- EU-GSP plus Scheme: EU is Pakistan's largest export partner. Since, 4 Pakistani products have duty free access in all 27-member states of the EU on 91 percent tariff lines under EU's SDP+, since 1st January 2014.
- United Kingdom has been a strong supporter of Pakistan in securing GSP plus Status form the EU. Following its exit from the EU, UK gave a firm commitment to Pakistan that it will continue to grant similar market access to the Pakistani products which it enjoys under EU GSP plus regime.

- Pakistan and Turkey signed the Trade in Goods Agreement on 12th August, 2022 in Islamabad. Pakistan has gained market access in traditional sectors such as leather, rice, dates, mangoes and nontraditional products/sectors include seafood, processed agricultural products.
- Department of Plant Protection (DPP) has succeeded to obtain market access for export of fresh mango and rice to south Africa, Kenya, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Europe.
- Whereas market access for processed food and fresh vegetables for Arab countries, citrus for Kenya, Wooden material, Herbs & cotton products for Europe.
- DPP is also continuously interacting with its trading partners. However, further trade potential of the country may be increased by taking steps to improve quality and competitiveness.
- DPP has succeeded to obtain market access for export of fresh Cherries to China.
- Ministry of NFS&R through its Animal Husbandry wing proceed new protocols for export of heated beef, 70% cooked beef, Fried skin and Dairy products between the China and Pakistan have been finalized and will be signed soon.

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

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

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

- (a) how is the Government promoting public awareness and education on water conservation, hygiene and sanitation practices; and*

- (b) *to provide comprehensive view of the Government plans and initiatives to improve water quality and reduce pollution in water bodies such as rivers and lakes?*

Minister for Water Resources (Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah):

(a) The National Water Policy approved by the Federal Government in April, 2018 emphasizes on promoting public awareness and education regarding various aspects of the water sector. Following the directives of the policy, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has organized short and long term capacity building and awareness programs on water conservation, hygiene and sanitation practices which are briefly listed below:

- i. PCRWR in collaboration with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission of Pakistan (NAVTTC) has designed and launched six months diploma courses on “Water Quality Testing and Treatment” at its 11 offices. Three batches of this diploma course have been completed. PCRWR has imparted the water education to the youngsters to enable them to understand the prevailing water challenges and solutions required to resolve these.
- ii. PCRWR disseminates its research findings to the stakeholders through sharing its reports, factsheets, brochures, newsletters, website material, social media (Youtube channel, Twitter, face book) etc.
- iii. PCRWR in collaboration with national and international partners has held the Pakistan Water Week in 2021 and 2022. This national event includes several awareness raising activities for students and the general public such as essay writing competition, science projects, water games, debates, panel discussions, documentary competitions, technology showcasing and display of banners, steamers in the twin cities. Likewise, the World Water Day and Farmer Days are also organized every year to disseminate knowledge to the wider community.
- iv. PCRWR under the directions of Ministry of Water Resources is also launching a four month National Water Internship

Program in 2023-24 for graduates/postgraduates to impart them with knowledge and practical skills.

(b) After 18th amendment, the responsibility/management to improve water quality and reduce pollution in water bodies lies with the provinces.

However, Ministry of Water Resources in 2016 had circulated Draft Model Provisional Flood Plain Management Act 2015 (River Act), among all the federating units (four provinces; Gilgit-Baltistan; AJ&K and the then FATA) for undertaking necessary legislation through Provincial Assemblies to formally enact the Act. Objective of this act *inter-alia* include catering for the quality/better flow of river water and protection of overall environment in the river area.

In pursuance to this, Government of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have already promulgated their respective Flood Plains Management/River Acts.

In addition, National Water Policy (NWP) encourages the provincial governments to formulate detailed policies and guidelines on the subject like (i) Water Pricing; (ii) drinking water; (iii) water quality and (iv) water treatment. Besides, article 12.5 of the NWP articulates that the sources of water, surface as well as underground, shall be diligently protected from contamination and always maintained in a healthy state, through enforcement of legislation for controlling water pollution in coordination with province.

Furthermore, NWP guides to develop provincial groundwater regulatory authorities and groundwater atlas for each canal command and sub-basin delineating:

- Groundwater development potential;
- Water quality zones;
- Water table depth zones;
- Recommendations for installation of different types of tube-wells

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

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the present Government to improve infrastructure of the Pakistan Railways; and*
- (b) the total funds allocated by the Government for the said purpose so far?*

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) Despite financial constraints Pakistan Railways has taken the following steps for improvement in infrastructure (track, bridges, stations etc.):

- i. In Immediate Track Safety Works (ITSW-I) project, 518 KM track between Kotri- Khanpur is being rehabilitated at the cost of Rs.1862.84 million.
- ii. In the project of Rehabilitation of Karachi Port tracks, 24 kilometer track, 17 level crossings and 07 bridges, have been rehabilitated along with the replacement of turnouts.
- iii. Railway Dry Ports at Lahore (Mughalpura) Badami Bagh and Azakhel, have been up graded.
- iv. Immediate Track Safety Works (ITS W-II & IMTS W-III) at a cost of 4830.437 Million and Rs.4875.461 Million respectively covering a total length of 456 KM between Tando Adam-Khanpur will be rehabilitated by replacing the US components of the track by ensuring safety of train operation.
- v. A PC-I amounting to Rs.4930.22 million for rehabilitation of track machinery has been approved which will ensure quality of track maintenance work.
- vi. 11 Nos. stations have been upgraded including Peshawar, Hassan Abdal, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Narowal, Nankana Sahib, Raiwind, Okara, Sahiwal, and Bahawalpur, under PSDP projects.

- vii. Upgradation of ML-I at a cost of 6.683 Billion US Dollars has been negotiated with the Chinese side for completing the ML-1 in two phases consisting of four packages.

b. Funds allocated by the Government in 2023-2024 for PSDP and revenue are as under:-

1. **PSDP**

- i. ITSW Karachi-Sukkur Rs. 868.8 Million
- ii. ITSW Tando-Adam-Rohri Rs. 1000 Million
- iii. ITSW Rohri-Khanpur Rs. 1000 Million
- iv. Rehabilitation of track machines Rs. 500 Million

Funds allocated from Pakistan Railways revenue for improvement/ maintenance of railway infrastructure is as under:-

2. **Revenue**

- i. Buildings Rs. 137.20 Million (Approx 26000 buildings, service + residential)
- ii. Track Rs. 1730.00 Million (11,880 KM track)
- iii. Bridges Rs. 214.75 Million (approx: 14000 bridges)

330. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*)

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

- (a) *how many doctors are being produced every year, as compared to the number of nurses by the concerned institutions; and*
- (b) *what steps are being taken by the Government to improve nursing and paramedic professions in the country?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) According to Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, the number of doctors registered in 2022 are around 18000 including from both the public and the private sector and according to Pakistan Nursing Council, the number of annually registered nurses are around 14000.

(b) Following steps has been taken in this regard:-

- i. Diploma has been changed to Bachelor Degree Programme to enhance the qualification to meet the International requirements
- ii. Allocated Seats in Public sector Nursing Collaged have been increased by the Provincial Governments.
- iii. The year 2020 is being celebrated as Year of Nurses. To overcome the shortage of degree nursing professional including faculty, scholarships have been offered for graduate and post-graduation through Ministry of Federal Education and Professional. Training–National. Endowment Scholarships for Talent (NEST) project. Under this project around 1000 scholarships have been offered across the country for BSN, MSN and PhD program.
- iv. Currently three universities, offering PhD program in the country. The curricula for Bachelors and Master's. program in Nursing/Midwifery is already being revised to bring them more in line with international best practices but adapted to national context.
- v. The Allied. Health Professionals Act, 2022 has been promulgated on 3rd March 2022 with the view to establish the Allied Health Professionals Council (AHPC) in Pakistan for making a uniform standard of basic and higher qualification in various Allied Health disciplines and to consolidate the law relating to the registration of all professionals in various disciplines of Allied Health Professionals as defined in Schedule I of this Act.

vi. AHPC has been notified with the approval of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

vii. 1st meeting of AHPC has been held on 3rd May, 2023.

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

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state the details of the present Agriculture Scientists for purpose of making modern research in the Ministry, how much expenditure were incurred on their visits to the backward areas for inspection and increase of production of crops during the last five years?

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema):

- Pakistan Agricultural Research Council has the mandate of research and to some extent showcase of technologies to end users.
- Scientists from PARC have been working hard to create awareness for research based modern agriculture across Pakistan and especially in backward areas.
- Moreover, most of the PARC Institutes and centers are located in or cover backward areas. Backward areas covered by PARC includes.
- **Sindh:** Umerkot, Chachar, Diplo, Dahli, Nangarparker, Qambar, Tharparker, Mithi, Islamkot, Umerkot, Thatta, Badin, Mirpur Khas, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan
- **Balochistan:** Usta Muhammad, Dadar, Suhbatpur, Musa Khel.

- Turbat, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Jafarabad, Mastoong, Nasirabad and Kharan, Killa Saifullah.
- **Gilgit Baltistan:** Jaglot, Skardu, Gancha, Chilas, Astor, Ghizer and Hunza, Chillas, Gori Kot, Astor, Gilgit.
- **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:** Wana, South Waziristan Tribal areas, District, Miranshah, North Waziristan Tribal District, Tank, Chitral and Lakki Marwat.
- **Punjab:** Cholistan, Bahawalnagar, DG Khan, Nurpur Thal, Mankera.
- A total of 70 scientists visited backward areas and the visits paid were about 170.
- Achievements of PARC in the last 5 Years is summarized in the following table:

Out Come	Performance Indicators	Total
	36 varieties released by PARC	
Research and Development in Agriculture including technology transfer, surveillance programs and coordination among provinces	Germplasm acquisition,	82687
	Distribution and Evaluation (Nos.)	82462
	Farmer Filed Days (Nos.)	2438
	Beneficiaries in crops and value addition technologies (Nos.)	04 million
	Production of Bio Fertilizers (Bags)	88055
	Technical Studies, Sample based (Nos.)	2603
	Radio Talks/TV Programs (Nos.)	970
	Advisory Service Beneficiaries (Nos.)	32289
	Seed distributed (Rice, sugarcane fuzz, Pulses)	5000 ton
	Machinery distributed (Nos.)	500
	Fertilizer bags distributed (Nos.)	120000

- Similarly PARC is implementing Mega Projects of Wheat, Rice, Sugarcane and Pulses. These projects has distributed farm machinery, fertilizer, seed and created awareness through seminars, capacity building and field demonstrations.
- PARC has covered field crops like wheat, maize, sugarcane, barley, guar, grasses, oilseed crops (Sunflower, groundnut, soybean, brassica and mustard) and Pulses Crops (Mung, Mash, chickpea. Horticultural crops including fruits and vegetables, introduction of a number of exotic high value fruits (avocado, cherry, strawberry, blue berry, dragon fruit etc. dry fruits (Pistacio, almond, walnut etc).
- The increase in production does not solely depends on the research as it requires commitment timely input and management by the farmers. However, National Agricultural Research System including federal & provincial agricultural research and extension institutes, academia and collaborating international partners have added 372 varieties of various crops in the country.
- Pakistan's population has increased manifolds since inception of Pakistan, but it's the contribution of the agricultural scientists that we never had food productivity issue.
- The overall expenditure incurred on these visits by PARC Scientists during last 5 Years is Rs. 11 Million approximately.

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

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

- (a) the names of the life saving drugs being manufactured in the country; and*
- (b) the names of the drugs which are imported from abroad alongwith the names of countries?*

Reply not received.

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

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

- (a) *total houses/flats which have been allotted during the tenure of the present Federal Minister alongwith full details of each allotment in Islamabad;*
- (b) *category-wise number of Government accommodations available for allotment in each sector at present;*
- (c) *whether each allotment of Government accommodation is duly verified by the inquiry office of each sector;*
- (d) *if so, whether any discrepancy is found in the record of Estate Office and Inquiry Office of such allotment;*
- (e) *if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to resolve it?*

Minister for Housing and Works (Mr. Abdul Wasay): (a) Total 2,256 houses/flats were allotted subject to vacation basis) during the tenure of present Federal Minister. Details are at **(Annex-A)**.

(b) At present, no accommodation is laying vacant.

(c) Yes, Inquiry Office verified all the allotment's from Estate Office before issuance of occupation report.

(d) No discrepancy has been reported in the record of Inquiry Office and Estate Office.

(e) Inquiry Office verified all the allotments from Estate Office before issuance of occupation report.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state whether it is fact that action has been taken on corruption, embezzlement and illegal allotments in the Ministry, Pakistan

Housing Authority (PHA), Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) and Pakistan Works Division (PWD) since 2010; if so, the detail thereof?

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

Pak PWD

FIA Cases:

- i. The FIA Authority was requested to register FIR against Contractor M/s City Traders (Mr. Manan) & Executive Engineer (Hafiz Ahmed Ali) for preparing and accepting bogus and fake CDR/tenders.
- ii. FIR No. 76/2014, No. 117/2013 & No. 11/2014 is registered in FIA against Mrs. Humaira Khurram Khan, SE.
- iii. FIR No. 17/2014 was registered against Mr. Abdul Hameed Burdi, EE on account of his alleged involvement in misappropriation of Govt. Funds amounting to Rs. 35.000 Million.
- iv. FIR No. 17/2014 was registered against Mr. Ahmad Nawaz Solangi, EE on account of his alleged involvement in misappropriation of Govt. Funds amounting to Rs. 35.000 Million.

NAB Cases:

- i. Reference Nos. 74/2014, No.85/2016, No.86/2014 & No. 73/2017 are under trial in NAB, Lahore against Mrs. Humaira Khurram Khan, SE.
- ii. Reference 16/2014 is under trial in NAB Court against Mr. M. Attiq-ur-Rehman, SE.
- iii. Two References No. 74/2014 & 73/2017 are under trial in NAB, Lahore against Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Mirza, EE.
- iv. Two References No. 85/2016 & 86/2016 are under trial in NAB Court, Lahore against Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan, EE on account of misuse of authority.

PHAF

NIL. PHA Foundation is a company mandated to construct and allot apartments/housing units to low income groups of economy. The allotments are made to FG Employees, Provincial Government Employees and General Public. The allotments are made through adopting proper mechanism approved by the BoD. Till date, PHA-F has completed several projects in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi and handed over to its allottees.

It is worth mentioning here that all the allotments are conducted through computerized balloting in a transparent manner.

FGEHA,

NIL. The FGE Housing Authority made allotments to its registered members on first come first serve basis under Membership Drive-I and on age-wise seniority basis under Membership Drive-II by following the criteria as decided by the Executive Committee / Executive Board from time to time. The FGE Housing Authority is committed to follow the terms and conditions of the scheme strictly. Hence, no illegal allotment has been made in any scheme of the FGE Housing Authority.

Main Ministry

The reply from the Main Ministry may be treated as **NIL**.

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

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

- (a) *what is the status of cotton production in the aftermath of the flood; and*
- (b) *how it has affected our textile sector and what steps the Government is taking to promote cotton crop in the flood effected areas?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) i. Heavy rains began flooding areas of Pakistan in June 2022, at the beginning of the monsoon season. The, unprecedented rainfall caused devastating floods and landslides, affecting over 30 million

people. Rainfall has decreased since the start of September and rivers have returned to their normal water levels, according to Better Cotton. Some districts are still affected by flood water and are projected to remain at least partially drowned.

ii. There are significant impacts due to flood water and/or flash floods. With the last year (2022) rainwater delayed the farmers regularly scheduled agricultural activities to harvest cotton.

iii. The Government of Pakistan is estimating that some 40% of the annual cotton crop has been affected or lost due to the flooding / heavy rains.

(b) a. How it affected our textile sector?

- i. Ginning factories located in flood-affected areas are closed, and other are running factories with limited capacity.
- ii. The cotton arrived in the textile mills are damaged with fungus and stained which lowers the quality of textiles
- iii. The price of flood affected cotton lint was also decreased
- iv. Textile sector spent million of rupees on import of cotton due to shortage of local cotton production

b. **Steps Taken by the Government**

Various meetings of *Cotton Price Review Committee (CPRC)* were conducted and established the following steps:

1. During the current year, cotton sown area has been increased by 2.676 million hectares and from this area 12.65 million bales of cotton may expect this year
2. Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet had fixed cotton (Phutti) intervention price (CIP) at Rs. 8,500 per 40kg to revive cotton production.
3. The government also provides Rs. 1,000 per-acre subsidy on the approved varieties of seeds.
4. For ensuring technical support and assistance to farmers at their doorsteps during the period from sowing to harvesting, the

government has also established facilitation centers at every Tehsil, besides ensuring the availability of irrigation water during the crop season.

5. The Government also intervening in the market to stabilize cotton price by procuring of one million bales through Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP).

6. The Ginning factories are compelled to maintain MIP Rs. 8500/40kg. In some areas of Sindh some ginning factories were got sealed on acquiring malpractices of keeping the price lower.

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

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

- (a) *why the local car-manufacturing companies unilaterally increasing the prices on day to day basis;*
- (b) *the mechanism devised by the Ministry in this regard; and*
- (c) *the role being played by the Engineering Development Board in this regard?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Syed Murtaza Mahmud): (a) The prices of vehicle depends upon various factors including:

- i. Rupee-dollar parity,
- ii. Freight Cost
- iii. Input material Cost in international/ local market
- iv. Cost of doing business
- v. Improvements in vehicles introduction of additional features,
- vi. Import compression policy.
- vii. High Taxes

The detail is at Annex-A.

(b) The government does not, regulate the prices of auto sector through a price fixation policy. The policy of government has been to promote industrial activities through competition among local auto manufacturers leaving market forces to determine open market value in the automotive industry. The intention of government has been manifested through Automotive Development policy, 2016-2021 and same principal was maintained in Auto Industry Development and Export Policy, 2021-2026 with enhanced emphasis on localization of parts.

(c) It is submitted that role of Engineering Development Board EDB / Ministry of industries and production is to facilitate the engineering industry through provision of policy and regulations, which include Auto Industry Development and Export Policy (AIDEP 2021-26).

Regulation managed by EDB include:

- SRO 656(1)/2006 dated 22.06.2006; EDB is mandated for issuance of certificate for the manufacturing assembling/ manufacturing of vehicles and allow import of CKD for manufacturing vehicles under Concessionary regime to OEMS.
- SRO 655(1) 2006 dated 22.06.2006: authorizes EDB to allow concessionary import of raw materials, sub-components and sub-assemblies to vendors assembling & manufacturing of auto parts.
- SRO 693(1) 2006 dated 22.06.2006: list of localized auto-parts on import of which assemblers have to pay additional duty when imported. In the current Auto Policy AIDEP (2021-26), focus is on incentivizing the localization in terms of Value/Cost by updating S.R.O.693 (I)/2006 biannually.

The EOB neither has mandate to regulate prices of vehicles nor does the prevailing laws permit EOB to intervene in operational procedures/ Commercial transactions. After Sales Services of the Companies, Showrooms or dealerships affairs.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

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

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

- (a) *the total average cultivated area of major crops in the country at present and its area under cultivation with the time line of 5, 10, 15 and 20 years ago, respectively;*
- (b) *the average per acre yield of each of the above crops as per the time line given in part (a) above;*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that the area under cultivation and per acre yield of the said crops have either stagnated or in some case declined during the said years;*
- (d) *if so, the reasons thereof, and what corrective measures are being taken to improve the yield of each major crop such as area under cultivation?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) The total average of cultivated area of major crops in the Pakistan is presented in below table.

Major Crops -Total Average Cultivated Area (000 Hec)						
Years	Timeline	Wheat	Rice	Maize	Sugarcane	Cotton
2022-23	current year	9043.0	2976.0	1720.0	1319.0	2144.0
2018-23	5y Average	8931.1	3138.6	1513.7	1177.2	2210.0
2014-23	10y Average	9005.4	2973.7	1368.9	1189.0	2490.8
2008-23	15y Average	8962.8	2855.2	1253.2	1135.7	2615.8
2004-23	20y Average	8829.6	2776.3	1191.9	1112.7	2732.5

Source: Pakistan Economic Survey and Agricultural Statistics of Pakistan

(b) The average per hectare yield of major crops is as under:

Major Crops-Average per Acre Yield (KGs/Hec)						
Years	Timeline	Wheat	Rice	Maize	Sugarcane	Cotton
2022-23	Current Year	3056.0	2460.0	5922.0	69085.0	390.0

2018-23	5y Average	2930.1	2525.3	5714.6	66751.8	604.9
2014-23	10y Average	2880.2	2505.1	5080.1	62834.6	666.3
2008-23	15y Average	2823.6	2441.2	4632.2	59802.0	692.9
2004-23	20y Average	2749.9	2350.8	4189.2	57478.2	690.0

Source: Pakistan Economic Survey and Agricultural Statistics of Pakistan

(c) The statistics show that area under major crops of Pakistan like Rice, Maize, and Sugarcane has increased during the said years. However, Wheat area was slightly decreased during last couple of years. However, in 2022-23 it reached again to 9043 thousand hectares. While cotton has declined from 2732.5 thousand hectares to 2144.0 thousand hectares. The area of cotton crop for the mentioned years has decreased due to less rate of cotton crop prevailed during last years, less economic return as compared to other competitive crops and crop damage by pest/insect attack. Yield of Wheat, Rice, Sugarcane and Maize have improved. However, cotton yield has drastically decreased over time.

(d) steps to improve yield of major crops are as under:-

- (a) To improve the yield of major crops seed sector reforms, farm mechanization, access to credit of farmers and post-harvest management have been addressed through different projects.
- (b) The Government of Pakistan is launching Green Revolution-2 project to address the productivity enhancement.
- (c) Under **Kissan Package-2022** various schemes have been introduced for flood affected farmers namely.
 - GoP Mark up subsidy scheme (GMSS) for small farmers of flood affected areas.
 - Interest free loan scheme for landless farmers in flood affected areas.
 - Wavier of Mark up on outstanding loan for subsistence farmers in the flood affected areas.
 - Mark up subsidy & Risk sharing scheme for farm mechanization.
 - PM's Youth Business & Agri. loan scheme.

- (d) Prime Minister Yield Enhancement Plan.
- (e) Edible Oil Enhancement Plan.
- (f) Cotton Improvement Plan.

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

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

- (a) the number of applications received for both categories against the Government and private allocated quota for Hajj-2023;*
- (b) whether it is a fact that surprisingly fewer applications have been received in the category of overseas Pakistanis;*
- (c) whether any assessment was made before allocating the such quota to Overseas Pakistanis;*
- (d) if so, details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof;*
- (e) whether it is also a fact that there are chances of surrendering the Hajj quota during the year 2023;*
- (g) if so, what corrective measures are being taken to fully utilize allocated quota?*

Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony (Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood): (a) Initially 79,922 applications were received against 88,380 quota of Government Hajj Scheme; they were all declared successful without balloting. The unutilized 6500 quota was surrendered to the KSA in compliance of the directive of the Federal Cabinet dated 10/04/2023. Net Government Quota is 81,880, the remaining 1958 seats have been utilized for Hardship and Labor quota. The 81,880 Government Quota is fully utilized. While, 68,474 applications have been received till 12-06-2023 against 90,830 quota of Private Hajj scheme. The unutilized 11,342 quota of Private Hajj Scheme is also been surrendered on 10/04/2023.

(b) There is no category for overseas Pakistanis, although this year new category of Sponsorship Scheme was introduced under which any one could apply for any Pakistani (overseas or otherwise) with the Hajj dues remitted from abroad. 50% quota each of the Government and Private Hajj scheme was reserved for the Sponsorship Scheme. The Sponsorship Scheme was introduced to ease burden of foreign exchange on foreign exchange reserves of our country and fortunately, \$30.90 million have been collected through the Government Sponsorship scheme. 7,145 applicants have applied under the Government Sponsorship Scheme. While total number of Hujjaj and USD collected through the Sponsorship Quota of Private Hajj Scheme will be calculated and reconciled in due course of time.

(c) Since no quota was allocated to overseas Pakistanis therefore no assessment was needed.

(d) -do-

(e) The year all the 79,922 applicants who applied for Hajj 2023 have been made successful and 6,500 quota of the Government Hajj Scheme and 11,342 quota of Private Hajj Scheme has been surrendered in compliance of the directive of the Federal Cabinet dated 10/04/2023. The quota was surrendered as Finance Division could not provide the required dollar cover for payment of the Hajj dues to the KSA. Besides that, the Sponsorship Scheme was introduced for the first time in history, and there were problems in the remitting the Hajj dues from abroad.

(f) When it emerged that 7,145 applicants have applied for Sponsorship Scheme, then Finance Division was approached for the required foreign exchange cover and remaining quota of the Sponsorship Scheme was utilized for the Regular Scheme and in this way all the applicants were declared successful. Besides that, the Sponsorship Scheme was widely publicized through national media and even through foreign missions abroad. The HGOs were facilitated in opening of the dollar accounts and in sorting out their problems in the banks.

40. ***Ms. Aliya Kamran:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*)

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

- (a) *the names of persons/employees who got retired from Pakistan Institute of Medical Science, Islamabad (PIMS) during the last two years, indicating also their designation, basic pay scale and date of retirement;*
- (b) *how many of them were granted promotion before the retirement alongwith detail thereof indicating the name of persons/employees, designation and date of promotion;*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that pension cases of most of the above said employees have not been finalized till date; if so, the reasons thereof, indicating each case;*
- (d) *what steps are being taken by the Government to finalize the pending pension case expeditiously and the date by which the same will be completed?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) The list of 232 employees who have been retired from PIMS during last two years is enclosed at **Annex-A**.

(b) The list of those 62 employees who got promoted against the post of regular promotion or placed on next higher post on the basis of placement policy of Federal Government before retirement is enclosed at **Annex-B**.

(c) The pension cases of above-mentioned employees at Annex-A has been finalized except 20 employees, their pension cases are under process. However, it is clarified that reasons behind delays in pension cases are in such cases, those who availed facility of advances *i.e.* House Building Advance (HBA), Motor Car Advance etc. Their cases remain under process to grant waiver from competent forum as admissible under the Prime Minister Assistant Package and some delays occur due to submission of succession certificate and other relevant documents *i.e.* FRC etc. at very belated stage. However, unnecessary delays are being avoided at the part of Institute & Ministry.

(d) Instructions are being issued to finalize all the pending pension cases without any further delay. In this regard, the relevant section, dealing with the personal matters of officials/ officers (who got retired), has been directed by the PIMS administration to finalize the pending cases expeditiously without further delay. Action will also be

taken against the official/ officer who is found responsible for any willful delay.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

341. ***Mr. James Iqbal:**

(Transferred from 51st Session)

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Government to promote seed production and research in each of cash crops, wheat, cotton and rice?

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): The following steps have been taken by the government to promote seed production and research in cotton:

1. Research and Development:

Central Cotton Research Institute Multan conduct research and development activities related to cotton seed production.

National Agriculture Research System (NARS) is working for the development of new high yielding, disease resistant and climate resilient rice and wheat varieties for the different areas of the country. Rice and wheat germplasm have been obtained from diverse sources (local/exotic) and their evaluation and breeding for the development of high yielding, better quality, stress resistant and climate resilient rice and wheat varieties are in progress.

Development and dissemination of resource conservation technologies; Direct seeded rice (DSR), Alternate wetting & drying (AWD), Rice residue management, etc. These technologies are climate resilient as to reduce green-house gases emission.

Government is supporting research centers for the production of Breeder Nucleus Seed (BNS), Pre-Basic and Basic seed categories.

The other institutions in both the Provinces, Sindh and Punjab also working on developing improved varieties of cotton, wheat and rice enhancing their yield potential, and improving resistance to pests and diseases.

An Early Generation Seed (CGS) system is in progress to maintain the genetic purity of cotton varieties.

Green Super Rice (GSR) project, a robust breeding program to develop and promote new climate resilient rice varieties under PARC / National Institute of Genomics & Advanced Biotechnology is in progress focusing on increased rice productivity in a resource efficient

- way and being able to extend rice production under adverse climatic conditions.
- Production and provision of certified seed of identified/area-specific rice varieties (3,301 tons) on 50% subsidy in Punjab, Balochistan & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the productivity enhancement of rice in Pakistan.

2. **Seed Certification and Quality Control:** The Government has upscale the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department (FSC&RD) to ensure the quality of cotton, rice and wheat seeds available to farmers. The department conducts inspections and tests to certify the seeds for their genetic purity, germination rate, and absence of diseases.

FSRD so far, has have registered / released 64 varieties of paddy, 191 varieties of wheat and 220 varieties of cotton for multiplication in which 14 varieties of paddy and 10 varieties of wheat and 6 varieties of cotton have been registered during the last three years.

3. **Track & Traceability:** To stop the sale of fake, adulterated, and substandard seed in the market Digital Track & traceability system has been introduced by the FSC&RD during the current year.

4. **Farmer Support Programs:** The government has initiated various programs to support cotton, wheat and rice farmers in seed production. These programs provide training and capacity building to farmers on seed production techniques, seed treatment, and storage practices. The government also provides financial assistance to farmers for the purchase of certified cotton and rice seeds.

5. **Public-Private Partnerships:** The government collaborates with Chinese foreign private seed companies and research institutions to promote cotton seed production and research. This includes joint ventures, technology transfers, and sharing of expertise to develop improved

varieties of cotton seeds. The government also facilitates public-private partnerships for the production and distribution of certified cotton seeds.

These steps taken by the Pakistan government aim to enhance seed production and research in cotton, leading to increased productivity, better quality, and improved profitability for cotton growers.

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

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *the time by which work on project ML-1 will be started and completed;*
- (b) *details of the total estimated cost thereof; and*
- (c) *the names of the projects under construction at present?*

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) Construction work on ML-I will be initiated after finalizing the following milestones: -

- Finalization of loan terms
- Consideration of loan interest rate on special concessional terms
- Tendering for Package-I

(b) Modified PC-I amounting to US\$ 9851.079 million approved by ECNEC on 31-10-2022.

(c) The timeline for completion of ML-1 project is 9 years.

(d) Currently, Ministry of Railways is pursuing with National Railway Administration for the finalization of Loan terms, construction of the projects will start after tendering. The following sub-projects have been initiated by MoR till date: -

1. China Pakistan Economic corridor support project (CPECSP) at Ministry of Railways.

2. Preliminary Design/ Drawings for Upgradation /rehabilitation of mainline (ML-1) and establishment of Dryport near Hevellian under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and hiring of design / drawings vetting consultants.
3. Up-gradation of Pakistan Railways existing Main Line-1 (ML-I) and Establishment of Dryport near Hevellian Phase- 1(CPEC)

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

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that steel manufacturers are hoarding thousands of tonnes of steel iron bars and selling it at the rates of their own choice;*
- (b) *if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check their stock and also control the cartels of steel manufacturers as well?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Syed Murtaza Mahmud): (a) & (b) The subject matter regarding prices and controlling the cartels fall under the working scope of Competition Commission of Pakistan which is relevant authority to control the Cartelization.

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

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *how many passenger and freight trains are running under Government and private administration at present; and*
- (b) *the details of accounts thereof alongwith break-up of loss and profit, so far?*

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) There are 94 Trains operating on Pakistan Railways network, out of which 44 are passenger and 50 are freight trains. Out of total passengers trains 32 are

running under Government of Pakistan Ministry Railway and 12 are running under private sector.

Passenger Sector Trains

Trains Operated by Pakistan Railway		Train Outsourced to private sector		Total Train
Mail & Express	13	Mail & Express	02	15
Intercity Trains	09	Intercity Trains	09	18
Passenger Trains	07	Passenger Trains	01	08
Shuttle Trains	03	-		04
Total	32	Total	12	44

Freight Sector

At an average daily around 50 freight train run over the network
The detail is as under:

1. Freight Trains of different commodities.
2. Material Trains (RMC)
3. Military Goods Trains
4. Departmental Goods Trains
5. Empty Stock Train Movements

(b) The detail of account along-with breakup of loss and profit of trains:

(i) Operated by Pakistan Railways, credentials are as under:

S. No.	Trains	Earning	Fuel Cost	Profit/ Loss	Remarks (Earning Year)
			@PKR253		
1	Khyber Mail	1,673	1,345	328	2021-22
2	Green Line	1,467	1,177	290	2021-22
3	Tezgam Exp	1,643	1,171	472	2021-22
4	Allama Iqbal	1,411	1,044	367	2021-22

5	Hazara Exp	1,288	1,096	192	2021-22
6	Karachi Exp	1,336	975	361	2021-22
7	Millat Exp	1,418	1,091	327	2021-22
8	Baha-ud Din	1,020	727	293	21-22 (296 Day Prorata)
9	Shalimar Exp	1,071	995	76	2021-22
10	Business Exp	1,388	982	406	2021-22
11	Jaffer Exp	1,396	1,144	252	2021-22
12	Karakorm Exp	1,640	995	645	2021-22
13	Pakistan Exp	1,577	1,160	417	2021-22
14	Subak Raftar	322	199	123	2021-22
15	Islamabad Exp	273	205	68	2021-22
16	Musa Pak	228	231	-3	2021-22
17	Lasani Exp	67	83	-16	2021-22
18	Thall Exp	392	394	-2	22-23 (58 day Prorata)
19	Kohat Exp	96	114	-18	2021-22
20	Chenab Exp	98	94	4	22-23 (275 day Prorata)
21	Sukkur Exp	538	425	113	2021-22
22	Saman Sarkar	26	34	-8	22-23 (275 day Prorata)
23	Attock Pass	72	69	3	22-23 (275 day Prorata)
24	Jand Pass	28	26	2	22-23 (275 day Prorata)

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

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the total number of solar refrigerator available in each Federal Hospitals to store vaccines, so that in case of loadshedding of electricity, the stored vaccine may not get spoiled?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): The hospital wise reply of the said question is as under:

(i) **FGH:**

The Federal General Hospital has dual feeder electricity supply installed by IESCO, there is no solar refrigerator requirement in Federal General Hospital, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad

(ii) **NIRM:**

The National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, Islamabad is a tertiary care Hospital catering services to the patients with disabilities. Vaccination facility is not available in the Institute

(iii) **PIMS:**

No solar refrigerator available in PIMS but in case of load shedding / breakdown of electricity there are automatic backup generators.

(iv) **FGPC:**

There is no solar refrigerator system available in FGPC. However, the hospital has uninterrupted generator-based supply and whole cold chain is maintained through these generators in case of electrical failure.

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

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

- (a) *whether survey has been done for the loss and damage of the dates crop aftermath of the floods;*
- (b) *if so, findings thereof and what steps are being taken by the Government to rehabilitate the farmers of aforesaid important crops?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) The survey has been completed by PARC of flood affected areas to assess flood losses. According to result of survey it has been revealed that 200 thousand tons of dates were damaged to the tune of Rs.17 billion (Rs.15.6 billion in Sindh and Rs.1.2 billion in KPK).

(b) PARC with the association of its center/institute in Umerkot (Sindh) and Quetta (Balochistan) has already submitted following two (2) proposals for funding from PSDP/PPP mode to uplift the research work on dates, support / capacity building of farmers, revenue generation and increase exports:

- i- Introduction of High Value Date Palm varieties and establish processing plant to revenue increase by export for Pakistan.

- ii- Introduction of New Exotic High Yielding Cultivars, Promotion and Expansion in Area under Dates Cultivation of Dates processing plant for value addition at Turbat Balochistan & Sakkur Sindh.

Under Kissan Package various schemes have been introduced for flood affected farmers namely:

- GoP Mark up subsidy scheme (GMSS) for small farmers of flood affected areas.
- Interest free loan scheme for landless farmers in flood affected areas.
- Wavier of Mark up on outstanding loan for subsistence farmers in the flood affected areas.
- Mark up subsidy & Risk sharing scheme for farm mechanization.
- PM's Youth Business & Agri. loan scheme.

348. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*)

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

- (a) *the names of the diseases, against which the medicines are not being manufactured in the country alongwith names of the said medicines; if so, reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *names of the countries from which the said medicines are being imported?*

Reply not received.

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

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Railway line in constituency NA-154 at Multan is passing from the densely populated area causing several deaths on daily bases;*
- (b) *if so, whether railways authority intends to construct five feet wall along both sides of the railway line;*
- (c) *if so, the time by which it will be implemented?*

Minister for Railways (Khawaja Saad Rafique): (a) Yes, it a fact that the railway line between Multan and Shershah (falling in the constituency NA-154) is passing through densely populated area. However, death rate in the said constituency is Nil in year 2023 as evident in **Annex-A**. It is further added that in terms of provision of Railway Act 1890, railway track is a permanent way and it is primarily the responsibility of road owning authority to take safety measures for people/ commuters near railway line and to install cautions on the ways/ roads leading to level crossings. Also section 122 (3) of Railway Act 1890 obligate people for not erecting temporary or permanent constructions near railway track for the interest and safety of Pakistan Railways.

(b) Given the fact that railway line between Multan and Shershah is passing through densely populated area therefore, keeping in view the safety of its passengers and trespassers, Pakistan Railway has taken some concrete steps to protect and save lives by installing rail barriers and height gauges.

(c) The RCC boundary wall will be constructed on both sides of Railway track after the commencement of work for up-gradation of ML-1 (CPEC Project) (Phase-2).

Annex-A

SUMMARY

LAST 04-YEARS CASUALITY / INJURED PERSONS BETWEEN MULTAN — SHERSHAH-SHUIJABAD (AT KM 74-76 & 79 — 86) ON LODHRAN — KHANEWAL (VIA LOOP) SECTION.

Year-2020	Died persons	=	07
	Injured persons	=	01
	TOTAL	=	08
Year-2021	Died persons	=	04
	Injured persons	=	01

	TOTAL	=	05
Year-2022	Died persons	=	02
	Injured persons	=	01
	TOTAL	=	03
Year-2023	Died persons	=	00
	Injured persons	=	01
	TOTAL	=	01

350. ***Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti:**
(Transferred from 51st Session)

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

- (a) how much amount was spent on import of medicines, medical equipment/devices and vaccination in last four years;*
- (b) names of countries, importers and details of items should be provided;*
- (c) how much amount was spent by Pakistan health sector?*

Reply not received.

ISLAMABAD:
The 6th August, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

PCPPI—8100(2023) NA—6-08-2023—400.

(7th Group, 52nd Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Monday, the 7th August, 2023

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

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state details the present status of Neelum Jhelum Project?

Minister for Water Resources (Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah):

- Neelum Jhelum Hydroelectric Project (NJHEP) was commissioned in 2018 and has generated over 18.28 Billion units so far and earned Rs. 167 Billion.
- The Project has headrace tunnels of 48 km, an underground Power House and tailrace tunnel of 3.5 km (Dia of Tunnel is 11 meter).
- In July 2022, due to collapse in the Tailrace tunnel, a portion of 42 m was blocked. As per latest status, blockage area has been cleared in May 2023 and concrete lining work in the tunnel is in progress.
- Day and night work for restoration of the Project is being carried out. It is expected that ongoing activities would be completed by end of July 2023 to re-start operation of Hydroelectric plant.

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

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

- (a) *the total fine/interest imposed on each employee of Constitutional Body who have been allotted apartment of*

Category-I in G-13, Islamabad alongwith the names of each said employee and the statement of fine imposed;

- (b) the date on which they were informed alongwith the detail thereof; and*
- (c) whether it is a fact that interest is re-imposed on already imposed interest/fine/penalty alongwith the detail thereof?*

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

- Three (03) number of A-Type apartments were allotted under Constitutional Bodies quota in Sector G-13, Islamabad by the EHFPRO. The FGE Housing Authority has not imposed any fine/interest to allottees of Constitutional Bodies in its scheme of Kashmir Avenue apartments at Mauve Area Sector G-13, Islamabad. Details are at **Annex-A**.
- (b) As stated above.
- (c) As stated above.

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

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

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that penalty/interest have been imposed on those persons who were allotted the plots measuring 40X80 in Green Enclave-I, Islamabad; if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) the name of each allottee alongwith the statement of penalty and the time by which they were informed;*
- (c) whether it is also a fact that interest have also been imposed on aforesaid penalty/interest; if so, under which law?*

Minister for Housing and Works (Mr. Abdul Wasay): (a) Yes, it is a fact that penalty (Late payment surcharge) has been imposed on those allottees who were allotted plots (measuring 40 x 80) in Green Enclave-I, Islamabad. Details as per **Annex-A**.

(b) Statement showing name and penalty imposed is placed at **Annex-B**. Allottees were informed as per Clause-23 of terms & condition mentioned in brochure accepted by allottees at the time of filling / signing of application form (**Annex-C**).

(c) No interest was imposed on aforesaid penalty / interest (Late payment surcharge).

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

79. **MS. ASIYA AZEEM:**
(Transferred from 51st Session)

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

- (a) the quantum of decrease fund in the production of wheat, rice, corn and sugar cane crops due to the shortage of water and fertilizer during the year 2022; and*
- (b) the quantum of estimated production of said crops during current year?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a)

- 1. During the year 2022-23, production of major kharif crop rice has declined by 14.5 % over the last year. Sugarcane and corn have also shown decline by 0.1% and 28.9%, respectively.
- 2. Wheat production has been reported 6.3% higher than the last year.

(b) The production targets, discussed by the provinces in the meeting of Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA), NFS&R for the year 2023-24, are as under:

Rice:	9.042 MMT
Sugarcane:	78.589 MMT
Corn:	7.558 MMT
Wheat:	The targets will be determined in the FCA meeting for Rabi Crops in October 2023

80. **Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**
(*Transferred from 51st Session*)

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.82 replied on 14-11-2022 and to state the names of vehicles owned by Red Crescent Pakistan at present and the names of persons using the said vehicles?

Reply not received.

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

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Sheikh Zayed Postgraduate Medical Institute (SZPMI), Lahore, is added in the schedule of Federal Medical Teaching Institute Act, 2021, Lahore in FMTI Ordinance, 2020 alongwith the names of other hospitals; and*
- (b) *names of the hospitals added in the Federal Medical Teaching Institute, 2021, Pak Medical Act, 2023 and reasons for not adding SZPGMI, Lahore?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel): (a) SZPGMI, Lahore was included in the schedule of FMTI, Ordinance 2020 and FMTI, Act, 2021 along with other hospitals. However, FMTI, Act 2021 has been repealed by PIMS, Act, 2023 dated 11th January, 2023, which is PIMS specific only.

- (b) As in (a) above.

ISLAMABAD:
The 6th August, 2023.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.