

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 17th May, 2024

55. ***Ms. Mussarat Rafique Mahesar:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Government is intending to further increase the prices of the electricity at present; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (b) *the details of electricity prices increased during the last two years?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) The Government at present has no intention to increase the prices of electricity. However, NEPRA adjusts the energy and fuel component of charges after due process.

(b) (i) Rebasing of Tariff

The Federal Government notified the base tariff as per details below:-

Financial Year	Avg. Increase (Rs/KWh)
2022-23	7.91
2023-24	5.75

(ii) Quarterly adjustments and Fuel Cost Adjustments

The details of Quarterly Adjustments and Fuel Cost Adjustments as per determination of NEPRA for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 are attached at **Annex-A**.

Annex-AQuarterly Adjustments

Quarter	Rs. / KWh
1 st Qtr FY 2022-23	2.45
2 nd Qtr FY 2022-23	0.4689
3 rd Qtr FY 2022-23	1.2489
4 th Qtr FY 2022-23	3.2814
1 st Qtr FY 2023-24	1.1502
2 nd Qtr FY 2023-24	2.7492

Fuel Charges Adjustments (FCAs) Monthly

Months	Rs. / KWh
July-22	4.3435
August-22	0.1918
September-22	0.0819
October-22	(0.3213)
November-22	0.1892
December-22	(2.3166)
January-23	0.4779
February-23	(0.0006)
March-23	0.7917
April-23	1.6075
May-23	1.9039
June-23	1.8100
July-23	1.4630
August-23	1.7141
September-23	0.4014
October-23	3.0786
November-23	4.1276
December-23	4.5671
January-24	7.0562
February-24	4.9213

56. ***Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sui Gas Line of Steel Town, Karachi and its adjacent areas has been disconnected by the Government; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) the time by which the Sui Gas would be restored in the aforesaid areas?*

Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) The gas supply to PSML housing colony was disconnected on 22nd April, 2024 due to non-payment of outstanding gas bills which were accumulated to Rs. 110 million by SSGCL.

As per SSGCL's policy, disconnection notices were served to PSML's authorities on 28th February, 7th March, 2024 and a final disconnection notice was served on 13th March, 2024. Subsequently, a partial payment of 10.8 million was made by PSML on 13th March, 2024. However, the gas dues were again accumulated to Rs. 110 million up to billing month of March, 2024.

(b) After disconnection of gas supply, Pakistan Steel Mill Limited (PSML) made part payment of Rs. 10 million on 29th April, 2024 and the gas supply was restored on the same day.

57. ***Syed Shah Ahad Ali Shah:**

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

- (a) the total number of industrial, commercial and domestic lines losses occurred in PESCO during the last three years; and*
- (b) the details of the theft cases in aforesaid areas alongwith the steps being taken by the Government against the culprits?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) The distribution losses of PESCO during last three (03) years are as follows:

Sr. No.	FY	Line Losses
1	FY-2021-22	35.99 %
2	FY-2022-23	36.46%
3	FY-2023-24	34.80 % (Upto April 2024)

(b) The detail of the theft detection cases (Progressive) during the last three (03) years is as under:

Period	No. of Theft Cases Detected	Units Charged (kWh) in millions
July 2021 – June 2022	455,901	336.434
July 2022 – June 2023	483,050	312.202
July 2023 – April 2024	289,427	146.912

To address the issue of electricity theft, an anti-theft campaign is in progress within DISCOs since September, 2023. To optimize the effectiveness of the campaign and successful implementation, anti-theft units have been established within DISCOs and progress is being monitored through the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) on daily basis.

Besides, following steps are being taken in PESCO to control the theft /misuse of electricity by the consumers:

- Patrolling of lines for detection of thefts of energy;
- Replacement of old and defective meters;
- Installation of Automated Meter Reading/Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMR/AMI) meters on all potential consumers like big Commercial, Industrial & tube well;
- Installation of Aerial Bundled Cable (ABC Cable) to control theft by direct hooking;
- Implementation of the instructions contained in the procedure regarding % age check in meter reading through supervisory staff;

- Taking legal action against the stealer of energy as detailed below:
 - FIRs are being lodged against consumers using electricity through direct hooking, tampering of energy meters.
 - Supply is disconnected by removing the energy meters;
 - Detected bills are charged accordingly.

58. ***Ms. Sharmila Sahiba Faruqui Hashaam:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that circular debt in power sector has continuously been rising which is a crucial threat for macro economic stability;*
- (b) *if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to address the aforesaid issue?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) The reply is attached at (Annex-I).

(b) Federal Government has approved a comprehensive circular debt management plan to address the challenge of circular debt. For the current year it has been envisaged that there shall be net zero addition to Circular debt by the year end. The CDMP envisages many policy and institutional level corrective steps to be taken by the Government to permanently fix the issue. The following steps are being taken to fixed the issues:

- Timely application of tariff.
- Anti-theft drive to reduce losses and improve recoveries.
- Induction of cheaper electricity in the system by solar initiative.
- Capacity cost reduction through negotiations with IPPs to reduce tariff.

- Conversion of imported based Coal based plants to Thar Coal.
- Energy efficiency initiatives such as fan replacement program.

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

59. ***Ms. Aasia Ishaque Siddiqui:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to control the electricity loadshedding in the country; and*
- (b) what measures are being taken by the Government to establish solar parks for providing inexpensive energy to the public in the country?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) based load management is being carried out by the DISCOs to control the losses.

(b) At present, ten (10) solar projects of 680 MW cumulative power generation capacity are operational in the country. Furthermore, another five (05) solar projects of 231 MW are in the pipeline. The Alternative Renewable Energy (ARE) Policy, 2019 sets a target of achieving 30% share of ARE in the power mix by 2030.

- Substitution of expensive imported fossil fuels with Solar photovoltaic (PV) Energy.
- Solarization of public buildings.

Government plans to add approximately 600 MW solar PV capacity under the Substitution Initiative through competitive bidding or G2G mode. The following solar PV project, has been finalized and will be awarded in near future:-

- 600 MW Solar project at Kot Addu / Muzaffargarh

60. ***Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro:**

Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Government has launched a web portal complaints lodging system on website regarding harassment and other such cases for the last three years;*
- (b) *if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) *the number of cases registered during the aforesaid period?*

Transferred to Law and Justice Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

61. ***Lapsed under Rule 247(3) Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007.**

62. ***Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state the time by which the Northern Bypass would be completed which is going to connect Hyderabad and Karachi with Hub Balochistan?

Minister for Communications (Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan): Reply from Member (South Zone)

NHA started the construction of Karachi Northern Bypass Project (KNBP) to ease traffic congestion on city roads in 2002.

KNB starts from ICI Bridge (Karachi) and it connects to N-25 (Also known as RCD Highway), about 05 Km before Hub River Bridge and connecting on M-9. Construction activities started in 2002 and the project was completed in all respects in 2010 (**Annex-A**).

Reply from Member (Planning)

The Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan announced a new Motorway corridor between Hyderabad & Karachi, which would be a green field project. Govt. of Pakistan has requested Government of China to undertake the project through CPEC. Same shall be discussed in

upcoming Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting. If approved, the proposed alignment will connect Hyderabad with Karachi at M-10 which further connects to Hub (Balochistan) (**Annex-B**).

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

63. ***Ms. Sehar Kamran:**

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

- (a) the details regarding the current financial shortfall experienced by the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL);*
- (b) the number of times the prices of gas have been increased by the SSGCL during the past five years;*
- (c) the details of salary, perks and privileges given to the Managing Director of the SSGCL; and*
- (d) the complete information of the person currently holding the position of Managing Director at the SSGCL alongwith his qualifications previous experience and background thereof?*

Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) The details regarding the current financial short fall experienced by Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) is attached at **Annexure-A**.

(b) The gas prices increased during the last five years are as under:

Sr. No.	W.e.f Date
1	01-07-2019
2.	01-09-2020
3.	01-01-2023
4.	01-11-2023
5.	01-02-2024

(c) Details of Salary, Perks and Privileges given to Managing Director to the SSGCI. at **Annex-B**.

(d) Mr. Imran Maniar was appointed Managing Director, SSGCL on 22nd December, 2020 for a period of three years. After completion of his three years tenure the Board has nominated Mr. Imran Maniar to continue the services of Managing Director SSGCL in terms of Section 187(3) of the Companies Act, 2017 till the appointment of regular Managing Director. CVs and profile summary are attached at **Annex-C**.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

64. ***Mr. Muhammad Mobeen Arif:**

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

- (a) how much the amount was paid as capacity charges to all power generating units during the last two years; and*
- (b) the amount, exclusively was paid to such units without generating the electricity for the last two years?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) The amount Capacity charges at (**Annex-3**).

(b) Capacity payments of IPPs are verified as per relevant provisions of Power Purchase Agreement. Capacity payments are payable to IPPs based on their actual availability and applicable allowances regardless of actual generation.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

65. ***Lapsed under Rule 247(3) Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007.**

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67. ***Mr. Amjad Ali Khan:**

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

- (a) *how much total amount is to be paid per year to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for the last ten years;*
- (b) *the province-wise detail for production of clean energy from Wind, Water and Sun thereof; and*
- (c) *what steps are being taken by the Government for allocation of sufficient budget regarding production of various kinds of clean energy?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) Amount is paid per year at (Annex-I)

(b) The province wise detail at (Annex-II).

(c) Government of Pakistan promotes addition of Renewable and clean energy in the system. In this regard future Generation Plan for 2024-34 called IGCEP has been submitted to NEPRA for approval. This plan, entails addition of 54% Clean energy by 2034. For this, budget allocation will be required in relevant year to improve grids.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

68. ***Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Allai Khan:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Thah Kot Electricity Grid Station converted into 132 KV from 33 KV;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that connection for aforesaid Grid Station has been approved from Alie Power House where transmission line work has been started; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) *the time by which it will be completed?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) Yes, it is a fact that upgradation of 33 kV Thah Kot Grid Station to 132 kV voltage level has been approved. The construction of Grid Station is under progress with 55% work completed so far.

(b) Yes, the connection of the aforementioned Grid Station has been approved from the Alie Power House. The construction of 132 kV Transmission Line is under progress, wherein 31 out of 64 tower foundations have been completed so far.

(c) The tentative timeline for completion of the project is June 2025.

69. ***Mr. Asif Khan:**

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

- (a) *the details of areas of NA-32, Peshawar where Sui Gas have been provided for domestic use and other areas which are still deprived from the said facility;*
- (b) *whether any step has been taken by the Government to remove gas loadshedding during the cooking hours in the aforesaid areas; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) *the time by which the remaining areas of the said constituency will be provided gas facility?*

Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik): (a) Most of the areas of Constituency NA-32 (Old NA-31) Peshawar City are already on gas. However, if there is any areas/street(s) which are still without gas network, the same may be identified to proceed further in the matter after lifting of moratorium.

(b) Presently, SNGPL is providing gas to its domestic consumers during cooking hours. In case of any low-pressure complaint during cooking hours, SNGPL's teams are available 24/7 to resolve such complaints as per OGRA standards.

(c) Most of the areas of the Peshawar City are already on gas. Currently, moratorium is in place on provision of new natural gas connections for domestic sectors. Therefore, left over areas (if any) shall be considered for gasification after lifting of said moratorium.

70. ***Mr. Amjad Ali Khan:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) produces and provides cheaper Gas to the Federation as compared to other Federation units in the country;*
- (b) *if so, the average cost of gas production in each province; and*
- (c) *the reason of gas price being increased in the country?*

Reply not received.

71. ***Mr. Asif Khan:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that recently hundreds of complaints have been made by the residents of NA-32, Peshawar against the PESCO;*
- (b) *as a result the officers of PESCO are teasing by misusing their authority against the complainants which is clearly, injustice and violation of rule as well as basic human rights; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) *what steps have been taken by the Government to address the aforesaid public matters of electricity of the residents of aforesaid area?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) Complaints regarding new connections, billing, supply failures, transformer damages, PVC wires broken, other type of faults etc., are commonly received from entire jurisdiction of PESCO including National Assembly Constituency NA-32.

Complaints are resolved according to procedure / timelines mentioned in the NEPRA's CSM is attached.

(b) Report / Response from PESCO has been obtained. As per PESCO, PESCO officers always try to resolve the complaints well in time. PESCO gives due respect to its respected consumers. Identification of persons indulging in malpractice will be helpful in proceeding against them.

(c) PESCO is implementing Energy Loss Reduction (ELR) proposals, carrying maintenance of HT/LT lines, Transformers to make the supply stable / minimize interruptions. Besides various complaint redressal mechanism are in field to cater for complaint redressals.

72. ***Khawaja Izhar-Ul-Hassan:**

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

- (a) *the details of the names and their offices in the Federal Government where officers and officials are involved in corruption and embezzlement of money and they are facing inquiries on aforesaid account;*
- (b) *if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof; and*
- (c) *what steps, the Government has taken to remove the employees involved in corruption and embezzlement?*

Minister for Law and Justice (Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar): (a) Keeping in view the confidentiality and non-identification of the actual role of any alleged person, the names of accused being public office holder cannot be made public. Since, these cases pending with NAB are at different stages, therefore, the information asked by the Hon'able member does fall under section 78 (e) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007 which envisages the following: *"It shall not refer to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity nor to character or conduct which can be challenged only on a substantive motion"* and reference is also made towards section 78 (u) *"It shall not ordinarily ask about matters pending before any statutory tribunal or statutory authority performing any judicial or quasi-judicial functions or any commission or court of inquiry appointed to enquire into or investigate any matter but may refer to matters concerned with procedure or subject or stage of enquiry if it is not likely to prejudice the consideration of the matters by the tribunal or*

commission or court of enquiry" and the same cannot be disclosed at this stage.

However, the number of Federal Government employees facing Inquiries, Investigations and References under NAO, 1999 are as under:

a:	<i>Number of Federal Government Employees facing inquiries:</i>	80
b:	<i>Number of Federal Government Employees facing investigations:</i>	90
c:	<i>Number of Federal Government Employees facing trial under NAO, 1999:</i>	403

(b) As Above.

(c) Steps taken by the Government against the said employees do not fall under the purview of NAB. It is pertinent to mention here that Government employees convicted by the competent Court of Law or entered into Plea Bargain ceased to hold office, if any, held and disqualified for a period of 10 x years.

73. *Admisibility is being re-considered.

74. ***Shahzada Muhammad Gushtasap Khan:**

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

(a) *the province-wise details of income by National Highway Authority (NHA) from Motorways and all other toll plazas during the last three years;*

(b) *how much the increase is made in aforesaid taxes during the last five years; and*

(c) *whether the Government would take steps to reduce these taxes?*

Minister for Communications (Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan): (a) Province wise toll revenue (earned) on National Highways for last 5 years and Motorways is given as under:

Province	Rs. in Millions					
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023.24 (Jul-23 to Apr-24)
Punjab	11,501	10,711	11,056	12,146	11,571	8,789
Sindh	7,296	6,848	6,943	7,622	6,491	4,370
KPK	1,087	1,273	1,367	1,435	1,316	1,015
Balochistan	444	535	553	573	564	496
Total Highways	20,327	19,368	19,919	21,776	19,943	14,670
Total Motorways	2,725	6,302	9,738	13,287	13,457	11,285
Grand Total	23,052	25,670	29,657	35,064	33,399	25,955

(b) The last rationalization in toll rates was made in 2018 upto 2021. Since then, toll rates have not been rationalized (excluding BOT roads i.e. M-2 & M-9). *“The Toll rate escalation should be on three years periodic basis or as the need arises”* as per NHA Tolling Policy-2010.

(c) The toll rates rationalization is worked out through a formula given in the NHA Tolling Policy-2010. The new/revised toll is dependent on Consumer Price Indices (CPI) published by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. As CPI is constantly on the rise since last 5 years, therefore the toll rates are likely to increase in the future. Detail annexed.

Earned Toll Revenue for the Period FY-2018-19 FY-2023-24 (upto Mar-24)									
Rs. in Millions									
S#	Province	No. of TPs	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
1	Punjab	41	11,500.53	10,711.05	11,055.57	12,145.55	11,571.12	7,909.70	
2	Sindh	24	7,295.87	6,848.25	6,943.27	7,622.49	6,491.01	3,933.19	
3	KPK	11	1,087.20	1,273.44	1,366.75	1,435.04	1,316.36	913.83	
4	Balouchistan	7	443.79	534.78	552.91	573.40	564.30	446.37	
	Total Highways		20,327.39	19,367.52	19,918.51	21,776.47	19,942.80	13,203.09	
	Total Motorways		2,724.71	6,302.38	9,738.21	13,287.44	13,456.58	10,156.10	
	Grand Total		23,052.10	25,669.90	29,656.73	35,063.91	33,399.37	23,359.19	

75. ***Mirza Ikhtiar Baig:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Government is allowing power tariff of 9 cents/KWH to the industrial consumers;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that our industry is charging 16 cents/KWH which is against regional competitors of Bangladesh, India and Iran charging 6-8 cents/KWH increasing production cost;*
- (c) *the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) was assured 9 cents/KWH power tariff by the caretaker Minister for the industries to maintain their regional competitiveness in exports and to increase power consumption in the country;*
- (d) *what is the present status of the proposal; and*
- (e) *whether there is any policy under consideration for withdrawal of cross subsidy of the residential consumers at the cost of industrial consumers?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) The assertion that the Government allows a power tariff of 9 cents/Kwh to industrial consumers is not correct.

(b) Yes, the industrial consumers are currently billed at the rate of 16 cents/Kwh. However, the determination of competitive rates *vis-a-vis* regional counterparts like Bangladesh, India, and Iran, charging 6-8 cents/Kwh, falls under the purview of NEPRA.

(c) Assurance to All-Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) by the caretaker minister for Industries has not been discussed with Power Division to ensure recovery of differential amount. Such assurance without required financial support is not workable.

(d) As of now, no such determination of industrial tariff is received from national Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) for consideration of Federal Government.

(e) Currently, no policy is there to withdraw cross-subsidy from residential poor consumers being charged to industrial consumers.

76. ***Shahzada Muhammad Gushtasap Khan:**

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

- (a) *the detail of district-wise number of PESCO employees who are consuming free electricity units since long;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that besides using aforesaid facility by the employees of the PESCO their performance is still poor in district Mansehra and Torghar;*
- (c) *as a result the people of aforesaid areas continuously using the burnt transformers already repaired from their pocket money; and*
- (d) *the detail of funds released by the department for augmentation and other works required in the aforesaid districts?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) The detail of PESCO employees who are availing facility of free electricity supply is attached at **Annex-A**.

(b) The performance evaluation of the PESCO employees by various authorities is undertaken depending on BPS and post held by the employee. Promotion of the officers is considerably dependent on such performance evaluation in PESCO. There are various administrative challenges in PESCO due to which performance of the company as the whole suffers. However, as per PESCO, all PESCO staff is working hard for ensuring continuity of electricity supply.

(c) No complaint has been received regarding the repair of burnt or damaged transformers by the consumers at their own. As per SOP is being followed in PESCO for repair of damaged transformers. Presently, 04-nos pre-qualified registered (Pvt.) transformer reclamation workshops (as well as Pakistan WAPDA Foundation reclamation workshop) at Nowshera are rendering services of transformer repairing to Hazara-1 & Mansehra circles.

(d) Detail of allocation of funds under DOP & ELR heads for the capacity improvement of the distribution system in the said districts is given under:

- 27 works with estimated cost of Rs. 36.58 (million) for FY 2022-23.
- 24 works with estimated cost of Rs. 42.77 (million) for FY 2023-24 (till date)

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

77. ***Ms. Sharmila Sahiba Faruqui Hashaam:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the details of the challenges being faced by our country to improve relations with neighboring countries?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar):
Improving relations with neighboring countries is a foreign policy priority for Pakistan.

Afghanistan:

As regards Afghanistan, we believe that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is a strategic imperative for Pakistan. Pakistan has consistently remained engaged with the Interim Afghan Government, regional countries and the international community to achieve the objective of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Terrorism emanating from Afghanistan has emerged as a major challenge for Pakistan as there has been a sharp increase in terrorist attacks by TTP and its affiliates based in Afghanistan. Continued presence on Afghan soil and the freedom of movement enjoyed there by TTP has hampered efforts to improve bilateral relations with Afghanistan. However, Pakistan remains engaged with the interim Afghan authorities across multiple channels of communication to address our concerns. Pakistan is also actively engaged with key regional countries and the wider international community to address the security threats emanating from Afghanistan. Pakistan will continue to build broad convergences within the region and beyond, and to seek collective solutions to the situation in Afghanistan.

Other challenges consist of lack of effective banking channels with Afghanistan, difficulties in cross border movement of traders and transporters, inadequate infrastructure and space constraints at entry/ exit points, restrictions on key products of our export interest, as well as reduced demand of certain items in Afghanistan due to the prevailing economic situation.

Pakistan has been making concerted efforts to expand bilateral trade with Afghanistan. Current trade volume stands at US \$ 1.8 billion with Pakistan's exports standing at US\$ 968 million. Our imports are at US\$ 893 million. A high level trade delegation led by our Secretary Commerce visited Kabul in March this year to address trade related issues. Among other things, it was agreed to finalize a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and to implement Temporary Admission Document (TAD) to facilitate cross border movement of drivers and helpers on both sides. It was also agreed to finalize revised Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA). Pakistan is also upgrading infrastructure at border crossings, particularly at the Chaman/Spin Boldak point to facilitate trade movement. Central banks of both sides are in contact to establish banking channels for trade promotion.

India:

Pakistan has always desired cooperative relations with all its neighbors, including India. We have consistently advocated constructive engagement and result-oriented dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues, including the core issue of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. However, India's unabated hostility and retrogressive actions have vitiated the environment and impeded the prospects of peace and cooperation. India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), its continued efforts to consolidate its occupation of the territory, the ongoing violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people, and the Indian leaders' continued belligerent rhetoric pose serious challenges to normalization of Pakistan-India relations.

In the aftermath of the Pulwama Attack of February 2019, India had imposed 200% duty on exports from Pakistan, and suspended intra-Kashmir bus service and trade across Line of Control. Likewise India continues to harp on its baseless mantra of terrorism from Pakistan with disregard to the fact that Pakistan also been a principal victim of terrorism.

We also have our own concerns about India's involvement in terrorist activities on our soil. The onus is, therefore, on India to take steps for the creation of an environment, conducive for peace and dialogue.

Notwithstanding these challenges, Pakistan has been acting and will continue to act in a responsible and restrained manner. It is upholding the ceasefire on the Line of Control, and facilitating visa-free access for Indian pilgrims through the Kartarpur Corridor. Some people-to-people exchanges, especially visits to religious shrines, are also taking place.

Iran:

As regards Iran, we believe that significant potential exists to improve bilateral relations especially in the economic domain. We are encountered by following challenges in this context:

- a. Absence of direct banking channels between Pakistan and Iran remains the foremost challenge hindering the growth of bilateral trade. Pakistan has instituted barter trade mechanisms as an alternative. We remain in continuous coordination with the Iranian side to fully operationalize barter trade between the two countries.
- b. We are also desirous of improving rail, road and air connectivity including direct flights between the two countries. Our two countries are working together to improve connectivity which will facilitate trade as well as movement of *Zaireen*.
- c. Terrorism is a common threat for Pakistan and Iran. We have a shared understanding with the Iranian side that the menace of terrorism can be eliminated through joint, collaborative approaches. To this effect, our relevant authorities remain in regular liaison with the Iranian side on important issues of security, intelligence sharing and border management through established bilateral mechanisms.

78. ***Sabibzada Sibghatullah:**

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *what is the current status of Chakdara-Chitral road and Chitral-Gilgit-Baltistan road;*
- (b) *year wise funds reserved, released and utilized on the aforesaid project during the last five years;*
- (c) *phase-wise work details on the project and whether the work was started as per schedule;*
- (d) *if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof;*
- (e) *whether any international loan was taken for the project; if so, the details thereof;*
- (f) *if such project is not completed within the prescribed period, whether such loan had been used elsewhere except aforesaid project; and*
- (g) *what steps are being taken by the Government to complete the aforesaid project at the earliest?*

Minister for Communications (Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan): (a)

i. **Chakdara-Chitral Road (Widening and Improvement of N-45 (130.22 Kms)**

Chakdara-Chitral road is in good trafficable condition maintained through Periodic Maintenance and Routine Maintenance Contracts.

However, NHA has planned widening and improvement of N-45 in following 3 sections:

1. **Section I (Chakdara-Timergara 39 Km)**

- Loan Agreement was signed on 29-Jan-21.
- Loan amount is USD 49.045 million.
- Procurement of Consultant for Detailed Design, Procurement Assistance and Construction Supervision is in final stages.

2. **Section-II (Akhagram - Dir) 43.39 Km**

- Loan Agreement is to be signed shortly.
- Procurement of Consultant for Detailed Design, Procurement Assistance and Construction Supervision will be initiated after finalization of Loan Agreement.

3. **Section-III (Kalkatak-Chitral) 47.98 Km**

- Loan Agreement was signed in April 2016.
- Loan amount is USD 93.779 million.
- Detailed Design has been completed by M/s DASAN Consultants Consortium.
- PC-I recommended by NHA Execute Board at cost of Rs. 10.950 Billion is under process of approval from CDWP/ECNEC.
- Construction activities will commence after approval of PC-I from CDWP/ECNEC.

ii. **Chitral-Gilgit-Baltistan road**

On National Highway N-140, Chitral to Gilgit major widening/rehabilitation projects are in progress to bring the highway to NHA standards

(b) In last five (05) years, NHA has spent approximately Rs. 460 Million on maintenance of Chakdara - Chitral Section. All funds have been released to contractor and the work is satisfactorily bieng completed. The details of projects of Chitral - Gilgit roads are as under;

No. of Contracts	Fiscal Year	PSDP Allocation (Rs. In Mill)	Actual Release (Rs. In Mill)	Actual utilized (Rs. In Mill)
07	2021-22	7250	7136	7136
	2022-23	10300	10014	10014
	2023-24	8900	6932	6932

(c) All Maintenance contracts on Chakdara - Chitral Section have been awarded and completed within stipulated time whereas the progress of projects on Chitral - Gilgit Section is as under;

S.No.	Name & Location of Project	Physical Progress
1	Pack-I, Chiral to Prct	35%
	Pack-II Pret to Bunni	28%
	Pack-III Bunni to Shahidas	35%
	Pack-IV Shahidas to Shandur	08%
2	Pack-I, Sultanabad Gilgit to Gahkuch	48%
	Pack-II Gahkuch to Thingai village	48% ^s
	Pack-III, Thingai Village to Shandur	27%

(d) The works have been started as per schedule and details are as stated in Para (c).

(e) The detail regarding loan of Chakdara-Chitral is given at point (a).

Chitral-Shandur Project (N-140) is being constructed through GoP funding through PSDP.

(f) The detail regarding loan of Chakdara-Chitral is given at point (a).

Chitral-Shandur Project (N-140) is on GoP funding through PSDP.

(g) All projects are being thoroughly planned as per actual field requirements and the same are being monitored with respect to approved work schedule programme. The employer utilizes all its resources to speed up the construction work and support the contractor/ consultants at site.

79. ***Khawaja Izhar-Ul-Hassan:**

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

(a) *the details of the special banking courts which are still not functioning due to delay in appointment of Honourable Judges of aforesaid courts in Sindh; if so, the detail thereof; and*

(b) *the time by which the aforesaid courts will be functional?*

Minister for Law and Justice (Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar): (a) Banking Courts are established under Section 5 (1) and Judge of Banking Court is appointed *under section 5(4) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001*. It is pertinent to mention that at present sixteen (16) Banking Courts are working in the province of Sindh under the administrative control of this Division, out of which 06 Banking Courts are vacant at this stage. Out of 06 vacant courts, the nomination regarding 01 Banking Court for District, Ghotki has been received which is under consideration upon the direction of the Hon'ble Sindh High Court, Karachi. The rest of 05 nominations are still awaited from the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh, Karachi. The Judges of Banking Courts are appointed in consultation with the concerned High Court and subsequent approval of the Federal Cabinet.

(b) The aforesaid courts will be functional as and when requisite nominations are received from the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh, Karachi and subsequently approved by the Federal Cabinet.

80. ***Mr. Umair Khan Niazi:**

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

- (a) *the capacity generation of each Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and the actual power generated by them, separately during the last ten years; and*
- (b) *the amount paid by the Government to them during aforesaid period on account of capacity payment charges?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) The Capacity Generation of each Independent Power Producers (IPPs) last ten years at (Annex-7)

(b) The amount paid by the Government at (Annex-5).

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

81. ***Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Allai Khan:**

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that recruitments were made in the Pakistan Post against the posts of clerical staff;*
- (b) *whether people from Kohistan district Battagram, included therein during the last five years;*
- (c) *the detail of criteria set out for appointment of aforesaid posts; and*
- (d) *the persons who were recruited during the aforesaid period?*

Minister for Communications (Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan): (a) Yes, it is correct that recruitment process has been carried out in 2023 in Pakistan Posts against the post of Postal Clerks. Detail of posts is at **(Annexure -A)**.

(b) It is informed that Mansehra Postal Division consists of six districts, *i.e.* Mansehra, Battagram, Kohistan Upper, Kohistan Lower, Kolai Palas and Torghar. Candidates belonging to all these districts were eligible for applying for the post of Postal Clerks. A total No. of 21 candidates from Mansehra Postal Division were appointed as Postal Clerks **(Annexure -B)**.

(c) As per the advertisement, the required qualification for the post of Postal Clerks was Intermediate/F.A/F.Sc or an equivalent certificate and conducting of written examination and interviews in line with Establishment Division O.M No. F.53/1/2008-SP Dated 03rd March, 2015 **(Annexure-C)**.

(d) List of clerks appointed relating to Mansehra Postal Division which includes Kohistan & Battagram is at **(Annexure-B)**.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

82. ***Mr. Nisar Ahmed:**

Will the Minister for Human Rights be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Director General Special Education has ensured the accessibility and mobility of the special persons during the last five years;*

- (b) *if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *whether such expenses were met out of said allocation thereof;*
- (d) *what steps have been taken by the Government for the last five years; and*
- (e) *whether the same has been reflected in the annual year books; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Human Rights (Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar): (a) Yes.

(b) Directorate General of Special education has taken the following steps regarding the accessibility and mobility of the special persons during last five years:

- (a) Accessibility to Building & Infrastructure: **Annex-A**
- (b) Accessibility to Information Communication Technology & Other Services: **Annex-B**
- (c) Mobility: **Annex-C**
- (c) The expenses met through regular budget.
- (d) **Annex-D.**
- (e) Yes.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

83. ***Syed Rafiullah:**

Will the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that during the last Assembly several Bills passed by both Houses Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) in joint sitting were not sent for President's assent and as a result such Bills are, still pending in the Office of the Prime Minister or in the Ministry;*

- (b) if so, the details of such Bills separately, which are pending in the Ministry or in the Prime Minister's Office and the reasons for the pendency of each Bill in the respective offices; and
- (c) what corrective steps are being taken by the Government to get such Bills assented or otherwise from the President Secretariat?

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs (Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar):

- (a) There is no pendency in Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- (b) Assent on 12 Bills is awaited (**Annex-A**)
- (c) Matter is being expedited with quarters concerned.

Annex-A

LIST OF GOVERNMENT BILLS NOT YET RETURNED

As on (15-05-2024)

Sr. No.	Title of the Bills	Originating House	MoPA endorsed the summary for PM on
1.	The Pakistan Ruet-E-Halal Bill, 2023	National Assembly	06-08-2023
2.	The Hajj and Umrah (Regulation) Bill 2023	National Assembly	06-08-2023
3.	The Islamabad Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management Bill, 2023	National Assembly	09-08-2023

LIST OF PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS SENT NOT YET RETURNED

Sr. No.	Name of the Bills	Originating House	MoPA endorsed the summary for PM on
1.	The National University for Security Sciences, Islamabad Bill, 2022 (Private Member's Bill) Mover Dr. Nisar Ahmed Cheema MNA	National Assembly	03-08-2023
2.	The Metropolitan International Institute of Science and Technology Bill, 2023 (Private Member's Bill) Mover Ms. Wajiha Qamar, MNA	National Assembly	09-08-2023
3.	The Askari Institute of Higher Education Bill, 2023 (Private Member's Bill) Mover Ms. Wajiha Qamar, MNA	National Assembly	09-08-2023

4.	The International Islamic Institute for Peace (IIIP) Bill, 2023 (Private Member's Bill) Mover Mr. Kesoo Mal Kheeral Das Mr. Ehsan ul Haq Bajwa Syed Imran Ahmad Shah Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti MNAs	National Assembly	09-08-2023
5.	[The Multi-e-Azam Islamic University Bill, 2023 (Private Member's Bill) Mover Ms. Aliya Kamran, MNA	National Assembly	09-08-2023
6.	The Kalam Bibi International Women Institute Bannu (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Private Member's Bill) Mover Ms. Aliya Kamran, MNA	National Assembly	09-08-2023
7.	The Akhuwat Institute Kasur Bill, 2023 (Private Member's Bill) Mover Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb, MNA	National Assembly	09-08-2023
8.	The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Private Member's Bill) Moved by Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali, MNA	National Assembly	09-08-2023
9.	The Rahim Jan University Bill, 2023 (Private Member's Bill) Moved by Senator Sabir Shah	Senate	09-08-2023

84. *Nawabzada Iftikhar Ahmed Khan Babar:

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that an approved Grid Station to be set up in Shahjamal, Muzaffargarh; but the same has not yet been completed so far;*
- (b) *if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (c) *the total budget earmarked, released and utilized for the aforesaid project; and*
- (d) *the time by which the aforesaid Grid Stations will be constructed?*

Reply not received.

ISLAMABAD:
The 16th May, 2024.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary General.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Friday, the 17th May, 2024

17. **Mr. Asif Khan:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that taxes and duties have been imposed on electricity bills for domestic consumers; if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) how much the aforesaid charges are being calculated in bills from the consumers at present;*
- (c) whether imposition of the aforesaid taxes are not putting severe strain on the financial resources of ordinary citizen; if so, the details thereof;*
- (d) what measures are being taken by the government for collection of actual cost of electricity;*
- (e) without imposing of such taxes and duties on consumers as same is carrying un bearable burden to the general public?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) The taxes and duties imposed on consumers are Electricity Duty (ED), General Sales Tax (GST), Income Tax, TV Fee and Financing Cost (FC) Surcharge.

(b) The taxes and duties are calculated based on the following formulae with legal backing.

Duty/Taxes	Formulae	Legal Backing
Electricity Duty	1.5 % of (Var. Charges + AQTA)	Provincial Finance Act's
General Sale Tax	18 % of Taxable Amount	Sales Tax Act, 1990 amended up to 30-06-2023
	Taxable amount = (Var. Charges + Fix. Charges - AQTA + FC. Surcharge + ED)	
Income Tax	7.5% of Bill Amount excluding TV fee if Bill Amount (Var. Charges + AQTA + FC. Surcharge + ED + GST) > 25000 (For Non-Filer)	Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 amended up to 30-06-2023
TV License Fee	Rs. 35/Month	Govt. of Pakistan Approved
FC Surcharge	Domestic protected up to 200 units (Excluding Life Line) = 0.43/Kwh	As approved by NEPRA and notified by MOE
	Domestic other consumer = 3.23/Kwh	

(c) The taxes and surcharges are imposed as per Finance Act, Sales Tax Act, Income Tax Ordinance as approved by NEPRA and Govt. of Pakistan. In case of non-filer these taxes/surcharge amounts to approximately 30% additional burden and for filer approximately 20%.

(d) Consumers are provided facility for payment in installments and upon installments first electricity charges are settled with taxes.

(e) The taxes and surcharges are imposed as per Finance Act, Sales Tax Act, Income Tax Ordinance as approved by NEPRA and Govt. of Pakistan.

18. Syed Shah Abad Ali Shah:

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

- what is the updated position of electricity generation and its supply demand in the country;*
- the reason of short fall in the country; and*
- the detail of total production electricity from all sources at present?*

Minister for Energy (Power Division) (Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari): (a) Updated position of electricity generation and its supply / demand in country as on 07-05-2024 is as below:—

Generation	15,661 MW
Policy load management carried out by DISCOs	4,613 MW
Computed demand	20,274 MW

(b) Currently, there is no shortfall of electricity in the country. The available generation is sufficient to meet the country's power demand. Load management carried out by DISCOs, is due to AT&C reasons.

(c) Source wise electricity production as on 07-05-2024 is as below:—

Sources	Electricity Generation Average (MW)	% Share
Hydel	3,431	22%
Natural Gas	1,737	11%
RLNG	5,137	33%
Nuclear	3,126	20%
Coal	1,683	11%
Bagasse	127	1%
Wind	254	2%
Solar	166	1%
Total	15,661	100%

19. **Syed Shah Ahad Ali Shah:**

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

- (a) *the detail of the electricity demand, supply and shortfall, if any in District Nowshera at present;*
- (b) *feeder-wise details of losses and recovery of District Nowshera;*
- (c) *feeder-wise details of loadshedding announced (hours) of district Nowshera and reason for unannounced loadshedding thereof; and*
- (d) *the steps being taken by the Government to eliminate theft and line losses during the last two years in the said district?*

Reply not received.