

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

to be asked at a sitting of the Senate to be held on

Thursday, the 8th October, 2009

105. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:**(Notice received on 30-07-2009 at 13:35 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Special Initiatives be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of water filtration plants installed in the country so far with province-wise breakup; and*
- (b) *the number of water filtration plants proposed to be installed in the country during 2009-10 and the amount allocated for that purpose with province-wise breakup?*

Mr. Lal Muhammad Khan: (a) The Clean Drinking Water Program under the Ministry of Special Initiatives envisages installation of water filtration plants in each tehsil and union council of the country. Plants installed so far are as follows:—

Phase-1 (CDWI)

Province/Region	Installed Plants
Punjab	116
Sindh	101
NWFP	53
Balochistan	102
ICT	01
FATA	08
NAs	06
AJK	19
TOTAL	406

Phase-II (CDWA)

Province/Region	Installed Plants
Punjab	—
Sindh	187
NWFP	261
Balochistan	311

ICT	—
FATA	01
NAs	23
AJK	—
TOTAL	783

(b) 5.843 water filtration plants are proposed to be installed in the year 2009-10.

Total allocation is Rs. 15,108.139 million. Province-wise details of amount released for that purpose is as under:—

Province/Region	Proposed plants to be installed	Amount released (Rs. in million)
Punjab	3,494	3,746.798
Sindh	942	963.710
NWFP	739	881.241
Balochistan	264	803.895
ICT	13	5.130
FATA	67	89.313
NAs	92	96.205
AJK	232	110.550
TOTAL	5,843	6,696.842

106. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 30-07-2009 at 13:35 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Planning and Development be pleased to state the names and designation of the officers of Ministry of Planning and Development who undertook visits abroad during the last three years indicating also the purpose of visit and expenditure incurred in each case?

Makhdoom Shahabuddin: Planning & Development Division / Planning Commission is the prime planning body at the federal level. Its strength is 770 including 210 officers of BS-17 to BS-22. There is need to provide quality training to its officers to become an effective and efficient organization. There is also need for professionally trained personnel equipped with proper skills and techniques in their respective fields. To achieve this objective, the Planning and Development Division has designed a development project in collaboration with the World Bank to enhance professional capabilities of its officers. In this regard, the Division has trained 39 officers during the last three (03) years in their respective fields at various reputed foreign

institutions. In addition, twenty one (21) senior officers of the Division/Commission have been debuted to participate in various meetings and conferences to represent Government of Pakistan. Details of such trainings and other visits are annexed.

108. ***Mr. Muhammad Ali Durrani:** (Notice received on 31-07-2009 at 12:00 p.m.)

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

- (a) *the details of projects completed in the Punjab under Public Sector Development Programmes during the last three years indicating also the names and location of the projects with district-wise break-up; and*
- (b) *the details of the projects proposed to be launched under the said Programme in that province during the next two years with district-wise break-up?*

Makhdoom Shahabuddin: (a) The district wise list of projects completed/near completion during last three years *i.e* 2007-09 through federal Public Sector Development Programme is placed at **Annex-I**.

(b) The district wise list of projects proposed to be launched under the Public Sector Development Programme is given in **Annex-II**. Few of these projects stand approved and included in PSDP 2009-10. Implementation of these projects will start in near future.

(Annexures have been placed on the Table of the Hosue as well as Library)

109. ***Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain:** (Notice received on 31-07-2009 at 12:05 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Textile Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of Textile Industrial Units (Spinning & weaving) with province wise break up;*
- (b) *the number of such industrial units working at present; and*
- (c) *the number of the said industrial units closed down during the year 2008-09 indicating also the reasons of closure?*

Rana Muhammad Farooq Saeed Khan: (a) The number of textile units in mill sector (spinning and weaving) with province wise breakup are as under:—

Province	Total Number of Units		
	Spinning	Weaving	Total

Punjab	334	25	359
Sindh	106	22	128
NWFP	16	02	18
Balochistan	09	01	10
Azad Kashmir	06	—	06
Total	471	50	521

(b) **Working Capacity**

Province	Total Number of Units		
	Spinning	Weaving	Total
Punjab	287	24	311
Sindh	67	13	80
NWFP	13	02	15
Balochistan	07	01	08
Azad Kashmir	05	-	05
Total	379	40	419

(c) *Closed Capacity*.— As per records a total of 102 units are closed out of which **15 units closed** during the period of **2008-09** as reported by the mills.

Reasons for closure are as under:

- (i) Depressed global market due to economic slow down resulting in low demand of yarn and yarn products.
- (ii) Non-supply of Electricity/Electricity breakdown.
- (iii) Increase in cost of doing business.
- (iv) Increased rate of Diesel & Furnace Oil resulting in high cost of electricity generation & consequent unviable production.

Textile Industry is distributed in mill sector and non-mill sector. Regular data is available only for the mill sector based on which the above reply has been made. However, surveys are conducted to generate data of non-mill sector and thus the total picture is as under:—

Spinning

	Spindles	Rotors
Installed Capacity	11,266,128	196,296
Closed Capacity	1,239,052	58,658

Weaving

	Mills Sector	Non-Mill Sector	Total
Capacity (Looms)	7,899	387,900	395,799
Production (000. sq. mtrs)	1,016,390	7,989,048	9,005,438
Closed Capacity	4,118	—	4,118

(Source.—Textile Commissioner's Organization)

The year 2008-09 was a dismal period. The industry had confronted problems of multiple natures. The global economic crisis has impacted the trade. The demand of textile products is stagnating due to which competition between suppliers has intensified. Global supply capacities have exceeded demand in recent years. Resultantly all the competing countries are making distressed sales to sustain their market share. This has also impacted Pakistani textile industry.

112. ***Prof. Khurshid Ahmed:** (Notice receive on 01-08-200 at 09:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Textile Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of knitwear exporting units working in the country;*
- (b) *the increase / decrease in number of the said units since 2005; and*
- (c) *the steps being taken by the Government to facilitate that industry and enhance its exports?*

Rana Muhammad Farooq Saeed Khan: (a) Approximately, 1100 knitwear exporting units are working in the country.

(b) The exact data about the total number of closed knitwear exporting units is not readily available as these units are not closed down on permanent basis. These are normally forced closures caused by loadshedding, surge in prices of raw materials and dip in demand. However, situation restores to normalcy as demand picks up.

- (c) Ministry of Textile Industry has taken following steps to facilitate the industry:—
- (i) First ever Textile Policy 2009-14 was approved by the Cabinet on 12th August, 2009. The Policy entails short terms and long terms measures to enhance competitiveness of the textile sector.
 - (ii) Payment of the outstanding claims of R&D Support Scheme.

- (iii) Grant of interest rate subsidy to spinning sector on bank loans and its extension for one year.
- (iv) Continuation of Long Terms Export Financing (LTEF) Scheme by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).
- (v) Initiation and continuation of Stitching Machine Operator Training (SMOT) Scheme.
- (vi) Establishment of Garment Cities in Karachi, Lahore & Faisalabad and Textile City at Karachi.

114. ***Hafiz Rashid Ahmad:** (Notice received on 15-08-2009 at 09:05 a.m.)

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

- (a) *the number of industrial units in District Charsada, NWFP, indicating also the number of sick / closed units out of those and the reasons for their closure; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to revive those sick / closed units?*

Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo: (a) There are 39 industrial units in District Charsada, 12 units are closed and 27 units are in operation. The closure is attributed to locational disadvantage (distance from seaport), higher cost of production in NWFP, law and order situation, lack of infrastructure, non availability of skilled workers and lack of entrepreneurial skills.

(b) The revival of sick industrial units is undertaken as per Government policy explained below:—

1. The problems faced by Sick Units are duly considered by the concerned Government agencies and necessary relief is provided by adopting the following measures:—
 - (a) Tariff in respect of production and raw materials is appropriately reduced or increased.
 - (b) Loans are re-scheduled / re-structured keeping in view the merits of each units.
 - (c) Payment of utility bills is allowed in installments.
 - (d) Reduction in penalty against land related issues.
 - (e) Reduction in fixed charges of electricity Supply.
 - (f) Easy installments of outstanding dues.
2. The Industries Department, Government of NWFP constituted a Committee to analyze and understand the problems of closed industrial units and to facilitate their rehabilitation. A Special Desk Unit headed by the Provincial Chief SMEDA assists the Committee and a project for revival of sick/closed industrial units in N.W.F.P was initiated.

115. ***Hafiz Rashid Ahmad:** (Notice received on 18-08-2009 at 10:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of official foreign visits undertaken by the employees of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) during the last two years; and*
- (b) *the amount spent on the said visits?*

Mr. Nazar Muhammad Gondal: (a) During the last two years, **123** official foreign visits were undertaken by employees of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). The report is at (Annex-A).

(b) Out of **123** official foreign visits, **20** foreign visits were undertaken out of PARC and its Development Projects funds. The amount of Rs.3,584,810/- was spent on the said visits (Annex-B).

116. ***Mr. Tariq Azim Khan:** (Notice received on 19-08-2009 at 13:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all ex-Ministers for Foreign Affairs and retired Foreign Secretaries are entitled to use diplomatic passports, if so, its reasons?

Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi: The Passport and visa manual, 2006 does not allow issuance of Diplomatic Passport to former Foreign Ministers and retired Foreign Secretaries.

117. ***Hafiz Rashid Ahmad:** (Notice received on 20-08-2009 at 09:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) *the present yearly demand and production of urea fertilizer in the country;*
- (b) *the quantity of urea fertilizer imported during the last two years with country wise breakup; and*
- (c) *the procedure laid down for the import of urea fertilizer indicating also the eligibility criteria for issuance of licenses/permits for the said purpose?*

Mr. Nazar Muhammad Gondal: (a) *The present yearly demand of Urea fertilizer the country is 5,757,000MT whereas, the production is 4,922,000 MT.

(b) The total quantity of urea fertilizer imported during the last two years is **1,080,172.59 MT**

* The country wise breakup of imported urea during the last two years (2008-09) is as under:

S. No.	Country	Imported urea (MT)
1.	Russia	86,982.15
2.	Qatar	30,844.00
3.	Ukrain/Yuzhuny	313,484.32
4.	Malaysia	72,697.72
5.	Egypt	160,372.00
6.	Kuwait	26,313.40
7.	Saudi Arabia	256,674.00
8.	Oman	52,635.00
9.	China	80,170.00
Total		1,080,172.59

(c) * TCP issues tenders inviting bids from international pre-qualified foreign urea suppliers from world wide sources. The bids are opened before all the bidders. The tender is awarded to the lowest responsive bidder. As regards the eligibility criteria for issuance of licenses/permits TCP does not issues, any license/permit for the import urea.

118. *Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi: (Notice received on 25-08-2009 at 11:20 a.m.)

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

(a) *the total area of Heavy Mechanical Complex, Taxila and the number of employees working there; and*

(b) *the details of profit earned by the said industry during the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09?*

Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo: (a) The total area of HMC land is 570 acres, 1 kanal and 11 marlas.

The total number of employees is 2178 of which regular employees are 888 and 1290 are on contractor.

(b) The profit earned by HMC for the financial years 2007-08 was Rs.3.151 million while accounts for 2008-09 are still to be finalized, however, as per provisional information the company is likely to sustain loss of Rs. 248.6 million for the year 2008-09. Position will be clear after completion of the Audit.

119. *Mr. Muhammad Zahid Khan: (Notice received on 25-08-2009 at 11:25 a.m.)

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

(a) *whether it is a fact that incumbent Vice Chancellor of PIDE University Islamabad is also working as Chief Economist, Planning Division, if so, its reasons; and*

(b) *the time by which the post of Chief Economist Planning Division will be filled in on a regular basis?*

Makhdoom Shahabuddin: (a) “With the approval of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Dr. Rashid Amjad, Member, Planning Commission/Vice Chancellor, PIDE is looking after the work of Member/Chief Economist, Planning Commission since 6th February, 2008 *vide* Planning and Development Division’s Office Order No. 1(167)Admn-VI/PD/07 dated 06-02-2008 without any additional financial benefit till further orders.

(b) “The post of Chief Economist has been advertised twice in the national/international press. First time, interviews of 05 short-listed candidates were held on 30-11-2007 by a high level committee, chaired by Dr. Ishrat Hussain, the then Chairman, National Commission for Government Reforms (NCGR). None of the candidates was deemed suitable for the position of Chief Economist. Secondly, a search committee for identification of suitable person(s) for selection as Chief Economist/Member, Planning Commission in MP-1 Scale has been constituted on 17-2-2009. **The process of filling the position of Chief Economist/Member, Planning Commission is at final stages and the selection will materialize accordingly as early as possible.**

120. ***Prof. Muhammad Ibrahim Khan:** (Notice received on 01-09-2009 at 09:40 a.m.)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Government has recently purchased sugar from sugar mills at the rate of Rs. 25 per K.G. ;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that 30 lac tons sugar has been stored in the Government godowns and the requirement of the country for a year is only three lac tons; and*
- (c) *the reasons for increase in the price of sugar in the country inspite of the fact that sufficient sugar is available in the Government godowns?*

Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo: (a) As per the information from Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), TCP purchased during 2007-08 sugar from sugar mills up to 23rd October, 2008 after which no procurement has been undertaken from the mills by TCP. TCP did not procure sugar during 2008-09 from domestic market.

(b) It is clarified that the *monthly average* consumption of sugar is 350,000 tons while the actual off-take (sale per month November to June 2008-09) is 300,000 per month. The total production of sugar by sugar mills in year 2008-09 is 3,188,000 tons. There are also last years leftovers of 11 lac tons. These 43 lac tons (32 lacs+11lacs) were stored in their own warehouses while sugar procured / imported by TCP is stored in TCP warehouses / godowns and with sugar mills for onward supply to USC.

(c) The total actual consumption of sugar stand at 4,200,000 tons approximately at the rate of 350,000 tons average monthly consumption and the total sugar production for the year 2008-09 is 3,188,000 tons while the sugar stocks including imported sugar stand at 1,588,000 tons which indicates that sufficient sugar stocks are available in the country with TCP godowns

and sugar mills. However, the reason for increase in the prices of sugar may be attributed to the hoarding of sugar by hoarders / stockists due to hike in international prices of sugar during last three or four months.

121. ***Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:** (Notice received on 02-09-2009 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for development of agriculture sector in the country during the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09; and*
- (b) the increase registered in production graph of agriculture in the country during the said period?*

Mr. Nazar Muhammad Gondal: (a) 1. **Ensuring fair returns/economic incentives to growers:**

- Timely announcement of a very attractive Support Price of wheat @Rs.950/40kg, resulted in record wheat production of about 24.03 million tonnes during 2008-09.
- Intervention prices for paddy was fixed at Rs.700/40kg for IRRI type varieties. Rs. 1500/40kg for Super-Basmati and Rs.1250/40kg for other Basmati varieties that resulted in record rice production of about 7 million tonnes during 2008-09.

2. **Benazir Tractor Scheme to Promote Farm Mechanization:**

- In order to improve various farming practices. Benazir Tractor Scheme was initiated to provide 10,000 subsidized tractors and agricultural machinery to the farmers with a subsidy of Rs. 200,000/tractor.

3. **Subsidy on Fertilizers:**

- In order to promote balanced use of fertilizers a subsidy of Rs. 27 billions was provided that facilitated the farmers to procure DAP as per their needs along with urea fertilizer.

4. **Funding for Agricultural Development Projects:**

- An amount of Rs. 20 billion was allocated for agricultural research and development project through Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP) during the year 2008-09 which was 25% higher than the previous year (2007-08).

5. **Redefining -and Revision of Agricultural Policy:**

- The new comprehensive “Strategic National Agricultural Development Policy Framework 2010—15” was initiated.

6. Financing Agriculture through Credit:

- Farm credit worth Rs.250 billion was allocated in 2008-09 thereby enabling the growers for their inputs and operational requirements – an increase of 20%.
- “Indicative per acre credit limit” for major and minor crops, orchards and forestry was enhanced by an average 70 percent from 2008-09.
- Crop loan insurance scheme was also introduced to enhance the access of farmers to agricultural loans and to protect his investment.
- Benazir Credit Card Scheme and Crop Loan Insurance Scheme were also introduced for the benefit of growers.

7. Achievements in Plant Protection:

- Duty free import of pesticides and waiver of 15% sales tax was allowed to facilitate the growers.

8. Availability of Quality Seeds:

- During the year 2008-09, about 1500 metric tonnes hybrid seed of exotic rice hybrids was imported from China and Philippine that contributed significantly to boost rice production in the country.
- Import of most productive varieties of hybrid maize, sunflower, canola, fodder sorghum and vegetables was also facilitated.

9. Access to Crop Biotechnology through Genetically Modified Varieties of Cotton:

- The government planned to introduce hi-tech seeds (hybrid and Bt cotton seeds) in the country with the collaboration of national and multinational seed companies like Monsanto etc. MOU with Monsanto was signed to bring in the technology in the country.
- Testing of ten (10) Bt cotton varieties is in process.

10. International Linkages for Agricultural Development:

- Interaction and strong collaboration was established with other countries and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of United Nations etc to develop agriculture, increase food production and ensure sustainable food security.

- Strong interaction campaign with agriculturally developed countries like US and China resulted in fruitful cooperation in the field of agriculture and promoting trade in agricultural commodities.

11. Technology Transfer- and Farmers Awareness through Media/Meetings:

- Electronic and Print Media were used to popularize the modern agricultural production technologies and inputs.
- Best performing farmers from various parts of the country were motivated through prize distribution during 'Kissan Convention 2009'.

(b) The increase registered in production graph of major agricultural crops in the country during 2008-09 is given as Annexure-I. Increase in production was registered in case of crops like Wheat, rice, cotton, canola, gram, lentil and potato. Agricultural Growth Rate in 2008-09 significantly increased to 4.7 from 1.1 of 2007-08.

122. ***Begum Najma Hameed:** (Notice received on 02-09-2009 at 09:35 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to bring down the price of sugar in the country?

Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo: The following measures were taken and are being undertaken by the Government to deal with the sugar crises:

1. The Prime Minister of Pakistan on 22nd August, 2009 decided that the Govt. reduce its taxes including GST by 50% on sugar for the next three months.
2. 100,000 tons of sugar was supplied by TCP to Utility Store Corporation (USC) during the month of Ramazan at Rs.38 per kg to facilitate the common man. As a part of the Ramazan package the Utility Store Corporation sold 100, 000 tons of sugar from utility Store outlets instead of the normal 40,000 tons per month @ Rs. 38/kg. This was equivalent to one third the total consumption of the country of white sugar in a month and was effective in checking the price rise.
3. The Provinces directed to ensure effective monitoring and checking of the sale of sugar. Administrative action against hoarders/stockists with holding stocks.
4. After Ramazan USC is continuing to sell 40,000 tons a month of sugar at Rs.38/- per kg from 5700 plus USC outlets across the Country.
5. Approval by ECC to import 0.3 million tons of raw sugar for next season in view of further anticipated decrease in sugarcane production.
6. The Cabinet Division has set up a 'Committee to tackle sugar problem in Pakistan' to recommend 'short term' and 'long term' strategy of sugar. It was notified on 10th September 2009.

7. The meeting of the 'Committee to tackle sugar problem' was held on 16 September 09. It was chaired by the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Statistics. The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and Production, Minister for food and Agriculture, Provincial Ministers for Food NWFP, Punjab, Sind, Agriculture Minister Punjab, senior officers of relevant provincial and federal departments.
8. The provinces needed time to consult with their respective stake holders and come up with their considered responses/suggestions in the next meeting on 6th October 09 when the final decisions will be taken.

124. ***Begum Najma Hameed:** (Notice received on 08-09-2009 at 08:50 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) *the quantity of tobacco produced in the country during the last five years with province-wise break up; and*
- (b) *the steps taken / being taken by the Government to increase the production of tobacco in the country during the current financial year?*

Mr. Nazar Muhammad Gondal: (a) During last five years 2003—08, Pakistan produced total quantities of 86.2, 100.5, 112.6, 103.3 and 107.8 million kgs. Province-wise break up is tabulated as under:—

(Million Kgs)

Year	Punjab	Sindh	NWFP	Balochistan	Total
2003-04	21.1	0.2	62.9	2.0	86.2
2004-05	20.6	0.2	77.3	2.4	100.5
2005-06	21.6	0.1	87.9	3.0	112.6
2006-07	21.5	0.2	78.2	3.4	103.3
2007-08	19.9	0.4	84.9	2.6	107.8
2008-09	Purchase still in progress				

(b) Pakistan Tobacco Board (PTB) an attached wing of Ministry of Commerce and Trade, with its headquarter in Peshawar, has mandate for promotion of tobacco crop in the country. The steps taken by the BTB so far and being planned to be taken in the future are given as under:

1. The Board has established its Zonal Office at Lahore and Research Stations at Mardan, Mansehra, Kunjah (Gujrat) and Okara to prorate tobacco production.
2. Model Farms have been established in Swabi, Buner, Hazro (Attock), Jampur, Bubak(Sindh) and Pishin(Balochistan) where Research and Development work to maximize tobacco production and exports is in progress.
3. The Extension service has been located at pivotal points in close collaboration with the tobacco companies and Provincial Agriculture Department for quick dissemination of new technology to the tobacco growers.

4. New varieties with greater high production, better quality leaf and greater resistance against insect-pests and diseases are being developed and introduced to maximize quality tobacco production and export.
5. Curing techniques of tobacco leaves are being developed and upgraded. There was significant improvement in flue-curing barn structure, furnace design and harvesting and curing technology.
6. New potential potato growing areas are being explored on trial basis. These include tehsils Essa Khel, Pai Khel, Piplan and Wan Bachran of district Mianwali.
7. During the year 2007-08, the government earned revenue of Rs.36.4 billion in the form of Central Excise Duty (CED) and Sales Tax (ST) from tobacco.
8. During 2007-08, a foreign exchange earning of Rs.454 million was fetched by the country through export of tobacco and tobacco products (cigarettes etc.)

126. ***Mr. Abdul Nabi Bangash:** (Notice received on 12-09-2009 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of Overseas Pakistanis imprisoned in Gulf countries; and*
- (b) *whether the concerned Pakistani Missions are providing legal support to those prisoners, if so, its details?*

Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi: (a) (a) The number of overseas Pakistanis imprisoned in Gulf countries is given below in a tabulated form:—

Country	Convicted	Under trail	Murder	Drug	Immigration	Theft Total	Others	Grand
Bahrain	52	47	10	21	2	13	53	99
Iran(Tehran)	73	13	5	62	3	4	12	86
Kuwait	281	73	4	231	63	10	46	354
Oman	76	—	11	43	—	—	22	76
Qatar	66	—	2	51	—	5	8	66
Saudi Arabia	1003	149	15	308	85	73	671	1152
UAE	—	—	—	500	—	—	200	700
Total	1551	282	47	1216	153	105	1012	2533

(b) Our Embassies extend consular service immediately to all Pakistanis on receipt of information of their arrest. A representative of the Embassy undertakes a visit to the Deportation Cell to provide consular access to the detained Pakistanis. The Embassy officials also visit Police Stations, Immigration Department and Central Jail as and when required to provide necessary legal and consular access to the detainees.

128. ***Mr. Sardar Ali Khan:** (Notice received on 16-09-2009 at 12:50 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether any case of issuing fake visas by the Pakistani Embassy in Nigeria has recently been surfaced;*
- (b) *whether any inquiry has been conducted into the said case, if so, its findings; and*

(c) *the names of persons found involved in the said case and the action taken against them?*

Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi: During the last few years a number of Nigerian nationals were found involved in drug trafficking in Pakistan. As a result, the Foreign Secretary constituted an Inquiry team to enquire into the matter of issuance of visa by the High Commission in Abuja to the arrested Nigerian nationals in Pakistan. The committee, after scrutinizing the records found out that out of a total of 441 arrests made since 2005, only 50 visas were issued by the High Commission in Abuja. It was established that a huge number of arrested Nigerian nationals were on a fake travel documents which were of course not issued by the Mission in Abuja. Moreover, there is a considerable decline in the number of Nigerian nationals arrested on drug trafficking charges and since 2008 not a single Nigerian national arrested in Pakistan was issued visa by the High Commission in Abuja. This is because of the strict measures undertaken by the High Commission in Abuja on the recommendation of the Senate Standing Committee on Narcotic Control.

(a) Data on the issue of visa, arrest of Nigerian nationals since 2005 is given as below:—

S.No.	Year	No. of Visas issued by our Mission in Abuja	Arrested in Pakistan	Verified by Pahic Abuja
1.	2005	1001	115	17
2.	2006	951	106	08
3.	2007	1230	081	25
4.	2008	602	039	Nil
5.	2009 (Upto June	178	009	Nil

The data suggests the following trends:—

- (i) Decline in issue of visa;
- (ii) Decline in arrests in Pakistan; and
- (iii) Decline in the visits of Nigerians to Pakistan.

The Mission has taken stringent measures to process business visa to curb drug trafficking and the following requirements are now mandatory:

- (i) Company's registration with the Government authorities;
- (ii) Income tax registration and taxes paid over the last 5 years;
- (iii) Letter from Chamber of Commerce;
- (iv) Recommendation letter from the Foreign Office where the applicant applies;

- (v) Bank statement for the last 4 years;
- (vi) Information on imports from Pakistan, if any, during last 2 years, with details such as:
 - (i) Value of goods; and
 - (ii) Pakistani importers' name.
- (vii) Invitation letter from the Pakistani Company, with details of the Company such as:
 - (i) NTN with Income Tax;
 - (ii) Bank statement for the last 4 years;
 - (iii) Export details for the last 4 years;
 - (iv) Names of the Company Directors.

Negative Impact

Pakistan's visa regime to Nigerians has caused decline in our exports to that country. The data for the last four years is given as below:—

Year	Exports (US\$ million)	Imports (US\$ million)
2004-05	54.566	7.052
2005-06	41.349	14.998
2006-07	23.160	9.958
2007-08	25.275	28.337

(b) Foreign Secretary constituted a Committee comprising of three officers to investigate the affairs of the issue of visa by our Mission in Nigeria. The findings of the Committee suggest that no Nigerian national who has obtained visa from our Mission in Abuja was arrested in Pakistan on drug charges since 2008.

(c) The Mission was not aware of the fake visas through which these Nigerians entered into Pakistan. Checking documents of foreign nationals at the time of entry into Pakistan is primarily the responsibility of the Law Enforcement Agencies. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs keeps on raising this issue at the Federal Review Board meetings with other concerned Ministries/departments to take appropriate steps in this regard. Our mission in Abuja for its part is adhering to the stringent measures placed to process business visa.

Islamabad :
The 7th October, 2009.

RAJA MUHAMMAD AMIN,
Secretary.

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