

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT ON A STARRED QUESTION NO. 125-A ASKED BY SENATOR LT. GENERAL ® SALAHUDIN TIRMIZI IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 15TH MAY, 2015, REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BALAKOT CITY

I, Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood, Chairman, Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, have the honor to present, on behalf of the Committee, the report on a starred Question No. 125-A asked by Senator Lt. General ® Salahudin Tirmizi, in the Senate sitting held on 15th May, 2015, regarding construction of new Balakot City. The Chairman, Senate referred the same to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is given as under:-

1.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood	Chairman
2.	Senator Shahi Syed	Member
3.	Senator Hidayat Ullah	Member
4.	Senator Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini	Member
5.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
6.	Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Member
7.	Senator Ms. Najma Hameed	Member
8.	Senator Mrs. Kalsoom Perveen	Member
9.	Senator Ms. Rahila Magsi	Member
10.	Senator Haji Saif-ullah Khan Bangash	Member
11.	Senator Osman Saifullah Khan	Member
12.	Senator Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi	Member
13.	Minister Incharge for Cabinet Division	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee considered the issue twice in its meetings held on 22nd June, 2015 and 08th October, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood. The Following Members attended the meeting on 22nd June, 2015:

1.	Senator Hidayatullah	Member
2.	Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Member
3.	Senator Mrs. Kalsoom Parveen	Member
4.	Senator Haji Saif-Ullah Khan Bangash	Member
5.	Senator Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi	Member

4. Another meeting of the Committee held on 08th October 2015 under the chairmanship of Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood was attended by the following:

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| 1. Senator Shahi Syed | Member |
| 2. Senator Haji Saifullah Khan Bangash | Member |
| 3. Senator Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini | Member |
| 4. Senator Mrs. Kalsoom Parveen | Member |
| 5. Senator Sitara Ayaz | Mover |
| 6. Senator Lt. General ® Salahudin Tirmizi | Special Invitee |

5. The brief background of the issue is that the Committee in its meeting held on 22nd June ,2015 was apprised that due to the earth quake of 2005 and keeping into consideration the expert opinion it was decided to find an alternate place for the construction of new Balakot City as the existing was located on the fault line. The Provincial Government had to procure and hand over the land to ERRA for carrying out the project. However, when the Provincial Government tried to take possession of the designated land , some people did not vacate the same and consequently a clash occurred and unfortunately a casualty took place.

6. After the said incident both the Local Government and ERRA became reluctant in occupying the land forcefully and accordingly efforts were focused towards negotiations for reaching an amicable solution of the problem. During the aforesaid meeting, the Committee recommended that in order to resolve the issue the local representatives i.e. MNA`s, MPA`s etc be involved.

7. In the next meeting of the Committee held on 08th October, 2015, the Committee once again carried out a detailed discussion with the Local Administration of the area which included Deputy Commissioner, Mansehra, representatives of ERRA and the Member, Board of Revenue, KPK.

8. The Deputy Commissioner, Mansehra opined that the dialogue and not the use of force was the solution to the problem. The representative of ERRA informed that the ERRA was ready to work as soon as the possession of the land was handed over to them after which the contractor would also be mobilized within a period of 7 days.

9. The Member (Board of Revenue), KPK while terming the occupants as illegal suggested for use of force as the only option for evicting the illegal occupants. He added that almost Rs. 4 Billion of the Government had already been spent on the project with no results which also included the compensation amount already granted to those illegal residents.

10. The Committee however decided to give one last chance to the illegal occupants and directed the Deputy Commissioner, Mansehra to carry out a dialogue with the Public representatives of that area in coordination with Senator Lt. Gen. ® Salahuddin Tirmizi for finding an amicable solution of the problem and submit the outcome of the same to the Committee thereof within a period of 15 days.

11. It would be also be pertinent to mention that the Chairman, Standing Committee has taken personal initiative to get the issue resolved. In November, 2015 the Chairman, Committee approached the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf and the Local representatives / elders for carrying out negotiations.

12. Furthermore the Chairman, Standing Committee Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood has discussed the matter with the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs , Sardar Muhammad Yousaf who has assured to impart necessary role in resolving the issue at the earliest.

13. The Chairman, Committee also had a telephonic conversation with the Deputy Commissioner, Mansehra who informed that after receiving the directions of the Committee, a considerable progress has been achieved in the matter. He informed that a meeting was held in the office of Secretary, Local Government , KPK which was attended by Commissioner, Hazara, Deputy Commissioner, Mansehra, Rep. of DPO office, Rep. of ERRA , Rep. of Local Government and P&D Departments, Tehsil Nazim, Balakot and Mansehra and two MPA's namely Mr. Saleh Mohammad and Mian Zia ur Rehman. He said that the following two committees were accordingly formulated with the following composition:

COMMITTEE I(For resolving day to day issues)

- a) Assistant Commissioner, Balakot
- b) Local ERRA head

COMMITTEE II (For Negotiations)

- a) MPA'S
- b) District Nazim, Mansehra
- c) Tehsil nazim, Balakot and Mansehra
- d) Local Head of ERRA
- e) AC, Balakot and Mansehra
- f) Local Reps
- g) Bakrial Reps. (Both Tehsil and District)
- h) Sector Committees Reps

14. Apart from this, the DC, Mansehra held a separate meeting with Bakrial people along with reps. of ERRA wherein he said that they give certain demands upon which the survey has been started after including their four member committee. He said that their main demand was exclusion of Agricultural Land alongwith it's reassessment. He apprised that the AC, balakot has been tasked to interact with the said Committee, a report of which he said will then be sent to ERRA.

15. After detailed deliberations, the Committee is however of the considered opinion that the use of force is not the solution to the problem rather negotiations and persuasion would lead the matter towards its amicable logical end. Therefore, the Committee in its meeting decided to invite the Members of local Administration and Security Forces in the next meeting to find a solution of the problem and also decided to visit the site in the 2nd week of January, 2016 for accelerating and monitoring the pace of progress.



(Hafeezullah Sheikh)
Secretary (Committee)



(Muhammad Talha Mahmood)
Chairman (Committee)

Islamabad, the
23rd December, 2015