



# **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

**FOR THE  
(PARLIAMENTARY YEARS 2018-21)**



**Presented by:**

**Senator Rubina Khalid**  
**Chairperson**

**Senate Standing Committee on IT & Telecommunication**



**RUBINA KHALID**

**Chairperson Senate Standing Committee  
on Information Technology & Telecommunication**

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## **PREFACE**

In the contemporary age, governance without telecommunications seems unlikely and cannot be envisioned. Society has made itself so used to the usage of various types of technology that the world would end up collapsing if it was taken away. Telecommunication is a most valuable field and it provides better awareness to the society we are living in.

In this modern day and age, information technology plays a vital role, if a country is not progressing in the field of Information Technology is not likely to progress and harness the benefits of the Information Technology in different segments of life. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has proven to be one of the most important sectors for sustainable economic growth and stable job creation. The youth in different developing countries have found jobs and business opportunities in this field more than any other field over the last one decade.

ICT has also revolutionized how business is done, cutting down operating costs and time, increasing a company's competitiveness level across the board and in the industry. Information Technology in Pakistan is a growing industry that has a large potential. Matters relating to the IT industry are overseen and regulated by the Ministry of Information Technology of the Government of Pakistan. The IT industry is regarded as a successful sector of Pakistan economically, even in financial crisis.

To oversight the working, performance and constitutional responsibilities of the Ministry of Information Technology and its sub-ordinate departments, attached organizations and affiliated corporations, the Senate Standing Committee on IT & Telecommunication was constituted. On 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, I was elected as Chairperson of the Committee. Since then, notable meetings have been conducted wherein various agenda items were discussed and issues of utmost importance pertaining to general public were raised.

As Chairperson, Standing Committee on I.T. & Telecommunication, I am pleased to present the Report of the Committee for the Period from May, 2018 to February, 2021.

The Committee in its meetings conducted in the aforementioned period deliberated extensively on multi-dimensional issues pertaining to Ministry of Information Technology and its sub-ordinate departments i.e. National Information Technology Board, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust, Universal Services Fund, National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) and TIP etc.

The Committee not only handled the issues of the I.T related departments but also made workable recommendations for resolving the most daunting problems of those areas on priority basis and focused much on improving the performance of the Ministry of I.T. and its related department.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the Honorable members of the Standing Committee for their contribution in enabling this Committee to play an effective role in improving the I.T. & Telecommunication industry in the country. The achievement of the committee would not have been possible without their diligent and active cooperation. I would also like to express my appreciations for the hard work done by Mr. Hafeezullah Sheikh, Secretary of Committee and other Secretariat staff who was associated with the Committee.

**( RUBINA KHALID )**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Senate Standing Committee on IT & Telecommunication held its meetings during the period from **June, 2018, to February, 2021**, under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid. During these meetings, the Committee took up numerous issues related to IT and Telecommunication and made a number of significant recommendations.

The Committee discussed the multiple agendas of the IT sector related issues prevalent in the sector with all stakeholders. The Committee tried to find out amicable solution of the issues by formulating its recommendations for implementing by the government. The members of the Committee showed great interest and played active role by incorporating valuable suggestions for the growth as well as improvement in the IT sector.

### ***Key topics of public importance deliberated by the Committee: -***

- Non-completion of E-Services software at CDA headquarters, Islamabad, by a private firm namely LMKT;
- Irregularities committed in payment to LMKT prior to delivery of E-services software by the company;
- Increasing incidents of child pornography through dark-web;
- Collection of Withholding tax and Excise duty etc on recharge of prepaid mobile cards;
- Framing of Rules after enactment of prevention of Electronics Crimes Act, 2016;
- Streamline the process for collection of custom duty on import of cell phones;
- Blockage of unregistered IMEI (non-custom paid) cell phones;
- Deficient services of cellular companies in Malakand and surrounding areas;
- Establishment of Information Communication Technology (ICT) laboratories at Women Empowerment Centres working under Pakistan Baitul Mall across the country;
- Problems of free lancers in opening of accounts due to strict regulations of State of Bank of Pakistan;
- Improvement in objective and performance of National Information Technology Board (NITB);
- Establishment of National Incubation Centres (NIC);
- Performance and achievement of Universal Services Fund (USF);
- Non-availability of 3G and 4G services in various parts of province of Balochistan;
- Lack of coordination between the Federal and Provincial IT Boards;
- By annual review of budgetary allocations alongwith its utilization of the Ministry of IT & Telecommunication;
- Role and Performance of Special Communication organization (SCO);
- Non-payment of pension to the pensioners of TIP Haripur;
- Formation of mechanism by FBR for collection of tax from mobile companies;
- Initiatives taken/being taken PTA to curtail growing trend of blasphemy through internet;

- Denial by Telenor to provide easy paisa services to notable politicians;
- Need to spread awareness amongst social media users for positive usage of social media;
- Establishment of Technical Training Institute (TTI) at Gilgit Baltistan;
- Misuse of passenger's data acquired during the process of mobile registration;
- Establishment of IT park in Islamabad;
- Role of National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NR3C) with reference to prevention and detection of cyber crimes;
- Role of Information Technology for disaster management;
- Need to curtail frequent transmission of fake and fabricated news over social media to tarnish personality of politicians;
- Establishment of National Data Centre at NTC headquarters, Islamabad;
- Withdrawal of custom duty exemption by FBR on import of one phone during a year;
- Theft of NADRA data for registration of sim cards on fake credentials;
- Problems faced by the student of remote areas in taking online classes due to insufficient data services;
- Problems faced by young IT professionals and investors;
- Imposition of ban on social media applications;
- Non-increase of pension to the PTCL pensioners as per rate announced by the Federal Government from time to time;
- Non-availability of internet facility in the areas of Daa, Aranji and Battu;

## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Rubina Khalid	<b>Chairperson</b>
Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
Senator Faisal Javed	Member
Senator Sana Jamali	Member
Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
Senator Hilal-ur-Rehman	Member
Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
Senator Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo	Member
Senator Nusrat Shaheen	Member

### SECRETARY COMMITTEE:

Mr. Hafeezullah Sheikh	AS/ Secretary Committee
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**PROFILE OF THE  
HONOURABLE  
CHAIRPERSON  
&  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**



## **Rubina Khalid**

Name: Rubina Khalid



Tenure: March 2018 to March 2024

Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Party: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentary  
PPP-P

Seat  
Description: Women

### **Contact Detail**

Office Number: 051-9252135

Mobile Number: 0300-5263325

Local Address: H.No.578, Street No.66, D-12/2,  
Islamabad.

### **Committee (s)**

Committee  
Member: Information Technology and Telecommunication (Chairperson  
Committee)  
Child Protection (Chairperson Committee)  
Council of Chairpersons  
Delegated Legislation  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Information and Broadcasting  
National Health Services Regulations and Coordination  
The Promotion and Development of Football in the Country  
Committee of the whole

## **Dr. Shahzad Waseem**



**Tenure:** March 2018 to March 2024

**Province:** Punjab

**Party:** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf PTI

**Seat  
Description:** General

**Designation:** Leader of the House

**In Vice of:** Ch Mohammad Sarwar

**E-mail:** [drshahzadwaseem@gmail.com](mailto:drshahzadwaseem@gmail.com)

**Local Address:** Farm No 14, Orchard Scheme, Murree Road, Islamabad

**Permanent  
Address:** Village: Kanyat Roshan Khan, P.O Kanyat Khalil, Tehsil: Gujar Khan,  
District: Rawalpindi

### **Contact Detail**

**E-mail:** [drshahzadwaseem@gmail.com](mailto:drshahzadwaseem@gmail.com)

**Local Address:** Farm No 14, Orchard Scheme, Murree Road, Islamabad

**Permanent Address:** Village: Kanyat Roshan Khan, P.O Kanyat Khalil, Tehsil: Gujar Khan,  
District: Rawalpindi

### **Academic Career**

**Qualification:** Medical Graduate (MBBS)

### **Other Information**

#### **Current Political Offices**

Member Senate of Pakistan (tenure 2018-2024)

Member Senate Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs

Member Senate Standing Committees on Interior

Member Senate Standing Committees on Kashmir Affairs

Member Senate Standing Committees on Information Technology

Member Senate Standing Committees on Housing & Works Political Carrier

Senior Member Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Current Party Position

Has served as Advisor to The Chairman PTI on Diplomatic Relations. He was handling external publicity and International Relations.

Former PTI Central Secretary on Foreign Affairs

#### **Ex-Political Offices:**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERIOR**

**MEMBER SENATE OF PAKISTAN (2003-2006)** As State Minister Interior supervised NADRA transformation to digital era and Machine Readable Passport initiative. Actively contributed in development of Islamabad as modern metropolis, Police Reforms, Earthquake 2006 management. Chairman Standing Committee on Establishment and Cabinet Division

Member Senate Standing Committee on Women Development

Member Senate Standing Committee on Sports and Culture

Member Senate Standing Committee on Youth Affairs

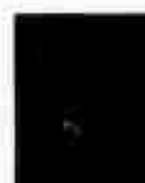
Member Senate Standing Committee on Health

Member Senate Standing Committee on Interior

He has been to various countries accompanying President and Prime Minister as part of official delegations. He represented Pakistan independently in different countries including USA, UK, China, Turkey, Norway, Finland, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Sudan, Australia, and India. • He has been regularly participating in international Human Rights forums including "Baku Humanitarian Forum" He has been regularly participating in various Seminars, Forums, Talk Shows on wide range of issues including Internal Security, Foreign Affairs, Current Affairs, Human Rights, Democracy.

## Abdul Rehman Malik

Name: Abdul Rehman Malik  
Tenure: March 2015 to March 2021  
Province: Sindh  
Party: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentary PPP-P  
Seat Description: General  
Designation: Senator



### Contact Detail

Mobile Number: 0332-5559393, 0335-5090334  
E-mail: [rehman.malik@senate.gov.pk](mailto:rehman.malik@senate.gov.pk)  
Local Address: H.No.9, St-89, G-6/3, Islamabad.  
Permanent Address: D-39, Block-No.5 Clifton, Karachi.

### Committee (s)

Interior (Chairperson Committee)  
Council of Chairpersons  
Defence  
Committee Foreign Affairs  
Member: Information Technology and Telecommunication  
Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan  
Parliamentary Committee on the General Elections 2018  
Committee of the whole

### Academic Career

Qualification: Ph.D. (Honorary), University of Karachi (2012), M.Sc. (Statistics), With Distinction, University of Karachi (1973), Fellowship - International Migration, University of Philippines

### Other Information

SENATOR DR. A. REHMAN MALIK

- M.Sc/ Ph.d. (Hon.)  
Sitara-i-Shujaat (Gallantry), Nishan-i-Imtiaz  
Former Federal Minister/ Advisor for Interior for Narcotics Control  
Ex-Chairman, SAARC Home/Interior Ministers,  
Expert in Security Affairs  
President PPP Overseas & International Affairs  
Twitter: Senrehmanmalik
- Senior Member Central Executive Committee of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)
- Former Member of Nuclear Command Authority, Pakistan.
- Former Member of Defense Coordination Committee (DCC), Pakistan.

- Convener Opposition's Political Reconciliation Committee (Jirga / Commission) of Pakistan.
- Former Chairman Committee / Commission of Reconciliation and Development Package for Baluchistan.
- Former Chairman Committee / Commission for Madrassah Reforms, Interfaith / Religious Harmony of Pakistan.
- Acted as coordinator for successful reconciliation/Transition to democracy dialogue between the then ruling party/Gen Pervez Musharraf and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto former PM of Pakistan

#### **Academic Qualifications:**

Ph.d. (Honorary), University of Karachi - 2012.  
 M.Sc. (Statistics), With Distinction, University of Karachi 1973.  
 Fellowship - International Migration, University of Philippines.

#### **PORTFOLIO/COMMAND STRUCTURE:**

Served as the longest serving Federal Minister for Interior in the history of Pakistan. As Minister for Interior, supervised Interior Division and Narcotics Control Division, including:

- Pakistan Rangers, Punjab
- Frontier Corps, Balochistan.
- Anti-Narcotics Force. (ANF)
- National Police Academy.
- National Police Foundation.
- National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).
- National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA)
- Directorate General of Civil Defence
- National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NRC)
- Pakistan Rangers, Sindh.
- Northern Light Infantry, Gilgit-Baltistan.
- Pakistan Coast Guard.
- Islamabad Capital Territory Police.
- National Aliens Registration Authority (NARA).
- National Forensic Science Agency (NFSA)
- National Police Bureau (NPB)
- Pakistan Immigration Control -Frontier Corps, KPK
- Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)
- FIA Academy of Pakistan
- Islamabad Capital Territory Administration.
- Directorate General of Immigration & Passports.
- National Academy for Prisons Administration.
- National Crisis Management Cell (NCMC)

Chairman SAARC

Member of the NCA concerned with Civil and Public Affairs

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS AS INTERIOR MINISTER:**

As Federal Minister for Interior, being at Forefront on War-on-Terror; which is matter of public record, strategized successful campaign / operations to counter terrorism and facilitated remarkable results in thwarting terrorist networks.,

- Recipient of Sitara-i-Shujaat for his brave performances in FIA.
- Recipient of highest civil award, Nishan-e-Imtiaz medal from the President of Pakistan - 2012.
- Leader of Pak delegation to SAARC for five consecutive Annual Sessions.
- Leader of Pak delegation to India on bilateral issues.
- Also functioned as Special Envoy of the President of Pakistan, to Iran, Saudi Arabia and Middle East, met various head of states and distinguished leaders, for conveying messages from President

of Pakistan to strengthen cooperation and bonds of friendly relations. Played an active role in countering terrorism in Middle East and Iran.

- Key Note speaker for Interpol General Assembly Annual Sessions held at Singapore.
- Observer for The Election of Secretary General of ICPO/Interpol.
- Leader of Pak delegation on Security, to USA, UK, Italy, and Singapore
- Keynote Speaker at International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), UK.
- Keynote Speaker PAF Command and Staff College, Karachi.
- Keynote Speaker at International Conference on Inter-Faith Harmony, Islamabad.
- Keynote Speaker in National Defence University (NDU) Pakistan on subjects of Terrorism and national Security.

#### **Civil Service Career:**

- FEDERAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (FIA), PAKISTAN - 1996.
- Addl. Director General (FIA, HQs, Islamabad)
- Director (Immigration & Anti-Smuggling)
- Director (Crimes, FIA Peshawar Region)
- Director (FIA Headquarters, Islamabad)
- MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN -1989.
- Deputy Secretary / Chairman (National Security / Pakistan Sensitive Installations)
- EMIGRATIONBUREAU, ISLAMABAD 1988.
- Director (Operations) & Director (Co-Ordination/Administration)
- NATIONAL CENTRE BUREAU, FIA / INTERPOL, PAKISTAN - 1987.
- Deputy Director, (Crime) & In-charge of NCB/Interpol.
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, AND PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS, BUREAU OF EMIGRATION - 1975-1986
- JUNIOR LECTURER, Department of Statistics, University of Karachi. - 1974

#### **Research/Publications:**

- Academic Research in Economics / Statistics / Experimental designs.
- Authored numerous publications and research papers, covering security, immigration and money laundering subjects. Many investigation reports published in different international print media. Remained Editor-in-Chief, Statistical Society Magazine.
- His investigative work led to the arrest of Yousaf Ramzi in 1996- the master mind of the first explosion in Twin Towers, in New York USA. His contributions in the field of anti-terrorism were significantly highlighted in a book titled "The New Jackals" written by a renowned British Journalist Mr. Simon Reeve. His services were commended in various international journals of repute and the media.
- Authored number of publications and research papers on multiple topics including security emigration and money laundering. Numbers of investigation report are so far published in international magazines and newspapers.
- Research on Media Management.
- Research on Cye War.
- A post 9/11 Hollywood film based on his extraordinary role in the field of terrorism.
- Fellowship in the field of International Migration from University of Phillipines in 1998.

#### **CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / TRAININGS ATTENDED AS CIVIL SERVANT:**

- Training Workshop on DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND POLICIES IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR organized by UNO in Thailand 1984.

- Represented Pakistan in SAARC Meeting of Experts on the implementation of the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, Colombo, Sri Lanka 1990.
- Administrative System training course Spain 1992.
- 5th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna 1996 as Deputy Leader of the Pak delegation.
- Conference of International Counter-Terrorism, Baguio, Philippines 1996 as leader of Pak delegation.
- Bilateral Discussion on Criminal Justice, Extradition and Terrorism (Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore) 1996, represented Pakistan.

#### Achievements in Civil Service:

- As Director, Immigration Wing, FIA, enforced Zero-Tolerance policy to prevent illegal emigration from Pakistan.
- As Director of Peshawar Region, FIA, conducted successful operation against criminal syndicate running counterfeit foreign currency and Super Bonds / dollar racket.
- Was recipient of Sitarta-e-Sujaat (Gallantry) by The President of Pakistan in 1995.
- Coordinated and cooperated with international law enforcement organizations for successful arrest of high-profile criminals including drug barons, money launderers and offenders of various other heinous trans-border crimes.
- Contributions in anti-terrorism effort were duly highlighted in his book The New Jackals authored by British journalist Mr. Simon Reeve.
- As Lead Investigator in prominent money laundering cases, was commendably reflected in the popular BBC documentary Pakistan to Park Lane via Ilford.
- Head of Commission of Investigation into Hijack of Singapore Airline (Flight 117) - 1991
- Member Inquiry team, Crash of C-130 Aircraft, carrying former President of Pakistan (1988)
- Elected as President, Science Tutorial Group, Murray College, Sialkot.
- Elected as General Secretary, Statistical Society, University of Karachi.

#### PEN PICTURE OF PROFILE

- \* Started career in 1973 as a Civil Servant working in various capacities in Bureau of Immigration Government of Pakistan
- \* Remained Incharge of FIA/Interpol and Deputy Director (FIA) in 1987 dealing with white color crime worldwide.
- \* Remained Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan along with Chairmanship Security key points of Pakistan for one year in 1989.
- \* Remained Director FIA Headquarters Principal Staff Officer FIA
- \* Remained Director Crimes FIA HQ in coordination with Prime Minister Office dealing with inquiries/criminals cases under Official Secret Acts, Drugs and Narcotics etc.
- \* Remained Director/Head FIA KPK then NWFP/FATA/Northern Areas for a period of one year.
- \* Under went NIPA Course and acted as Chairman of group.
- \* Director Immigration and Anti-smuggling FIA HQ Islamabad 1993-95.
- \* Remained Additional Director/Director General FIA HQ 1995-96.
- \* Represented Pakistan at a number of International State Forums on Conferences Seminars and Dialogues.
- \* Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development & Reforms
- \* Member Senate Standing Committee on Interior & Narcotics
- \* Member Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology
- \* Member Senate Standing Committee on States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON)

- Senior Member Central Executive Committee of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)
- Former Member of Nuclear Command Authority, Pakistan.
- Former Member of Defence Coordination Committee (DCC), Pakistan.
- Convener Opposition's Political Reconciliation Committee (Jirga / Commission) of Pakistan.
- Former Chairman Committee / Commission of Reconciliation and Development Package for Baluchistan.
- Former Chairman Committee / Commission for Madrassah Reforms, Interfaith / Religious Harmony of Pakistan.
- Acted as coordinator for successful reconciliation/Transition to democracy dialogue between the then ruling party/Gen Pervez Musharraf and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto former PM of Pakistan.



## **Taj Muhammad Afridi**

Name: Taj Muhammad Afridi

Tenure: March 2015 to March 2021

Province: FATA

Party: Independent IND

Seat  
Description: General



### **Contact Detail**

Mobile  
Number: 0300-2016892

Local  
Address: F-108, Parliament Lodges,  
Islamabad.

### **Committee (s)**

Committee  
Member: States and Frontier Regions (Chairperson Committee)  
Council of Chairpersons  
Defence Production  
Information Technology and Telecommunication  
Parliamentary Affairs  
Petroleum  
Committee of the whole

## Fida Muhammad

Name: Fida Muhammad

Tenure: March 2018 to March 2024

Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Party: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf PTI

Seat Description: General



### Contact Detail

Mobile Number: 0336-9991113

Local Address: J-208, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad

Permanent Address: House No.1-A D-5, Peshawar-I, Hayatabad.

### Committee (s)

Committee Member: Power (Chairperson Committee)  
Council of Chairpersons  
Communications  
Information Technology and Telecommunication  
States and Frontier Regions  
Problems of Less Developed Areas  
To Examine purported grievances amongst some sections of the society and reach out/engage with the genuinely aggrieved persons to create national cohesion  
Committee of the whole

### Other Information

Senator Fida Muhammad is a businessman and politician by profession. He hails from Malakand district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and had been District Nazim of Malakand from 2005 to 2009. He contested the General Elections of 2013 for National Assembly Constituency NA-35. Currently he is General Secretary of PTI (Malakand Region). He became Member of the Senate of Pakistan on General seat from the province of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and sworn in as Senator on 12th March 2018 for six-year term 2018-2024. He was elected Chairman Standing Committee on Power on 15th May, 2018. He is member of the Senate Committees on Information Technology & Telecommunication, Communication, Aviation and Problems of Less Developed Areas. He is actively participated in charitable and assistance activities during natural catastrophes in the country. He takes pride in being a politician because it has provided him the opportunity to strive for the rights and welfare of the people of Pakistan.

## Faisal Javed

Name: Faisal Javed

Tenure: March 2018 to March 2024

Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Party: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf PTI

Seat Description: General



### Contact Detail

Local Address: Senate of Pakistan, Parliament House, Islamabad

Committee (s)

Committee Member: Information and Broadcasting (Chairperson Committee)  
Council of Chairpersons  
Climate Change Caucus  
Climate Change  
Information Technology and Telecommunication  
Inter-Provincial Coordination  
Aviation  
Committee of the whole

### Other Information

#### Professional Background

An advertising/marketing specialist, broadcaster/producer by profession and have been associated with the field of production, advertising and media for 17 years. Has led teams across different functions and produced over 300 Ad-campaigns and TV commercials local and global including several award-winning campaigns for Pakistan's leading brands. Have special expertise in brand and electronic media management, brand building and strategic communication. Worked on some key positions in the advertising/media industry and helped launch some mainstream brands primarily in Telecom and Branchless banking sector. Faisal along with his teams have also won multiple local and international awards in campaign development and media management. Faisal Javed has been a Radio Broadcaster and Producer for 10 years from 2001 - 2011

#### Political Background

Became the member of Imran Khan's movement for justice party "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf" in Oct 1996.

He was part of the young team that campaigned in 1997 elections and in 2002 elections he was media in-charge of the Islamabad constituency.

Faisal who opens rallies for Khan, is known nationally as "Voice of PTI," He has hosted more than 600 rallies for Imran Khan from Waziristan to Quetta to Karachi to Lahore and across Pakistan including the historic Minar-e-Pakistan Jalsa on October the 30th, 2011. In 2008 he was appointed in the media department due to his professional expertise in the same field.

He has also served the party as Additional Secretary Information, Head of Electronic Media Operations, and Secretary Social Media. Faisal has represented PTI across different local and intl media outlets and conferences.

Faisal Javed was elected to the Senate of Pakistan as a candidate of PTI on general seat in 2018 Senate election.

He was elected as Chairman Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting same year. He is also part of Climate Change, Aviation, Information Technology and IPC Standing Committees.

**Sana Jamali**

Name: Sana Jamali  
Tenure: March 2018 to March 2024  
Province: Balochistan  
Party: Independent IND  
Seat Description: Women

**Contact Detail**

Mobile Number: 0333-5689900  
Local Address: F-412, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad  
Permanent Address: Flat No.3, Block-24-D, Sector G-10/3, Islamabad

**Committee (s)**

SC on Climate Change  
SC on Information Technology & Telecommunication.  
SC on Law and Justice.  
SC on National Health Services Regulations and Coordination.  
SC on Water Resources.

## **Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi**

Name: Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi

Tenure: March 2018 to March 2024

Province: Sindh

Party: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian  
PPP-P

Seat  
Description: Technocrats Including Ulema



### **Contact Detail**

Mobile Number: 0333-2285058

Local Address: E-307, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad

Permanent Address: C-2/1, Mayuan Arcade, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Block 16, Karachi

### **Committee (s)**

SC on Federal Education, Professional Training, National History & Literacy Heritage.

SC on Information and Broadcasting.

SC on Information Technology & Telecommunication.

SC on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

SC on Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety.

## Hillal Ur Rehman

Name: Hillal Ur Rehman

Tenure: March 2018 to March 2024

Province: FATA

Party: Independent IND

Seat Description: General



### Contact Detail

Mobile Number: 0346-8889788

Local Address: H-206, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.

Permanent Address: House No. 25-A, St. No.5-A, Momin Town, Dalazak Road, Peshawar

### Committee (s)

Committee Member:

Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (Chairperson Committee)  
Council of Chairpersons  
Federal Education, Professional Training, National History & Literary Heritage  
Information Technology and Telecommunication  
Parliamentary Affairs  
States and Frontier Regions  
Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC  
Committee of the whole



### **Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri**

**Name:** Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri

**Tenure:** March 2015 to March 2021

**Province:** Balochistan

**Party:** Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan

**Seat Description:** General

**Designation:** Senator



### **Contact Detail**

**Office Number:** 051-9223482-83

**Home Number:** 051-9222434

**Mobile Number:** 0300-5247488

**E-mail:** [abdul.ghafoor.haideri@senate.gov.pk](mailto:abdul.ghafoor.haideri@senate.gov.pk)

**Local Address:** G-211, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.

**Permanent Address:** i. Jamia Islamia Shah Waliullah, Kalat, Balochistan. ii. Jamia Masjid, Postal Colony, Quetta.

## Committee (s)

Committee Member:	<u>Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony (Chairperson Committee)</u>
	<u>Council of Chairpersons</u>
	<u>House Business Advisory Committee</u>
	<u>Defence Production</u>
	<u>Housing and Works</u>
	<u>Information Technology and Telecommunication</u>
	<u>Inter-Provincial Coordination</u>
	<u>Water Scarcity</u>
	<u>To Examine purported grievances amongst some sections of the society and reach out/engage with the genuinely aggrieved persons to create national cohesion</u>
	<u>Parliamentary Committee on National Security</u>
	<u>Parliamentary Committee on the General Elections 2018</u>
	<u>Parliamentary Consultation Committee on Legislative Business Committee of the whole</u>

## Academic Career

Qualification: Various Courses from Wafaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia (1979)

## Other Information

Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri was born on June 1957 to an eminent tribal personality, Muhammad Azam Lehri, of sub tehsil Gazag district Qalaat. He got his early education in his village but later on he received his religious education at different religious institutions of Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab. He completed his religious education in 1979 from Tando Allayar and thus passed various examinations from the Examination Board of Wafaq-ul-Madaris Al-Arabia with outstanding marks.

In 1974 he vehemently participated in the Tehrik-e-Khatm-e-Nabowat (Movement for the Finality of Prophethood) and was consequently detained. Similarly in 1977 he took active part in Tehrik-e-Nizam-e-Mustafa, spearheaded by Maulana Mufti Mehmood and was detained again. He remained in Quetta jail till late Zulfiqar Ali was arrested.

In 1981 he formally launched his political career from the platform of JUI and at the same time remained engaged as a teacher at different religious seminaries (Madaris).

In 1983 he was for the first time elected as General Secretary JUI Quetta district. During this period the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) was also launched. JUI was part of the MRD when the latter announced Jail Bharo Tehrik (Fill the prisons) against the dictatorship of Zia-ul-Haq.

Submitting to the decision of his leaders he was the first who got himself arrested at Manan square Quetta on 14th August 1983. When he was presented in the Military Court on 24th August he refused to record his statement on the plea that if he accepted the Military Courts he would not have presented himself for arrest. As a penalty the court awarded him one year rigorous imprisonment and ten lashes and was transferred to Sibi jail. Thus his participation in different movements resulted in his detention thrice but he remained resolute.

After he was released from jail in a dignified manner, he laid the foundation of Jamia Shah Wali Ullah in Qalaat on 10th October 1984. He served as a teacher in Madrasa Jamia Shah

Wali Ullah from 1985 to 1990. On 13th October 1990 he was, for the first time, elected MPA to Balochistan Assembly and became a senior minister in the government of Balochistan. In 1992, after developing differences with the chief minister, JUI left the government and joined the opposition who nominated him as the candidate for Chief Minister but could not become Chief Minister due to the difference of one vote.

In 1993 he was elected as member National Assembly from Qalaat with a huge margin. In 1995 he was elected as central secretary general of JUI Pakistan and since then has been appointed on the same position for five consecutive terms and still carries the same position. In 1995 he addressed the UN General Assembly and raised his voice against Israeli atrocities on the Palestinian Muslims.

In 2001 the JUI strongly opposed Pervez Musharraf's decision to side with US without taking the nation into confidence in the wake of US and NATO adventurism against Afghanistan. To mobilize a national movement against the said war across the length and breadth of the country he visited the entire country several times and was eventually arrested under seven cases of mutiny. He was released after serving a term of five months in Quetta jail.

In 2002, he was again elected as member of the National Assembly and worked in the Parliament for the preservation of religious values.

From 2008 onward he has been a regular member of the Senate of Pakistan. During this period he remained Chief Whip (Coalition government) and leader of the opposition in Senate for two years. In 2013, he was appointed Minister of State for Postal Services PML-N government and took marvelous measures for the revival of the Postal Department.

On 12th March 2015 he was elected as Deputy Chairman of immensely important institution, the Senate of Pakistan, heavy mandate.

Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri in his 35 years of political struggle was several times detained and even went through physical punishment in the form of lashes in return for his efforts to preserve Islamic values. On the other hand, he also worked as an MPA, MNA, Senator, Minister and Leader of the Opposition in senate.

From the platform of JUI he worked side by side with his beloved leader Hazrat Maulana Fazal Rehman in his struggle against oppression, undemocratic and unconstitutional governments and dictatorships. He always remained vocal for the downtrodden and opposed every violation of human rights. Today the political and religious circles expect a lot from him as the Deputy Chairman of Senate of Pakistan. As usual he would work for the preservation of religious values, protection of the constitution and consolidation of democracy.

## Naseebullah Bazai

Designation: Senator  
Tenure: March 2018 to March 2024  
Province: Balochistan  
Party: Independent (IND)  
Seat: Technocrats Including Ulama  
Description:



### Contact Detail:

Office  
Number 081-2310566  
Mobile 0333-7833429/0313-6795577  
Number  
Local (i) G-11, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. Balochistan House,  
Address Islamabad  
Permanent Samungli Road Killi Noshar, Quetta  
Address  
Committee (s)

Council of Chairpersons  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Housing and Works  
Industries and Production  
Information Technology and Telecommunication  
Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development  
Committee Senate Finance Committee  
Member Senate Implementation Committee  
To examine purported grievances amongst some sections of the society and reach out/engage with the genuinely aggrieved persons to create national cohesion  
Parliamentary Committee on Appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and Members of the Election Commission of Pakistan  
Committee of the Whole  
Public Accounts Committee

## **Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo**



**Name:** Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo

**Tenure:** March 2015 to March 2021

**Province:** Balochistan

**Party:** Balochistan Awami Party  
(BAP)

**Seat Description:** General

**Designation:** Senator

**In Vice of:** Hasil Khan Bizenjo

### **Contact Detail**

**Mobile Number:** 0333-2283771

**Local Address:** E-207, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.

**Permanent Address:** Bizen Poor, Dak Khana Nal, Sardari Bhint, Tehsil Nal, District Khuzdar.

### **Committee (s)**

SC on Aviation.

SC on Information Technology & Telecommunication.

SC on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development

SFC on Problems of Less Developed Areas.

SC on Water Resources.

## **Nusrat Shaheen**

Name: Nusrat Shaheen  
Tenure: March 2015 to March 2021  
Province: Balochistan  
Party: Balochistan Awami Party (BAP)  
Seat Description: Women  
Designation: Senator  
Oath Taking Date: 08-01-2021  
In Vice of: Mst Kalsoom Perveen



### **Contact Detail**

Local Address: H.012, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.  
Permanent Address: H.No. G-103, Wahadat Colony, Quetta

### **Committee (s)**

SC on Delegated Legislation  
SFC on Problems of Less Developed Areas  
SSC on Interior  
SSC on Industries and Production  
SSC on Information Technology and Telecommunication.

**HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH**  
**Secretary Committee**

**1. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH  
Additional Secretary  
Senate of Pakistan  
Date of Birth: 01-02-1967  
[hafeezsenate@gmail.com](mailto:hafeezsenate@gmail.com)  
[marhil@live.com](mailto:marhil@live.com)  
Cell + 92 300 5191291



- I born in a small town of Sindh Province and after getting initial education in Khairpur, I moved to Karachi for further education and got bachelor's degree in Industrial & Management Engineering from Dawood Engineering College in the year 1990. After graduation I admitted myself in a Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur as an external student and successfully passed the post-graduation examination in Economics in 1992.

**2. CAREER/WORK HISTORY (IN BRIEF):**

- I joined Government of Sindh in 1992 as grade-17 officer and worked there on various important positions till 2005.
- Services were requisition by Senate of Pakistan in 2005, since then I am working in the Senate on different positions including the Secretary Committee of various important Committees of Parliament.
- Joined Pakistan Electronic Media Regularity Authority (PEMRA) as Regional General Manager, Islamabad on deputation basis from 2008 to 2010.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE/PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS OBTAINED**

- Attended training programme under UNDP project Strengthening Democracy through Parliamentary Development (SDPD) in Bangkok, Thailand in 2005.
- Obtained Training Certificate in Strategic Management in 2008, National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), Karachi.
- Obtained Training Certificate in Human Resource Management in 2008, National Institute of Management (NIM), Karachi.
- Obtained Training Certificate in Senior Management Course (SMC) in 2014 from National Institute of Management (NIM), Karachi.

**4. CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS ATTENDED ABROAD:**

- Study Tour to Thailand under UNDP Strengthening Democracy through Parliamentary Development Project (SDPD) in 2005.
- First Global Parliamentary Meeting on HIV/AIDs, Manila, Philippines, 2007.
- 119<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Related Meetings, Geneva, Switzerland, 2008.
- 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Related Meetings, Geneva Switzerland, 2010.
- 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2011.
- Annual Legislators Summit, Paris, France, 2015.
- NATO Parliamentary Assembly Joint Seminar, Florence, Italy, 2015.

- Bilateral Seminar on Public Administration for Civil Servants of Pakistan, **Beijing, China**, 2016.
- 65<sup>th</sup> Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure 21–25 November 2016 **Westminster, London, UK**.
- Meeting of APA Standing Committee on Social & Cultural Affairs held in **Thimphu, Bhutan** from 31 August – 2 September, 2017.
- Bilateral visit of hon'ble Chairman Senate alongwith the delegation on the invitation of Speaker of Majlis Al-Shura from 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2018.
- Visit of Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs to UK to attend Kashmir Solidarity Day Conference and connected events in London from 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATION  
(PICTORIAL VIEW)**



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON MAY 24, 2018.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 04, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 21, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT LODGES ISLAMABAD ON JULY 05, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON AUGUST 08, 2018.



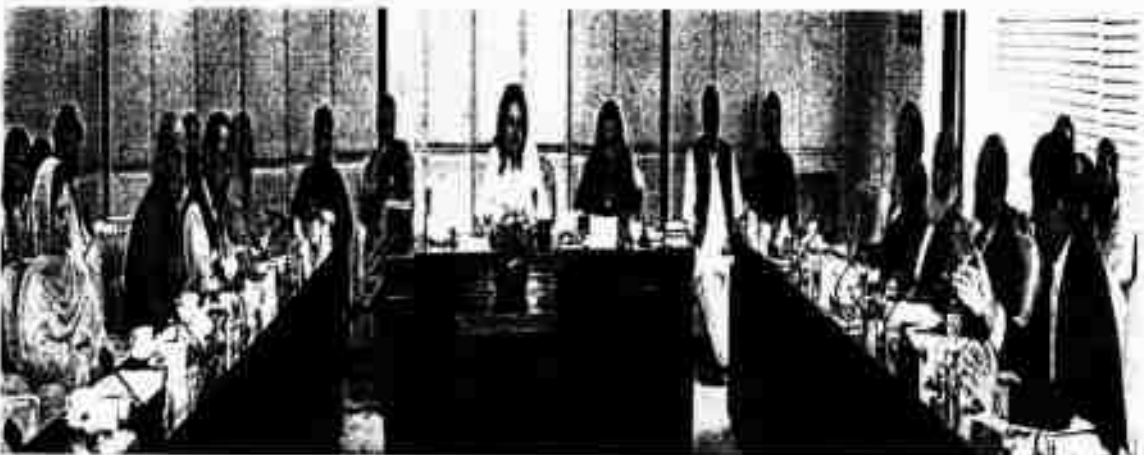
SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT LODGES ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 10, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 14, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 18, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON NOVEMBER 06, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON NOVEMBER 28, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT LODGES ISLAMABAD ON DECEMBER 20, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON JANUARY 02, 2019.





SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON JANUARY 15, 2019.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2019.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 13, 2019.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 27, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON APRIL 02, 2018.

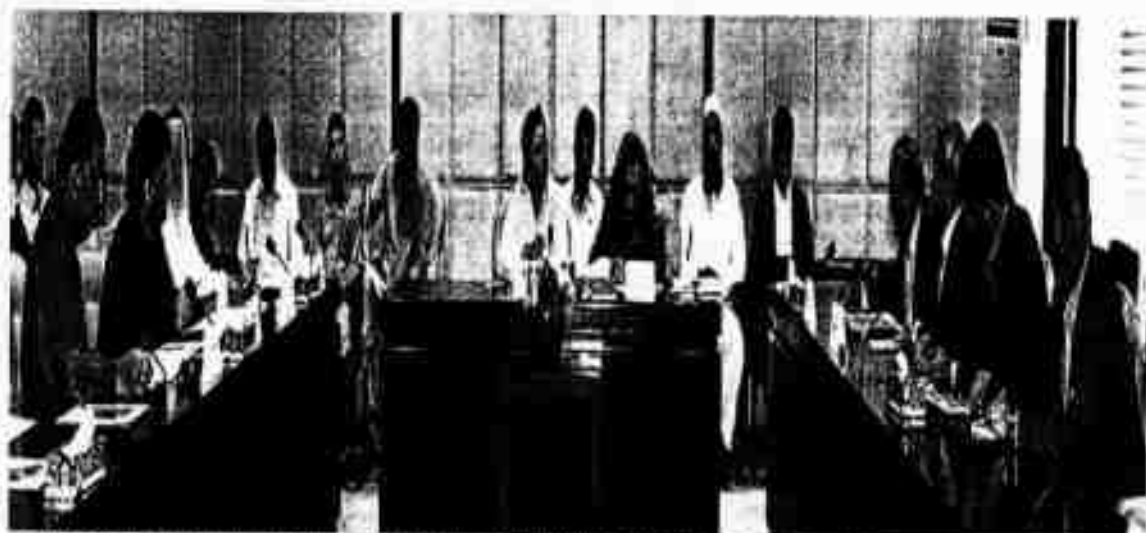


SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON APRIL 25, 2018.

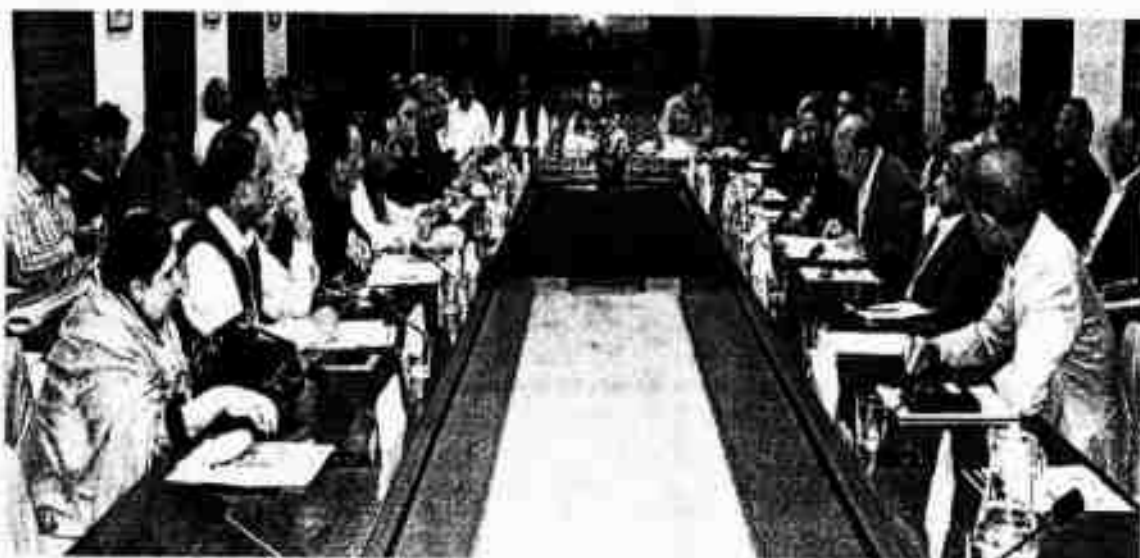




SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON MAY 18, 2019.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON MAY 29, 2019.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON JULY 17, 2019.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON AUGUST 22, 2019.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 02, 2019.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2019.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD OCTOBER 04, 2018.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE IN ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 24, 2018.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT LODGES ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 28, 2018.



SENATOR RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD ON NOVEMBER 08, 2019.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON NOVEMBER 21, 2019.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON DECEMBER 8, 2019.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON DECEMBER 24, 2019.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JANUARY 15, 2020.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2020.

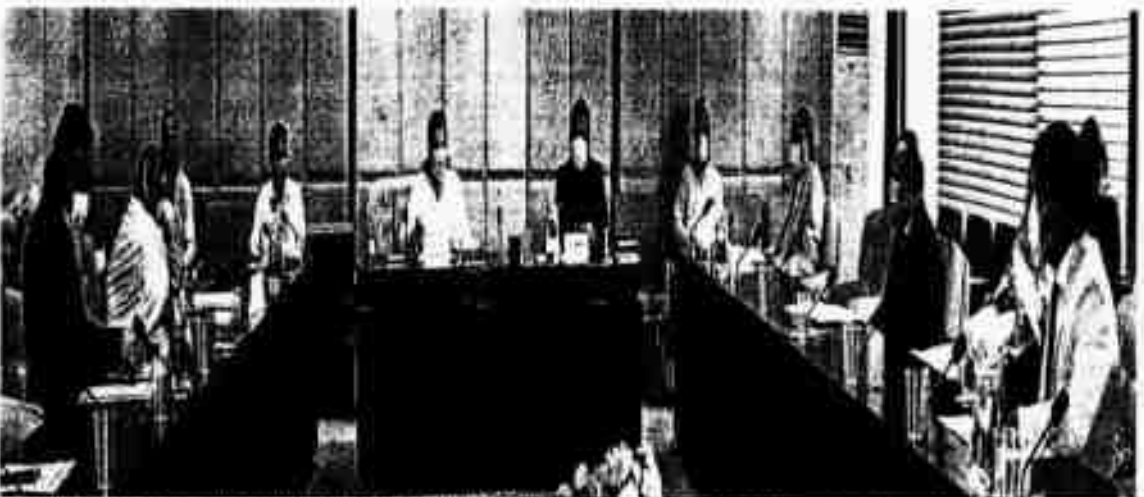




SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 04, 2020.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 11, 2020.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 11, 2020.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JULY 02, 2020.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION (HEC) ISLAMABAD ON JULY 19, 2020.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT LODGES ISLAMABAD ON AUGUST 17, 2020.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2020.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2020.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 18, 2020.

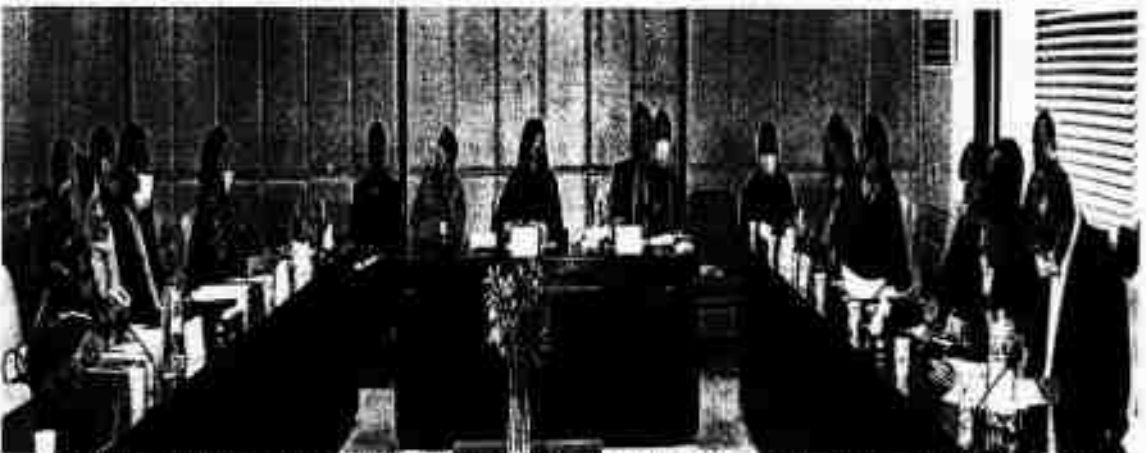




SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 04, 2021.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 09, 2021.



SENATOR MRS. RUBINA KHALID, CHAIRPERSON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 15, 2021.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATION**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

A meeting of Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 24th May 2018 at 11.30 am at Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

2. The Agenda of the meeting was as under :-

- (i) Brainstorming session by the Committee Members on important issues pertaining to the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication and its attached departments.
- (ii) To workout future plans and working of the Committee.
- (iii) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The following attended the meeting:-

1.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2.	Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Member
3.	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
4.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
5.	Senator Rukhsana Zuberi	Member

4. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairman Committee welcomed all participants of the meeting. Chairman briefed that this is the brainstorming session for newly members of Committee because this is the technical subject and required that previous agenda and recommendations should be implemented.

5. The Secretary Committee briefed the Committee and important points discussed during the detail presentation.

6. The Committee was briefed about the issue related to the deduction of Income Tax/Sales Tax/Withholding Tax from the general public on account of telecom services. The Chairman emphasized that there is no clear mechanism of FBR to collect taxes from Mobile companies and required clarity in this regards. The Standing Committee recommended that the FBR should take concrete steps and expedite the initiation of mechanism for collection of taxes from the telecom operators. Senator Rukhsana Zuberi highlighted if these taxes properly collected it should be very beneficial for our economy & people.

7. The Committee was informed that in last three years the Cyber Crime Bill was vetted through SSC on Information Technology and Telecommunication. The Committee recommended that Ministry of IT should increase its experts main power in Cyber Crimes to monitor and block the blasphemous contents from social media. Chairman informed that SSC will call a separate meeting on cybercrime and Senator Abdul Rehman Malik suggested that Ministry of Law & Justice may also be involved on this issue. He also suggested that concerned authority should review the call monitoring mechanism in light of UK and Germany model.

8. The Committee discussed the issue of end of service benefit for employees of PTCL and recommended that the Ministry of IT&T. and its sub-ordinate Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust should devise a strategy to resolve the matter regarding increase pension of

all the retired PTCL employees as also decided by the Supreme Court in its judgment. Chairman desired that Secretary Ministry of Information Technology should give a detail presentation on ministry and its attached departments

9. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the Chair.

**(TAYYAB BIN TAHIR KHAN)**  
Secretary Committee

**(SENATOR RUBINA KHALID)**  
Chairperson

## **SENATE SECRETARIAT**

Subject: - **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications was held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid at 10.30 A.M. in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Detailed briefing by Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications regarding its working and performance indicating also the budgetary allocations, staff strength and projects etc.
- ii. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

1. Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2. Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
3. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
4. Senator Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
5. Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
6. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Member

4. The meeting commenced with a recitation of the Holy Quran. Thereafter, discussion on agenda item no. I commenced.

### **Agenda Item No. I**

5. At the very outset, the Chairperson Committee welcomed the newly elected members of the Committee, and apprised them that the objective of the first meeting was to understand the role and function of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications (MoIT), and its various departments and divisions. She added that subsequent meetings would focus around any identified issues persisting in the Ministry and its departments. The Additional Secretary MoIT assured complete cooperation of the MoIT with the Senate Standing Committee on IT with the beginning of its new term.

6. The absence of the Secretary MoIT was unanimously regretted by the committee, and the Additional Secretary MoIT was directed to ensure the presence of the Secretary in the future to avoid any action as per rules. The MoIT's regret for the meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> June was also unanimously rejected by the Committee with an instruction to abide by the set schedule and ensure their availability.

7. Before the commencement of the presentation on MoIT, the Chairperson gave a representative of the Telephone Industries of Pakistan (TIP) employees the opportunity to highlight an issue of a raise in pensions and salaries in 2016 that had still not been honoured by the MoIT. The Chairperson advised the MoIT to not mishandle such financial issues, and to hold old-aged pensioners in high regard in terms of any issues with their pensions. The MoIT vowed to resolve the issue and disburse the arrears within a week by approval of Secretary MoIT.

8. With the help of his team, Additional Secretary MoIT then commenced with a comprehensive briefing regarding the MoIT's vision, mission, budget, human resource, and the organisational structure with necessary details.
9. Following the briefing, Senator Rehman Malik expressed his desire to hold a separate meeting on social media issues, cyber-security, and cyber-terrorism with detailed briefings on respective departmental jurisdictions and capacities. The issues raised by the Committee Members primarily comprised of social media abuse, the fingerprint theft from NADRA as a major compromise of cyber-security, the Kasur child pornography issue, and fake IDs used for cyber-crime. Senator Rehman Malik also stressed upon the need to synchronise federal and provincial SOPs and integrate policies to overcome any loopholes in the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment regarding cyber-security across the country.
10. The Chairperson expressed her desire to hold a briefing regarding the worth of expenditure on the Virtual University, with details about outsourced companies working for the MoIT. Senator Rehman Malik, along with the Chairperson, also called for a detailed briefing on the issues and status of the privatisation of PTCL. They stressed upon obtaining the details of legal complications, focusing particularly on the misrepresentation of PTCL assets at the time of the deal. It was decided that through an in-camera meeting, the Privatization Commission may explain the position, along with a copy of the deal.
11. Highlighting the human resource aspect of the MoIT presentation, Senator Ashok Kumar desired that the MoIT may present details of the contract employees in the next meeting. The Additional Secretary MoIT committed to a detailed briefing on the Ministry budget and expenses as well.
12. The Chairperson and Senator Rehman Malik expressed their reservations on the Electronic Accreditation Council's (ECAC) functioning with a team of industry representatives and freelancers for the digital licensing. They also raised questions on how digital certification falls under the legal umbrella, and the vulnerability of official digital signatures of officers working through e-filing systems. Senator Ateeq Shaikh highlighted how E-Filing requires not just software but a combination of sustainable equipment to ensure its efficiency and reliability.
13. The Chairperson, while questioning the details of the Optic Fibre Cables, instructed that a separate meeting be held entailing the details of the Optic Fibre Network in Pakistan. Along the same lines, the MoIT, in comparison with the Indian IT market, highlighted a lack of support from the Pakistan leadership as one of the major factors behind a weak IT industry in Pakistan. The Committee unanimously desired that a report on these challenges and issues may be furnished in a future meeting so that the Committee can play its role to uplift the IT industry in Pakistan.
14. The issue of e-commerce consumer rights was also raised by the Chairperson. The MoIT apprised the Committee that mechanisms already exist that provide the e-commerce consumers the same rights as consumers of regular means of commerce. The Chairperson directed the MoIT to brief the Committee on e-commerce issues in a separate meeting.
15. The meeting ended with a mutual vote of thanks.

### **Directives /decisions of the Committee**

The Committee directed the Ministry:

- i. To ensure their preparation and availability for the meeting schedule for 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2018, despite the MoIT's intention of regret.
- ii. To resolve the issue and disburse the arrears of salaries and pensions of the regular and retired employees of the Telecommunications Industries of Pakistan before the end of June 2018.
- iii. To hold a separate meeting on social media issues, cyber-security, and cyber-terrorism with detailed briefings on respective departmental jurisdictions and capacities, with special regard to social media abuse, the fingerprint theft from NADRA as a major compromise of cyber-security, the Kasur child pornography issue, and fake IDs used for cyber-crime.
- iv. To hold a briefing regarding the worth of expenditure on the Virtual University, with details about outsourced companies working for the MoIT.
- v. To hold a detailed in-camera briefing on the issues and status of the privatisation of PTCL.
- vi. To hold a briefing on the MoIT budget, expenses, and details of its contract employees.
- vii. To prepare a report on IT-industry challenges and issues for a future meeting so that the Committee can play its role to uplift the IT industry in Pakistan.
- viii. To brief the Committee on e-commerce issues in a separate meeting.

**(Wijdan Khaliq)**  
Acting Secretary Committee

**(Senator Rubina Khalid)**  
Chairperson



## **SENATE SECRETARIAT**

Subject: - **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION.**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid at 11.00 A.M. in old PIPS Hall (PRC-Hall), Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Implementation status of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee in its meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, regarding payment of increased pension and other allowances to the pensioners of TIP, Haripur.
- (ii) Implementation status of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee in its meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2018, regarding framing of Rules for implementation of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016.  
**IN-CAMERA BRIEFING AT 1200 HOURS**
- (iii) Detailed briefing by Director, National Response Center for Cyber Crimes (NR3C), FIA on the increasing incidents of child pornography in the country alongwith initiatives being taken to eliminate that menace from society.
- (iv) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

I.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
II.	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
III.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
IV.	Senator Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
V.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member

4. The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Thereafter, the hon'ble Chairperson of the Committee Senator Rubina Khalid welcomed all the participants to the meeting and expressed his gratitude for making it convenient to attend the meeting.

### **Agenda Item No. I:-**

5. Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication informed about the implementation status of the recommendations made by the Committee regarding payment of increased pension and other allowances to the pensioners of Telephone Industries of Pakistan (TIP). He stated that pay scale 2015 and 2016 were to be adopted and a raise in pension was to be given to TIP pensioners from the year 2016. In this regard, all payments have been made from the date announced by the Government of Pakistan up to 30 June, 2018. A total payment of PKR 84.952 million has been made in both the heads. Member Legal, Ministry of IT, further informed that the issue of TIP pensioners was entangled



because of Colony Board Employees who claimed that they were employed by the TIP Company, where, in truth, they were engaged to facilitate all three entities that inhabited the estate – TIP, PTCL Staff College and NRTC. Chairperson Committee, Senator Robina Khalid on behalf of all Members of the Committee lauded the Ministry and the government for compliance and said that a huge milestone has been achieved.

**Agenda Item No. II:-**

6. While discussing the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee regarding prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, the Committee showed displeasure at the absence of Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice and observed that this is a matter of prime importance and it is imperative that Minister of Law and Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice be present in the next meeting to clear ambiguities.

7. Regarding status of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, the Committee was informed that draft rules were sent to Law Division which have been vetted and are going to be notified. The Committee asked whether the rules have been made in consultation with all stakeholders i.e. FIA, Ministry of I.T, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Law and Justice and passed through all stages. Member (Legal), Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication Division informed that the Rules have been made in consultation with all stakeholders and passed through the stages of Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases (CCLC), ratified by Cabinet Division and vetted by Law Division. The Committee directed that in the next meeting a full briefing on the draft Rules may be given and a copy of Draft Rules (in black and white) may be sent well before time so that it can be reviewed in greater detail.

**Agenda Item No. III ( In-Camera Briefing):-**

8. Director, National Response Center for Cyber Crimes (NR3C), FIA gave a detailed briefing on the increasing incidents of child pornography in the country and initiatives being taken to eliminate that menace from the society.

**Other Items:-**

9. Regarding the issue of International Clearing House Exchange (ICH), the Committee enquired about the agreement it was created under, those that benefitted from it and reasons for it being scrapped. The Committee stressed the need to calculate losses and review it via an international auditing company after which a comprehensive report be submitted.

10. With regards to tariffs and taxes on loading of mobile cards, while lauding the role of the Supreme Court that provided the people respite from heavy taxation, Chairperson Committee asserted the need for a future plan to facilitate the consumers without burdening the Exchequer. She stated that it is high time that this matter be resolved and gave directions for it to be discussed in the next meeting.

11. The Committee also stressed the need for taking up the issue of EMI number replication and its use by terrorists in the next meeting.

**Recommendations / Directives / Decisions of the Committee:-**

12. After the briefing on the agenda items by Ministry and FIA Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations:-

- i. The Committee directed that a full briefing on the draft Rules of Prevention of Electronic Crime Act, 2016 may be given in the next meeting and a copy of Draft Rules (in black and white) may be sent well before time to all Committee Members so that it can be reviewed in greater detail.
- ii. The Committee stressed the need to calculate losses on the issue of International Clearing House (ICH) and review it via an international auditing company after which a comprehensive report be submitted.
- iii. The Committee asserted the need for a future plan to facilitate the consumers without burdening the Exchequer and decided to discuss this issue in the next meeting.
- iv. The Committee also stressed the need for taking up the issue of EMI number replication and its use by terrorists in the next meeting.

13. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

**(Syed Khurram Hussain Naqvi)**  
Secretary Committee

**(Senator Rubina Khalid)**  
Chairperson

## **SENATE SECRETARIAT**

Subject:- **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION.**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, under the Chairpersonship of Senator Robina Khalid at 11:30 A.M. in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Implementation status of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee in its meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, regarding installation of E-services software at CDA premises by LMKT Pvt. Ltd.
- (ii) Universal Services Fund (USF) to brief regarding its objective, policy, rules, funds position, achievements, projects launched during last fiscal year alongwith details of projects under consideration to launch during current fiscal year i.e. 2018-19.
- (iii) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The following members of the Committee attended the meeting:-

1) Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
2) Senator Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
3) Senator Sana Jamali	Member
4) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
5) Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi	Member
6) Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Halderi	Member

4. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Chairperson of the Committee welcomed all the participants of the meeting, thereafter, discussion on the agenda items started.

### **Agenda Item No. I:-**

5. The meeting commenced with discussion on the implementation status of recommendations made by the Committee in its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 regarding installation of e-services software at CDA premises by LMKT Pvt. Ltd. Secretary, Ministry of IT and Telecommunication while describing the project said that the execution of the project involved several stakeholders. Ministry of I.T sponsored the project, LMKT was the developer of the software application and CDA was the end user. The project was started under overall supervision of Ministry of IT and Telecommunication. After completion of project the Ministry conducted an audit in the year 2013 which revealed that the project was incomplete and payments were made in an irregular manner, therefore, the Ministry referred the matter to FIA for investigation. After investigation, FIA found involvement of Executive Director NITB, Chief Executive Officer (LMKT) and Project Director

CDA. Standing Committee on IT and Telecommunication also took notice of the matter and on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, directions were made to FIA to take action against those who involved in fund embezzlement and the Committee would follow the matter till its logical conclusion. Another direction of the Committee was regarding nomination of a Focal Person by the CDA so that the project may be finalized. LMKT filed a writ petition in the High Court and the matter is sub-judice. The Chairperson said that the government departments must clarify to the Committee as to why the clearance certificate was given to the contractor when the project was incomplete. She further observed that aims and objective of the project were also remained unfulfilled.

6. The representative of CDA informed that as per directions of the Committee, four Committees have been constituted for verification of Software and Focal Persons from all Directorate of CDA have been nominated. He said that a number of meetings have so far been held but LMKT is not willing to deliver and verification process is at halt. Resultantly, no progress has been made since March, 2018. The Chairperson asked whether it was evaluated before start of the project that CDA has the capacity and capability to run the software. The representative of CDA informed that it is the responsibility of LMKT to deploy and train the manpower on the developed software. He further stated that CDA is willing to give sign offs and verification to LMKT so that the project may be continued.

7. The representative of LMKR stated that total contract was made at a cost of Rs. 57.57 million, out of which 22 million were earmarked for Services of Software Development. Out of 22 million, 14 million rupees are still pending. He further clarified that 50% of the payment made to LMKT is of third party software and CDA has also provided sign offs of these third party software. The remaining 25% payment is associated with mobilization advance and software requirement specification and design document. Regarding progress of the project he stated that there is lack of ownership in CDA, however, LMKT is still willing to facilitate CDA over and above what has been committed in the contract.

8. The Deputy Director FIA, informed that Committee that the project was started in 2007 and in the year 2008, about 75 percent imbursement was made. He asserted that ten years down the road no progress has been seen. He revealed that the FIA received a formal complaint in this regard in 2014. He further apprised that according to intelligence reports that have gathered on the case, a meeting was held in February 2018, wherein, it was decided that LMKR should be given the opportunity to redeploy and reinstall the software so that national resources are not unnecessarily exhausted.

9. He further stated that later another committee was formed jointly by the LMKR, CDA and NITB, according to which NITB would submit a report for redeployment and reinstallation. Meanwhile LMKR submitted a petition to the High Court. Resultantly the honourable Court granted three months' time. The objective once again was to save national resource. The Court ordered the NITB that after three months it must ensure that redeployment and reinstallation is completed; if not NITB must report back to the High Court and fix responsibility. He asserted that as far as the investigation conducted by the FIA is concerned it is dependent on these reports.

10. Secretary, Ministry of IT was of the view that NITB and CDA must prepare a joint report on deliverables ahead of the next meeting, so that the Committee may move forward on this case. The Committee agreed to the proposal and recommended the same.

**Agenda Item No. II:-**

11. In a briefing conducted by the Universal Services Fund (USF) regarding its objectives, policy, rules fund position, achievements, projects launched during the last fiscal year, Chairman USF informed the Committee of the various projects in which the USF was involved. Chairman USF was of the view that despite massive growth there were many areas that remained underserved. The challenges, he asserted, that the USF faced were rugged terrains, sparse population, harsh weather, lack of electricity, no backhaul, and poor logistics.

12. While discussing telecommunication coverage status, the Committee enquired why certain areas such as Jhal Magsi, Bolan, Dera Bugti, Nasirabad and Jaffarabad were not being catered. Chairman USF revealed that a major hurdle in expansion was security clearance in these areas without which things cannot move forward. He informed the Committee that talks with the Security Personnel are underway to start telecommunication service in the under served areas.

13. While discussing various projects being run by the USF it was revealed that special programs have been launched to empower women. The Committee was apprised that 100 ICT labs have been established in Women Empowerment Centers run by Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal in which 100 master trainers have been trained by Microsoft. In addition to this, he asserted that special ICT projects have been launched for the disabled in the last financial year. The Committee felt that ethical values may also be integrated in the Awareness Programme.

14. While discussing Ecommerce Craft MSME/SME Project, Chairman USF informed the Committee that as a result of the project 1000 artisans will be selected and this e-commerce portal will be used to portray their products. Chairperson Committee, commended the project and said that it would be a great help for artisans, especially for those located in the remote areas of Pakistan. The Committee also observed that other models available in the world may also be considered for betterment of the project.

**Recommendations /Directives / Decisions of the Committee:-**

15. After the briefing on the agenda items by Ministry and FIA Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations:-

- i. NITB and CDA prepare a joint report on deliverables ahead of the next meeting, so that the Committee may move forward on this case.
- ii. A copy of the Contract must be provided to the Committee before meeting so that Members can understand about the deliverables on the part of CDA and LMKT.
- iii. The Committee recommended that ethical values may also be integrated and incorporated in the ICT awareness programmes for girls launched by USF.



- iv. The Committee recommended that details of E-Commerce Portal for Artisans be provided for in-depth understanding of the Project.
  - v. The Committee recommended that Women Empowerment Programmes and training of trainers should be continued in future and these programmes should be spread across the country.
  - vi. The Committee recommended that impact assessment of the trainers may also be made.
  - vii. The Committee recommended that a visit of the Standing Committee to a few selected ICT Labs and women empowerment centres be arranged for better understanding of the programme.
16. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

**(Syed Khurram Hussain Naqvi)**  
Secretary Committee

**(Senator Robina Khalid)**  
Chairperson

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:-

1) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2) Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
3) Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
4) Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
5) Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
6) Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member
7) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
8) Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
9) Senator Faisal Javed	Member
10) Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
11) Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi	Mover of agenda item (i)

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Consideration of subject matter of Starred Question No.165 asked by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, regarding number of persons working in M/O Information Technology and Telecommunication, its attached departments, authorities, corporations, autonomous/semi autonomous bodies and organizations etc.
- (ii) PTA to brief regarding progress made so far on the issue of lack/deficient services of Pak Telecom Limited (U-fone) in various towns, areas of District Malakand, as discussed in the Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.
- (iii) PTA and Cyber Crime Wing to give comprehensive briefing on the following issues:-
  - a) Complaints received regarding illegal registration of mobile devices; action taken so far;
  - b) Misuse of travelers' data for registration of mobile phones through Device Identification Registration and Blocking System (DIRBS);
  - c) Number of phone devices blocked for being non-tax paid;
  - d) Number of cell phones un-blocked by PTA and other stakeholders through DIRBS and revenue collected in that regard;
  - e) Reasons for not un-blocking phone devices despite payment of taxes.
- (iv) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed all participants of the meeting.

4. At the very outset, the Chairperson took serious notice of the absence of the Minister and Secretary Information Technology and Telecommunication. The Members of the Committee also expressed their serious concern over the absence of the Minister and the Secretary and suggested to defer the agenda of the meeting as it would be futile exercise to discuss the important issues in absence of the Minister and the Secretary.

5. Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology informed the Committee that the Secretary has also the additional charge of Cabinet Division so he was busy in meeting of ECC whereas the Minister has to travel to Karachi in the wake of Prime Minister's visit to Karachi.

6. At this stage, the Chairperson and the Committee vehemently objected upon the decision of the Speaker National Assembly to hold the Standing Committee Meetings during the days when the Assembly will be in session. The Members were of the view that it is an illogical decision which amounts to handicap the parliament. The Members also expressed that in view of the less number of Committee rooms, such a decision is impractical.

7. The Committee also offered Fateha for the departed soul of Dr. Abdul Qudus, Deputy Collector, Customs who were brutally tortured by a group of smugglers in Quetta while he was on his duty. The Chairperson expressed her serious concern over such highhandedness of criminal elements and urged the Government to beef up the security of Government officials performing their duties on such sensitive areas. The Committee expressed solidarity with the bereaved family and suggested to construct a memorial in memory of the brave officer who laid his life in the line of duty.

#### **Agenda Item No. I**

8. Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, mover of starred question No. 165 requested to defer the agenda item due to the reason that he could not go through the working paper. On his request agenda item No. I was deferred till next meeting.

#### **Agenda Item No. II**

9. Agenda item No. II was deferred on unanimous request by the Members of the Committee as the Members were desirous of discussing the issue in presence of the Minister and the Secretary.

10. Agenda item II was deferred till next meeting.

#### **Agenda Item No. III**

11. Although, the Member were desirous of deferring agenda item No. III but the Chairperson suggested to listen the concerned officials.

12. Chairman PTA informed the Committee about the mechanism of lodging of complaint with PTA about misuse of travel data.

13. With the concurrence of the Members of the Committee, the Chairperson asked the Director, Cyber Crimes Wing of FIA to made briefing on agenda item No. III who made a detailed briefing on the issues.



14. The Committee asked the Director, Cyber Crimes Wing to make their mandate and jurisdiction public and make their SOPs known to the general public so that the aggrieved persons can approach the competent forum for redressal of their grievances.

15. The Chairperson directed the Cyber Crimes Wing of FIA and the PTA to make a detailed briefing in the next meeting of the Committee on the cyber crimes against the Children as this menace needs to be curbed.

16. Member Custom, FBR apprised the Committee that the allowance of one duty free phone has now been withdrawn by the Government due to large number of complaints about misuse of this allowance. Slab schedule of duty & taxes on the imported phones was placed before the Committee over which the Committee expressed dissatisfaction and suggested to fix one straight rate on all phones so that the process may be made easy for the people.

17. At the end, the Chairperson and Committee Members very loudly directed all the stakeholders to make the lives of the people easy and make the system user friendly so that the people can easily go through the same.

18. Senator Fida Muhammad played a video call in the Committee wherein the kidnappers were threatening a citizen of Peshawar to pay ransom. Senator Fida Muhammad stated that the Afghan SIMS are being used openly in Peshawar and tribal areas so the Government should take such measures to block use of Afghan SIMs in Pakistan territory. The Committee requested the Chairman Standing Committee on Interior, Senator Abdul Rehman Malik to take up the specific case of call record played by Senator Fida Muhammad in his Committee.

#### **Directions/Recommendations of the Committee**

19. The Committee issued following directions:-

- i. FIA and PTA will make detailed briefing on Cyber Crimes against the children in the next meeting of the Committee.
- ii. Secretary Ministry of I.T and Minister shall ensure their presence in the next meeting of the Committee.

20. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

**(Muhammad Azam)**  
**Secretary Committee**

**(Senator Rubina Khalid)**  
**Chairperson Committee**

## **SENATE SECRETARIAT**

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:-

12) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
13) Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
14) Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
15) Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
16) Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member
17) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
18) Senator Faisal Javed	Member
19) Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
20) Senator Sana Jamali	Member
21) Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Sheikh	Member
22) Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi	Mover of agenda item (i)
23) Minister for Science and Technology	Ex-officio Member

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (v) Consideration of subject matter of Starred Question No. 165 asked by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, regarding number of persons working in M/O Information Technology and Telecommunication, its attached departments, authorities, corporations, autonomous/semi autonomous bodies and organizations etc.
- (vi) Comprehensive briefing by PTA and NR3C (FIA) on Cyber Crimes against children.
- (vii) PTA to brief regarding progress made so far on the issue of lack/deficient services of Pak Telecom Limited (U-fone) in various towns, areas of District Malakand, as discussed in the Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.
- (viii) Comprehensive briefing on the following issues:-
  - f) Number of phone devices blocked for being non-tax paid;
  - g) Number of cell phones un-blocked by PTA and other stakeholders through DIRBS and revenue collected in that regard so far;
  - h) Reasons for not un-blocking phone devices despite payment of taxes.
- (ix) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed all participants of the meeting and appreciated the presence of the Minister and the Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology.

4. At the very outset, the Chairperson, Senator Rubina Khalid drew attention of the Committee towards a fake social media news regarding recovery of a huge quantity of gold from her house. She apprised the Committee that she had already lodged complaint in the Cyber Crimes Wing of FIA.

5. Director, CCW, FIA informed the Committee that the Face book has been contacted in this regard and as a procedure it will take 6/7 weeks to unearth the handler of that social media account. The Committee members showed their dissatisfaction on the reply of the Director CWC and stated that the PTA should take immediate notice of the issue and as a first step investigating agencies should contact the person with whose name the account is being operated and in view of his/her statement, further course of investigation should be adopted.

6. Senator Abdul Rehman Malik, being the Chairman of Senate Standing Committee on Interior took cognizance of the issue and assured the report back to the Committee within a short period of time.

7. Chairman PTA stated that various such like complaint are being received to PTA but due to technical issues PTA faces difficulties in apprehending the real culprits.

8. The Chairperson was of the view that FIA, being the investigating agency, should have at-least engaged the operator of this account in order to ascertain the whereabouts and the objectives of the operator.

9. After detailed discussion, the Committee suggested to constitute a sub-committee to probe this issue.

#### **Agenda Item No.I**

10. Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, Mover of starred question No.165 expressed serious concerns over the numbers provided by the Ministry. He was of the view that these figures are beyond reality.

11. Secretary M/O I.T stated that there are various companies which are working under the Ministry of I.T but those companies have been registered under the Companies Ordinance so under the law such companies are not required to observe the quota provisions but even then the Ministry ensures observance of quota of all territories. He particularly explained the number of employees working in the main Ministry and assured that the Balochistan quota is always observed in appointments.

12. The Mover showed his dissatisfaction over the figures and requested the Committee to refer the agenda item to sub-committee already constituted.

13. With the consent of the Committee and the Minister for I.T, the agenda item No.i was also referred to sub-committee as constituted above.

#### **Agenda item No.II**

14. Chairman PTA and Director Cyber Crimes Wing made comprehensive briefing on the issue of cyber crimes against children. Chairman PTA informed the Committee that the facts and figures clearly reflects decline in such cases over a period of time. He assured the Committee that the content of such crimes is not being prepared in Pakistan. He was of the view that such crimes are operated through dark web over which no country has full control. Chairman PTA gave the number of websites blocked due to objectionable contents.

15. Director Cyber Crimes Wing provided the detail of criminal cases registered in this regard and the status of such cases before the courts of law.

16. The Committee expressed serious concerns over compromises in such cases due to societal pressures. The Committee suggested that since such cases are non-compoundable so the State should protest such compromises and file appeals in such cases.

17. The Committee appreciated the steps taken by the PTA but suggested that still there is need to work a lot to curb this menace.

18. Chairperson was of the view that we should secure the future of our children and we should go beyond any limit to safeguard our children from the hands of such elements. She showed her apprehension about the use of our children for such dirty business.

19. Senator Faisal Javed suggested that PTA should use the Ontario alert system to spread such news. Chairman PTA said that such system needs to be used very carefully in order to avoid rumors. **Committee directed Chairman PTA to give detailed briefing on Ontario alert system in next meeting. Committee further directed to brief the Committee in next meeting about the mechanism of taking timely notice of crimes against children and its reporting to FIA to proceed further.**

20. **On suggestion of the Chairperson, the Committee recommended that the Ministry should study any successful model of a friendly country in this regard and adopt that system. The Committee also recommended that PTA being Regulator and FIA being Investigating agency should take notice of such news suo moto and file complaints. Committee also recommended that PTA should forward every such complaint to FIA and should also follow up the same. Committee also recommended that mobile phone service providers should also be used to spread public campaigns by PTA.**

#### **Agenda Item No.III**

21. Chairman PTA briefed the Committee about the progress made so far on the issue. He informed the Committee that so far 105 mobile towers have been installed in Malakand area. He apprised the Committee that the operators have fulfilled the license requirements so PTA technically and legally cannot take action in this regard. However, he assured that the Companies have been asked to enhance their coverage area.

22. Secretary and the Minister assured that the issue will be resolved on fast track. The Minister directed the Secretary to include the issue in the agenda of next meeting with USF.

23. Senator Fida Muhammad requested to refer the issue to sub-committee already constituted. **Chairperson referred the matter to the sub-committee.**

#### **Agenda item No.iv**

24. Chairman PTA briefed the Committee on the number of phone devices blocked for being non-tax paid; number of cell phones un-blocked by PTA and other stakeholders through DIRBS and revenue collected in that regard so far; and reasons for not un-blocking phone devices despite payment of taxes.

25. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Sheikh expressed his concerns over the huge difference in the number of phones initially blocked by PTA and number of phones un-blocked later on. He was of the view that a huge quantity of phones which as per PTA are blocked by them are being used in black market and have been un-blocked through unfair means.

26. After extensive discussion, Committee recommended that the allowance of bringing one tax free mobile from abroad may be revived and this facility should made easy for the public.

#### **Decisions of the Committee**

27. The Committee constituted the sub-committee as under:-

##### **Composition of the Committee**

Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Convener
Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Sheikh	Member
Senator Fida Muhammad	Member

##### **TORs of the Committee**

- (i) Complaint lodged by Chairperson, Senator Rubina Khalid regarding circulation of fake news on social media regarding recovery of huge quantity of gold from her house.
- (ii) Consideration of the reply submitted by the Ministry of subject matter of Starred Question No.165 asked by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, regarding number of persons working in M/O Information Technology and Telecommunication, its attached departments, authorities, corporations, autonomous/semi autonomous bodies and organizations etc.
- (iii) Progress made so far on the issue of lack/deficient services of Pak Telecom Limited (U-fone) in various towns, areas of District Malakand, as discussed in the Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

#### **Recommendations and directions of the Committee**

28. The Committee recommended as follows:-

- (i) Committee directed Chairman PTA to give detailed briefing on Ontario alert system in next meeting.
- (ii) Committee directed Chairman PTA to brief the Committee in next meeting about the mechanism of taking timely notice of crimes against children and its reporting to FIA to proceed further.
- (iii) Committee recommended that the Ministry should study any successful model of a friendly country to curb cyber crimes especially against children and adopt that system.

- (iv) Committee recommended that PTA being Regulator and FIA being Investigating agency should take *suo moto* notice of cyber crimes and file complaints.
- (v) Committee recommended that PTA should forward every such complaint to FIA and should also follow up the same.
- (vi) Committee recommended that PTA should utilize the services of mobile phone service providers to spread public campaigns against cyber crimes by PTA.
- (vii) Committee recommended that the allowance of bringing one tax free mobile from abroad may be revived and this facility should be made easy for the public.

29. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

(Muhammad Azam)  
Secretary Committee

(Senator Rubina Khalid)  
Chairperson Committee



## **SENATE SECRETARIAT**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecom was held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, at 11:30 am in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House Islamabad, under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

2. The agenda before the Committee meeting was as under:-

- i) Further discussion on the issue of withdrawal of Custom duty exemption on one imported phone per calendar year, under the personal baggage rules as per directed by the Committee in its meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.
- ii) Detailed briefing by Chairman PTA on the agreement made with sandvine Company to build Surveillance System to monitor Internet traffic of whole Country, Compromising user 'data security.
- iii) Detailed briefing and discussion on rules framed under section 37 and 51 of prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016.
- iv) Detailed briefing by the National Response Center for Cyber Crime (NR3C) on filming and up loading , videos of child abuse on dark -web with reference to a recent case reported from Rawat, Rawalpindi.
- v) Any other item with the approval of the chair.

3. The following members attended the meeting:-

(i)	Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
(ii)	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
(iii)	Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
(iv)	Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo	Member
(v)	Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
(vi)	Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
(vii)	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
(viii)	Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
(ix)	Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
(x)	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
(xi)	Senator Faisal Javed	Member

4. The meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Chairperson Committee welcomed all the participants of the meeting.

5. At the outset, Senator Kalsoom Parveen condemned the incident that took place in Norway on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, wherein a people attempted to desecrate Holy Quran. She termed the act to provoke sentiments of the Muslim community and demanded that the Government should take up the matter with concerned authorities and lodge their protest as well as convey sentiments of the people of Pakistan in strong terms. Members of the Committee present in the meeting endorsed the view point of Senator Kalsoom Parveen.

6. **Agenda Item-I.-** The Chairperson inquired about implementation status of the recommendations of the Committee made in its meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019, on the issue of withdrawal of customs duty exemption on one imported phone per calendar year, under the personal baggage rules. The Chairman FBR apprised that since facility of bringing one mobile phone without duties/taxes under the Baggage Rules 2006 was being misused which compelled the government to withdraw the facility. He added that the data of passengers especially overseas Pakistanis were being misused to avail exemption for registration of mobile phones. He also gave detailed briefing about in place mechanism of taxes /duties on import of cell phones, revenue collected during the financial year etc. In that regard various queries raised by the Members of the Committee were also responded to.

The Chairperson Committee while terming the justification of FBR inappropriate expressed that instead of removing loopholes of the system by putting check and balance and initiating other administrative measures, the FBR withdrew the facility due to which sense of deep concern prevails amongst the society and overseas Pakistanis as well. She also added that the current taxation policy of the government on mobile phones was affecting the I.T. sector negatively. She further emphasized that the measures should be taken to facilitate and encourage local assembling of cell phones. In that regard representative of FBR informed that the matter was under consideration and would be finalized soon.

7. The Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication stated that since it was a growing public demand which was further endorsed by the Parliamentary forums as well, the Ministry supports that one mobile phone should be allowed in the personal baggage without any duty.

8. The representatives from FBR assured that the reservations of Members of the Committee have been well noted and the issue would be given due importance and resolved at an early opportunity. After detailed discussion the Committee unanimously recommended that since the withdrawal of one cell phone facility in a calendar year under the personal baggage was badly affecting the middle and lower classes of the society, the FBR should re-instate the said facility at the earliest. A report in that regard should be provided to the Committee.

9. **Agenda Item No. II.-** Agenda item pertaining to briefing by Chairman PTA on the alleged agreement made with sandvine Company to build Surveillance System to monitor Internet traffic of whole Country, Compromising user 'data security, was deferred due to the non-availability of Chairman PTA.



**10. Agenda Item No. III.-** The Chairperson Committee inquired as to why the rules which were to be framed under sections 37 and 51 of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, have not been notified despite lapse of more than two years. It was responded that rules have been prepared and currently lies with the inter-ministerial committee, constituted by the authority, for deliberation and as soon as the same are finalized would be presented before the Committee. The Chairperson Committee while expressing deep concern over the inordinate delay in finalization of rules directed that the same should be finalized on priority basis and present before the Committee for deliberations and valuable input from the Members.

At that juncture, the Chairperson Committee further inquired as to why government was not paying any heed to sign Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with US and other countries through which Cyber Crime Wing authorities could access and retrieve data from social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp etc. It was responded that the M/o I.T. has asked the M/o Interior to finalize the deliberations on MLAT issue which would be finalized soon.

**11. Agenda Item No. IV.-** The Chairperson Committee expressed that a new wave of cybercrime against children has cropped up in the society. A recent incident is from Kurram Agency which is very alarming, another incident occurred in Mansehra where 2-1/2 years old girl was raped and was thrown in a ditch. She was recovered after two days and was still alive. She was taken to the hospital but could not survive. It is a matter of shame for all of us. We just condemned the action in Norway but actually we should condemn these acts of crime unfortunately that are increasing in our society. We should protest /demonstrate against these crimes. Public awareness should be spread. We have already held 4 meetings on the issue this is the fifth. In the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 the Committee was of fear of existence of Dark Web in Pakistan. The Committee was categorically assured by the Chairman PTA and Director Cyber Crime Wing that contents of such Crime was not being prepared in Pakistan. Now that one Mr. Sohail Ayaz has been arrested, who was working on a higher post in the government of Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa, has confessed that he is involved in the filming and up loading of such videos. But unfortunately such cases are swept under the carpet as the incident of Qasur. Everything is not right.

**12.** Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri stated that it is a shame-full act but unfortunately such incidents do occur in the human societies. Even in U.S.A it has been reported in an American news that crimes occur in every second that passes. There are departments that control these activities but when the accused are not punished and set free the problem persist. There are flaws in our laws. The laws should be implemented to avoid such incidents. He assured that he will use his influence to spread this awareness.

**13.** The Chairperson pointed out that the identity of such criminals when arrested is hidden and their faces are covered so that there entity be kept secret whereas when Politicians are arrested. They are hand cuffed and shown on the media. It was shocking to here that trial of the accused in this case Mr. Sohail Ayaz will be in camera giving him a blanket. Senator Kalsoom Parveen seconded this and further expressed her feelings that such culprits should be hanged in public and made a sign of disgrace. She also referred to this incident that happened in Sahiwal. The issue was raised in the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Interior. She further stated that if our laws are not strengthen and are not implemented in true sprite and the public is not protected then the public will start revenging by themselves. Senator Abdul Rehman

Malik also added further that such matters were taken up in the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Interior and took them to a logical Conclusion. He further added that deterrence of crime is very important. He proposed that in such incidents of Children abuses if someone is found guilty should be hanged publically. He said that Cyber Crime is a new law and in the coming times it will be a large law. It will include banking sector, future will depend on it. The Cyber Crime issued should be included in the Criminals Justice System and to bring the rule of law, the departments should be strengthened.

**14.** The Chairperson urged that members of the Committee to go through the Cyber Crime Act to see where there are some lacunas as this law was enacted in haste. Senator Abdul Rehman Malik suggested to make a Coordinates to look into these Rules. The Chair suggested that Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem be given the task to review /revisit the rules. Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem said that was this is an ongoing process and incidents have been occurring frequently. We have to look into it holistically. He referred to a recent incident of Qasur where lacunas are found in laws and it was their responsibility as a Parliamentarian to work (i) a legislator (ii) the functions of parliamentary over right through Committees. He further said that Cyber Crime was technical issue and specialized people should be appointed and trained and separate Cadre should be maintained this purpose.

**15.** The SSP (Investigation) Rawalpindi informed that he will take up the part of investigation up to conviction of the case mentioned in agenda item No. IV. He gave a power point presentation of the case. The presentation included from collecting the background information assisting the culprit, Coming of complainants, reporting the incident and investigation. He informed that 3 cases have been registered against the accused. During the briefing the Committee was informed how the accused Mr. Sohail Ayaz the accused used to malign children, kidnap /abduct them and abuse them. He had links with international persons. He has a very high profile. He had traveled to 9 countries and was deported from 2. He was convicted against sexual tourism in 2008 in U.K. He has admitted that he has sodomized 30 children. History of Child abuse is so long. The Committee enquired that when he was arrested which clauses were mentioned in the F.I.R. Senator Abdul Rehman Malik suggested that specific laws should be formulated for child abuse. The Cyber Crime Rules should also be included in F.I.R. The accused has also admitted he knows the Dark Web software and Virtual Private Network and Tour Browser were recovered from his cell Phone.

**16.** F.I.A give their point of view that after the arrest of accused they were asked to join hands with the Punjab Police since the Cyber Crime section are missing in this context, therefore the Punjab Police have to take the investigation to a certain point and then hand it over to FIA for further investigation. After detailed meetings it was decided that a JIT would be formed so that all the concerned departments could be on the same page.

**17.** The Chair appreciated the efforts made by Rawalpindi Police for their prompt action and thorough investigation in the matter.

**18.** Senator Fasial Javed informed that they would look into the matter of Cyber Crime Laws it and there was another thing which was linked with this that was a Comprehensive Bill "Zainab Alert Bill" which were on child abused and Cyber related Crime alert was pending for finalization in National Assembly Standing Committee which needs to be expedited. The chair said that the Bill has to be thoroughly examined with all its pros and cons. The existing bills relating to Cyber Crime was

passed in haste and there are short comings. They will look into the matter and try to get it implemented but here political scoring should be avoid as this matter relates to our children.

19. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri raised the issue of non-provision of internet service in Kalat and said that this issue has been lingering on for the last one and half years. The chair decided that the ministry may give a comprehensive reply in this regard in the next meeting. Senator Kalsoom Perveen said that issue was in the agenda in the sub-committee but only one item was finalized due to time constraint. This issue is still pending and should come up in the main Committee. Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi pointed out that FIA be directed to provide the data of deportation of Mr. Sohail Ayaz how did he get out of the airport without being noticed, who were the facilitators. The House should be informed as the FIA does not allow any person to go out of airport without documents clearance. The chair directed that FIA should provide details of deportation process how it is done, in the next meeting. The information comes to them as on what grounds a person is deported. The chair also directed with operational reference to this person for both the times he was deported. We want the data will when he was deported either he was carrying some documents. Further he was given Government jobs in KPK on whose recommendations.

20. It was told that this case was not yet formerly handed over to FIA by the Punjab Police. The Punjab police informed that process is in progress The Prime Minister of Pakistan has also taken notice of it. As soon as the formalities are completed the case would be forwarded to FIA for further investigation.

21. Senator Kalsoom Parveen drew attention of the Chair and other Members present in the meeting towards her defamation on Facebook by one journalist namely Faisal Sahi. The issue was initially highlighted in the Standing Committee on Interior and was referred to FIA the reply was awaited. The FIA responded that the details have been obtained. A formal complaint would be required for further processing. The member emphasized that the case should be dealt according to Cyber Crime Rules and should reach its logical conclusion and place the report before Committee.

22. After detailed deliberations, the Committee made by the following directions /recommendations:-

- (1). The withdrawal of customs duty exemption on one cell phone under the personal baggage rules should be re-instated.
- (2). The M/o I.T. in coordination with PTA and FBR should devise a policy to facilitate and encourage local assembling of cell phones.
- (3). The policy of bringing one cell phone in a calendar year without paying customs duty/taxes should be re-visited by removing the condition of seven days stay abroad.
- (4). The Committee decided to defer briefing by PTA on the alleged agreement made with sandvine Company to build Surveillance System to monitor Internet traffic of whole Country, compromising user 'data security, due to the non-availability of Chairman PTA, till the next meeting.

- (5) The Committee while expressing deep concern over the inordinate delay in finalization of rules under PEC Act, 2016, directed that the same should be finalized on priority basis and present the same before the Committee.
  - (6) The Committee unanimously appreciated the efforts made by Rawalpindi Police for their prompt action and thorough investigation in the matter of child abuse for filming and uploading on dark web.
  - (7) The M/o I.T. in coordination with PTA and other stakeholders should take up the matter of signing of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with USA and other countries, with the concerned Ministry/forum, in order to ease out cybercrime investigators to access and retrieve data from social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp etc.
  - (8) The Committee should be briefed in the next meeting, on the issue of non-provision/availability of internet service in District Kalat, Balochistan, as pointed out by Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri.
23. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

**MUKHTAR AHMED KHAN**  
**S.O/ Secretary Committee.**

**SENATOR RUBINA KHALID**  
**Chairperson**



## SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting / visit of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid, on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at 02:30 p.m. in Conference Hall of National Telecommunication Corporation, Islamabad.

2. The following Members of the Committee also attended the meeting:-

i.	Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
ii.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
iii.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
iv.	Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
v.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
vi.	Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
vii.	Senator Faisal Javed	Member

3. The agenda of the meeting was as under:-

- (i) **Detailed briefing by the Managing Director, NTC, about the functioning, achievements and future roadmap of the Corporation; and**
- (ii) **Visit of National Data Center established by NTC.**
- (iii) **Any other item with the permission of the Chair.**

4. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed participants in the meeting.

**Agenda Item No (i): Detailed briefing by the Managing Director, NTC, about the functioning, achievements and future roadmap of the Corporation**

5. The Managing Director, NTC gave a detailed presentation to the committee. Before starting formal presentation a short introductory documentary film was played. The M.D, NTC, shared the history that the government decided to regulate the telecommunication sector in 1991 and converted T&T department into Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation. In second step, through Telecommunication Re-organization Act, 1996, PTC was further split into five entities i.e. PTCL, NTC, PTA, FAB and PTET. In 2006 the said Act was amended and NTC was converted into a corporate body and its mandate is to provide telecom services to government departments including Defense Forces.

6. He further added that the Corporation does not take any fund from the government. The salaries and projects are being run by the income received for providing different telecom services. 72% of the net income is consumed in salaries, and the 15-20% is spent on projects.

7. NTC provides a country-wide Optical Fiber network, spread from Peshawar to Karachi, and extended up to Gwadar Port. It was further told that *Kamyab Jawan* and *Pakistan Citizen Portal* are also being hosted at NTC National Data Center. The web portal of *Kamyab Jawan* was visited by 10.6 million people during the last one week and 0.3 million people applied for

the scheme. Around 18 million cyber attacks were made on the portal mostly from India but data remained safe.

8. While sharing the nation-wide presence of NTC, it was briefed that district wise spread of NTC is: 92% in Punjab, 76% in Sindh, 34% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 18% in Baluchistan. NTC has also initiated the process of replacement of old vintage TDM Networks with the Next Generation IP Networks (NGN). Around 68% of the total network has been replaced with NGN. 196% growth in number of exchanges has been achieved.

9. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar questioned that why not NTC can provide services in the coastal areas adjacent to Gawadar port and only six districts are being served. The MD, NTC replied that there is a huge distance between the districts of Baluchistan which needs an enormous funds. A summary is being prepared to take assistance from USF for those areas where it is already serving. The Chairperson, committee said that the MoIT&T should extend maximum support to its sub-ordinate institutions to promote mutual cooperation and coordination to achieve such targets.

10. Going into further details of the services extended by NTC, it was told that one of the purpose of establishing NTC was to provide secure communication services. The Chairperson intercepted and said that the data is not as secure as it should be. In response it was shared by MD, NTC that the data is not secure of all those government institutions which are using Gmail, Hotmail and Yahoo mail, as compared to those which are using NTC services. The websites of those government institutions, which are hosted by private sectors due to less charges compared to the NTC, are being targeted and hacked. Since Pulwama incident, 50 million attacks were reported on the NTC data system, but due to foolproof arrangements, the data remained safe.

11. The MD also expressed his concerns over the submarine cables which are under the control of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL). He said that submarine cable is the asset of Pakistan which is taken over by Dubai based company, Etisalat after the privatization of PTCL. He was of the view that submarine cable should have been handed over to the NTC at the time of PTCL privatization. He further said that the NTC has a plan to lay marine cable along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on coastal highway.

12. It was also informed that, data center was established in 2016 with cost of Rs.450 million. It has five layer security arrangements. In last three years, Rs.419 million revenue is generated. He further said that third party security audit of the data center was also conducted. The committee appreciated the efforts and desired to know the expertise of human resource working in all fields, including technical/ IT experts and other employees of NTC. It was also directed to provide data of employees who are about to retire.

13. The committee was further informed that Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) for existing data center would be established by December 31, 2019 in Lahore. The committee expressed satisfaction over the NTC security arrangements to avoid cyber attacks, but also stressed for more steps to ensure fool proof security of data as the next war would be cyber war.

14. The committee was informed that the NTC and VMware International have signed a VMware cloud provider program (VCP). This agreement is first of its nature in Pakistan with public sector organization by world's largest network of validated cloud services based on VMware technology. It enables the NTC to deploy on-premises cloud setup in NTC National Data Center and subsequently to become secured G-cloud (Government Cloud) provider thus ensuring security of data and generating huge revenue. The committee desired to have detailed briefing on the technical equipment and data security arrangements.

15. In 2015, NTC went for public private partnership and made agreements with cellular companies. The NTC officials informed the committee that its revenue was Rs. 3.9 billion and expenditure remained Rs. 3.8 billion during 2018-19.

16. MD, NTC requested the committee to have a government instruction or directive for NTC to provide communication services to Federal and Provincial Government institutions throughout the country. The Chairperson observed that the provision in the Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act 1996 needs to be looked into, with legal expertise, which shall enable the committee to evolve some better strategy in this regard.

17. On a query raised by Senator Engr Rukhsana Zuberi, the Chairperson also showed keen interest to have a detailed briefing on Pakistan Educational and Research Network (PERN), a web portal by Higher Education Commission (HEC).

**Agenda item No.(ii): Visit of National Data Center established by NTC**

18. The committee visited the National Data Center and appreciated the capability of NTC professionals for facilitating government institutions. The Committee was also given a brief demonstration of the *Kamyab Jawan* web portal hosted by NTC.

**Directions/Recommendations/Decisions: -**

19. The Committee recommended as follow:

- I. MoIT&T should extend maximum support to its sub-ordinate institutions like USF and NTC to promote mutual cooperation and coordination to achieve targets.
- II. Data be produced before the committee regarding human resource working in all fields, including technical/ IT experts and other employees of NTC. A separate data of employees who are about to retire may also be presented.
- III. More steps be taken to ensure fool proof security of data at National Data Center.
- IV. The Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act 1996 shall be scrutinized by the committee with the help of legal experts, to see the possibilities for NTC to provide services to government organizations of whole country.
- V. Detailed briefing on Pakistan Education and Research Network (PERN), a web portal by Higher Education Commission (HEC) be arranged by the MoIT&T.

20. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chairperson.

**SHAGUFTA SHAUKAT  
SECRETARY (COMMITTEE)**

**SENATOR RUBINA KHALID  
CHAIRPERSON (COMMITTEE)**



## **SENATE SECRETARIAT**

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 at 12:00 noon in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:

1) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2) Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
3) Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
4) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
5) Senator Faisal Javed	Member
6) Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
7) Senator Sana Jamali	Member
8) Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
9) Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
10) Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
11) Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Further briefing by National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NR3C) and PTA on the child abuse for filming and uploading videos on dark-web with reference to the recent case reported in the area of Rawat, Rawalpindi, as directed by the Committee in its meeting held on 25th November, 2019.
- (ii) Implementation status of the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on the issue of payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET).
- (iii) Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.

3. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed all participants of the meeting.

### **Agenda Item No.1**

4. The Chairperson asked the Additional Director, Cyber Crime Wing (CCW), FIA to brief the Committee about the steps taken by CCW with reference to the increasing number of cases of child abuse and child pornography in the country with particular reference to a recent case reported in Rawat Area of District Rawalpindi.

5. The Additional Director read out the relevant provisions of PECA, 2016 and expressed inability of the department to take suo moto notice of such incidents unless it is referred to them.

6. The Committee took strong notice of this legal lacuna and directed that the CCW should come up with a proposal that how they could be strengthened through legislation and what amendments could be made in the law in order to broaden their scope of work.

7. Additional Director, CCW sought two weeks time to come up with some proposals in this regard.

8. Senator Faisal Javed was of the view that the process and system of lodging of complaints in such cases should be made very convenient and easy so that every aggrieved person can easily lodge the complaint and there should also be element of secrecy in such cases.
9. The Chairperson informed the Committee that she also had a meeting with the Chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology in this regard and has requested the Council to issue a verdict that in such cases payment of Diyat should not be an option.
10. Senator Fida Muhammad was of the view that the State should take full responsibility and should pursue such cases with full force.
11. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri expressed that there is need for implementation of laws and State should exercise its powers and authority with full force.
12. Senator Kalsoom Parveen was also of the view that laws should be amended to strengthen the Law Enforcement Agencies and the Institutions.
13. **The Chairperson expressed that it is our collective responsibility to protect our children from the hands of such elements. The Chairperson directed the Chairman PTA to take all the Mobile Service Providers on board so that their network can be used for launching of awareness campaign. The Chairperson urged that the Mobil Companies should play their role in this regard as Corporate Social Responsibility.**
14. Chairman PTA was of the view that the networks of the mobile companies is already being used by PTA for spreading awareness messages, however, the Mobile Companies should also include the awareness messages in their advertisements in the mainstream media.
15. Chairman PTA further stated that PTA has the capabilities to erase the pornographic material from Internet but as far as the material available on dark web is concerned, for that help of Interpol will be required. He suggested that FIA should take up the matter with the Interpol to seek their cooperation and information sharing as it is within their mandate.
16. SSP, Investigation Rawalpindi briefed the Committee about the steps taken in the investigation process in Rawat case. He stated that a lot of porn material has been recovered from the mobile phone and laptop of the accused. His DNA and Polygraph test has also been positive. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the Rawalpindi Police in the investigation of this case. However, the Committee was of the view that Punjab Police should work in close coordination with FIA, CCW as this case cannot be treated like any other case.
17. Senator Rukhsana Zuberi was of the view that the departments should not work in silos as close coordination and cooperation is required to solve such cases.
18. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar apprised the Committee that the accused of this case has been deported twice but it is strange that both the times he got clearance from our agencies and he also got clearance to get Government job in KP Government which is beyond understanding.
19. Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi drew attention of the Committee towards the suspension of license of the accused by the ICAP in the year 2011. He raised the point that how did he manage to get job in KP Government when his license of Chartered Accountancy was already suspended.

20. The Committee directed that FIA should enquire that how did the accused managed to get clean chit when he was deported twice and how did he get job in KP Government when his license was already suspended. The Committee directed that FIA should work in coordination with Punjab Police to investigate all the aspects of this case.

21. The Committee further recommended that the Ministry of Interior should initiate for constitution of a Joint Investigation Team for investigation of this case comprising of Members from Punjab Police, FIA, Intelligence Agencies and Child Protection Bureau.

22. The Committee also expressed its serious concern over the compounding of such heinous cases due to compromise by the victims. The Committee was of the view that witnesses protection laws and the prosecution needs to be strengthened to take such cases to their logical conclusion.

#### Agenda Item No.II

23. The Committee took serious notice of non-implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Sub-committee which has duly been adopted by the main Committee.

24. Secretary Information Technology apprised the Committee that he has been briefed about the settlement of the issue. The Committee took strong exception of such misrepresentation to the Secretary and urged the Secretary to take serious action against such delinquents. However, on request and assurance of the Secretary I.T, the Committee deferred the matter till next meeting with the direction that the Secretary will resolve the issue and also take action against the delinquents.

25. In nutshell, the recommendations of the Committee are as under:

- i. The Committee directed Additional Director, Cyber Crimes Wing, FIA to come with a proposal in next meeting that what amendments in the laws should be made to strengthen the Cyber Crimes Wing of FIA.
- ii. The Committee directed Chairman PTA to take all the Mobile Service Providers on board so that their networks can be used for launching of awareness campaign and to include awareness messages in their advertisements in the mainstream print and electronic media.
- iii. The Committee directed that FIA should enquire that how did the accused managed to get clean chit when he was deported twice and how did he get job in KP Government when his license was already suspended. The Committee directed that FIA should work in coordination with Punjab Police to investigate all the aspects of this case.
- iv. The Committee recommended that the Ministry of Interior should initiate for constitution of a Joint Investigation Team comprising of Members from Punjab Police, FIA, Intelligence Agencies and Child Protection Bureau for the investigation of the case of child abuse reported in Rawat.
- v. The Committee directed the Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication that in next meeting he shall come up with the solution of the issue of payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET) in line with the recommendations of the sub-committee.

26. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

(Muhammad Azam)

(Senator Rubina Khalid)

**SENATE SECRETARIAT**

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:

1) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2) Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
3) Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
4) Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
5) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
6) Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
7) Senator Faisal Javed	Member
8) Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
9) Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo	Member

27. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

(iv) Presentation, consideration and adoption of report of the Sub-committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication constituted on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 under the convenership of Senator Kalsoom Parveen.

(v) Comprehensive briefing on Digital Pakistan Program.

(vi) Comprehensive briefing on following:

- a) Theft of data from NADRA database for registration of SIM cards on fake credentials, use of illegal exchange in the country.
- b) NR3C to brief regarding initiatives taken so far on the directions made by the Committee in its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

(vii) Comprehensive briefing regarding "use of derogatory remarks and character assassination of Dua Mangi by social media users committing offence under section 21 of PECA, 2016", matter referred by the Hon'ble Chairman Senate for consideration and report.

(viii) Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.

28. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed all participants of the meeting.

**Agenda Item No.1**

29. Senator Kalsoom Parveen, Convener of sub-committee, presented the report of the sub-committee on the following issues:

- i. On the consideration of the reply to subject matter of starred question No.165 asked by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, regarding number of persons working in the Ministry of Information technology and



- Telecommunication, its attached departments, Authorities, Corporations, Autonomous/Semi Autonomous Bodies and Organizations etc.
- ii. Complaint lodged by Chairperson Committee, Senator Rubina Khalid, regarding circulation of fake news on social media regarding recovery of huge quantity of gold from her house.

The Committee considered the report of the sub-committee and after due deliberation adopted the same. The Chairperson and the Members appreciated the work done by sub-committee and approved that the report may be presented in the House.

5. At this stage, the Chairperson asked Director, FIA (Cyber Crime Wing) about the steps taken regarding fake social media account in the name of Senator Aitzaz Ahsan and also enquired about the mechanism of blocking any Face book or Twitter account.

6. Mr. Waqar Chohan, Director FIA, Cyber Crime Wing, apprised the Committee that FIA has already asked PTA to block fake account in the name of Senator Aitzaz Ahsan.

7. Member PTA was of the view that PTA can block some account but blocking of some account needs verifications. He further stated that PTA has the necessary equipments but it has not yet been installed.

8. The Committee observed that PTA's approach is very casual. The Committee directed that PTA and FIA may take immediate steps to block all fake accounts operating in the name of Senator Aitzaz Ahsan and submit compliance report in next meeting. The Committee further directed that PTA and FIA may also look into the complaint of Senator Kalsoom Parveen and submit report in next meeting.

9. At this stage, the Chairperson inquired about the draft rules to be framed by the Ministry under section 37 and 51 of PECA, 2016, upon which the Additional Secretary, Ministry of IT stated that the draft rules have been sent for approval of the Cabinet.

10. The Committee took serious notice of sending of draft rules directly to Cabinet because the Committee had categorically directed in its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 that draft rules should be send to the Committee before its finalization for valuable input of the Committee. The Committee sought explanation from the Ministry on non-compliance of clear cut direction of the Committee reflected in the minutes of the meeting dated 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 and directed the Additional Secretary Ministry of IT that the draft rules shall immediately be shared with the Committee before getting its approval from the Cabinet.

#### **Agenda item No.II**

11. The Committee deferred the briefing on Digital Pakistan Program and directed that all the stakeholders should come and give a joint briefing. The Committee observed that Government should not work in silos rather all the departments working on this Program should make joint efforts to make it more meaningful.

12. Secretary IT assured that Ministry of IT is the focal point for Digital Pakistan Program and no one is working silos and the program will be a comprehensive program.

13. Senator Abdul Rehman Malik was of the view that before launching any Digital Pakistan Program, there is urgent need of installing a firewall security system. **Further consideration of the agenda item was deferred.**

#### **Agenda Item 3(a)(b)**

14. Member PTA briefed on the agenda item and stated that SOPs have been revised in order to secure the mobile data. He informed the Committee that total 174000 devices have been issued to outlets for issuing of SIMs which are being checked and cleared and so far 36000 devices have been cleared. He informed that deadline for clearing all devices is September, 2020.

15. At this stage, the Chairperson played a video recording of a news report about theft of mobile data through tempered devices and tempered figure prints. The Chairperson inquired about the clearance procedure of such devices and expressed her serious concern about the deadline. She was of the view that it means till deadline the mobile data of Pakistani citizens is not secure. She further observed that PTA's role as regulator is questionable and PTA's priority is only to safeguard the interests of mobile phone companies and not of the consumers. The Members were of the view that PTA needs to be empowered through legislation. **The Committee also directed that SOPs of PTA to issue and secure such devices may be shared with the Committee in next meeting.**

16. Member PTA told that PTA regularly send messages to all mobile users and inform the users about the number of SIMs issued against their CNIC. The Members were of the view that PTA cannot be absolved of its responsibilities just by sending SMS. Secretary Ministry of IT also endorsed that vulnerability of SIM data cannot be compromised. **Committee directed the Secretary IT to form a team to review the whole system and then brief the Committee.**

17. At this stage, Chairperson enquired from Member PTA about the policy of PTA to re-issue a SIM which is not in use for 180 days. Member PTA accepted that PTA permanently blocks the SIM not in use for 180 days. This practice/policy of PTA was also criticized by the Committee. **Further consideration of the agenda item was deferred.**

#### **Agenda item IV**

18. The Chairperson briefed the Committee that the matter has been referred by the Chairman Senate on the petition of a citizen. The Chairperson directed PTA to formally forward the complaint to FIA to initiate inquiry. Copy of the complaint was also handed over to Member PTA and Director FIA, Cyber Crime Wing during the meeting.

19. **The Committee directed PTA and FIA to submit complete report in next meeting and take concrete steps towards investigation in this case.** The Member further observed that FIA needs to be empowered and they should have the equipment for geo fencing and all the law enforcement agencies should work in close coordination and cooperation.

20. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

**(Muhammad Azam)**  
**Secretary Committee**

**(Senator Rubina Khalid)**  
**Chairperson Committee**



## **SENATE SECRETARIAT**

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:

1) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2) Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
3) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
4) Senator Faisal Javed	Member
5) Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
6) Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
7) Senator Sana Jamali	Member

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

(i) Detailed briefing by the Secretary Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication on "The Citizens Protection (Against Online Harm) Rules, 2020; and

(ii) Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.

3. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed all participants of the meeting.

### **Agenda Item No.1**

4. At the very outset, the Chairperson expressed serious concern over the non-presentation of draft Rules before the Committee despite repeated instructions by the Committee. Secretary Ministry of IT and Telecommunication stated that written reply will be submitted to the Committee in this regard.

5. Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem stated that it is the right of the Committee to review the delegated legislation. He further stated that when a document is not shared then it creates confusion. He was of the view that the Committee is not against the regulation of social media but the concern is that under the garb of regulation, the freedom of expression should not be restricted. He stated that while drafting any such rules, the Government must keep in mind that digital economy which is heavily dependent on social media may not suffer from the regulation.

6. Senator Faisal Javed stated that social media is being regulated throughout the world as it is need of the day to secure and protect the citizens from online harms. However, he was of the view that the draft rules should have been shared with the Committee to seek valuable input of the learned Members of the Committee. He informed the Committee that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has already taken notice of the issue and he has clearly directed that the rules may be issued after thorough consultation with all stakeholders.

7. Senator Sana Jamali stated that the Committee should have been taken on board while drafting the rules for valuable input by the Members of the Committee.

8. Senator Fida Muhammad also questioned about the reasons of non-presentation of draft rules with the Committee despite clear instructions.

9. Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi suggested that the rules need to be widely published in mainstream print and electronic media so that people must be well aware about the repercussions of misuse of social media.

10. Secretary Ministry of IT and Telecommunication while responding to the points and concerns raised by the Members stated that Ministry of IT and Telecommunication has due regard for the Parliament and its Committees and he being head of the Ministry cannot even think of disrespecting the instructions of the Committee. He was of the view that as a practice draft rules of every ministry are never brought up before the respective Standing Committees as it is the prerogative of the Federal Government to make rules in consonance with the enabling Act. He further stated that the Prime Minister has already directed to take all the stakeholders on board. He apprised the Committee that there is no provision of the subject rules which is in violation of the enabling Act and the rules are very comprehensive as due process has already been adopted while drafting and approval of the rules. He expressed that various segments of the society are apprehending far reaching impact of these rules which has created confusions at this stage. He assured that the implementation of these rules will be phase-wise and right of appeals/reviews has also been provided to the aggrieved parties. He further stated that Government is fully committed to develop social media under the Digital Pakistan Vision. He stated that Online Harm is very broad term which covers each and every aspect of misuse of social media. He informed the Committee that IT sector exports of Pakistan has increased by 23%.

11. Senator Rubina Khalid, Hon'ble Chairperson enquired as to whether the rules provide protection against overall cybercrimes. The Chairperson was of the view that Government's claims about Digital Pakistan Vision are very tall and ambitious but the actual steps taken by the Government are not satisfactory. She pointed out the problems in international online payments and non-availability of services like PayPal etc. Chairperson concluded that the IT sector exports needs to be enhanced. Chairperson also observed that parents are equally responsible to monitor the online activities of their children. **The Committee directed that a detailed briefing on the steps taken or proposed to be taken to enhance IT sector exports may be given to the Committee by the Secretary M/O IT and Telecommunication in next meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson also directed the Members of the Committee to submit their recommendations on the draft rules in next meeting.**

#### Any other items

12. Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem desired that the particulars (qualification and experience) of Executive level hierarchy of all the cellular companies working in Pakistan may be shared with the Committee. **The Hon'ble Chairperson and all the Members of the Committee endorsed the same and directed that the Chairman PTA may be asked to provide the same to the Committee in next meeting of the Committee.**

13. Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem further questioned about the mechanism available with Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Frequency Allocation Board (FAB) to check the emission of radiation level/activity from transmitters and towers installed by mobile companies throughout the country. The Member has desired that a complete report as to whether the emission is below the prescribed danger limits and in line with the policy directives of Ministry of IT & Telecom, World Health Organization (WHO) and International Commission on Non- Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines may be submitted before the Committee. **The Hon'ble Chairperson and all the Members of the Committee endorsed the same and directed that the Chairman PTA may be asked to submit report to the Committee in next meeting of the Committee.**

14. Senator Faisal Javed asked the Secretary Ministry of IT and Telecommunication to launch a widespread awareness campaign in print and electronic media to aware the masses not to believe on every rumor and fake news on social media.

15. Senator Fida Muhammad pointed out social media campaign against Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar by creating fake ID in his name. The Committee condemned such activities.

16. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

**(Muhammad Azam)**  
**Secretary Committee**

**(Senator Rubina Khalid)**  
**Chairperson Committee**

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:

1) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2) Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
3) Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
4) Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
5) Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
6) Senator Sana Jamali	Member
7) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
8) Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
9) Senator Faisal Javed	Member

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i). Bi-annual review of the budgetary allocation and its utilization by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, under sub-rule (4) of Rule 166 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.
- (ii). Non-implementation of judgment of the High Court of Sindh passed in C.P.Nos.D6546/2016 and D-3579/2018 by Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited regarding re-instatement of services of two PTCL employees.
- (iii). National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NR3C) to brief on the following issues:-
  - a). Matter referred by the Chairman Senate regarding defamation and loss to reputation of Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi by spreading false and concocted allegations through fake Gmail accounts;
  - b). Non-implementation of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Investigation Rules, 2018, by National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NR3C);
  - c). Progress report on the directions made by the Committee in its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020; and
  - d). Further briefing on the child abuse for filming and uploading videos on dark-web with reference to the case reported in the area of Rawat, Rawalpindi, as directed by the Committee in its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.
- (iv). Briefing by the Secretary M/O I.T and Telecommunication on the initiatives/steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Ministry to enhance the I.T sector exports in the country, as directed by the Committee in its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.
- (v). Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.

3. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed all participants of the meeting.

**Agenda Item No.I:** Bi-annual review of the budgetary allocation and its utilization by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, under sub-rule (4) of Rule 166 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012

4. At the very outset, the Chairperson and the Members pointed out some glaring mistakes in the facts and figures provided by the Ministry in the working papers. Partial briefing was given by the officers of the Ministry headed by the Secretary, however, further briefing was deferred with the direction to vet the working papers and submit fresh working paper to the Committee.

**Agenda Item No.II:** Non-implementation of judgment of the High Court of Sindh passed in C.P.Nos. D6546/2016 and D-3579/2018 by Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited regarding reinstatement of services of two PTCL employees.

5. The reply in writing was made part of the file however, the agenda item was not discussed during the meeting.

**Agenda Item No.III(a):** Briefing by National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NR3C) on the matter referred by the Chairman Senate regarding defamation and loss to reputation of Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi by spreading false and concocted allegations through fake Gmail accounts.

6. Director NR3C briefed the Committee about the steps taken so far towards investigation of this matter. The Committee was informed that Google Inc. has been contacted to provide basic subscriber information against the fake email accounts which information is still awaited. He further stated that a reminder has also been issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 in this regard to Google Inc. Further course of action will be adopted after receipt of reply from Google.

7. Senator Taj Afridi stated that he will also provide some useful information in next meeting. Further consideration of the matter was deferred.

8. Chair observed that blocking of any account is not the solution. The culprits should be penalized to avoid such incidents in future. Secretary IT observed that FIA needs well trained man power and state of the art equipment to deal with the cybercrimes effectively.

9. Senator Fida Muhammad questioned that how many cases have so far been registered with FIA Cybercrimes Wing and what is the status of those cases. The Director Cybercrime provided some information about the registered cases, however, the Chairperson directed that a complete list of registered cases with their updated status may be sent to the Committee.

10. The Chairperson pointed out the qualifications and experiences of people working in NR3C and directed that complete detail (educational qualifications/experience) of persons serving in NR3C may be shared with the Committee so that the Committee may assess the training needs of NR3C. Committee also decided to visit NR3C in Islamabad and Peshawar.

**Agenda Item No.III(b):** Non-implementation of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Investigation Rules, 2018, by National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NR3C).

11. Committee expressed serious concern over the non-implementation of the Rules and urged that the Rules need to be implemented in letter and spirit.



**Agenda Item No.III(c):**      **Progress report on the directions made by the Committee in its meeting held on 15th January, 2020).**

12. Progress report in writing on the directions made by the Committee in its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 was submitted to the Committee. The Committee expressed serious concern over the case of Senator Kalsoom Parveen which is still unresolved.

13. Director NR3C briefed the Committee that they have traced the culprit but since under the law, the offence is non-cognizable so they have applied for court permission to join the person in investigation.

14. The Committee discussed that the option of summoning of the culprit by the Committee itself upon which the Committee directed the Director NR3C to share the particulars of that person with the Committee who will then be summoned through the concerned area police.

**Agenda Item No.III(d):**      **Further briefing on the child abuse for filming and uploading videos on dark-web with reference to the case reported in the area of Rawat, Rawalpindi, as directed by the Committee in its meeting held on 25th November, 2019.**

15. No one appeared from Punjab Police to brief the Committee on the agenda item. Committee expressed displeasure and the Secretary IT was asked to ensure presence of Punjab Police representative next time when this agenda will be fixed.

**Agenda Item No.IV:**      **Briefing by the Secretary M/O I.T and Telecommunication on the initiatives/steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Ministry to enhance the I.T sector exports in the country, as directed by the Committee in its meeting held on 25th February, 2020.**

16. Secretary IT and Telecom briefed the Committee about the steps taken by the Ministry for promotion of IT sector exports. The Committee expressed satisfaction on the initiatives taken by the Ministry under the leadership of Secretary IT. The Chairperson suggested to bring the remote areas in limelight and establish facilities in such remote areas for development of IT sector. **Secretary Committee suggested and invited the Committee to visit the National Incubation Centers in the country to have an on ground knowledge and information of the initiatives taken by the Ministry. Committee also decided to visit all the provincial IT Boards.**

**Agenda Item No.V:**      **Any other item with permission of the Chair.**

17. PTA presented the list of CEOs of Telecommunication Tower Providers (TTP) licensees for Pakistan. Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem desired that list of all executive level officers may be provided to the Committee.

18. PTA also provided the power level health hazard survey brief which was made part of the record.

19. Following are the directions made and decisions taken by the Committee during the Committee meeting:

- i. A complete list of cases registered with NR3C with their updated status may be sent to the Committee.
- ii. Complete detail (educational qualifications/experience) of persons serving in NR3C throughout the country may be shared with the Committee so that the Committee may assess the training needs of NR3C.
- iii. Committee decided to visit NR3C in Islamabad and Peshawar.
- iv. The Director NR3C was directed to share the particulars of the person involved in defamation of Senator Kalsoom Parveen so that the Committee may look into the option of summoning of that person by the Committee itself.
- v. On the invitation of the Secretary IT and Telecom, the Committee decided to visit the National Incubation Centers Karachi and to visit all the Provincial LT Boards.
- vi. The Committee directed the Secretary IT and Telecom to arrange a meeting of the Committee with the Consultation Committee constituted by the Prime Minister under the leadership of Chairman PTA to revisit the "The Citizens Protection (Against Online Harm) Rules, 2020 in which the media representatives may also be invited (one representative from each media group).
- vii. Committee directed that the Chairman PTA may share the Annual Report of PTA with the Committee.
- viii. Committee suggested that the IT Park in Islamabad may be completed at the earliest.

20. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

(Muhammad Azam)  
Secretary Committee

(Senator Rubina Khalid)  
Chairperson Committee



## SENATE SECRETARIAT

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. in Committee Room No. 1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:

1) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2) Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
3) Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
4) Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
5) Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
6) Senator Sana Jamali	Member
7) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
8) Senator Faisal Javed	Member
9) Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i). Bi-annual review of the budgetary allocation and its utilization by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, under sub-rule (4) of Rule 166 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.
- (ii). Implementation status of the recommendations made by the Committee on the issue of payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET)
- (iii) Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.

3. Due to engagement of the Chairperson in a ceremony regarding International Women's Day, the meeting was presided over by Senator Faisal Javed in terms of sub-rule (3) of Rule 175 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.

4. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Presiding Officer welcomed all participants of the meeting.

**Agenda Item No.1:** Bi-annual review of the budgetary allocation and its utilization by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, under sub-rule (4) of Rule 166 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012

5. Additional Secretary, Ministry of IT & Telecom started the briefing. At this stage, the Hon'ble Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid joined the proceedings and chaired the meeting. Senator Abdul Rehman Malik suggested that the Ministry of IT & Telecom should allocate funds for the capacity building of FIA which is the executing agency under PECA, 2016. He was of the view that without capacity building of the FIA, cybercrimes could not be managed and controlled.

6. While discussing the employee related expenses under the head of account A01, the Committee was informed that there are number of vacant positions in the Ministry upon which the Committee expressed serious concerns and **directed that a list of all vacant positions in**

the Ministry may be shared with the Committee in next meeting. While discussing the Physical Assets under the head of account A09, the Committee expressed serious concerns over the non-utilization of funds in this account despite lapse of almost nine months of the financial year. The Committee was informed that the assessments reports for the purchase of physical assets are under process which will be finalized soon and then the assets will be acquired. **Committee directed to share the assessments reports to acquire physical assets with the Committee in next meeting.**

7. Partial review of the budgetary allocation and utilization of development projects was also made by the Committee. During the discussion, the Committee questioned about the extensions being granted to Chairman NTC. The Committee was informed that the extensions are being granted under the rules. **The Committee directed that the Recruitment Rules for MP-I scale may be shared with the Committee in next meeting. The Committee recommended that the advertising process for any post should be started well in time before the expiry of term of that post. Committee unanimously recommended that appointments in MP scales should be made initially for three years extendable for two years without any further extension.**

8. While discussing the development projects of NITB, the Committee questioned about the mandate of NITB. NITB was directed to update the official portal [Pakistan.gov.pk](http://Pakistan.gov.pk). It was also suggested that mobile versions of all the official websites of the Federal Government may also be launched. Committee was informed that National Job Portal will be launched by the end of June, 2020. **Committee further directed that all the Ministries/Divisions should adopt their website templates as per the template given by NITB by the end of June, 2020.** Committee decided that the issue of establishment of provincial IT Boards will be discussed in the Committee in detail.

**Agenda Item No.II:**

**Implementation status of the recommendations made by the Committee on the issue of payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET)**

9. At the very outset, the Additional Secretary Ministry of IT & Telecom assured that the recommendations of the Standing Committee on the issue of payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET) will be implemented within the timeline given in sub-rule (3) of Rule 196 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.

10. The Hon'ble Chairperson observed that the Ministry must positively implement the recommendations of the Committee in order to mitigate the sufferings of the old aged pensioners. **Committee directed that the detail of legal expenses incurred by the Ministry on the litigation over the issue of payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET) may be shared with the Committee in next meeting.**

11. Senator Engineer Rukhsana Zuheri suggested that U-Fone Tower may be renamed as PTET Tower and revenue share of the building may be given to the pensioners.

12. Following are the directions made and decisions taken by the Committee during the Committee meeting:

- 1) **Committee directed that a list of all vacant positions in the Ministry may be shared with the Committee in next meeting.**
- 2) **Committee directed that the Recruitment Rules for MP-I scale may be shared with the Committee in next meeting.**

- 3) Committee recommended that the advertising process for any post should be started well in time before the expiry of term of that post and appointments in MP scales should be made initially for three years extendable for two years without any further extension.
- 4) Committee directed to share the assessments reports to acquire physical assets with the Committee in next meeting.
- 5) Committee directed that all the Ministries/Divisions should adopt their website templates as per the template given by NITB by the end of June, 2020.
- 6) Committee directed that the detail of legal expenses incurred by the Ministry on the litigation over the issue of payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET) may be shared with the Committee in next meeting.

13. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

(Muhammad Azam)  
Secretary Committee

(Senator Rubina Khalid)  
Chairperson Committee

## **SENATE SECRETARIAT**

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. in Higher Education Commission Building, Sector H-9/4, East Service Road, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:

10) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
11) Senator Sana Jamali	Member
12) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
13) Senator Faisal Javed	Member
14) Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member

14. The lists of other participants of Ministries/Divisions present in the meeting and the Vice Chancellors of various Universities who were present online are attached herewith.

15. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i). Further discussion on the problems being faced by the students of remote areas of the country in taking online classes due to low or no internet services in remote areas.
- (iii) Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.

16. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed all the participants present physically and online and also appreciated the efforts of HEC for making arrangements of video link of a number of Universities.

### **Agenda Item No. I:**

17. Chairman HEC briefed the Committee about the current status of imparting of online education to the students and informed the Committee that 110,000 online courses are being taught by the Universities and 44000 teachers have been trained to impart online education. He further informed that 88% Universities have reported that they are prepared for imparting online education to their students.

18. At this point, the Hon'ble Chairperson drew attention of the Chairman HEC towards the aspect of affordability of the students to equip themselves with the Internet data packages and devices like laptops/tablets to benefit themselves from the online education. The Chairperson directed PTA and USF to play their role to ask the Internet service providers and mobile phone companies to ensure provision of cheap student packages and mobile devices for the students. The Committee urged the Federal Government to enhance the funds for HEC.

19. Senator Fida Muhammad enquired about the names of the Universities which are not yet prepared for online education and further enquired that if they are not prepared for online education then how these Universities are giving education to their students. Chairman HEC replied that there are ten such Universities.

20. Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan briefed the preparedness of the University to impart online education. He complained about the lack of network facilities in many areas of Balochistan like Qalat, Khuzdar.



21. At this point, the Hon'ble Chairperson enquired from Chairman HEC about the mode of imparting education to the research students who have to remain physically present in the Laboratories for experimental work. The Chairman HEC stated that the core experimental work is being deferred for research students but the work which can be done online is being done at present.

22. The Chairperson asked about the criteria of promotion of the students to next class without conducting exams and also expressed concern over the merit calculation formula for the students of Intermediate who have to sit in the admission tests for medical and engineering degrees. Chairman HEC stated that complete information is available on the HEC website. He informed the Committee that the merit for the admissions to the Medical, Engineering and other professional degrees will be determined from the result of entry tests only and not through the previous formula wherein the weightage is also given to metric/F.Sc marks. The Chairperson urged that all the stakeholders should suggest short term solution which are doable and can be implemented within a short time.

23. The VCs of various Universities who were present online expressed their concerns and by and large every VC pointed out the lack of funds with their Universities which is a big hurdle to equip the Universities with necessary equipment to impart online education. The VCs of University of Baltistan, Skardu and Karakorum University Gilgit presented very rosy picture and they informed that they are covering almost 100% of their students through online education.

24. The representative of Private Schools Association stated that almost 80% private schools are facing financial difficulties in imparting online education and there are only few big school chains which have no funding issues. The Chairperson asked the Chairman HEC to direct the Public Sector Universities to give technical and infrastructural support to the schools falling within their territory.

25. The Director General, HEC pointed out that HEC requires some subsidy to acquire technical equipment and have International licenses which are very costly and huge amounts have to be paid towards such licenses and equipment. The Chairperson directed PTA to sit with HEC and work out a plan for provision of subsidized services for HEC and Universities.

26. The representative of PTA informed that PTCL has been asked to enhance its network in Southern Balochistan, erstwhile FATA and AJK and PTCL has increased 5000 connections in such areas. Hot spots have been created in many remote areas where students can come and download/upload their data.

27. USF informed the Committee that they have recently launched new projects in Balochistan and erstwhile FATA except some areas where there are security issues whereas USF has no mandate to operate in AJK/GB. Data centers are not within the mandate of USF. The Chairperson directed that USF should discuss the issue of data centers with the HEC and workout a proposal.

28. In juxta position, the Committee recommended as under:-

- i. **The Federal Government should increase the funding for Higher Education and 103 Billion Rupees demand of HEC should be met with by the Federal Government.**
- ii. **The Committee recommended that the Universities should also provide technical and Infrastructural support/assistance to the affiliated colleges as well as to the schools within their area.**
- iii. **The Committee recommended that Chairman PTA and Chairman FBR should sit together to chalk out a plan to reduce the taxes on Internet/Broadband services and mobile devices so that the students can afford internet packages and devices.**
- iv. **The Committee recommended that soft loans should be provided to the students for Internet gadgets/devices.**

- v. PTA should direct all telecom companies to offer affordable student data packages including devices and send details thereof to the Committee.

29. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

(Muhammad Azam)  
Secretary Committee

(Senator Rubina Khalid)  
Chairperson Committee

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. in Old PIPS Hall, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:-

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1) Senator Rubina Khalid                | Chairperson |
| 2) Senator Faisal Javed                 | Member      |
| 3) Senator Sana Jamali                  | Member      |
| 4) Senator Rukhsana Zuberi              | Member      |
| 5) Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri | Member      |

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i). Consideration of Public Petition No. 3220, of Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, a PTCL Pensioner, pertaining to non-implementation of Special Report of the Senate Standing Committee on IT & Telecom adopted by the Senate in its sitting held on 28th January, 2020, and judgment of Islamabad High Court of dated 3rd March, 2020, regarding non-payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET), referred by the Chairman Senate for consideration and report within thirty working days.
- (ii). Consideration of Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini in the Senate sitting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, regarding non-availability of Internet facility in the areas of Daag, Aarangi and Battu, etc, province of Balochistan, referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report.
- (iii). Consideration of Points of Public Importance raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh in the Senate sittings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 and referred by the House, regarding:-
  - a) Problems being faced by young IT Professionals and Investors due to non-serious attitude of the Government and;
  - b) Imposition of ban on Social Media applications in Pakistan.
- (iv). Reasons for non-increase in pension of the TIP pensioners Haripur, for the year 2019-20 as announced by the Government during the last year.
- (v). Reasons and justification for blocking of Financial Transfer Service "Easypaisa" of all notable Politicians by Telenor.
- (vi). Briefing on the role, mandate and capability of Engro Enfrashare to provide Telecom infrastructure facilities across Pakistan, under its TTP and TIP licenses issued by Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA).
- (vii). Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.



3. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed all participants of the meeting.

**Item No. I: Consideration of Public Petition No. 3220, of Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, a PTCL Pensioner, pertaining to non-implementation of Special Report of the Senate Standing Committee on IT & Telecom adopted by the Senate in its sitting held on 28th January, 2020, and judgment of Islamabad High Court of dated 3rd March, 2020, regarding non-payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET), referred by the Chairman Senate for consideration and report within thirty working days.**

4. Secretary M/O IT & Telecom briefed the Committee about the latest happenings in the case. Committee was informed that the displeasure of the Committee has been conveyed to PTET in order to avoid undesirable situation and to ensure making of possible efforts leading to settlement of the issue. The Committee was informed that meeting of the PTET Board has recently been held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 wherein some decisions regarding enhancement of minimum pension has been made which will be implemented without any delay.

5. The Chairperson expressed serious concern over the delaying tactics by the PTET and stressed upon implementation of the recommendations of the Committee in this regard in letter and spirit. The Members were of the view that the objective of creation of the Trust was the welfare of the pensioners but the Trust is working in violation of its mandate. Chairperson stated that the Trust is the custodian of the funds and not the owner of the funds so the utilization of the funds is not entirely on the wishes of the Trust.

6. Managing Director, PTET also briefed the Committee about the financial impact of implementation of the recommendations and the decisions of the courts in this regard. The Chairperson snubbed the MD, PTET by saying that PTET is not giving charity to the pensioners rather it is the right of the pensioners.

7. The Committee directed MD, PTET to share with the Committee the rental agreements of the properties lent out by PTET. Committee further directed to share the data of the pensioners died since 2010.

8. Secretary M/O IT & Telecom suggested that an informal meeting may be arranged so that some confidential issues may be brought in the notice of the Committee to arrive at a doable solution. Further discussion on the agenda item was deferred.

**Item No. II: Consideration of Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini in the Senate sitting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, regarding non-availability of Internet facility in the areas of Daag, Aarangi and Battu, etc, province of Balochistan, referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report.**

9. The agenda item was deferred due to absence of the Mover.

**Item No. III: Consideration of Points of Public Importance raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh in the Senate sittings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 and referred by the House, regarding: Problems being faced by young IT Professionals and Investors due to non-serious attitude of the Government and; Imposition of ban on Social Media applications in Pakistan.**

10. Briefing was given by the Manager Monitoring, IGNITE, M/O IT & Telecom about some initiatives of the Government to train and engage the youth in IT based businesses like

Digiskills and freelancing, however, further consideration of the agenda item was deferred due to absence of the Mover.

**Item No. IV: Reasons for non-increase in pension of the TIP pensioners Haripur, for the year 2019-20 as announced by the Government during the last year.**

11. Joint Secretary, M/O IT & Telecom briefed the Committee about the agenda item and informed that the Board has referred the matter back to the HR Committee to respond the queries of the Board and on receipt of report from HR Committee the matter will be placed before the Board of Directors in its next meeting. The Chairperson directed to expedite the matter. Further consideration was deferred.

**Item No. V: Reasons and justification for blocking of Financial Transfer Service "Easypaisa" of all notable Politicians by Telenor.**

12. Director, BPRD, State Bank of Pakistan briefed the Committee about the agenda item. He was of the view that due to requirements of FATF some extra checks have been imposed especially on Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs). The Chairperson informed that the matter has been placed on the agenda on written complaint by former Senator Farhatullah Babar who is a seasoned politician and a non-controversial person. However, due to absence of the Mover, further consideration of the agenda item was deferred.

**Item No. VI: Briefing on the role, mandate and capability of Engro Enfrashare to provide Telecom infrastructure facilities across Pakistan, under its TTP and TIP licenses issued by Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA).**

13. Chief Corporate Officer, Engro Enfrashare, gave presentation to the Committee about the vision of the Company and future goals towards the development of IT based infrastructure in the country. The Committee appreciated the work of the Company and offered any support from the Committee to fulfill their goals. The CCO of the Company informed that the Government has already given them tax relief in the current budget which is a big relief for this sector.

**Item VII: Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.**

14. The Chairperson suggested the Secretary M/O IT & Telecom to develop a program for linkage of police departments of all the provinces and Islamabad for better coordination and information sharing.

15. Secretary informed that they have already developed such a program in consultation with all stakeholders upon which a briefing can be given to the Committee in any meeting of the Committee if brought on the agenda.

16. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

(Muhammad Azam)  
Secretary Committee

(Senator Rubina Khalid)  
Chairperson Committee

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

**Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

The following Members attended the meeting:-

1) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2) Senator Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
3) Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
4) Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
5) Senator Taj Afridi	Member
6) Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
7) Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini	Mover

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (viii). Further consideration of Public Petition No. 3220, of Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, a PTCL Pensioner, pertaining to non-implementation of Special Report of the Senate Standing Committee on IT & Telecom adopted by the Senate in its sitting held on 28th January, 2020, and judgment of Islamabad High Court of dated 3rd March, 2020, regarding non-payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET), referred by the Chairman Senate for consideration and report within thirty working days.
- (ix). Consideration of Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini in the Senate sitting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, regarding non-availability of Internet facility in the areas of Daag, Aarangi and Battu, etc, province of Balochistan, referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report.
- (x). Consideration of Points of Public Importance raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh in the Senate sittings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 and referred by the House, regarding:-
  - c) Problems being faced by young IT Professionals and Investors due to non-serious attitude of the Government and;
  - d) Imposition of ban on Social Media applications in Pakistan.
- (xi). Follow up briefing by the National Response Center for Cyber Crimes (NR3C) on the issue of propagation and defamation on Facebook against Senator Kalsoom Parveen.
- (xii). Reasons and justification for blocking of Financial Transfer Service "Easy Paisa" of all notable Politicians by Telenor.
- (xiii). Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.

3. The meeting commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. The Chairperson welcomed all participants of the meeting.

**Item No. I: Further consideration of Public Petition No. 3220, of Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, a PTCL Pensioner, pertaining to non-implementation of Special**

**Report of the Senate Standing Committee on IT & Telecom adopted by the Senate in its sitting held on 28th January, 2020, and judgment of Islamabad High Court of dated 3rd March, 2020, regarding non-payment of increase in pension to the retired employees of PTCL by the Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Trust (PTET), referred by the Chairman Senate for consideration and report within thirty working days.**

4. After consideration of the matter at some length, the Committee issued the following directions to Mr. Farooq, G.M PTET:

- i. Minutes of the meetings of the Board of PTET on the issue of pension of PTCL employees may be shared with the Committee.
- ii. The Notification issued by PTET for increase in pension of PTCL employees may be held back till the payment of arrears to the pensioners.
- iii. Ministry of IT & Telecom may suggest amendments in the Act to provide for casting vote of the Chairman of the Board.
- iv. Committee directed that all the Board Members may be called to attend the next meeting.

Further consideration of the agenda item was deferred.

**Item No. II: Consideration of Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Dr. Jahanzeb Jamaldini in the Senate sitting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, regarding non-availability of Internet facility in the areas of Daag, Aarangi and Battu, etc. province of Balochistan, referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report.**

5. The agenda item was discussed at a length. Senator Dr. Jahanzeb Jamaldini expressed serious concern over the low coverage in the areas causing great problems to the people of the area especially the students.

6. Member PTA and D.G (Licensing) PTA briefed the Committee that the coverage of Ufone and Zong is available in the areas under question. However, they were of the view that due to the International restriction of installation of towers beyond 10 km from the Border to avoid the signal spill over, there are some coverage issues in the border areas. D.G (Licensing) PTA informed the Committee that the issue has been taken up with the GHQ as well and an agreement has been made that towers can be installed beyond 3 km from Border.

7. MD, USF informed the Committee that lot for the areas under discussion has been auctioned which will be submitted on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 and then the issue will be resolved. He further stated that if the restriction of 10 km is relaxed then the coverage will further enhance.

8. Committee directed that PTA and USF shall send their representatives to have a meeting with Senator Dr. Jahanzeb Jamaldini in order to have actual survey of the area to resolve the actual issue. MD, USF and Member PTA agreed that they will coordinate with the Senator and send their representatives to have a meeting with the Senator.

9. Senator Dr. Jahanzeb Jamaldini requested the Chairperson that the matter may not be disposed of till its final solution. The Committee agreed to carry forward the agenda item till its resolution.

**Item No. III: Consideration of Points of Public Importance raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh in the Senate sittings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 and referred by the House, regarding; Problems being faced by young IT Professionals and Investors due to non-serious attitude of the Government and; Imposition of ban on Social Media applications in Pakistan.**



10. The agenda item was deferred on written request of the Mover.

**Item No. IV: Follow up briefing by the National Response Center for Cyber Crimes (NR3C) on the issue of propagation and defamation on Facebook against Senator Kalsoom Parveen.**

11. Additional Director, FIA Cyber Crimes Wing informed the Committee that next date of hearing in the case is 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 in the court of Magistrate. The investigation will be finalized once the permission to investigate the accused is received from the Court.

12. Senator Kalsoom Parveen informed the Committee that she has been victimized due to the grudge that as Convener of sub-committee she had investigated and reported back to the House the corruption in the Swan Garden Housing Society. The father of the person who is leveling allegations against her was the Secretary of the Society. They had offered her illegal gratification which she refused, therefore, he being a so-called journalist is propagating false allegations against her.

13. Senator Abdul Rehman Malik endorsed the stance of the Member and stated that he being the Chairman of Standing Committee on Interior will take up the issue in his Committee.

**Item No. V: Reasons and justification for blocking of Financial Transfer Service "Easy Paisa" of all notable Politicians by Telenor.**

14. Agenda item was deferred.

**Item VII: Any other agenda item with permission of the Chair.**

15. Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem pointed out the need of provision of 4G enabled hand sets and tablets to the students at affordable rates. He proposed that the PTA being the regulator should guarantee the Telcos and the Banks to provide such devices on easy installments.

16. The Chairperson was of the view that there is no need to involve new manufacturers or dealers in this business but in fact the already working service providers may be asked to provide the latest handsets and tablets along with affordable packages to the students on the guarantee of PTA that PTA will ban the CNIC of defaulters and will make sure that no service can be availed on the blocked CNIC.

17. Member PTA assured that PTA will take up this issue on urgent basis and will regulate the same.

18. The Chairperson pointed out the deduction of withholding tax on mobile cards even from the persons who do not come within the tax net. She was of the view that this issue needs to be looked into.

19. Additional Secretary, M/O IT & Telecom informed the Committee that this issue was taken up by the Ministry with FBR but the FBR refused to do the same.

20. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

(Muhammad Azam)  
Secretary Committee

(Senator Rubina Khalid)  
Chairperson Committee

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: - **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATION.**

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology & Telecommunication was held on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House Islamabad, under the Chairpersonship of Senator Rubina Khalid.

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- I. Further consideration of Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini, in the Senate Sitting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, regarding non-availability of internet facility in the areas of Daag, Aaranji and Battu, etc, Province of Balochistan.
- II. Consideration of Points of Public Importance raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh in the Senate sittings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, regarding: -
  - a) Problems being faced by young IT Professionals and Investors due to non-serious attitude of the Government and;
  - b) Imposition of ban on Social Media applications in Pakistan.
- III. National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NRC) to brief on the following issues: -
  - a. Implementation status of the recommendations made by the Committee in its meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, pursuant to the briefing made into the matter referred by the Chairman Senate regarding defamation and loss to reputation of Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi by spreading false and concocted allegations through fake gmail accounts.
  - b. Follow up/ current status of the child abuse for filming and uploading videos on dark-web with reference to the case reported in the area of Rawat, Rawalpindi, as directed by the Committee in its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.
- iv. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The following members of the Committee also attended the meeting: -

- |    |                                    |        |
|----|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Senator Kalsoom Parveen            | Member |
| 2. | Senator Fida Muhammad              | Member |
| 3. | Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi        | Member |
| 4. | Senator Faisal Javed               | Member |
| 5. | Senator Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo    | Member |
| 6. | Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh | Mover  |



4. The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran. Thereafter hon'ble Chairperson of the Committee Senator Rubina Khalid welcomed all the participants and thanked the members of the Committee for attending the meeting.

**Agenda Item Nos.I** Further consideration of Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini, in the Senate Sitting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, regarding non-availability of internet facility in the areas of Daag, Aaranji and Battu, etc. Province of Balochistan.

5. The discussion on the Agenda item was deferred on the request of the Mover who could not attend the meeting due to his personal pre-engagement.

**Agenda Item No.II** Consideration of Points of Public Importance raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh in the Senate sittings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, regarding; -

- a) Problems being faced by young IT Professionals and Investors due to non-serious attitude of the Government and;
- b) Imposition of ban on Social Media applications in Pakistan.

6. The mover lamented absence of any measures by the government for resolving the issues of young IT professionals and startups in the country. He demanded to know if any steps had been taken in this regard during last three years. The Committee was briefed on the steps being taken by the government for young IT professional, freelancers and investors.

7. However, the Committee members expressed dissatisfaction over the reply given by the I.T. Ministry. The Committee, therefore, unanimously demanded and directed the IT Ministry to give a comprehensive briefing in the next meeting enumerating in detail all steps being, or having been, taken to address problems of young IT professionals and encourage investors in the field.

**b) Imposition of ban on social media applications in Pakistan**

8. The Committee was briefed regarding banning of Tik Tok and five other social media apps by PTA. To a question, the Committee was informed that Tik Tok app had been banned under section 37 (1) of Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act 2016, pursuant to the complaints lodged by Punjab and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa provincial assemblies, public and lawsuits with respect to content being indecent and immoral, the Committee was further briefed.

9. The process/mechanism provided under the law to block tik tok and other such websites that fail to remove objectionable content despite repeated notices by PTA was also explained to the Committee. The Mover was of the view that such bans were an anathema to foreign investment and discouraged multinational companies and social media platforms.

10. He called for nurturing strong linkages with multinational web-based platforms like PayPal to come and invest in Pakistan. The Committee was of the view that banning was not a permanent solution, rather ways and means should be developed to minimize misuse.

11. The Chairperson of the Committee Senator Rubina Khalid took strong exception to lack of action and measures to counter and check generation of child abuse web content in the country, which, she added, along with free availability of some non-prescription sex-

enhancement drugs were leading causes of rising child abuse cases and demanded for prompt action against generation of such objectionable web content and advertisement of sex-enhancement drugs on mobile phones. The Chairperson also questioned delay in action and proceedings against child pornography accused like Sohail Ayaz. At that juncture, the Chairperson demanded that the PTA and Ministry of I.T. should take concrete steps and direct all the telecom operators to float awareness through public service messages against child abuse, use of narcotics, and smoking health hazards over mobile phones. The Chairman PTA assured the Committee that he will do the needful in the matter and inform the Committee accordingly and PTA will get the related text approved by the Committee.

**Agenda Item No.III National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NRC) to brief on the following issues: -**

- a. Implementation status of the recommendations made by the Committee in its meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, pursuant to the briefing made into the matter referred by the Chairman Senate regarding defamation and loss to reputation of Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi by spreading false and concocted allegations through fake gmail accounts.
- b. Follow up/ current status of the child abuse for filming and uploading videos on dark-web with reference to the case reported in the area of Rawat, Rawalpindi, as directed by the Committee in its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

12. The Committee was briefed that all evidences including blood reports of three child victims showing traces of drugs like Ice and objectionable content related to child abuse from laptop had been gathered. As many as four cases, three of child abuse and one of narcotics, had been registered against the accused.

13. The Committee was also briefed on the details of criminal (theft) cases registered against one child accused. The Committee was told all proceedings in the case had been completed and now the final decision was awaited pending final hearing. The police were directed to update the Committee on further proceedings and final outcome in the next hearing of the case.

14. The Committee made the following recommendations unanimously: -

**Agenda Item No.II (a)**

1. The IT Ministry to give a comprehensive briefing in the next meeting enumerating in detail all steps being, or having been, taken to address problems of young IT professionals and encourage investors in the field.

**Agenda Item No.II (b)**

2. Nurture strong linkages with multinational web-based platforms and apps like PayPal to come and invest in Pakistan.
3. Banning social media websites and forums is not a permanent solution so ways and means should be developed to minimize misuse instead of imposing bans.

4. IT Ministry and PTA to take strong action against generation of web-based child abuse/pornography content in Pakistan.
5. IT Ministry and PTA to take strong action against uncontrolled advertisement of sex-enhancement drugs on mobile phones and social media platforms.
6. Legal action and criminal proceedings against child pornography accused like Sohail Ayaz should be put on fast track.

**Agenda item No.III (b)**

7. Police to update the Committee on further proceedings and final outcome of the next hearing of the case.
8. The minister for IT and Telecom to ensure his presence in the next meeting.
15. The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

**(HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH)**  
A.S / Secretary Committee

**(SENATOR RUBINA KHALID)**  
Chairperson Committee

**THANKS**