



SENATE OF PAKISTAN

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION (From October, 2019 to March, 2021)

**PRESENTED BY
SENATOR KHUSHBAKHT SHUJAT
Chairperson of SSC on National Health Services,
Regulations and Coordination**

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PREFACE

Parliamentary oversight of the Executive Branch includes the review, monitoring and supervision of Federal Agencies, programmes, activities and policy implementation. The Parliament exercises this power through the Standing Committees. Oversight is manifested in a wide variety of parliamentary activities and contexts. It provides checks and balances.

This report provides an overview of the major assignments that Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination performed.

While presenting this report, I do believe that I remained unable to cope with the gigantic task assigned to me. There is not one but many reasons. Unfortunately, the oversight function of Parliamentary Committees does not provide enough power so as to make it a potent tool to keep a check on the Executive. All such deficiencies, flaws and lacunae require a comprehensive reform in the Committee system. However, the Committee Members were not only very competent but also qualified doctors who were quite skillful and had a list of accomplishments in the medical profession. Their presence always provided a guide line for us while proceeding the Committee and also understanding the technical field of medical sciences.

My tenure as a Chairperson of the Standing Committee spreads over almost 18 months and in this span of time Covid-19 also hindered our way in Committee proceedings. However we did our best to accomplish the tasks that were assigned to the Committee. I hope and trust that the continuous process of oversight of the Executive Branch will continue in the years to come.

SUGGESTIONS

It is suggested that in the next Parliamentary Year, a Review Committee should be formed to strengthen the Committee system and also to remove the hurdles and lacunae in terms of rules and regulations. All over the world the system of committees changed and expanded substantially over time. It has provided the parliament with more scrutiny over Government Departments and Ministries. Accountability through Parliament is demand of the time and I believe that the Committee system with presence of members from all parties can hold the Ministries more accountable in a fair and judicious way. Unfortunately institutions like NAB became disputed only because we did not strengthen the Parliamentary system of oversight.

Had the Parliamentary forum of committees provided a high standard of scrutiny over the executive, the disputed accountability mechanism might not have surfaced.

We need to bring comprehensive reform in the Parliamentary Committees in timely and cost effective way. Such fundamental reforms in the Committee system will be quite in line with the parliamentary spirit of examining expenditure, legislation, public works and other relevant matters that would not have been better investigated by other bodies.

Ensuring implementation of the recommendations made by Committees is another uphill task. At times very fair, impartial and judicious array of recommendations are ignored by the executives just for nothing. Petty political differences hinder the way of implementation. Many recommendations of the Committee can bring reform in the system without spending a single penny from the exchequer. The

only thing is that the Parliamentary forum needs to be empowered to ensure implementation with certain limitations.

While public policy issues are growing more complex, the need for insightful and comprehensive analyses has become more vital. We need to reform the Committee system at every stage of the legislative process — from the early consideration that precede bill drafting, through Committee hearings and floor debate, to the oversight of enacted laws and various agencies' activities.

We have to evolve a research-based system to marshal interdisciplinary resource, encourage critical thinking and initiate innovative framework to help legislators form sound policies and reach decisions on a host of difficult issues. These decisions will guide the nation today and for generations to come.



(Senator Khushbakht Shujat)
Chairperson Committee


COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

1.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat - Chairperson	Chairperson
2.	Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
3.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
4.	Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
5.	Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
6.	Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
7.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
8.	Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
9.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
10.	Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
11.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
12.	Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
13.	Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member

**Profile of the Chairperson, Members and
Secretary Committee of the Standing Committee**

Khushbakht Shujat

Chairperson

Name:	Khushbakht Shujat	
Tenure:	March 2015 to March 2021	
Province:	Sindh	
Party:	Mutahidda Qaumi Movement (MQM)	
Seat Description:	General	

Contact Detail

Office Number:	051-9223959
Mobile Number:	0300-8292085
Fax Number:	051-9223975
E-mail:	khushbakhtshujat@hotmail.com
Local Address:	A-202, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address:	31-A, Block 6, P.E.C.H.S., Main Shara-e-Faisal, Karachi.

Committee (s)

Membership of Committees:	<u>National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (Chairperson Committee)</u> <u>Council of Chairpersons</u> <u>Climate Change Caucus</u> <u>Information and Broadcasting</u> <u>Maritime Affairs</u> <u>Railways</u> <u>Commerce</u> <u>Water Scarcity</u> <u>Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)</u> <u>Committee of the Whole</u>
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Academic Career

Qualification:	MA, University of Karachi (1972)
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Other Information

Tamgha-e-Imtiaz

Sitara-e-Imtiaz

Ex-Member of National Assembly of Pakistan

President Pakistan Hockey Federation (Women Wing)

Principal & Administrator Kids University, Karachi

Member Syndicate, Karachi University, Karachi

Former Vice President, Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi

Director, HUM T.V.


Chairperson, Pakistan Education Welfare Foundation

Chairperson, Qalam Dost

Member Central Executive Committee (MQM)

Dr. Ashok Kumar

Member

Name:	Dr. Ashok Kumar	
Tenure:	March 2015 to March 2021	
Province:	Balochistan	
Party:	National Party (NP)	
Seat Description:	Non Muslim	

Contact Detail


Home Number:	0853-302889, 303368
Mobile Number:	0333-3533888
Local Address:	E-211, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.

Academic Career

Qualification:	MBBS Sindh Medical College, Karachi University (1989)
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Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi

Member

Name:	Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	
Tenure:	March 2015 to March 2021	
Province:	Punjab	
Party:	Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz PML-N	
Seat Description:	General	

Contact Detail


Home Number:	0483-224686
Mobile Number:	0300, 0321-6070722
Fax Number:	0454-720655
E-mail:	drghousniazi@gmail.com
Local Address:	G-309, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address:	7-A Civil Line Joharabad, Khushab.

Academic Career

Qualification:	MBBS Punjab University Lahore (1986)
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Ayesha Raza Farooq

Member

Name:	Ayesha Raza Farooq	
Tenure:	March 2015 to March 2021	
Province:	Punjab	
Party:	Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz PML-N	
Seat Description:	Women	

Contact Detail

Office Number: 051-9223976, 051-9022676, 042-35717767-8

Fax Number: 051-9223975

E-mail: ayesha.r.farooq@gmail.com

Local Address: Office of the Chairperson, Senate Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, Room No.15, Senate Standing Committees Building, Ataturk Avenue, Islamabad. 104-F, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.

Permanent Address: 69-J, Model Town, Lahore.

Committee (s)

Committee Member: Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges (Chairperson Committee)
Council of Chairpersons
Climate Change Caucus
Circular Debt
Senate Library Committee
Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs
National Health Services Regulations and Coordination
Law and Justice
Human Rights
Child Protection
Committee of the whole
To review the existing Rules of the Procedure and Conduct of Business

Academic Career

Qualification: MBA, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).
Dean's Honor List, 1995 L.L.B, Punjab Law College, University of Punjab. Gold Medalist, 2013

Liaqat Khan Tarakai

Member

Name: Liaqat Khan Tarakai
Tenure: March 2015 to March 2021
Province: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Party: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf PTI
Seat Description: General



Contact Detail


Home Number: 0938-312973
Mobile Number: 0345,0300-8484295
E-mail: tarakaihouse@gmail.com
Local Address: i. J-05, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. ii. H.No.238, St-04, F-10/3, Islamabad.
Permanent Address: Tarakai House, Tarakai, Tehsil, Razar, District. Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Academic Career

Qualification: Secondary School Certificate (1970)

Dr. Sikandar Mandhro

Member

Name:	Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	
Tenure:	March 2018 to March 2024	
Province:	Sindh	
Party:	Pakistan People s Party Parliamentary PPP-P	
Seat Description:	Technocrats Including Ulama	

Contact Detail

Mobile Number:	0344-2029616 / 0300-9291438
Local Address:	F-310, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad
Permanent Address:	302-Bon Vista Apartment, Clifton-II, Karachi

Rubina Khalid

Member

Name:	Rubina Khalid	
Tenure:	March 2018 to March 2024	
Province:	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Party:	Pakistan People s Party Parliamentarian 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.
Permanent Address:	H.No.45-A, Street No.38, F-10/4, Islamabad.

Committee (s)

Committee Member:	<u>Information Technology and Telecommunication (Chairperson Committee)</u> <u>Child Protection (Chairperson Committee)</u> <u>Council of Chairpersons</u> <u>Delegated Legislation</u> <u>Cabinet Secretariat</u> <u>Information and Broadcasting</u> <u>National Health Services Regulations and Coordination</u> <u>The Promotion and Development of Football in the Country</u> <u>Committee of the whole</u>
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Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani

Member

Name:	Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	
Tenure:	March 2018 to March 2024	
Province:	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Party:	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf PTI	
Seat Description:	Women	

Contact Detail

Mobile Number:	0321-2818292
Local Address:	H-108, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad
Permanent Address:	House No.7, Street -I Phase-I, Sector E-3 Hayatabad, Peshawar

Committee (s)

Parliamentary Committee on Appointment of the Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (Chairperson Committee)

Federal Education, Professional Training, National History & Literary Heritage

Devolution

National Health Services Regulations and Coordination


Government Assurances

Human Rights

Committee of the whole

Dilawar Khan

Member

Name:	Dilawar Khan	
Tenure:	March 2018 to March 2024	
Province:	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Party:	Independent IND	
Seat Description:	Technocrats including Ulema	

Contact Detail

Home Number:	0937-561792-99
Mobile Number:	0300-5700316
Local Address:	J-12, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad
Permanent Address:	Khan Qela Par Hoti Mardan

Committee (s)

Senate Implementation Committee (Chairperson Committee)

The Promotion and Development of Football in the Country (Chairperson Committee)

Council of Chairpersons

Defence

Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs

National Health Services Regulations and Coordination

Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges

Commerce


Power

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

Bahramand Khan Tangi

Member


Name:	Bahramand Khan Tangi	
Tenure:	March 2018 to March 2024	
Province:	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	
Party:	Pakistan People s Party Parliamentary PPP-P	
Seat Description:	General	

Contact Detail

Mobile Number:	0300-5821242
Local Address:	C-410, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad
Permanent Address:	H. No.74/B, Main Abdora Road University Town Peshawar

Sana Jamali

Member


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

Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen

Member

Name:	Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	
Tenure:	March 2018 to March 2024	
Province:	Balochistan	
Party:	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party PMAP	
Seat Description:	General	

Contact Detail

Home Number:	081-2880871
Mobile Number:	0313-7764641
Local Address:	J-111, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad
Permanent Address:	231-B, Chilton Housing Scheme Air Port Road Quetta

Committee (s)

Narcotics Control (Chairperson Committee)

Council of Chairpersons

Interior

National Health Services Regulations and Coordination

Railways

Problems of Less Developed Areas

Senate House Committee

Water Scarcity

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

Committee of the whole

Dr. Asad Ashraf

Member

Name:	Dr. Asad Ashraf
Tenure:	March 2015 to March 2021
Province:	Punjab
Party:	Independent IND
Seat Description:	General
In Vice of:	Nehal Hashmi




Contact Detail

Mobile Number:	0300-4314901, 0333- 4277687
Local Address:	G-405, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad

Javaid Iqbal

Sr. DG / Secretary Committee

Name:	Javaid Iqbal	
Designation:	Senior Director General	
Office Phone:	9103255	
E-mail:	javaid.iqbal@senate.gov.pk iqbaljavaid662@gmail.com	

Sittings of the Committee:

Total meetings held = 15

07.10.2019	19.11.2019	04.12.2019 19.12.2019	14.01.2020	12.02.2020	11.03.2020	---

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Matters referred by the House or the Chairman (Including pending issues):

Sl. No.	Referred Matters	Referred Date	Presented in the House
1.	<u>Sr.No.1:</u> Adjournment Motion regarding the fake Clinics and Dispensaries operating in the rural areas increasing fatality rate in the Country moved by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh on 30 th August, 2018.	30.08.2018	01.01.2020.
2.	<u>Sr.No.3</u> Point of Public Importance regarding High charges of private hospitals and laboratories and pathetic condition of public hospital in Islamabad raised by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbas on 6 th March, 2019.	06.03.2019	10.01.2020
3.	<u>(Sr.No.4):</u> Starred Question No.201 regarding the fact that the Government has formulated a plan to upgrade 30 hospitals to treat the multi-drug resistant TB cases asked by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh on 8 th May, 2019.	08.05.2019	01.01.2020
4.	<u>(Sr.No.5):</u> Starred Question No.65 regarding Construction of Shifa International Hospital on charity land with an aim to function as a charity hospital raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh on 5 th March, 2019.	05.03.2019	22.01.2021
5.	<u>Sr.No.6:</u> "The Unani Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Practitioner (Amendment) Bill, 2019" introduced by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani on 6th January, 2020 referred to SSC on NHR&C for consideration and report.	06.01.2020	04.03.2020
6.	<u>Sr.No.7:</u> Point of Public Importance regarding "Officers who are working in different hospitals in Islamabad on additional charge basis for a long time" moved by Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen on 13th January, 2020 referred to the SSC on NHR&C.	13.01.2020	Extension was not granted by Chairman therefore CLOSED.
7.	<u>Case No.8.</u> Point of Public Importance regarding "Mushroom growth of private clinics and hospitals in Islamabad" moved by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi on 13th January, 2020 and referred to the SSC on NHR&C	13.01.2020	16.10.2020

8.	Sr.No.9: Point of Public Importance "The appointment in the Health Service Academy" moved by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi on 14th January, 2020 referred to the SSC on NHSR&C.	14.01.2020	Chairman did not grant extension further therefore CLOSED.
9.	Sr. No.10. Starred Question No.50 regarding the "Names and locations of pharmaceutical companies sealed on account of manufacturing spurious medicines in the country" during the last three years moved by Senator Abdul Rehman Malik on 14th January, 2020 referred to the SSC on NHSR&C.	14.01.2020	15.09.2020
10.	(Sr.No.11) Starred Question No.58 regarding "The percentage / coverage of immunization / vaccination of children under the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in the country at present" moved by Senator Dr.Mehr Taj Roghani on 14th January, 2020 referred to the SSC on NHSR&C.	14.01.2020	16.10.2020
11.	(Sr.No.12) Point of Public Importance regarding "Promotion cases of Senior Doctors at PIMS" raised by Senator Usman Khan Kakar on 20th January, 2020 referred to SSC on NHSR&C.	20.01.2020	15.09.2020
12.	(Sr.No.13) Point of Public Importance regarding "Outbreak of Corona Virus and Precautionary Measures in Pakistan", raised by Senator Zeeshan Khanzada on 28th January, 2020 and stood referred to the Standing Committee on NHSR&C for consideration.	28.01.2020	29.01.2021
13.	Case No.14: Point of Public Importance regarding "Ban on diploma certificate for the nurses resulting in shortage of paramedical staff in the country" raised By Senator Dr.Sikandar Mandhro in the Senate on 3rd February, 2020 referred to SSC on National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination for consideration and report.	03.02.2020	16.10.2020
14.	(Sr.No.15): "The Medical Tribunal Bill, 2019" introduced by Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati on 4 th March, 2020 referred to the SSC on NHSR&C for consideration and report.	04.03.2020	Lapsed

15.	<u>(Sr.No.16):</u> "The Pakistan Medical Commission Bill, 2019" introduced by Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati on 4 th March, 2020 referred to SSC on NHR&C for consideration and Report.	04.03.2020	Lapsed
16.	<u>(Sr.No.17):</u> Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif regarding "implementation of the concepts of virtual hospitals" on 10 th June, 2020.	10.06.2020	25.08.2020
17.	<u>(Sr.No.18):</u> "The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2020" introduced by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi on 13 th July, 2020.	13.07.2020	25.08.2020
18.	<u>(Sr.No.19):</u> Point of public importance regarding "Termination of Doctors from other provinces serving at PIMS" moved by Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi on 14 th May, 2020 referred to the SSC on NHR&C for consideration.	14.05.2020	15.09.2020
19.	<u>(Sr.No.20):</u> Starred Question No.40 regarding the prices of medicines could not be reduced despite the steps taken by the present Government raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh on 24 th July, 2020.	24.07.2020	22.01.2021
20.	<u>(Sr.No.21):</u> Starred Question No.51, regarding the number of pilgrims diagnosed with corona virus in quarantine center established in Taftan for the pilgrims returning raised by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed on 24 th July, 2020.	24.07.2020	15.09.2020
21.	<u>(Sr.No.22):</u> "Overall performance of the Federal Government Polyclinic Hospital, Islamabad" raised by Senator Kalsoom Perveen on 17 th August, 2020	17.08.2020	Mover died, therefore closed
22.	<u>(Sr.No.23):</u> Calling Attending Notice regarding "Rise of unregistered pharmacies and medical stores in the country being run without properly qualified and licensed pharmacists with particular reference to dysfunctional status of the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan, since September, 2019" moved by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi on 23 rd October, 2020.	23.10.2020	29.01.2021
23.	<u>(Sr.No.24):</u> Bill regarding "The Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Bill, 2020" moved by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi on 26 th October, 2020.	26.10.2020	Presented

24.	(Sr.No.25): Starred Question No.57 regarding the officials of WHO are performing duties in the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, asked by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed on 29 th October, 2020 in the Senate House.	29.10.2020	29.01.2021
25.	(Sr.No.26): Starred Question No.59 regarding the details of posts of Medical and Para Medical staff lying vacant in the Government Hospitals in Islamabad with hospital wise break up indicating also the steps taken/being taken by the government to fill in, asked by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh on 29 th October, 2020 in the Senate House.	29.10.2020	Presented
26.	(Sr.No.27) Point of Public Importance regarding "Conduct of examination by PMC Board without consulting the concerned Quarters" raised by Senator Sherry Rehman in the Senate sitting held on 22 nd January, 2021.	22.01.2021	Withdrawn
27.	(Sr.No.28) Point of Public Importance regarding "Discrimination among patients in FGPC (Federal Government Policy Clinic (Post Graduate Medical Institute), Islamabad was raised by Senator Rubina Khalid in the Senate sitting held on 22 nd January, 2021.	22.01.2021	Withdrawn
28.	(Sr.No.29) Calling Attention Notice regarding "COVID-19 Vaccination Plan of the Government ensuring early and equitable access of the public to the vaccine. The mechanism of administering the vaccine be shared with the Committee" raised by the Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq in the Senate sitting held on 29 th January, 2021.	29.01.2021	Withdrawn

Public Petitions Referred and Disposed:

SL No.	Number/ Subject of Public Petition	Date of Referral	Status of Petition	
			Date of Disposal	Pending/ under Consideration
1.	PP-2814	29.08.2019	04.12.2019	Disposed of
2.	PP-2851	30.10.2019	04.12.2019	Disposed of
3.	PP-2872	04.12.2019	11.03.2020	Disposed of
4.	PP-2893	24.12.2019	14.01.2020	Disposed of
5.	PP-3349	22.12.2021	06.01.2021	Disposed of
6.	PP-3421	12.01.2021	Withdrawn	

Meetings held;

Agenda Items with recommendations

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
REGULATIONS & COORDINATION

1st meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Service Regulations and Coordination was held on 7th October, 2019 in Committee Room No.1 Parliament House, Islamabad to elect its Chairperson as contemplated by Rule 184(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012. Additional Secretary (Committees) presided over the meeting.

2. The following Members of the Committee attended the meeting.

1. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Member
2. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
3. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
4. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
5. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
6. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
7. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
8. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member

3. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Additional Secretary (Committees) welcomed all the Members.

4. Nomination papers of Senator Khushbakht Shujat were filed, proposed by Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai and seconded by Senator Dilawar Khan. In pursuance of Rule 175 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, the nomination papers of Senator Khushbakht Shujat were found in order.

5. The Committee unanimously elected Senator Khushbakht Shujat as its Chairperson. She showed her resolve to streamline the Committee work as per rules and also that decisions of the Committee will be done with mutual harmony and consensus.

6. Referring to the previous Committee meeting some of the Senators showed their concern but regarded it as a welcoming gesture to go forward amicably. The Chairperson Committee welcomed the gesture of good will and reiterated that she will go ahead in all agenda items in a cordial, harmonious way. The whole of the Committee congratulated her on being elected as a Chairperson and reaffirmed their resolve to cooperate with the Chairperson in all the Committee matters.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATION AND COORDINATION

2nd meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on Tuesday, the 19th November, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
3. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
4. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
5. Senator Sikandar Mandhro	Member
6. Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
7. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
8. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
9. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
10. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
11. Senator Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Member

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

In-House meeting from 11.00 am to 12.00 p.m

- (i) To develop mechanism for adoption of effective and result oriented future course of action of the Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination. Secretary Committee to apprise the Chairperson and Members of the Committee about pending business.

Briefing by M/o Health Services, Regulations and Coordination

(from 12.00 pm to onwards)

- (ii) Starred Question No.201 regarding the fact that the Government has formulated a plan to upgrade 30 hospitals to treat the multi-drug resistant TB cases asked by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh.
- (iii) Public Petition-2814 moved by Mr.Suleman Samar regarding expiry of contract of the working staff in Bone Marrow Transplant Unit of Pakistan in PIMS and serious issues emerging out of the paucity of the same.
- (iv) Public Petitions 2851 moved by Mr.Haider Ali regarding arrangement of evening classes in medical colleges in Pakistan in order to provide more opportunities of medical education to prospective students.
- (v) Steps taken by the M/o NHR&C in the wake of 46th Issue of Seasonal Awareness and Alert Letter (SAAL) for Epidemic Prone Infectious Diseases in Pakistan issued by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad.
- (vi) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting. At the very outset In-Camera meeting was held to see backlog and chalk out way forward for the Committee business. The Chairperson emphasized to go ahead with harmony and consensus.

4. All the Committee members agreed to proceed with a patriotic approach, regarding the national interest as the top priority. The Senators were of the view that in Committees no action can be taken only to toe the party line rather the party affiliation is a secondary issue. The increasing tendency to become partisan results in lack of cooperation. Only Non-partisan approach will breed better results reflecting no political influence or bias.

5. After concluding the In-camera meeting, the usual meeting started with the other participants. Senators pointed out absence of the Minister concerned and the relevant staff. It was a matter of privilege and the Committee work should be granted precedence over other engagements. Being a supreme institution, the functions of Parliament cannot be fully carried out unless the Minister submits to the supremacy of the House thus showing sense of responsibility and answerability before the Standing Committee. The role of the Ministry is questionable, the Committee added.

6. The meeting ended with a note of protest as in views of the Committee, it was futile exercise to proceed further without presence of the Minister and relevant staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. The Committee recommended that presence of the Minister and the relevant staff is essential to run the Parliamentary business. Such a conduct on part of the Ministry is not in conformity to the parliamentary practices. The Ministry is answerable before the Senate Standing Committee and they must make it convenient to attend the meeting in future.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATION AND COORDINATION

3rd meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on Tuesday, the 4th December, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2.	Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
3.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
4.	Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
5.	Senator Sikandar Mandhro	Member
6.	Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
7.	Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
8.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
9.	Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
10.	Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
11.	Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member

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

- (i) Complaint lodged by Dr. Nauman Mehboob against negligence of doctors of the Burn Care Centre, PIMS, Islamabad forwarded by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi.
- (ii) Point of public importance regarding high charges of private hospitals and laboratories and pathetic condition of public hospitals raised by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi on 6th March, 2019.
- (iii) Adjournment Motion regarding fake clinics and dispensaries operating in the rural areas increasing fatality rate in the country moved by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh.
- (iv) Starred Question No.65 regarding construction of Shifa International Hospital on charity land raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh.
- (v) Starred Question No.201 regarding the fact that the Government has formulated a plan to upgrade 30 hospitals to treat the multi-drug resistant TB cases asked by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh.
- (vi) Public Petition-2814 moved by Mr.Suleman Samar regarding expiry of contract of the working staff in Bone Marrow Transplant Unit of Pakistan in PIMS and serious issues emerging out of the paucity of the same.
- (vii) Public Petitions 2851 moved by Mr.Haider Ali regarding arrangement of evening classes in medical colleges in Pakistan in order to provide more opportunities of medical education to prospective students.
- (viii) Steps taken by the M/o NHSR&C with reference to Seasonal Awareness and Alert Letter (SAAL) for Epidemic Prone Infectious Diseases in Pakistan issued by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad.

(ix) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda No.(i)

4. On item No.(i), the Burn Care Centre (BCC) the authorities briefed the Committee that the said incident took place before 1.30 a.m. in the morning, was brought to Military Hospital in a very critical condition with severe inhalation injuries because of flame burns. Emergency treatment was done in the Military Hospital. Later on the patient went to POF Hospital WahCantt at 03.44 am where he was again treated in emergency. As a last resort, the patient was brought to PIMS at 4.47 a.m. and subsequently he was moved to Burn Care Centre.

5. Senior M.O and PGR examined the patient and shifted him to emergency of Burn Care Centre as he was severely dehydrated with naked wounds. The following treatment was carried out:

- Wound assessment (TBSA 80-85% Full Thickness Deep Dermal Burns with Grade 3 Inhalational Injury)
- Dressing with Silver Sulphadiazine of whole body to prevent hypothermia.
- Maintenance of NEW LARGE BORE IV cannula (as one that was attached previously was blocked as no fluid was attached to it)
- Fluid Resuscitation by Parkland Formula, patient acute fluid resuscitation volume was 28 liter according to his weight and total burned surface area and only 1 liter of fluid was given to the patient throughout in the patient journey to burn center PIMS. And patient presented to us 5 hours late (according to patient attendants) which according to burn protocol is very late presentation as acute fluid to be given to the patient was 14 liters in first 8 hours. We have given 8 liter fluid to the patient during the patient management at BCC emergency 92 hours and 30 minutes).
- Injection Dicloran, Tetanus, Dexamethasone, Tanzo, Flagyl, Falgan and Nelbinwas given to the patient in emergency BCC. There was no written record of the previous management with the attendants and no treatment of any kind was given to patient apart 1 liter IV fluid at POF WahCantt Hospital (according to attendants)
- Oxygen was attached at 2 L/Hour.
- Foleys passed

6. It was also briefed that BCC, PIMS is just a 20 bedded tertiary care facility and no bed in ICU was available at that time however one bed got vacated and the patient was shifted to ICU.

7. As per reply of BCC there were 20 attendants of the patient and they were not cooperating with the doctors present at the moment so to seek consent of close relatives remained an uphill task for the doctors.

8. Dialysis was not a solution to the problem as it was not acute renal failure case. The ventilators setting and other overall management was supervised by the Senior Registrar who also counseled the attendants regarding the chances of prognosis of the patient.

9. The complainants also attended the meeting and dis-agreed with the version of doctors of BCC. However the Committee recommended that an in-depth investigation needed to be carried out to fix the responsibility, if it is negligence at all.

10. The Minister Health time and again submitted that if there was negligence, the doctors are to be held responsible and punitive action will be definitely taken against them.

Agenda No.(ii)

11. Agenda item No.ii was deferred on the request of the Mover, Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi as he had some prior engagements.

Agenda No.(iii)

12. It was briefed that the monster of quackery is increasing day by day. But it is also pertinent to note that KPK and the Punjab government have controlled this grave public health hazard through establishing Health Care Commission.

13. Increase in population in rural areas, non-availability of health facilities, quick-fix solution to the health problems and non-existence of a regularity body to check this menace in Islamabad are the main reasons in spreading this public health hazard.

14. On directions of Standing Committee on Health, it was briefed that 80 defaulters have been enlisted and presented in the court of law in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad. A list of this quacks challaned under PMDC Act 2012 was presented to the Committee.

Agenda No.(iv)

15. It was briefed by the Shifa International Hospital authorities that Shifa International Hospital was not built on charity land. The said land in sector H-8/4, Islamabad was allotted on July 17, 1988 to Shifa International Hospital Limited that has been incorporated as business entity by Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan (the then Corporate Law Authority).

16. The said hospital was established for the purpose of inter alia, establishing and running hospitals and the full amount of premium of plot was also deposited with CDA. The Shifa authorities categorically denied the view that it was charitable land or for charitable purpose.

Agenda No.(v)

17. The Ministry provided a list of 30 up-graded hospitals. However it was briefed that there are a few medical intricacies in TB control. The WHO recommended TB treatment strategy – DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) has proved successful in every part of the world and is considered to be a cost effective intervention par with childhood vaccination and the control of diarrhoeal diseases.

18. Unfortunately like many of the countries, TB control is a low political priority in our country, the Committee observed. Without basic funding and policy change we will never conquer TB. The five elements of strategy are: reliable diagnosis using micro-scope, adequate drug supply, trained health and community workers and a system of recording and reporting patients' progress in the treatment.

Agenda No.(vi)

19. On Public Petition-2814, it was briefed that with the approval of competent authority the contract period of 9 officials working in BS-1 to 15 has been extended till 30th June, 2020 while contract period of three officers has been extended till 30th December, 2019 and they are receiving their salaries. 12 posts have been advertised by PIMS and the recruitment process is going on while the rest of cases have been sent to FPSC for further process of recruitment against the above said posts. The Committee disposed of the matter.

Agenda No.(vii)

20. Regarding PP-2851, it was briefed by the PMC that medical education is a complex process that involves acquisition of knowledge, skills and behaviours in classroom, laboratory, dissection halls and hospital environment. Number of seats are allocated on the basis of availability of all these resources. Starting the second shift will seriously compromise the quality of education, teaching and curriculum.

Agenda No.(viii)

21. It was briefed that National Institute of Health (NIH) is the Technical Wing of Ministry of Health, Services, Regulations and Coordination. The NIH issues seasonal awareness letter three times a year before every season thus warning the public to remain careful before every seasonal epidemic prone diseases. The NIH also gives preventive and control measures to provincial departments, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan so that the concerned provincial departments are also high alert to combat with an emergency situation.

22. It was also briefed that NIH is smartly moving ahead in the fields of preparation of vaccination to meet the requirements of the whole country. The Committee decided to hold next meeting in NIH so that they can see the on-going projects of NIH.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) On agenda item No.i, the Committee recommended that an inquiry/investigation be made to have a balanced view of the said incident in which a precious life was lost. Two of the Committee members were

nominated to assist the inquiry committee; 1) Senator Dr.Ashok Kumar and 2) Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi.

- (ii) Burn Care Centers be increased up to district and tehsil level.
 - (iii) On agenda ii, the Committee showed satisfaction on the fact that despite all constraints, the authorities have taken action and such fake clinics/quacks have been challaned. The Committee decided to present the report to the House.
 - (iv) On agenda No.iii, the Committee showed grave concern on the fact that absence of law is a hindrance to arrest those quacks who have been playing with the lives of the people. The Committee recommended to provide legislative cover and stop this menace.
 - (v) On agenda No.iv, the Committee differed with point of view of Shifa International Hospital and decided to invite the CDA authorities in the next meeting to have a wider look at the issue and probe into the case. The matter was deferred till next meeting to be held in Parliament House.
 - (vi) On agenda item v, the Committee directed to keep a sustained progress in TB control. It should not only confine to clinical and research activities but also encompass the effective advocacy. The Committee directed for advocacy campaign against TB to win the support of the public and influence policies, proper spending and also bring about social change. It was disposed of with the direction to submit the report to the House.
 - (vii) The Committee disposed of the PP No.2814 and showed satisfaction on initiation of the recruitment process in Bone Marrow Transplant.
 - (viii) On agenda item vii, the Committee disagreed to the proposal of commencement of second shift in medical colleges. The Committee unanimously observed that such a practice in the field of medical science is neither found in the developed countries nor it is feasible here in Pakistan.
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SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATION AND COORDINATION

4th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on Tuesday, the 19th December, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2.	Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
3.	Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
4.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
5.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
6.	Senator Sikandar Mandhro	Member

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

Discussion / deliberation on the following;

- i. Briefing on the work, functions and performance of National Institute of Health, Islamabad.
- ii. Budget allocation of National Institute of Health, Islamabad by the Government, funding from national and international donors, income generated by the NIH and the total expenditure and its heads.
- iii. Point of public importance regarding high charges of private hospitals and laboratories and pathetic condition of public hospitals raised by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi.
- iv. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda No.(i)& (ii)

4. Both the 1st and 2nd agenda items were clubbed together as they pertained to the same subject. It was briefed that NIH has been providing services to the country since 1967. Its capacity to provide services in the Public Health like vaccine/sera production, drug testing and Human Resource Development have been increasing day by day. It has a Board of Governors (BOG), and an Executive Director, Technical Division and Administrative Sections. The BOG is chaired by Secretary Health with nine members including two Parliamentarians from National Assembly. The Committee observed that there is no representation from the House of Federation so one Member of Senate be included in the BOG.

5. While briefing on Public Health Laboratories Division (PHLD), it was briefed that PHLD works with an inclusive approach, integrating and synchronizing the following areas:

- (i) Advises federal/Provincial Governments on control of communicable diseases
- (ii) Supports public health matters and lab services for disease outbreaks
- (iii) Investigates epidemics and conducts related operational research
- (iv) Regional Reference Laboratories for Polio.

6. The Field Epidemiology Division (FED) gathers and analyses disease surveillance data, identifies high priority diseases and disseminates information for epidemiological awareness of the public. It is an internationally accredited training institute that has produced 200 epidemiologists in the country.

7. The Biological Production Division produces the following products:

- (i) Anti-Snake-Venom Serum
- (ii) Allergy Vaccine
- (iii) Cell Culture Rabies Vaccine
- (iv) Anti-Rabies Serum
- (v) Anti-Rabies Vaccine
- (vi) Typhoid & cholera Vaccine
- (vii) Tetanus Toxoid Vaccine
- (viii) ORS

8. The NIH has a Drug Control Division and established a Federal Drug Laboratory under section 22 of Drugs Act 1976 and it is sole appellate laboratory for testing drugs/medicines. With the passage of time it has developed into a state of art Drug Laboratory and it is heartening to note that the President of Pakistan declared it as "The Centre of Excellency" in 1979.

9. The Allergy Centre is another feather in the cap of NIH. It is the only prestigious center in the country providing services to the allergy related diseases. It has also assisted Government of Baluchistan for establishing an Allergy Centre in Quetta and the same will be replicated in all the provincial Headquarters.

10. As far as funding of the Institute is concerned it was briefed that the Institute has cleared more than PKR 100 Million amount of debt. Financial rules and regulations have been prepared. After every four years an audit is carried out by the Government of Pakistan. Besides this a special audit has been introduced for the first time after 50 years. Though it was a tedious process yet it will be carried out every year for transparency and clarity of the funds record.

11. Emergency Operation Center is another hallmark of the Institute. It is working as per international standard EOC. An IT hub is also installed to cater public surveillance of the country. This is for the first time that real time data is gathered to combat the dangerous outbreak of different diseases. It is devised as a preemptive model.

12. On academic side the institute is also contributing to different degrees:

- MCPS reactivation
- FCPS Microbiology
- PhD Programs
- BSc Lab Technology
- Research activities
- Workshops/Courses

Agenda Item No.iii

13. The Committee was apprised of the fact that no regulatory establishment is functional in Islamabad to regulate the business of private hospitals, clinics and laboratories so as to fix their charges.

14. When both the facts are analyzed juxtaposed, it should not go un-noticed that the private sector is serving far more population than that of public sector. Unfortunately Pakistan inherited an inadequate health care delivery system quite a poor heritage of the British Raj. Naturally private sector filled the gap and it is serving nearly 70% of the population while 30% of the population opts for the public sector.

15. The case of establishment of Islamabad Health Care regulatory Authority on the pattern of Punjab Health Care Commission is in process. It will be established very soon and with the establishment of such a facility the business of private hospitals, clinics and laboratories will be regulated under same authority. It was also briefed that the appointment of CEO of Health Care Commission will be finalized till mid of January, 2020.

16. As far as public sector is concerned the Ministry disagreed that the condition of public sector health facilities is pathetic. It is fact that patients from all parts of the country specially GB, KPK, FATA, Murree, AJK and vast adjacent areas of Punjab visit the public health facilities of Islamabad on daily basis. The FGPC is overloaded and overburdened with the visit of patients of the above said areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) The Committee recommended that one Member from Senate of Pakistan, being House of Federation, also be nominated as a Member on the Board of Governors of the NIH, Islamabad. On behalf of the Committee the Chairperson nominated Senator Dr.Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi as its Member.
 - (ii) While placing its appreciation on the performance of NIH, the Committee recommended that the Government must focus on the financial needs of the Institute and with some efforts it can be turned into a state of the art institute serving multifaceted needs of the public.
 - (iii) The Committee also appreciated the vaccine production unit of the NIH and endorsed the efforts of the authorities to meet the vaccine needs of the country.
 - (iv) The Committee opined that carelessness in pathological examination can lead to very fatal consequences. The whole process requires a very minute observation. A strict mechanism of oversight of the lab examinations/tests be devised for meticulous preparation of reports and results in the public sector labs. The Committee also directed that the oversight mechanism be shared with the Committee in the next meeting.
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SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATION AND COORDINATION

5th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on 14th January, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2.	Senator Prof. Dr.Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
3.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
4.	Senator Dr.Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
5.	Senator Asad Ashraf	Member
6.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
7.	Senator Dr.Ashok Kumar	Member
8.	Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
9.	Senator Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Jamot	Member

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

Discussion / deliberation on the following;

- i. Work, performance and functions of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University and College of Nursing, PIMS Islamabad along with budgetary allocation, heads of expenditure and income/ revenue generated.
- ii. Submission of the Report of the "Fact Finding Inquiry Committee" constituted by Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination to probe the death of patient Dr.Adnan Mehboob.
- iii. Starred Question No.65 regarding construction of Shifa International Hospital on charity land with an aim to function as charity hospital raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh (Capital Development Authority functionaries to clarify the status of Shifa International Hospital land and terms and conditions of its allotment as decided by the Committee).
- iv. Public Petition No.2872 of Mr.Shair Muhammad Hazara regarding injustice in promotion cases in Pakistan Institute of medical Sciences, Islamabad.
- v. Public Petition No.2893 of Ms.Nazia Mumtaz regarding revival of project (PC-I) titled "National Hearing Screening Programme on priority as a Public Health Initiative and to rehabilitate individuals with disabilities.
- vi. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda No.(i)

4. At the very outset the agenda No.i was discussed. Executive Director, PIMS gave briefing on the agenda. He informed that PIMS is 1200 bedded hospital and PIMS is catering services for a large number of patients from Islamabad, KPK, FATA, GB, the Punjab. He informed that PIMS is providing quality patient care in 37 specialties.

5. The Standing Committee showed concern on the decline of performance of surgical department as strength of the doctors have been increased as compared to the number of patients which remained the same during the last four years. The Committee directed that detail be provided about the incoming patients on the basis of their permanent areas.

6. The Committee also deliberated about the private pharmacy established at PIMS. The Committee was informed that owner of the private pharmacy was paying 4 million rent, with 8 to 10% discount on medicines to the patients and the pharmacy also had a qualified pharmacist as per requirement. The pharmacy has the sufficient stock of medicines as prescribed by the doctors which are registered by Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan.

7. The Standing Committee directed that open competition should be held every year for authorizing the private pharmacy in the public hospital like hospitals in KPK and the Punjab.

Agenda Item No.ii

8. It was informed by the Minister for Health that regarding the case of probe into the death of Dr.Adnan Mehboob, only one meeting was held under the Convener ship of Dr.Ashok Kumar till to date. He presented an interim report to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee. He also informed that report of Committee will be finalized after 2nd meeting and then it will be submitted to the Standing Committee soon. The Committee showed satisfaction and deferred the agenda till finalization of the report.

Agenda Item No.iii

9. While discussing the starred question regarding construction of Shifa International Hospital on charity land, the CDA informed that subject land was leased on amenity rates for a period of 33 years extendable for two subsequent terms of 33 years each as such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Authority. The Standing Committee directed the CDA authorities to submit original allotment letter to the Committee along-with the first request of the Shifa International Hospital for allotment of land and work plan of the project. The Standing Committee deferred the matter till next meeting.

Agenda item No.iv

10. While discussing the public petition No.2872 of Mr.Shair Muhammad Hazara, the PIMS authorities stated that PIMS prepared the seniority according to merit of the FPSC and sent to Ministry of NHR&C for finalization. Some cases were pending due to courts cases therefore their cases could not be decided. The affected incumbents submitted conflicting statements before the Committee therefore the Standing Committee directed the Ministry to brief on the said agenda item in the next meeting. The matter was deferred till next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Agenda item No.v

11. While discussing the public petition No.2893, the Ministry was of the view that due to growing number of deaf and dumb children in Pakistan this project was an absolute necessity and must be set up in every neonatal ward of the hospitals in the country. The Standing Committee disposed of the public petition with the direction that a letter be sent from the Standing Committee to expedite the matter and place it in the next meeting of CDWP for consideration/approval.

Other Agenda item

12. While discussing the different appointments in health sector, the Committee decided to take up the issues of erratic posting on all posts and executive posts in particular in the health sector and fixing minimum qualification for Homeopathic courses will be taken up in the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) On agenda item No.i, the Committee directed that detail be provided about the incoming patients on the basis of their permanent areas.
 - (ii) The Standing Committee directed that open competition should be held every year for authorizing the private pharmacy in the public hospital like hospitals in KPK and Punjab.
 - (iii) On agenda item No.iii, the Standing Committee directed CDA authorities to submit original allotment letter to the Committee along-with the first request of the Shifa International Hospital for allotment of land.
 - (iv) On agenda item No.iv, the Standing Committee directed the Ministry of Health to brief on the said agenda item in the next meeting.
 - (v) On agenda item No.v, the Standing Committee disposed of the public petition with the direction that a letter be sent from the Standing Committee to expedite the matter and place it in the next meeting of CDWP for consideration/approval.
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SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATION AND COORDINATION

6th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Acting Chairmanship of Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi on 12th February, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1.	Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Acting Chairman
2.	Senator Prof. Dr.Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
3.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
4.	Senator Asad Ashraf	Member
5.	Senator Dr.Ashok Kumar	Member
6.	Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
7.	Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
8.	Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
9.	Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Jamot	Member

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

Presentation, discussion / deliberation on the following:

- (i) Implementation status / compliance report of the recommendations of the Standing Committee on NHR&C made in its meetings held on 04.12.2019 and 19.12.2019.
- (ii) Role, functions and performance of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan.
- (iii) Level of influence of DRAP in the standardization of quality, efficacy and fixation of prices of drugs and medicines among national and international market competitors.
- (iv) "The Unani, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Practitioners (Amendment) Bill, 2019" proposed by Senator Prof. Dr.Mehr Taj Roghani and referred by the House to the Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination.
- (v) Point of Public Importance regarding "Outbreak of Coronavirus and Precautionary Measures in Pakistan", raised by Senator Zeeshan Khanzada on 28th January, 2020 and stood referred to the Standing Committee on NHR&C for consideration and report.
- (vi) Point of Public Importance regarding "Promotion cases of Senior Doctors at PIMS" raised by Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar on 20th January, 2020 referred to SSC on NHR&C.
- (vii) Public Petition No.2872 of Mr.Shair Muhammad Hazara regarding injustice in promotion cases in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Islamabad.
- (viii) Grievance against decision of Pakistan Medical Commission for allowing non-medical teachers to teach in medical and dental colleges of Pakistan lodged by Basic Medical Science Association Pakistan. (forwarded by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi)
- (ix) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The Acting Chairman welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda No.(i)

4. While discussing agenda item No. (i), the Ministry assured the committee that the process of nominating of one member from the Senate of Pakistan as part of Board of Directors of NIH is going on and it will be completed at the earliest.

Agenda Item No. (ii)&(iii)

5. On agenda item No. (ii) & (iii), the committee was briefed that under the DRAP Act 2012, the Drug Regulatory Authority is working hard to adopt international best practices for ensuring quality, safety and efficacy of therapeutic items in the country. In this regard DRAP is in contact with the WHO and WHO has appreciated efforts of DRAP in carrying out a comprehensive plan for attaining status of World Health Organization's World Listed Authorities (WLA). By getting this accreditation, local manufacturing and regulatory oversight will be strengthened by making Pakistani pharmaceutical products more acceptable throughout the world and boost our exports.

6. For global acceptance of Pakistani pharmaceutical goods, DRAP is also trying for Pharmaceutical Inspection Cooperation/Scheme (PIC/S). It is a gold standard for Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and it will contribute to enhance the pharmaceutical industry and the products will be more acceptable globally.

7. However, the Committee objected that CEO, DRAP was not present in the meeting and directed that the authorities must be made answerable to the Committee. Absence on part of CEO may warrant a disciplinary action.

Item No.(iv)

8. The Committee did not agree with the amendment in Article 21(1) of the Unani, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Practitioners Act, 1965 (II of 1965) and recommended that 21(1) as given in the Act should remain the same. It is as follows:

"21. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO INSTITUTIONS: (1) The minimum qualifications required for admission to a recognized institution of Unani or Ayurvedic System of medicine shall be Matriculation with Science or equivalent examination of any University or Education Board in Pakistan established by or under any law for the time being in force,

In this way the qualification given in the Act will remain the same.

9. While discussing the qualification for Homoeopathic doctors, the Mover, Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani emphasized on up-gradation of the qualification for the admission to a recognized Institute of Homoeopathy from matriculation to F.Sc (Pre-medical). In her view, it is necessary to familiarize the students with an extensive study of the medical science so that they can have comprehensive knowledge of all the subjects of botany, zoology and chemistry. The Minister objected and opined that it will create duplicity as there is already a programme for Homoeopathic doctors based on F.Sc. and after graduation they are awarded a B.Sc. degree in Homoeopathic medicine, whereas, after matriculation they get a diploma. The Committee did not agree with the point of view of the Minister for Health and opined that up-gradation of basic

qualification is essential for better understanding of the medical science and to seek admission in diploma, so the Homoeopathic doctors should also have an upgraded qualification of F.Sc. (Pre-medical) as a basic qualification. The Committee agreed with the amendment moved by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani in 21(2) of Unani, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Practitioner Act, 1965 namely:

(2) The minimum qualification required for admission to a recognized institution of Homoeopathy shall be Intermediate with Science (F.Sc. Pre-Medical) or Equivalent examination of any University or Education Board in Pakistan established by or under any law for the time being in force, but those with bachelor or higher qualification with science shall be preferred."

However, the Acting Chairman Standing Committee Senator Dr.Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi observed that the rules are a live document subject to change. Later on the designation of both the Homoeopathic doctors i.e. the Diploma holders and the Degree holders may be changed.

Agenda Item No. (v)

10. It was briefed by the Minister that there is not even a single confirmed case of Coronavirus in the country. It was also briefed that 98 per cent patients of Coronavirus are curable and the fatality rate in this disease is only 02 per cent.

11. On the question of Pakistani students stranded in Wuhan city of China, the Committee was briefed that the Pakistani Embassy is in contact with the students and the Ambassador is making telephonic calls to the students on daily basis. The Minister said that he himself remained in contact with the students and Government is conscious of its duties and responsibilities. The Minister assured the Committee that the Government will leave no stone unturned in ensuring the safety and security of the Pakistani students in China.

12. However, Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi objected to the statement given by the Minister and said that the Government is unaware of the situation prevalent with the Pakistani students in China. He stated that the students are in pitiable plight and even drinking water is not available to them, what to speak of food and other nutrients! The Minister assured that those students as pointed out by Senator Tangi would be taken care of and he himself will ensure their safety and access to food and water.

13. On a query regarding those patients who are symptomatic carrier, the Minister replied that epidemic's extent will be considered based on a number of factors, including, the time when the infected individuals become contagious? How long they remain contagious? How long the virus can survive outside a human host? The Minister further informed that a period of 14 to 15 days is considered as incubation period and after 15 days it is safe for the human to move out.

Agenda No.(vi)

14. Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar very vehemently lodged a complaint against the Ministry regarding injustice in promotion cases in PIMS. The Secretary replied that there are three types of doctors working at PIMS:

- (i) Those who joined PIMS after qualifying the examination from Federal Public Service Commission.
- (ii) Those who came to Islamabad as wedlock cases.
- (iii) Deputationists merged in the Federal service.

15. The Committee was briefed that all the cases have to be seen with criteria determined by the Ministry. Those who passed the FPSC examination will get priority in promotion to those who came through deputation or wedlock.

16. It was briefed that unfortunately some of the doctors have criminal background and FIRs have been registered against them. The Ministry is in process of initiating strict disciplinary action against them and such criminals will not be tolerated.

Agenda No. (vii)

17. Due to paucity of time, the agenda item was deferred for the next meeting.

Agenda No. (viii)

18. The employment of non-medical teaching staff in the medical colleges was condemned by the Committee. The Committee was of the view that medical science is technical subject and those without proper medical degree cannot be allowed to teach in the teaching hospitals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) The Committee directed that CEO, DRAP must be present in the meeting whenever there is an agenda pertaining to DRAP.
- (ii) The Committee unanimously recommended that the amendment made in the Bill titled "Unani, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Practitioners (Amendment) Act, 2019" be passed by the House. The Committee allowed to present the amended Bill "Unani, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Practitioners (Amendment) Act, 2019" to the House.
- (iii) The Committee recommended that Pakistani Embassy in China should be directed to reach out all the students and the Government should make arrangements to bring the students back to the country.
- (iv) Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi assured the Committee that the dispute between the doctors and Ministry will be resolved with his own indulgence and he will coordinate to resolve the issue.
- (v) The Ministry agreed with the point of view of the Committee and assured the Committee that the process of recruitment will be done as per the prescribed criteria and the Ministry will take action against those private teaching hospitals which allow non-professionals to teach the MBBS classes.
- (vi) The Committee recommended that only doctors should be allowed to teach in the medical colleges.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATION AND COORDINATION

7th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on 11th March, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
3. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
4. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
5. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
6. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
7. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
8. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Mover

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

Presentation, discussion / deliberation on the following:

- (i) Proposals / recommendations on the PSDP of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination for the year 2020-21.
- (ii) Public Petition No.2872 of Mr.Shair Muhammad Hazara regarding injustice in promotion cases in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Islamabad.
- (iii) Point of Public Importance regarding "Officers who have been working in different hospitals in Islamabad on additional charge basis for a long time" raised by Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen and referred by the House on 13th January, 2020 for consideration and report.
- (iv) Point of Public Importance regarding "Mushroom growth of private hospitals and clinics in Islamabad" raised by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi and referred by the House on 13th January, 2020 for consideration and report.
- (v) Point of Public Importance regarding "Appointment in Health Service Academy" raised by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi and referred by the House on 14th January, 2020 for consideration and report.
- (vi) Starred Question No.58 regarding "Percentage/coverage of immunization / vaccination of children under the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in the country at present" raised by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani and referred by the House on 14th January, 2020 for consideration and report.
- (vii) Starred Question No.50 regarding "The names and locations of pharmaceutical companies sealed on account of manufacturing spurious medicines in the country during the last three years" raised by Senator Abdul Rehman Malik and referred by the House on 14th January, 2020 for consideration and report.
- (viii) Motion / Resolution regarding "Health problems faced by children due to malnutrition in Islamabad Capital Territory" moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed and referred by the House on 27th January, 2020 for consideration and report.

- (ix) Starred Question No.65 regarding construction of Shifa International Hospital on charity land" raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh (CDA authorities to submit original allotment letter to the Committee along with the first request of the Hospital for allotment of land).
- (x) Grant of Session Allowance to the employees working in the Parliament House Dispensary on the analogy of other department like CDA forwarded by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani.
- (xi) Discussion on the issue of promotion of medical students to next classes in case of compartment of paper(s).
- (xii) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. The Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda No.(x)

4. At the very outset Agenda item No.x was discussed. The Mover, Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani emphasized on the need to grant honoraria to the health workers and doctors working in Parliament Dispensary on analogy of the officials of other departments like CDA. The Committee noted it sadly that despite the announcement of honoraria for them it has not been granted for the last two years. The Committee unanimously recommended that the said honoraria as given to the Parliamentary staff should also be granted to the officials working in the dispensary of Parliament. They sit beyond their usual working hours, the Committee observed. The Committee also recommended that their honoraria should be made part of the Finance Bill so that there is no red tape to hinder such a justified demand of the officials working in Parliament Dispensary.

Agenda No.(vi)

5. On agenda item No.vi, it was briefed that some confusion prevailed because of typo error that was rectified later on and the authorities submitted an apology before the Committee that the Committee generously accepted.

6. Being a sensitive issue, the Committee decided to have a detailed and comprehensive briefing on the subject, next time. The Committee wanted to probe into the Expanded program on Immunization to assess and evaluate its efficacy and the shortfalls, if any.

Agenda No.(iv)

7. The Mover, Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi briefed the Committee that a very comprehensive and detailed Act of Parliament for the establishment of the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority was passed in May, 2018, subsequently published in the Gazette of Pakistan. He showed grave concern for not establishing the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority envisioned in the Act that came into force since May, 2018. It is a great lapse on part of the Ministry that they could not implement the said Act thus exposing the whole population of Islamabad to health hazardous clinics and labs. The Committee deplored the prevalent situation and showed its resolve to probe into the delay caused by negligence. Such a mushroom growth of sub-standard labs and clinics in the Islamabad Capital Territory has been causing damage to health of the residents of Islamabad.

8. The Ministry briefed that the process of appointing CEO, DRAP has been completed and within seven working days the authority will be established. The Committee directed the Ministry of Health to implement the Act in letter and spirit and produce the relevant documents/notification of the establishment of the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority as enshrined in the Act. The Ministry made a commitment to produce the said document within seven working days.

Agenda item No.v

9. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi, the Mover briefed the Committee that appointments in Health Services Academy had to be made through a process of advertisement so that all those eligible candidates could apply for the positions. Through a transparent mechanism applications had to be sought from the aspirants/candidates and transmitted to the President of Pakistan for appointment of Executive Director of the Health Service Academy. Unfortunately the whole process was defective, nontransparent and unjustified. The members emphasized on maintaining transparency and fairness in the process of recruitment. In their view, due process was not carried out. The Committee directed that the details of the whole process be shared with the Committee and the related documents also be produced before the Committee in the next meeting.

Agenda item No.i, iii,vii and viii

10. Agenda item No.iii, vii and viii were deferred because of absence of the Movers. Agenda item No.i was also deferred because of paucity of time.

Agenda Item No.ii

11. On Public Petition No.2872 of Mr.Shair Muhammad Hazara, the Committee showed concern that Mr.Shair Muhammad Hazara has been submitting applications time and again and the Committee had heard his case before this. The Committee directed the Ministry to resolve the issue as per merit and policy. At the same time the Committee also directed that after resolving the issue the Committee be intimated accordingly. With this direction, the said petition was disposed of by the Committee.

Agenda item No.ix

12. The Committee showed concern that CDA authorities had not produced the required documents of the allotment of land for Shifa International Hospital since long. In spite of repeated directions of the Committee the CDA authorities paid no heed to the directions of the Committee. Such a negligence on part of the CDA, tantamount to misconduct and breach of privilege of the Committee.

Agenda Item No.xi

13. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi emphasized that students who cannot pass the examination in medical colleges have to pay the whole fees of the year for the second time. Not only it is a financial burden on the parents but also it increases stress on the students. Failure in one subject leads to psychological problems and cases of exposure to acute depression have also been reported. It is saddening to note that many of the students had committed suicide.

14. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi opined that keeping in view the adverse psychological repercussions on the youth, the medical students should be allowed to sit in the next class with the condition that those students with compartment has to pass the test of all the failed subjects before the next year. However the Committee members did not agree with Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi.

15. The Chairperson of the Committee was of the view that the medical education is a very sensitive field. Every subject has its own significance and intertwined links to comprehend all the related subjects comprehensively. One subject if not qualified can hinder in understanding of the other subjects. So the students cannot be allowed to be promoted to the next class without passing all the subjects of the previous year. However the Committee agreed that the private medical colleges after receiving fee of whole year should not be allowed to receive the fee for the same year only because the students got failed in one or two subjects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) The Committee directed the Ministry to arrange a comprehensive briefing on Expanded Programme on Immunization particularly with reference to the strengths and weaknesses of the programme.
- (ii) On agenda item No. iv, the Committee directed the Ministry of Health to implement the Act in letter and spirit and produce the relevant documents/notification of establishment of the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority as envisioned in the Act. The Ministry made a commitment to produce the said document within seven working days.
- (iii) The Committee also recommended that all those responsible causing delay in implementation of the Act of Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority be brought to book and strict punitive action be taken against the responsible.
- (iv) On agenda item No. v, regarding appointment of Executive Director in Health Service Academy, the Committee directed that the details of the whole process be shared with the Committee and the related documents be also produced before the Committee in the next meeting.
- (v) On PP-2872, the Committee directed the Ministry to resolve the issue as per merit and policy. The Committee also directed that after resolving the issue the Committee be intimated accordingly. So the committee disposed of the petition.
- (vi) With reference to Shifa International Hospital the Committee once again directed CDA that the first application and Letter of Allotment of the plot along with terms and conditions be produced before the Committee. The committee directed to produce the relevant documents along with SOPs regarding allotment of plot at the earliest. Failing which a privilege motion can be moved against the CDA authorities as it is a breach of privilege of the Committee and so of the whole House.
- (vii) The Committee recommended that the private medical colleges should be directed by the Ministry not to charge the fee for the second time when already

the fee has been paid by the student. The failed students should be allowed to re-appear in the failed subjects without any tuition fee for the year they have already paid.

- (viii) On agenda No.x, the Committee unanimously recommended that the honoraria as given to the Parliamentary staff should also be granted to the officials working in the dispensary of Parliament. The Committee also recommended that their honoraria should be made part of the Finance Bill so that there is no red tape to hinder such a justified demand of the officials working in Parliament Dispensary
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SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

8th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on 6th August, 2020 at 02:00 p.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
3. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
4. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
5. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
6. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Mover

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

Presentation, discussion / deliberation on the following:

- (i) Present status of COVID-19 in Pakistan and future plans to combat the pandemic.
- (ii) Point of public importance raised in the House by Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif regarding "Implementation of the concepts of virtual hospitals" on 10th June, 2020 and stood referred to the Standing Committee on NHR&C for consideration and report.
- (iii) Starred Question No.50 raised by Senator Abdul Rehman Malik regarding "the names and locations of pharmaceutical companies sealed on account of manufacturing spurious medicines in the country during the last three years" and referred by the House to the Standing Committee on NHR&C on 14th January, 2020 for consideration and report.
- (iv) "The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2020" introduced by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi on 13th July, 2020.
- (v) Starred Question No.51 regarding "The number of pilgrims diagnosed with Corona Virus in quarantine center established in Taftan for the pilgrims returning", moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed on 24th July, 2020 and stood referred to the Standing Committee on NHR&C for consideration and report.
- (vi) Reasons of recent increase in the prices of medicines.
- (vii) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda item No.i

4. Agenda item No.i was explained by the Ministry but the Committee decided to defer it for another time for a detailed briefing.

Agenda No.ii

5. Agenda item No.ii was disposed of with the recommendation to submit the report to the House. The Committee also emphasized on improvement of virtual hospitals. It is demand of the time, the Committee observed. Not only during COVID-19, but the process of developing virtual hospitals should continue during post-COVID-19 period. The novel IT based concepts should come into practice of the health care system.

Agenda No.iii and v

6. Due to absence of Movers, Senator Abdul Rehman Malik and Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, the said agenda items were deferred till next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Agenda No.iv

7. Agenda item No.iv was discussed in detail. The Committee after detailed deliberation unanimously endorsed the amendment proposed by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi. In light of discussion, the Committee recommended that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan Act, 2012 (XXI of 2012) as reported by the Standing Committee may be passed by the House. The Committee disposed of the agenda with the recommendation to submit the report to the House.

Agenda item No. vi

8. On agenda item No. vi, it was briefed that there has been no recent increase in the prices of drugs after announcement of Consumer Price Index (CPI). Federal Government vide Notification No.F.11-2/2020-DD(P) dated 15th July, 2020 has amended para 7 of the Drug Pricing Policy-2018. Pharmaceutical companies are submitting the revised calculation of MRPs of drugs prices on the basis of CPI announced by the Bureau of Statistics for financial year 2020-21 and calculations/revised data is being verified.

9. The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan revised the policy with the approval of its Policy Board and subsequently the Federal Government notified a Drug Pricing Policy-2018 on 6th June, 2018. A consultative process was made with respect to price reduction of drugs in line with directions of the Prime Minister with relevant stakeholders including the Advisor to Prime Minister on commerce and Pharmaceutical companies.

10. In the light of above referred consultations, prices of 78 drugs were reduced vide SRO.577(1)/2019 dated 24th May, 2019 after approval by Federal Government. In addition, maximum Retail Prices of 89 generic drugs have been reduced to maintain minimum difference of 15% with their respective originator brands vide SRO.90(1)/2020 dated 1st January, 2020.

11. It is mentionable that forty nine (49) Constitutional Petitions were filed by pharmaceutical companies during year 2019 against the reduction of drug prices in the High Court of Sindh at Karachi and obtained restraining orders, so the matter is still subjudice and DRAP is pursuing the case.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) On agenda item No.ii, the Committee disposed of the item with the direction to emphasize on improvement of virtual hospitals in accordance with the best practices of the world. The process of change is continuous and with realization to this new concept the people of remote regions can seek benefit from not only the medical specialists residing in big cities but also that critical patients can seek advice from Pakistani diaspora working in medical profession all over the world.
 - 2) On agenda item No.iv, the Committee disposed of the agenda with the recommendation that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan Act, 2012 (XXI of 2012) as reported by the Standing Committee may be passed by the House.
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SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

9th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on 19th August, 2020 at 11:00 p.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
2. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
3. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
4. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
5. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
6. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
7. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member/Mover
8. Advisor for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination	Ex-Officio Member
9. Senator Usman Khan Kakar	Mover
10. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed	Mover
11. Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi	Mover
12. Senator Hidayatullah	Mover

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

Presentation, discussion / deliberation on the following:

- (i) Promotion cases of Senior Doctors at PIMS" raised by Senator Usman Khan Kakar on 20th January, 2020 and referred to the Standing Committee on NHR&C for consideration and report.
- (ii) Point of Public Importance regarding "Officers who have been working in different hospitals in Islamabad on additional charge basis for a long time" moved by Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen on 13th January, 2020 and stood referred to the SSC on NHR&C for consideration and report.
- (iii) Starred Question No.50 raised by Senator Abdul Rehman Malik regarding "the names and locations of pharmaceutical companies sealed on account of manufacturing spurious medicines in the country during the last three years" and referred by the House to the Standing Committee on NHR&C on 14th January, 2020 for consideration and report.
- (iv) Point of public importance regarding "Termination/repatriation of doctors serving at PIMS as per 5% quota policy from provinces", moved by Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi on 14th May, 2020 and stood referred to the SSC on NHR&C for consideration and report.
- (v) Starred question No.51 regarding "The number of pilgrims diagnosed with Corona Virus in quarantine center established in Taftan for the pilgrims returning", moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed on 24th July, 2020 and stood referred to the Standing Committee on NHR&C for consideration and report.
- (vi) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda item No.(i) and (iv)

4. Agenda item No.(i) and (iv) were clubbed together. Senator Usman Khan Kakar and Senator Hidayatullah briefed the Committee that the doctors in question belonged to the provincial civil service prior to their posting in PIMS. They got their NOCs from the respective provincial health department and got themselves absorbed in PIMS. As per rules they were placed at the bottom of seniority so their absorption does not disturb the seniority list. On 14th October, 2016, an illegal notification was issued, repatriating the doctors of PIMS, FGSH and NIRM. The doctors challenged the said orders in the court and on 7th April, 2016 the Honourable Supreme Court suspended the repatriation orders and decreed in favour of the doctors and directed the Ministry to re-examine the service-structure of doctors through a committee. On 5th January, 2018 the said notification of repatriation was withdrawn as ab-initio. However, once again the Ministry of NHSR&C submitted the report in the Supreme Court with recommendation to repatriate the above said doctors. But the then Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) did not agree with the report and constituted another committee. The Committee submitted the report to the Supreme Court and the said doctors were legalized by the Committee. While examining the report the Honourable CJP ordered to consider the report and make the service structure for doctors of ICT within 3 months. The Ministry presented the service structure in the Supreme Court and the Attorney General of Pakistan categorically stated that there is no question of repatriation of the above said doctors as already decided by the Honourable Supreme Court.

5. While looking into the development of the case, the Committee showed its reservation on the approach of the Ministry while dealing with the human resource of the medical profession. The Committee observed that:

- (i) The Ministry should not waste its time in such petty matters rather there are more significant issues on agenda of the health Ministry.
- (ii) The Committee regretted that the officers of the Ministry have waged an unnecessary war with the doctors who have a legal right to be the part of the Federal structure. After successive decisions of the Honourable Supreme Court there was no room for further escalation of the dispute with the doctors.
- (iii) At this point of time while we are paying tribute to the health professionals as front line soldiers against COVID-19, the Committee lamented on the behavior of the Ministry.

6. Senator Hidayat Ullah, the Mover also read a letter dated 18th September, 2015 issued by the Establishment Division, clearly mentioning that the practice of circulating judgments in bits and pieces should be discontinued. The civil service rules do not discriminate between a provincial civil servant and a federal civil servant. Senator Dilawar Khan was of the view that doctors were eligible to be part of federal health structure as described in letter of Ministry of Health dated 15th May, 2008 as all the prescribed formalities were fulfilled before absorption of the said doctors and they all stand on merit.

7. In view of the Committee, the matter should have been decided at the level of Joint Secretary to the maximum, dealing with HR Wing of the Ministry. But unfortunately it had

to be raised at the highest forums like honourable Supreme Court and Senate of Pakistan. In view of the Committee it was a complete failure on part of the Ministry to deal with the HR.

8. While responding the promotion cases of doctors, the Ministry confessed its fault and assured the Committee that the doctors will be promoted according to the seniority and merit. It was also assured that no doctor will be repatriated and the promotion will be made in accordance with the rules. The Committee recommended that the promotion cases of the doctors be decided at the earliest and the Committee be kept in loop of the progress made in this regard.

Agenda No.ii

9. The Committee did not agree with the insufficient reply of the Ministry. The Mover wanted a detailed report of all the health departments like DRAP, NIRM, PIMS, FGSH, NIH and other relevant departments. The Committee observed that not one but many of the officers have been working against erratic posts. It is violation of merit and also it results in demoralization of the work force. It is nothing but an attempt to corrupt the system and undermine the morals of those who have served the country with honour and integrity. Such an approach of ad-hocism must be discouraged and the Heads of institutions be appointed on permanent basis.

Agenda No.iii

10. The Committee submitted a report of agenda item No.iii raised by Senator A. Rehman Malik. The Ministry briefed that following pharmaceuticals companies were sealed on charge of manufacturing of spurious medicines in the country during last three years.

- (01) **M/s Everest Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd. 124- Industrial Triangle, Kahuta Road, Islamabad.** DRAP team along with FIA and NAB inspected in detail the premises, a large number of unregistered drugs and illegally procured raw materials were recovered from the premises. The case is under trial in Honourable Drug Court, Islamabad.
- (02) **M/s Ambro Pharma (Pvt) Ltd. – Plot No.293, Industrial triangle, Kahuta road, Islamabad.** The inspection was conducted by the panel and number of violations was noticed. Now the matter regarding grant of permission for prosecution against the management for manufacturing spurious drugs is under consideration at competent forum i.e. the Registration Board.
- (03) **M/s Royal Herbal Ent. Co. – Plot No.1730, Near Office Baldia Town No.3, Karachi.** The company was found involved in manufacturing and selling of unregistered allopathic drugs without Drug Manufacturing License which is prohibited under the Drugs Act, 1963. The Central Licensing Board in its decision submitted the application to lodge FIR against the accused persons in FIA Karachi

11. The Committee endorsed the report of the Ministry and disposed of the matter with the recommendation to submit the report to the House.

12. The Mover briefed the Committee that Pakistan was fortunate enough that we did not detect a single case of corona virus till 26th February, 2020. Till this date we were quite safe and sound. Many of Pakistani students were in China. China being the best friend of Pakistan gave a good advice and decided not to send Pakistani students back to home. The Mover was of the view that had we handed the returning pilgrims from Iran carefully, the proportion of spreading corona virus could be far lesser than what it was. In his view, the Taftan quarantine center was not a place for human beings. It could be seen in different videos/clips still present on social media. It was no less than a stable meant for the horses, divided into separate stalls for individual animals.

13. The Committee deplored the violence caused by pilgrims because of pitiable plight they were in. The Committee also observed that we had sufficient time for home work, proper planning and also to devise mechanism for combating the corona virus and proliferation threats. The Mover emphasized that COVID-19 emergency should have been taken at the very beginning as a national security priority aimed at supporting initiatives and framing decision making structure at all levels. The matter of pilgrims should have been the subject of talks between Iran and Pakistan and a comprehensive approach could be adopted in the context of crisis, more reflective of a responsive attitude to the needs of the neighboring states.

14. The Ministry briefed that the total number of Tests conducted by Mobile lab sent from NIH w.e.f. 11th March 2020 till date for Quarantine center established at Taftan are as under:

COVID-19 Tests Conducted	2158
Positive	146

15. While replying to a question, the Ministry stated that there are total 972 quarantine facilities established in the country. Ten are in Baluchistan and two in Sindh. Initially the pilgrims were sent to quarantine centers established at Dera Ghazi Khan, Sukkur, Dera Ismail Khan and Gilgit.

16. The Ministry confessed that COVID-19 was an out-break declared as a public health emergency of international scale recognized by WHO. Prior to COVID-19 we had no disease out-break response system. We never experienced such a pandemic. So much so that even the developed countries that have very advance health care system also failed to make a quick response to the disease. The Advisor on Health agreed that in the beginning, the pilgrims returning from Taftan border were mishandled because of difficult terrain, lack of preparedness and response from authorities; no concrete structure was present to house and host the pilgrims returning. It was also briefed that injection of virus was multi-sourced and Taftan was one of them. Thousands of pilgrims were brought at the door and being Pakistani citizens, they could not be denied entry into their homeland. It was also discussed that COVID-19 was a challenge but at the same time it brought an opportunity to review the health care system and build infrastructure to combat with such an emergency.

17. The Committee observed that it is a research opportunity forcing health care system to disregard conventional practices and adopt innovations to contain the infection.

18. We remained unable to pro-actively advance in the right direction as evidenced during these challenging times. Quality clinical research is critical during public health emergency to identify treatment and solutions and it requires innovative strategy in research design, onward transfer and dissemination at local levels. We must quickly ramp up research capacity and contribute significantly to combat not only the COVID-19 but also beef-up our system to fight such an emergency in future as well.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3) On agenda item No.i&v, The Committee directed the Ministry to submit a report to the Committee within 15 working days and the Advisor of the Health Ministry assured the Committee that it was not an uphill task and it will be decided as per direction of the honourable forum. The promotion cases of all the doctors must be resolved at the earliest, the Committee directed.
- 4) On agenda No.ii, the Committee directed the Ministry to rectify all such mal-practices and submit a report with a meritorious approach. The Committee reposed trust in the present Advisor of Health, Dr. Faisal Sultan and hoped that all such wrongs will be rectified in the best interest of the country. The terms like "Look-after charge", promote ad-hocism and not a good practice. A scientific approach to deal with the HR requires "Right man for the right job" and on regular basis. Ad-hoc appointments should be discouraged.
- 5) On agenda No.v, the Committee disposed of the matter with the recommendation that:
 - (i) Loophole in the system should be plugged to avoid further proliferation of the disease. The Ministry should strive to have an overarching infrastructure of emergency departments in all the provinces and remote regions, intensive care units, isolation wards and other rapid diagnostic tools be applied to fight with COVID-19.
 - (ii) The Ministry should also focus on research studies, the best practices of clinical trials assessing risks, infectivity and treatment. The research should include substantial cost savings, an all-inclusive plan of the health departments with the help of academia, health information system, international accreditation and international collaboration.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

10th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on 4th September, 2020 at 11:00 p.m. in Old PIPS hall, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
2. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
3. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
4. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
5. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
6. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member/Mover
7. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
8. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
9. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member/Mover
10. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
11. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member/Mover
12. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination	Ex-Officio Member
13. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Mover

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

Presentation, discussion / deliberation on the following:

- (i) Point of Public Importance regarding "Ban on Diploma Certificate for the nurses resulting in shortage of Paramedical Staff and causing concern amongst the medical community" raised By Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro in the Senate on 3rd February, 2020 referred to SSC on National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination for consideration and report.
- (ii) Point of Public Importance regarding "Public health care at risk because of mushroom growth of unauthorized private clinics and hospitals in Islamabad" moved by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi on 13th January, 2020 referred to the SSC on NHSR&C for consideration and report.
- (iii) Starred Question No.58 regarding the percentage / coverage of immunization / vaccination of children under the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in the country at present" moved by Senator Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani on 14th January, 2020 referred to the SSC on NHSR&C for consideration and report.
- (iv) Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen on 13th January, 2020 and stood referred to the standing Committee on NHSR&C for consideration and report:
 - (a) Posting of junior officers preferring to senior officers in different hospitals/departments like PIMS, FGSH, NIRM, DRAP and others.
 - (b) Temporary and ad-hoc postings other than the regular charge basis. Reasons thereof?

(v) Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda item No.(i)

4. It was briefed that the entry criteria for the nurses has to be F.Sc (Pre-Medical) in place of matriculation so that they can understand minute complexities of different aspects of health care systems. This Discipline is getting highly technical and intricate day by day and definitely it is beyond understanding of the matriculate nurse. Basic understanding of the human body, its functions along-with the technical understanding of the equipments is very essential to handle patients in the critical care units.

5. The whole critical care revolves around the living-dying process of human beings and inappropriate treatment conducted by incapacitated nurses will result in casualties. The transition from curative to end-of-life care in the intensive care unit is often fraught with ambiguity and anguish. So only a well-educated and expert nurse can demonstrate ability to actively protect the vulnerable patients.

6. The discussion revealed that there are opulent opportunities for those who wish to join the medical care system with matriculation like Midwife, Lady Health Visitors (LHV) and Nurse Assistant etc. Responding to a question the Ministry emphasized such an enhancement of education criteria will not deprive the matriculate aspirants who wish to join the paramedics. They have other opportunities to join the health department and also during education they can improve their qualification thus enabling them to step up the ladder of promotion.

7. Acute shortage of nurses resulting in poor and inappropriate health care system also came under discussion and the Ministry assured the Committee that with the passage of time the Ministry will do the best to exceed expectations and overcome the challenge of shortage. All the public and private sector teaching institutions have started the nursing courses, the Ministry added.

Agenda No.ii

8. The Mover, Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi briefed the Committee that a very comprehensive and detailed Act of Parliament for establishment of the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority was passed in May, 2018, subsequently published in the Gazette of Pakistan. He showed grave concern on part of the Ministry that they could not implement the said Act thus exposing the whole population of Islamabad to health hazardous clinics and labs. The Committee inquired that what actions have been taken in this regard.

9. It was informed that only one person i.e. CEO/DG of the Authority was recruited till this date. Further recruitment will be made by the CEO/DG of the Authority. It was also briefed that the budget was not approved for the Authority because during the process, the last financial year came to an end.

10. The Committee deplored the prevalent situation and showed its resolve to probe into the delay caused by negligence. Such a mushroom growth of sub-standard labs and clinics in

the Islamabad Capital Territory has been causing damage to health of the residents of Islamabad, the Committee observed.

Agenda No.iii

11. The Ministry briefed that significant progress has been made towards improving immunization coverage all over the country. The following steps have been taken by the Government for implementation of programme:

- (i) Federal EPI conducted Measles SIA in October, 2018 targeting approximately 32 million children between 9 months to 5 years of age all over the country to improve the immunization coverage and reduce the burden of disease. As per third party validation, 93.3% coverage was achieved.
- (ii) In order to reach the defaulters and unimmunized children, special Outreach immunization activities were conducted in December, 2018 providing multiple antigens to the community covering 2,609,217 children in Sindh, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.
- (iii) 46 Low performing districts have been identified and an application for additional grant has been submitted to GAVI in May 2019 for improving immunization coverage.
- (iv) For quality assurance, it is essential to maintain and strengthen the cold chain capacity. For this purpose 6782 CCE have been deployed in the country whereas, 8,2018 will be deployed by 2021.
- (v) Uninterrupted supply of vaccines and logistics based on the census targets is ensured to prevent stock outs at any level.
- (vi) Recruitment of more than 500 Vaccinators in Sindh, around 340 new vaccinators in Baluchistan, 1800 new vaccinators in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 180 vaccinators in KP-TD for improvement of immunization service delivery.
- (vii) EPI Management Information System has been developed and is being rolled out to all Provinces and areas for generation for timely and complete coverage, data reports across the country and to serve as data repository.
- (viii) Data quality assessments are carried out throughout the country to improve immunization data quality.
- (ix) Comprehensive EPI Reviews are being carried out periodically in the country to assess the performance of the Programme, identify gaps and suggest way forward to bridge the gaps.
- (x) Conducted training of Mid-Level Manager and district vaccination team.

12. After a detailed discussion, the Committee was satisfied and decided to submit the report to the House.

Agenda No.iv

13. On agenda No.iv the Committee showed its grave concern on the fact that junior officers are posted as Heads of the institutions. It is blatant disregard to merit and such postings also discourage those who earn their seniority after a long period of service. To ignore well experienced persons is an intolerable violation, the Committee observed. The Committee condemned the incomplete and erroneous report submitted by the Ministry and decided to further investigate the matter so that those responsible can be brought to book. The Committee posed following questions:

- (a) Why temporary postings have been made?
- (b) Look after charge, temporary charge, additional charge and other such terms give a dismal picture of performance of the Ministry. Why such important positions have not been filled on permanent basis? Why adhocism is so prevalent in the most important institutions?
- (c) How much time is required to fill in the vacancies on merit-cum-seniority basis?
- (d) Why the senior doctors of BS-19 and 20 have been ignored while appointing the Heads of Polyclinic and PIMS?

14. The Committee directed to reply the above mentioned questions in the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) On the agenda item No.i, the Committee agreed that such an improvement of qualification will not only enhance the standard of nursing staff but also bring their qualification at par with that of international standard. The Committee allowed to present report to the House.
 - (ii) On item No.ii, the Committee recommended that all those responsible causing delay in implementation of the Act of Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority be brought to book and strict punitive action be taken against the responsible. In the end, the Standing Committee disposed of the matter and allowed to present the report to the Senate House.
 - (iii) On agenda item No.iv, the Committee decided to further probe in to the matter and directed the Ministry to submit a detailed fresh report on postings of different institutions working under its jurisdiction.
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SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

11th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on 10th September, 2020 at 11:00 p.m. in Old PIPS hall, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
2. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
3. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
4. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
5. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
6. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member/Mover
7. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
8. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
9. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member/Mover
10. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
11. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member/Mover
12. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination	Ex-Officio Member
13. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Mover

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

Presentation, discussion / deliberation on the following;

- i. The proposed extension of Federal Government Poly Clinic on the adjacent Argentina Park and the reasons of delay in construction so far. Also the facilities available in FGPC (number of beds wards-wise, x-ray, CT scan, MRI and other laboratory tests / scans with the present maximum per day capacity) and any proposals for extension and improvement of the FGPC for consideration of the Standing Committee.
- ii. "Overall performance of Federal Government Polyclinic" raised by Senator Kalsoom Perveen on 17th August, 2020 and referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.
- iii. The Secretary, Ministry of NHR&C and Executive Director, National Institute of Health (NIH) to brief the Committee regarding the issue of shortage of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) in the Punjab - Forwarded by Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq
- iv. The President, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) to brief on issuance of Provisional Certificates of RMP to the students of Abbottabad International Medical College (AIMC) for House Job - Forwarded by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi.
- v. Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen on 13th January, 2020 and stood referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report:
 - (a) Posting of junior officers preferring to senior officers in different hospitals / departments / wings like PIMS, FGSH, NIRM, DRAP and others.
 - (b) Temporary and adhoc postings other than the regular charge basis, Reasons thereof?
- vi. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda item No.(i)& (ii)

4. Agenda item No.(i) and (ii) were clubbed together. Senator Kalsoom Perveen showed concern that the Federal Government Services Hospital is not working properly. Incapacitated supervision speaks loudly whenever one visits the hospital. The committee showed concern on absence of the doctors during office hours and directed the Executive Director to ensure attendance and presence of doctors during the office hours. Senator Kalsoom Perveen also wanted the Audit report of the hospital so that it could be discussed in the next meeting.

Agenda No.iii

5. Agenda item No.iii, was discussed at the beginning. It was briefed that Punjab Government is facing shortage of Rabies Vaccine but unfortunately it was not provided in time. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq was of the view that it is a fatal disease causing deaths in the rural areas. Shortage of vaccine is a criminal negligence on part of the authorities. It was also discussed that the shortfall was a willful creation to benefit the black-marketers. Why the supply was not ensured as per demand?

6. The NIH authorities explained position and stated that provision of the vaccine was not domain of NIH in the past but NIH initiated on its own with a pro-active approach and decided to take on responsibility of manufacturing the vaccine in national interest.

7. It was briefed that there are two ways of procuring Anti-Rabies vaccine: one is through private sector and the other public sector. In public sector NIH has started producing Anti-Sera but Anti-Sera Plant is being commissioned very soon. Replying to a question of timeline regarding commissioning of Anti-Sera plant it was stated that timeline will be submitted to the Committee later on.

8. The Committee appreciated the initiative of NIH and emphasized that since NIH has taken the responsibility now they are answerable in this regard. The NIH authorities stated that it is not possible for the time being to supply vaccine as per demand but NIH will contribute a considerable amount that will help in filling the gap of demand and supply in the country.

Agenda No.iv

9. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi briefed the Committee that Abbottabad International Medical College (AIMC) is duly recognized institute by the Higher Education Commission and Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) respectively. However PMDC has some reservations regarding the facilities, standard of teaching as per SOPs particularly the distance of the affiliated college and bed-side teaching. PMDC has raised objections during its periodic inspection and found the college not as per standard.

10. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi also objected and showed concern regarding attitude of the President of PMDC when he visited his office in the best interest of the students who have graduated from the same college and they were being penalized for nothing. The

Committee condemned the attitude shown by the President PMDC and regarded it as an uncivilized behaviour of such a high ranking chair.

11. The Committee was of the view that if the college was not up to mark it should not have granted permission to invite applications for admissions in the college at the very beginning. Once the admissions have been done and the students graduated after five years education, now they cannot be left at whims and wishes of PMDC. They are graduates; they have passed all the exams from Khyber University and the University is competent to award degrees. The degree is of the same worth as that of other colleges of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. If there is a lapse on part of college, the students cannot be penalized for the sins of the college authorities.

12. It is a belated objection on part of PMDC with no grounds at all. The maintenance of standard is important but it is between the PMDC, Ministry of Health and the HEC. The HEC and the Federal Ministry for NHR&C should have been contacted well before time so that the college could not admit the students. After graduation, the students have undergone a very rigorous grill of a series of examinations and now they cannot be punished.

Agenda No.v

13. The Committee was not satisfied with the report submitted with reference to posting of junior officers preferring to senior officers in different health departments. Adhoc-ism has been found rampant and the Committee did not agree with a craftily written report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) On Agenda (i) and (ii), the Committee directed that as per agenda items all the reports be submitted in the next meeting so that the Committee can discuss on the Audit report of the FGSH. Also the issue of providing sub-standard food to the patients came under discussion and the Committee directed to submit a report on it.
- (ii) Performance of all the departments of FGSH is in question, the Committee observed. The Committee directed the Executive Director to submit a report as per agenda item in the next meeting so the matter was deferred till next meeting.
- (iii) While appreciating the endeavors of NIH in manufacturing of Anti Rabies Vaccine, the Committee was of the view that now it is domain of NIH and they should strive to produce vaccine at the earliest. The Committee directed that NIH should submit a timeline of installation of Anti Sera plant within 15 days.
- (iv) The Committee recommended that the PMDC should issue certificates of RMP to the graduates of AMIC as they deserve it. All the more, they are graduates from the same university as the other medical graduates. So they are eligible for RMP certification.
- (v) The Committee also recommended that if PMDC has any objection with reference to standard of education or bed-side teaching, the PMDC authorities can stop admission and ask concerned Ministry and HEC to initiate action against the college as per law.
- (vi) On agenda item No.v, the Committee directed the ministry to submit a candid report without mincing words. Report should be comprehensive,

clearly indicating all the postings and giving reasons as to why the officers have been working on look-after charge, temporary charge, additional charge for a very long time. Why the senior officers have been ignored in postings?

- (vii) The Committee also directed to give a timeline to fill the positions on regular basis with an observance of merit-cum-seniority. The Committee deferred the matter till next meeting
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SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

12th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairpersonship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on 24th September, 2020 at 11:00 p.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
3. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
4. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
5. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
6. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
7. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
8. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member/Mover
9. Advisor for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination Ex-Officio Member	

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-
 - i. Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen on 13th January, 2020 and stood referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report:
 - (a) Posting of junior officers preferring to senior officers in different hospitals / departments / wings like PIMS, FGSH, NIRM, DRAP and others.
 - (b) Temporary and adhoc postings other than the regular charge basis, reasons thereof?
 - ii. "Overall performance of Federal Government Polyclinic (present status of extension of FGPC on Argentina Park, adhocism, mismanagement and corruption in funds allocated for Covid-19 and detail of contract of hospital kitchen and submission of Audit Report for 2018-19)" raised by Senator Kalsoom Perveen on 17th August, 2020.
 - iii. Starred Question No.65 regarding "Construction of Shifa International Hospital on charity land with an aim to function as a charity hospital", raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh on 5th March, 2019. CDA authorities to present the original request / prayer of Shifa International Hospital applicants.
 - iv. Starred Question No.40 regarding "Reasons of increase in the prices of medicines", raised by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Sheikh on 24th July, 2020.
 - v. Any other item with permission of the Chair.
3. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting.

Agenda item No.(i)

4. The matter of posting of junior officers preferring to senior officers in different hospitals / departments / wings like PIMS, FGSH, NIRM, DRAP and others on temporary, ad-hoc and additional charge basis were discussed in detail. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen

expressed his concern that junior officers were holding these seats for a long time on deputation basis and look-after charge basis even though they had completed the tenure of their postings long ago. The Standing Committee pressed on the point that health is a sensitive issue which needed very efficient and able leadership to run the administrative affairs. When these doctors are placed on administrative posts instead of professional posts, the people in general face the difficulties which cannot be expressed in words. The Standing Committee asked the Ministry to resolve the matter amicably at the earliest.

5. The Advisor to the Prime Minister, Dr.Faisal Sultan briefed the Committee that there were about 39 subordinate organizations working under the Ministry and a lot of officers were posted on temporary basis in the shape of additional charge basis. They had taken into account the whole situation and suitable steps in this regard were in the offing. The Members of the Committee demanded to give a specific date for the removal of these junior officers from the senior posts. In this regard, Advisor consented to provide another list in this regard indicating dates of removal of these officers in each case. The Standing Committee disposed of the matter and decided to submit the report to the House

Agenda Item No.(ii)

6. The Committee deferred the matter till next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Agenda item No.(iii) & (iv)

7. The Committee disposed of the said matters and allowed to submit the report to the House.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Standing Committee disposed of the item No.i with the direction to submit specific dates for the removal of junior officers from the senior posts.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

13th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Acting Chairmanship of Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro on 21st October, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
2. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
3. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
4. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
5. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member/Mover
6. Dr. Faisal Sultan	Ex-Officio Member
Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health	

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

- i. Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi and referred by the House on 14th January, 2020:
 - (a) Qualification of the Vice Chancellor of Health Services Academy, Islamabad.
 - (b) Procedure of appointment and observance of Rules.
 - (c) Any violation in this regard?
- ii. Point of Public Importance regarding "Outbreak of Corona Virus and Precautionary Measures in Pakistan", raised by Senator Zeeshan Khanzada on 28th January, 2020 and stood referred to the Standing Committee on NHSR&C for consideration and report.
- iii. "Overall performance of Federal Government Polyclinic (present status of extension of FGPC on Argentina Park, adhocism, mismanagement and corruption in funds allocated for Covid-19 and detail of contract of hospital kitchen and submission of Audit Report for 2018-19)" raised by Senator Kalsoom Perveen on 17th August, 2020 and referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.
- iv. "Grant of Budget Honoraria arrears to the medical and para-medical staff working in the Dispensary of the Parliament House announced by the Finance Minister for all the employees serving under the umbrella of the Parliament House Building for the year of 2018 and 2019 during Budget Sessions", forwarded by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani.
- v. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

3. In terms of Rule-175(3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, since the Chairperson Senator Khushbakht Shujat was out of country, the Committee chose Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro as Acting Chairman for this sitting.

4. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Chairperson welcomed all the participants in the meeting. The Committee showed displeasure on absence of Federal Secretary Health. However the Additional Secretary briefed that because of serious sickness and Angioplasty of the Secretary Health, he was unable to attend the meeting today.

Agenda item No.(i)

5. On request of the Mover, Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi, the agenda item No.i was deferred till next meeting.

Agenda item No.(ii)

6. Agenda item No.ii, Point of Public Importance regarding "Outbreak of Corona Virus and precautionary measures in Pakistan" raised by Senator Zeeshan Khanzada was discussed in detail. The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Health, Dr.Faisal Sultan gave a detailed briefing on recurrence of Corona virus and precautionary measures to be taken in this regard.

7. It was briefed that three weeks before, the number of COVID-19 patients was quite normal and under control. The casualties were in single digit. But unfortunately, last night on 20th October, 2020 the death toll raised to 19. In his view though it was not much alarming yet it is a matter of concern for the authorities and requires strict precautionary measures to be taken in this regard.

8. An average daily cases of COVID-19 patients were 450 that has now increased to 650. These are the alarming bells and the provinces have been advised to tighten SOPs and remind everyone that the situation is not good rather it may turn worsen if carelessness prevails in the public at large.

9. Replying to a question, the Advisor to the Prime Minister briefed that higher risk activities must be curtailed and strict SOPs need to be observed in public gatherings like marriage halls; transportation like buses is another higher risk activity as the buses are crowded with people in tight space.

10. Replying to a question regarding N-95 Mask the Advisor briefed the Committee that it requires for the health care workers only otherwise common surgical mask is sufficient to control the spread of virus, to a certain effect.

11. The Chairman Committee regarded COVID-19 as a scientific crisis in the world. The patients are undergoing a treatment based on hit and trial and proper, certain protocol of treatment has yet to be discovered. In his view, it is a challenge.

Agenda Item No.iii

12. Agenda Item No.iii regarding "Overall performance of Federal Government Polyclinic (present status of extension of FGPC on Argentina Park, adhocism, mismanagement and corruption in funds allocated for Covid-19 and detail of contract of hospital kitchen and submission of Audit Report for 2018-19)" raised by Senator Kalsoom Perveen on 17th August, 2020 was deferred till next meeting of the Standing Committee.

Agenda Item No.iv

13. The Committee showed concern that in spite of repeated recommendations on part of the Committee to Grant the Budget Honoraria arrears to the Doctors and para-medical staff working in the Dispensary of the Parliament House, was ignored. In spite of repeated recommendations made by the committee, it is yet to be given to them.

14. The Committee observed that the dispensary staff work beyond their normal duties hours and it is quite unfair and unjust to ignore them while giving incentive in form of Budget Honoria to the other employees of the parliament.

15. The Ministry briefed that the Health Ministry has been writing letters to the Finance Ministry to grant the budgetary honoraria to the employees of Parliament House Dispensary. A summary for the Chairman ECC (Federal Minister for Finance) was also submitted in January, 2020 but the concerned Ministry did not grant approval to that effect. The Ministry of health also cited recommendations of the Standing Committee in the letter addressed to the Federal Minister for Finance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) On agenda item No.ii, the committee disposed of the matter and decided to submit the report to the House.
 - (ii) On Agenda item No.iv, the committee decided to summon representative from the Finance Ministry in the next meeting to resolve this issue.
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SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

14th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on 6th January, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
3. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
4. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
5. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
6. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
7. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
8. Dr. Faisal Sultan, Spl. Asstt. to Prime Minister on Health	Ex-Officio Member
9. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Mover
10. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Mover

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

- i. The Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Bill, 2020 – moved by Senator Javed Abbasi in the Senate on 26th October, 2020 and referred to the Committee.
- ii. Calling Attention Notice regarding un-registered Pharmacies; medical stores being run without qualified pharmacists and without pharmacy licenses. Why the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan has been rendered dysfunctional? - Moved by Senator Javed Abbasi in the House on 23rd October, 2020 and referred to the Committee.
- iii. Starred question No.57 regarding number of WHO officials performing duties in the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme; salary, remuneration and facilities being paid to them – Moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed in the House on 29th October, 2020.
- iv. Starred Question No.59 regarding detail of vacant post of Medical and Para-medical staff in Government Hospitals in Islamabad; steps taken by the Government to fill in the vacant posts – Moved by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh in the House on 29th October, 2020.
- v. Public Petition No.3349 submitted by Hafiz Muhammad Suleman regarding inclusion of 20 marks of those students who passed Hafze Quran examination for admission in Medical Colleges - referred by Chairman Senate on 21st December, 2020 with the direction to submit report within 30 working days.
- vi. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

Agenda Item No.i

3. The object and reasons of the Bill were explained by Mover, Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi. He was of the view that the Bill is an over-arching legislative document, encompassing the maximum details of the subject matter. The recent occurrence of Covid-19 is

an eye-opener for the whole world and all the more for a country with limited means like Pakistan.

4. Infectious diseases are a matter of grave concern for public health at large and prevention of such diseases is dire need of time. Access to vaccination is one important component but the means of transmission of infectious diseases are more significant to be considered for sake of prevention. Screening, counseling and awareness through formal and informal means of communication are also important in this regard.

5. For the time being public health authorities has not been provided with legislative cover to take administrative action and to limit contact with infectious individuals.

6. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health appreciated the efforts of the Mover and regarded it a befitting document, in consonance with the prevailing circumstances but at the same time SAPM apprised the Committee that a Government Bill is being prepared and soon will be initiated in either House. He explained that National Command Operation Center (NCOC) has faced many impediments in recent wave of Corona Virus and all those pros and cons including strengths and weaknesses of the authorities have been kept in view while preparing the Bill to control the infectious diseases.

7. Keeping in view the practical hurdles, it will be more appropriate to consider the Government Bill than the Private Member's Bill. The Mover insisted that his legislative work should be duly considered by the Committee as it has already been moved by the Mover and the Government is lagging far behind in legislative business.

8. However the Committee, after listening different viewpoints, decided to defer the Bill till next meeting and also to invite the Law Department for their input/contribution.

Agenda Item No.ii

9. Agenda Item No.ii was discussed in detail. It was briefed that Pharmacy Council of Pakistan is an autonomous body working under the administrative control of the Ministry of NHR&C under Pharmacy Act, 1967. Pharmacy Council remained unfortunately incomplete but the Ministry taking serious notice of the issue held three meetings in last three months to complete the Pharmacy Council. The Ministry apprised the Committee that Pharmacy Council has been re-constituted under Notification No.1-4/2019-AD (Homen/Pharmacy), dated 20th November, 2020 and the Notification was presented to the Committee.

10. The Committee was satisfied that the Pharmacy Council has been re-constituted and has become functional to control the Pharmacy related issues. The Committee disposed of the matter and decided to present the Report to the House.

Agenda Item No.iii

11. The matter was discussed in the Committee. The Committee was of the view that the WHO supports Polio Eradication Programme in provision of technical and field staff for the programme operations. It also helps in surveillance activities. The staff works as per directions of the district PEI Team and also as members of different committees led by the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner.

12. The staff is recruited on meritorious grounds with a defined selection criteria and fair selection system. Salaries paid to the staff is outside the PC-I and WHO provides funds for the salaries of the staff.

13. Describing the details it was briefed that the total number of officials are 1272 and they are supporting in WHO working for the Polio Eradication Programme

14. After going through the whole briefing submitted by the Ministry, the Committee was satisfied and did not raise any objection to that effect. Honourable Members of the Committee were of the view that since WHO is supporting the whole staff so it is in our national interest to support the programme and to make our country a polio free country. The Committee also decided to submit the report to the House.

Agenda Item No.iv

15. The Committee was not satisfied with the Report submitted by the Ministry on vacant posts of medical and Para-medical staff in Islamabad. The Committee showed concern that a transparent report is not submitted to the Committee and in spite of repeated commitments by the Ministry the matter is still pending with the Committee. It is sheer wastage of time and resources. The Committee decided to defer the matter till next meeting with the direction that a clear and comprehensive report be submitted to the Committee in the next meeting.

Agenda item No.v

16. It was briefed that pursuant to Clause 9 of the Admission Regulations (Amended) 2020-2021, and Section 18(3) of the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) Act, 2020, all public universities, colleges or provincial governments, for purposes of preparing merit lists when admitting students shall be required to give 50% weightage to the marks obtained by the candidates in MDCAT.

17. Furthermore, for the purpose of preparing the merit list for the private medical and dental colleges the weightage given in clause 18 shall be followed. A copy of admission Regulations (Amended) 2020-21 is enclosed for ready reference and also available on PMC website i.e. www.pmc.gov.pk.

18. In order to ensure quality medical and dental education towards producing quality doctors licensed to provide healthcare to the citizens of Pakistan, PMC has mandated the minimum criteria to pass MDCAT examination for admission in all medical and dental colleges.

19. With reference to additional quota seats or additional marks for Hafiz-e-Quran, the Pakistan Medical Commission has no role to play in the policy nor the consent of the PMC is required. Therefore any such policy may be issued by the concerned admitting university in consultation with the concerned Provincial/Federal Government if deemed necessary.

20. The merit list is prepared for the Private Medical and Dental Colleges as per Clause-18 of the Regulations amended 2020-21.

21. The Committee was not satisfied with the report and directed the Pakistan Medical Commission to issue directions to the concerned colleges to give weightage to Huffaz-e-kram while merit list is being prepared. There can be different ways to accommodate Huffaz-e-kram by granting such priority as admissible under the rules and in consonance with the merit. As per Clause-18, 20% marks are meant for the interview, so 5 to 10% marks can be given to the Huffaz in the interview. PMC should issue directions to all the concerned under intimation to the Committee. The committee was of the view that ignoring Hafiz-e-Quran is not in accordance with the Islamic teachings. The Public Petition was disposed of with the direction that 5 to 10% marks be given to the Huffaz in the interview.

Any other item

22. The Chairperson Committee raised the issue of Pakistani students suffering in Kyrgyzstan and decided to consider the matter in the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) On Agenda item No.i, the Committee after listening the different points of view decided to defer the Bill till next meeting and also directed to invite the Law Ministry for their input/contribution.
- (ii) On Agenda Item No.ii, the Committee was satisfied that the Pharmacy Council has been re-constituted therefore the Committee disposed of the matter and decided to present the Report to the House.
- (iii) On Agenda Item No.iii, the Committee was satisfied with the briefing submitted by the Ministry and disposed of the matter with the direction to present the report to the House.
- (iv) On agenda item No.iv, the Committee decided to defer the matter with the direction that a clear and comprehensive report be submitted to the Committee in the next meeting.
- (v) On agenda item No.v, the Public Petition was disposed of with the directions to the PMC to direct the concerned authorities to give 5 to 10% marks in the interview to Huffaz-e-kram while preparing the merit lists. 20% marks are meant for the interview as per clause 18 of the PMC Act 2020 and Huffaz-e-Karam can be accommodated by giving 5 to 10% marks in Interview.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

15th meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Khushbakht Shujat on 28th January, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
3. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
4. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
5. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
6. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
7. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
8. Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
9. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination	Ex-Officio Member
10. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Mover

2. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-
Discussion / deliberation on the following;

- i. The Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Bill, 2020 – Moved by Senator Javed Abbasi in the Senate on 26th October 2020 and referred to the Committee.
- ii. Starred Question No.59 regarding detail of vacant posts of Medical and Para-medical staff in Government Hospitals in Islamabad; steps taken by the Government to fill in the vacant posts – Moved by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh in the House on 29th October, 2020.
- iii. Covid-19 Vaccination plan of the Government to ensure equitable access to the Vaccine-forwarded by Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq.
- iv. Briefing on the Issuance of wrong equivalency certificates to Dr. Ali Shamim Attaullah (PMDC Registration No.5235) and Dr. Basma Ali (PMDC Registration No.5232) raised by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani.
- v. Briefing by Ministry of Finance regarding "Grant of Budget Honoraria arrears to the medical and para-medical staff working in the Dispensary of the Parliament House announced by the Finance Minister for all the employees serving under the umbrella of the Parliament House Building for the years of 2018 and 2019 during Budget Sessions", forwarded by Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani.
- vi. Implementation status of the recommendations of the Standing Committee made in its meeting held on 11th March, 2020.
- vii. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM NO.1

3. While explaining the Bill the Mover briefed the Committee that the spread of COVID-19 is an eye-opener for a country like us. In fact, it has become all the more poignant as there was no system in place to control such an infectious disease. The Prevention and Control of Infectious disease Bill is an attempt to bring the system in place. There is not one but many

infectious diseases and all those infectious disease are of grave concern for the future of our country.

4. Some of the developing countries have developed infectious disease surveillance and early warning system designed to meet the need for infectious disease surveillance during mass gatherings. It included: systematically and continuously collecting and analyzing real time data, estimating the location, size, trend and hazards of potential out breaks or epidemics, thus ensuring no major out breaks or epidemic during mass gatherings and games. However, while all these concerns were considered when drafting the law, at the same time it was also ensured that freedom of movement is not curtailed.

5. The Government's Responsibilities to control and combat infectious diseases is one of the most important branches of public health law. The law comprises the prevention, detection and abatement of infectious diseases and health risks resulting from such diseases. The Bill not only corresponds with the international health regulations but also provides an authority to implement the law.

6. The Mover also briefed that this is the first comprehensive legislative document that provided an intersection between law and infectious diseases; prior to this no effort has been made to provide the legal framework to the government to control and prevent infectious diseases. Such a lack of interest in public health issues exposed our weaknesses and deficiencies on part of the Government when COVID-19 spread was seen in the whole world.

7. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) was of the view that the Government is also working on a Bill on the same pattern. The Mover should look into the Government's Legislative work and see if his concerns are addressed in the Government Bill or not. The Committee did not agree with the SAPM's point of view. The Committee was of the view that the Bill can't be delayed as it is of prime importance for the public health.

8. The Members appreciated the Bill and valued the document as a comprehensive law. The Committee recommended that the Bill "The Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Bill, 2020" is in consonance with the demand of the time and recommended to present the Bill to the House.

AGENDA NO.II

9. The Ministry presented the list of vacant posts of medical and para-medical staff in Government hospitals. The Committee was of the view that public health is of prime importance and vacant posts should be filled at the earliest.

10. The Committee was apprised that the vacant posts have to go through a procedural mechanism through FPSC. The recruitment process is lengthy and the capacity of the FPSC in terms of human resource is comparatively lesser. So it takes time in filling the vacant posts. The Committee disposed of the matter with the recommendation to present the report to the House.

AGENDA NO.III

11. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister explained that the Government has made a comprehensive programme based on IT management to procure and administer vaccine

to the public. The data from NADRA is of great help in this regard. A systematic programme of vaccination has been made, starting from frontline health workers and old-aged citizens being more vulnerable folks of society.

12. A list of health care workers have been prepared that comprises of four Lac (400,000) healthcare workers. Vaccine workers have made their test runs successfully to carry out the vaccine programme.

13. Cold chain was another problem to be taken care of to protect the vaccine but every challenge is met in a befitting manner. Our friendly country China has donated half a million doses to our country. COVAX facility is another source. Covax is a globally pooled procurement mechanism designed by the donors for the deserving people of the world. Through Covax, we will be able to provide vaccination to 20% of the population.

14. The third option is direct procurement. The Government has allowed private importers to import the vaccine. The Government shall start vaccination from 1st February 2021.

15. Replying a question, it was explained that the awareness campaign will also be launched through multimedia sources to combat the negative propaganda against the vaccine.

AGENDA NO.IV

16. The Complainants were allowed to brief the Committee regarding issuance of wrong equivalency certificate. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health listened to the views of the complainants and as per directions of the Committee, the PMC was advised to review the decision and justice be dispensed to the complainants.

AGENDA NO.V

17. As per directions of the Honourable Chairman Senate, the Committee decided to refer the case to the SSC on Finance with the recommendation that Doctors and para-medical staff should be given budget honoraria arrears in line as that of the staff working in the Parliament House.

AGENDA ITEM NO.VI

18. On Agenda item No.vi, the Committee viewed the implementation status of the recommendation of the Standing Committee and got satisfied.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) On agenda Item No.i, the Committee recommended that the Bill "The Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Bill, 2020" is absolutely in consonance with the demand of the time and recommended to present the Bill to the House.
- (ii) On Agenda item No.ii, the Committee was apprised that recruitment process of FPSC is lengthy as it takes time in filling the vacant posts. The

Committee disposed of the matter with the recommendation to present the report to the House.

- (iii) On Agenda item No.iv, the Committee recommended that the PMC can review the previous decisions and if anything wrong has happened in the past, it should be rectified.
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