

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Thursday, the 9th July, 2015

DEFERRED QUESTIONS

(Questions Nos. 16, 90 and 92 Deferred on 13th May, 2015 (115th Session))

***Question No. 16 (Def.). Mr. Abdul Rehman Malik:**

(Notice received on 16-04-2015 at 11:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 41.1 % of Government shares in Habib Bank Limited have been sold to a business group, if so, its reasons;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the said shares were giving profit of over 200 million dollars yearly;*
- (c) whether it is further a fact that D.G. Khan Cement and Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB) were also sold to the same business group;*
- (d) whether it is further a fact that an inquiry of dubious deal of Muslim Commercial Bank is pending in NAB where the forged guarantees were generated; and*
- (e) whether the group / company against which inquiry / proceedings are pending in NAB can buy or participate in the process of Privatization of public entities?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The Government has divested its 609,317,135 shares (41.5 of HBL share capital) in Habib Bank Limited raising Rs. 102 billion, including foreign exchange of US\$ 764 million. The said shares have not been sold to a business group. In fact, the said shares have been divested through a Book-building process to more than 400 international and domestic equity funds, institutional and individual investors at a price of Rs. 168 per share, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) (not a single group).

(b) No, the factual position is narrated below. The yearly profit for the last six (06) years earned by the Government (GoP) through dividend received on HBL shares:

Dividend (PKR)	Dividend to rate for the (PKR)	Average US \$ (US \$)	Dividend to GoP year in PKR	Year per share	GoP
2009	6.00	~3,656 million	81.35	~45 million	
2010	6.50	~3,960 million	84.43	~47 million	
2011	7.00	~4,265 million	85.66	~50 million	
2012	7.50	~4,570 million	92.60	~49 million	
2013	8.00	~4,874 million	100.71	~48 million	
2014	12.00	~7,312 million	100.19	~73 million	

(c) D.G. Khan Cement was sold to M/s Tariq Sehgal & Associates in May, 1992, whereas 3,601,126 shares were sold to the General Public through the Stock Exchanges in November, 2003. With regards to MCB, 75% shares were sold to National Group in April, 1991 by the Finance Division. However, out of the outstanding shares, 6.8% and 4.4% shares were divested by the Privatisation Commission (PC) to MCB Employees - PF & Pension Fund in January, and November, 2001, respectively. In October, 2002, 24,024,560 shares of MCB were divested by PC through CDC.

(d) Matter is under process among State Bank of Pakistan, National Accountability Bureau and Secretary Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, Senate Secretariat.

(e) During the pendency of a NAB inquiry, there is no bar under the privatisation laws for a group/ individual to participate in the process of privatisation.

***Question No. 90. (Def) Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq :**

(Notice received on 22-04-2015 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the average per capita income in the country with province-wise break up; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to increase the said income and to equalize the same in all federating units?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Pakistan Bureau of Statistics compiles per capita income at national level only, the detail of which for last three years are as under:

Financial Year Items	2011-12	2012-13 (R)	2013-14 (P)

Gross National Income (Rs. In Million)	21082207	23650295	26775661
Population (Million No.)	178.91	182.53	186.19
Per Capita Income (Rupees)	117837	129569	143808

R: Revised

P: Provisional

(b) In order to increase per capita income of the country and improve income distribution, this government has outlined a comprehensive strategy in the form of Vision 2025. The Vision is based on seven pillars. Pillar-I: Putting People First; Developing Human and Social Capital, Pillar-II: Achieving Sustained, Indigenous and Inclusive Growth; Pillar-III: Governance, Institutional Reform & Modernization of the Public Sector; Pillar-IV: Energy, Water & Food Security, Pillar-V: Private Sector-Led Growth, Pillar-VI: Developing a Competitive Knowledge Economy through Value Addition; Pillar-VII: Modernization of Transportation Infrastructure & Greater Regional Connectivity.

The share of provinces in the NFC award has been increased to enable them improve their socio-economic condition. Projects located in the less developed areas are also funded through Federal Public Sector Development Programme.

***Question No. 92. (Def) Ms. Rahila Magsi:**

(Notice received on 22-04-2015 at 11:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the procedure laid down for verification of "Service Books" of the Government employees in BPS-4 to 16 by the AGPR;*
- (b) the number of officers / officials deputed by AGPR for verification of Service Books of the said employees;*
- (c) the names and names of departments of the employees whose Service Books have been verified by the AGPR since January, 2015; and*
- (d) the names and names of departments of the employees whose Service Books are pending for verification by the AGPR since that month and the time by which the same will be verified?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) A separate section namely "Pay Fixation Section" is working in the office of AGPR Islamabad for the purpose of verification of service books of nongazatted employees. The working of Pay Fixation Section comprises following steps:—

(A) **Pay Fixation in AGPR Islamabad**

Step-I (AGPR Counter)

- Service Book is submitted to the AGPR office with the request letter showing the purpose of verification. The Department representative submits the original Service Book at the service book counter ensuring that all the relevant documents mentioned in the check list are enclosed.
- After entering the particulars into the system, the Front Desk Officer get a unique token number from the system and give a print memo to the representative.
- A list in triplicate of all the service books received in a particular date is generated from the system and the Front Desk Officer counts, ascends, signs the list, and sends the bundle of Service Books to concerned Section (Pay Fixation Cell) with one copy of the printed list.

Step-2 (AGPR Pay fixation Cell)

- All the service books alongwith list of the data are received by the Assistant Accounts Officer (AAO) and receipt acknowledged with the sign and date on the second copy of the list.
- The AAO marks the letters/service books to concerned Senior Auditor on the list received from the Front Desk Officer and hands over the Service Books to the Junior Auditor who diarize the request letters and enters the name of the Senior Auditor to whom the task assigned in to the SAP System.
- Each Senior Auditor acknowledges the receipt of letters/service books by putting initials on the diary register.

Step-3 (AGPR Pay Fixation Cell)

- The concerned senior Auditor while exercising professional judgment, verify or reject service books by putting entries and signature and submit the same to AAO who re-evaluates the judgment of Senior Auditor.
- The AAO enters (forward through SAP System) the Service Books to Accounts Officer (AO).
- After exercising professional judgment, AO returns the service books to the AAO.
- The Senior Auditor enters the outward number on the list as well as in to the system and sends the service books to Service Book Counter.

Step-4 (Service Book Counter)

- On receipt of Service Books from the Service Book Section, the Front Desk Officer updates the second printed copy by entering the outward number.
- On presentation of the token, the Front Desk Officer enters the name of the collecting personnel in the system and gives service book in original.

(B) **Verification in the concerned Departments.**

In order to facilitate the employees and to manage the work load effectively, office of AGP also has a mechanism to depute Pay Fixation Parties to the concerned departments.

Pay Fixation Parties visit the departments as and when required for verification of the Service Books.

(b) Following staff has been posted in Pay Fixation Section:—

Number		S.No	Designation
1	Accounts Officer	1	
2	Assistant Accounts Officer	2	
3	Senior Auditor	3	
4	Junior Auditor	2	
Total		8	

(c) List attached as Annex-A.

(d) List attached as Annex-B. The same will be verified within two weeks.

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

***Question No. 40. Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel :**

(Notice received on 20-05-2015 at 06:55 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned posts of Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and those in BPS-16 in the Customs Department (Pakistan Customs);

(b) the number of posts of Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents lying vacant in the said department at present; and

(c) the criteria prescribed promotions against the said posts?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The sanctioned strength posts of Superintendent Customs (BS-16) in the Customs Department is 205 out of which 30 posts are vacant.

(b) The post/cadre of Deputy Superintendent in the Customs Department has been declared as dying cadre and the vacant posts occurring in the cadre have been converted as Inspector Customs (BS-16)

(c) According to the Recruitment Rules, the posts of Superintendent Customs is 100% filled by promotion as per following criteria:-

- (i) 95% vacancies are meant for Deputy Superintendent with 03 years service as such.
- (ii) 5% vacancies are meant for Graduate Stenographer/APS (BS-16) of the relevant Collectorates of Customs Department with 05 years service.

***Question No. 42. Mr. Ahmed Hassan :**

(Notice received on 21-05-2015 at 09:00 a. m.)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that prices of cars being manufactured or assembled in Pakistan are higher than the prices of cars of same categories being manufactured or assembled in the neighboring countries, if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the prices of cars in the country, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi: (a) The prices of 1300 cc — 1800 cc cars in Pakistan are less than the neighboring countries whereas the prices of 800 cc small cars being manufactured or assembled in Pakistan are higher than the prices of similar category being manufactured in neighboring country due to high production volumes/economy of scale in the neighboring country. (Comparison attached at **Annex-I**).

(b) All car/ automobile manufacturers are in the private sector as such prices are governed by market mechanism only and Government has no control on any price fixation. However, Government's role is to provide policy framework to create competition.

In this regard, the Government is firming up draft Automotive Development Policy (ADP) 2015-20, wherein new investors will be adequately incentivized to reduce prices through competition.

***Question No. 44. Mrs. Khalida Parveen :**

(Notice received on 21-05-2015 at 09:40)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to refer to the Senate un-starred question No. 8, replied on 1st November, 2013 and state the details of revenue/ taxes collected by the Government since the announcement of the NEC Award 2009 with Division-wise break up?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The amount collected under the heads of various taxes and duties since announcement of-N. CC Award 2009 is as under:—

FBR does not maintain division-wise tax collection due to jurisdiction issues.

(Rs Million)

Direct Years	Taxes	Customs	FED	Sales Tax	Total
2008-09	443,548	148,403	117,455	451,744	1,161,150
2009-10	525,977	160,273	124,784	516,348	1,327,382
2010-11	602,451	184,853	137,353	633,357	1,558,014
2011-12	738,424	216,906	122,464	804,899	1,882,693
2012-13	743,409	239,459	120,964	842,528	1,946,360
2013-14	877,255	242,811	138,084	996,382	2,254,532
2014-15 (*)	855,896	264,463	139,692	950,794	2,210,845

(*) July-May.

***Question No. 45. Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq :**
(Notice received on 21-05-2015 at 11:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the yardstick set down in 7th NFC Award to assess the outcomes of efforts of Provinces to achieve certain benchmarks in the fields of education, health and provision of safe drinking water etc. at the end of the tenure of the Award; and*
- (b) whether it is fact that no state of the art monitoring and audit systems were included in the said Award to achieve those benchmarks by the Provinces, if so, the steps being taken by the Government to include the same in the next NFC Award?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) No such yardstick has been set in the 7th NFC Award.

(b) The Terms of Reference of the NFC as given in the Article 160(2) of the Constitution does not permit setting up of any such system. It may be considered as encroaching upon the Provincial autonomy. It is prerogative of the Provinces to allocate funds and set benchmarks for various sectors including education, health and provision of safe drinking water

***Question No. 46. Syed Shibli Faraz:**
(Notice received on 21-05-2015 at 12:40 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the names of institutions/ organizations in the country which have been provided aid, loan or revival package by the Government during the last two years indicating also the amount provided in each case?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar:

Loans under PSDP

i. Loan to National Highway Authority

Finance Division has released following amounts as CDL to NHA:—

- (a) FY 2012-13 Rs. 22,137.858 million
- (b) FY 2013-14 Rs. 52,280.968 million

ii. Loan to Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Limited (PBC)

Finance Division has released following amounts as CDL to PBC:—

- (a) FY 2012-13 Rs. 82.000 million
- (b) FY 2013-14 Rs. 162.204 million

iii. Loan to WAPDA (Power Wing)

Finance Division has released following amounts as CDL to WAPDA (Power Wing):—

- (a) FY 2012-13 Rs. 5,285.000 million
- (b) FY 2013-14 Rs. 42,107.624 million

iv. Loan to WAPDA (Water Wing)

Finance Division has released following amounts as CDL to WAPDA (Water Wing):—

- (a) FY 2012-13 Rs. 1,200.000 million
- (b) FY 2013-14 Rs. 801.230 million

Other Loans

v. Loan to Printing Corporation of Pakistan

During FY 2012-13, Rs. 122.500 million were released to Printing Corporation of Pakistan in lieu of salaries and other liabilities of its employees.

vi. Loan to Privatization Commission

During FY 2013-14, loan of Rs. 383.654 million was provided to Privatization Commission on account of transfer of properties to PTCL.

vii. Loan to Pakistan Steel Mills.

During FY 2012-13, Rs. 3,000.000 million was released to Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM). In FY 2013-14, amount of Rs. 11,330.000 million has been released to Pakistan Steel Mills as a loan to meet the expenditure on salaries of employees, urgent liabilities and raw material in pursuance of ECC decisions.

viii. **Loan to Lahore Garments City**

During FY 2012-13, loan of Rs. 89.000 million was provided to Lahore Garments City.

ix. **Loan to POF-Wah**

During FY 2012-13, loan of Rs. 1,535.130 million was provided to POF Wah for up gradation of Wah Brass Mills (Pvt) Limited.

***Question No. 47. Mrs. Khalida Parveen:**

(Notice received on 25-05-2015 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to refer to the Senate starred question No. 94, replied on 1st November, 2013 and state the amount spent by the Federal Government on the development projects launched / carried out in Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar during the last three years?

Reply not received.

***Question No. 48. Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:**

(Notice received on 26-05-2015 at 10:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to slate:

- (a) the criteria prescribed for regulating and monitoring the activities of NGOs in the (bunny; and*
- (b) whether it is a fact that activities and audit reports of the said NGOs are not accessible to the public through online system, if so, the time by which the same will be made accessible?*

Reply not received.

***Question No. 49 Mr. Sajjad Hussain Turi:**

(Notice received on 08-05-2015 at 10:45 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of Pakistan and Commercial Banks in the country do not accept the guaranty of land and immovable property located in FATA for the grant of loans despite the fact that revenue record of the same is available with the concerned authorities, if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to issue directions to the said banks to provide loans by accepting the guaranty of that land and property, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) No. State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has never restricted the banks to maintain any specific type of collateral or security or guarantee against their financial facilities offered to any class of borrower. Therefore, Commercial Banks do not have any restriction with regard to accepting land and immovable property located in any area of the country including FATA, as collateral for the purpose of grant of loans.

(b) After explanation at (a) above, no further action is required.

***Question No. 50. Mr. Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai Advocate:**

(Notice received on 27-05-2015 at 03:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *wether it is a fact that 89 Assistant Vice Presidents (AVPs) have recently been promoted to the post of Vice Presidents (VPs) in Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL); and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that in some of the said cases junior AVPs have been promoted by superseding the seniors ones, if so, names of such junior officers promoted and the reasons for promoting them by superseding the seniors?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) In the year 2015, rather 94 Assistant Vice Presidents have been promoted as Vice President under Staff Regulation (SR)-2005 with effect from 01-04-2015.

(b) There are two systems in Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited *i.e* employees governed under Staff Service Regulation (SSR)-1961 & Staff Regulation (SR)-2005. The promotion under SSR-1961 is considered according to Promotion Policy, 1999 based on seniority cum fitness. Names of officers promoted are at Annex-I. In this respect, no junior AVP has been promoted by superseding the senior ones under SSR-1961. However, some officers were dropped due to non-fulfillment of promotion criteria (**Annex-II**).

The promotion of Assistant Vice President under SR-2005 is considered according to Merit Based Promotion Criteria including quantification of performance Appraisal Reports, Qualification and interviews Marks. Merit list of the AVPs under SR-2005 is prepared on the basis of total marks obtained by the officer and promotion orders are issued according to Merit against the vacancies as per their share. The total marks of the last officer promoted were more on merit list than all those who were not promoted. Under SR-2005, promotion is not based on seniority. In this regard, the names of junior officers promoted are at **Annex-III**.

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

***Question No. 52. Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**

(Notice received on 02-06-2015 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the present rate of inflation in the country indicating also the overall effects of the same; and*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to control inflation in the country?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The present rate of inflation in the country in July-May 2014-15 is 4.65 percent. Its effect is visible as there has been a substantial decline in domestic prices of essential items providing relief to the common man at large.

- (b) The government is taking following steps to control the said rate:
 - i. The ECC reviews inflationary trend/ prices and supply of essential commodities in its meetings on regular basis.
 - ii. National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) chaired by the Federal Finance Minister also monitor the prices and supply position of essential commodities in consultation with provincial governments and concerned federal ministries/ divisions and organization on monthly basis.
 - iii. The provincial governments also monitor the prices and supply of commodities through their District Price Control Committees.
 - iv. To maintain fiscal discipline, the government has focused on prudent expenditure management.
 - v. The SBP under their Monetary Policy control inflation through policy rate.
 - vi. The government is also working on revival of Executive Magistracy System, which will help to ensure price stability through better price check.

***Question No. 54. Chaudhary Tanvir Khan:**

(Notice received on 03-06-2015 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the amount of tax paid by the cellular companies in the country during the last two years with company wise break up?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: The amount of tax paid by cellular companies in the last two years, company-wise is annexed as Annex-A

***Question No. 55. Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**

(Notice received on 08-06-2015 at 09:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to slate:

- (a) *the details of targets fixed for growth of various sectors in the country during the fiscal year 2014-15 indicating also the actual growth achieved in each case; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that the said targets could not be achieved, if so, the reasons thereof?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The sector-wise targets and actual growth achieved (provisional) during the fiscal year 2014-15 are given elow:—

Fiscal year 2014-15		
Sectors	Targets	Growth Achieved
Agriculture	3.3	2.9
Industry	6.8	3.6
Services	5.2	5.0
GDP (bp)	5.1	4.24

- (b) The targeted growth rate could not be achieved during the FY15 on account of:
- Massive floods in September, 2014,
 - Economic disruption due to agitation and dharna (August-December, 2014)
 - Low wheat productivity due to unprecedented rains and prolonged winter
 - Unforeseen expenditure on account of floods, enhancement of security, hosting and resettlement of 1DPs
 - War against extremism effected the economic activity
 - Energy provision remained below the desired level

***Question No. 56. Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**
(Notice received on 10-06-2015 at 4:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the amount of Bank loans written off since 2008 indicating also the names of persons/companies and the amount written off in each case ?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: Information is being collected by State Bank of Pakistan from all banks/DFIs, which will take time. It is therefore requested that 15 days time may kindly be granted for submission of reply.

ISLAMABAD :
The 8th July, 2015.

AMJED PERVEZ,
Secretary.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“UN-STARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Thursday, the 9th July, 2015

Question No. 4. Mrs.khalida Parveen:

(Notice received on 02-06-2015 at 04:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the number, make and engine capacity of official vehicles allowed to Managing Director (MD) of the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) under the rules;*
- (b) the number of official vehicles being used by the present MD of the said Corporation;*
- (c) whether it is a fact that recently a luxury car has been purchased @ Rs. 2.4 million for the use of present MD of that Corporation without the approval of the Board, if so, the reasons thereof ; and*
- (d) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to take action on the said violation of rules, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) As per terms & conditions of appointment duly approved by the HBFCL’s Board of Directors, the present MD, HBFCL is entitled for 02 chauffeurs driven Cars with petrol on actual basis. Make and Engine capacity is not specified in the terms. However, following vehicles are under use of the MD, HBFCL.

				Sr. No.
Vehicle	Make	Model	Engine capacity	
1.	Toyota Corolla	2015	1800 CC	
	Altis Grande			
2.	Toyota Altis	2009	1800 CC	

- (b) Two vehicles are under use of the MD, HBFCL.

(c) The vehicle for MD, HBFCL as mentioned at Sr. No.1 was purchased for Rs. 2,302,500/- as per terms and conditions of his appointment duly approved by the HBFCL's Board of Directors.

(d) No violation has been committed.

Question No. 5. Mrs. Khalida Parveen:

(Notice received on 02-06-2015 at 04:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the post of the Managing Director (MD) of the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) is filled on the recommendation of the Board of Directors (BOD) after advertisement in the press and short listing of the candidates by a consultant, if so, the names of the candidates shortlisted by the consultant during the process of appointment of the present MD indicating also the date on which the BOD forwarded its recommendations to the competent authority and the date on which the present MD was appointed;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the present MD of the said Corporation was nominated / appointed by the Government instead of the BOD without shortlisting the candidates as per rules and later the BOD ratified his appointment; and*
- (c) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to take action against those who violated the rules in appointment of the said MD?*

Reply Not Received.

Question No. 6. Mrs. Khalida Parveen:

(Notice received on 02-06-2015 at 04:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that lawyers appointed by the Government contest the cases of the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) in courts as per Government policy;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that the present Management of the said Corporation is hiring private lawyers on payment of huge fee for contesting its cases in the courts, if so, the names, and educational qualifications of the lawyers hired by the present Management on the payment of Rs. 1.00 million and above free for contesting those cases in which high ranking officers of the corporation themselves are a party; and*

- (c) *the steps being taken by the Government to control the said violation of the rules by the present Management of that Corporation?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) House Building Finance Company Limited is a limited company managed under Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is incorporated under the Companies Ordinance, 1984 with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. As such HBFCL is an independent legal entity. The HBFCL Board is empowered under the law to take key decisions regarding appointment, hiring, engagement and payment of professional fee to the lawyers to protect the interest and stake of HBFCL.

(b) No. The present Management of HBFCL is not hiring private lawyers on payment of huge fee nor any payment of Rs 1.00 million or above to any advocate/ lawyer/ law firm has been made.

(c) No violation has been committed.

Question No. 7. Mrs. Khalida Parveen:

(Notice received on 02-06-2015 at 04:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state.

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) had previously constructed a building in Islamabad for shifting its headquarters from Karachi to Islamabad which was sold lateron, if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that now the said corporation has constructed another building in Islamabad for that purpose but has not shifted its headquarters from Karachi to Islamabad so far, if so, the reasons thereof and the time by which the same will be shifted?*

Reply Not Received.

Question No. 8. Mrs. Khalida Parveen:

(Notice received on 02-06-2015 at 04:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the names, age, educational qualifications, place of domicile and designations of the persons appointed in the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) since 30th June, 2013, indicating also the details of advertisements against which they were appointed along with the names and dates of issue of the newspapers in which those advertisements appeared?

Reply Not Received.

ISLAMABAD :
The 8th July, 2015.

AMJED PERVEZ,
Secretary.

PCPPI—4657 (15) Senate—08-07-2015—275.