

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Thursday, the 12th May, 2016

*Question No. 58. **Senator Ahmed Hassan:**
(Notice received on 21-03-2016 at 09:45 a.m.)

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

- (a) the number of persons who were provided financial assistance under the Waseela-e-Rozgar scheme of the Benazir Income Support Programme in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last two years with district wise break up; and*
- (b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the allocations for the said scheme during the next budget, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a) BISP has closed down its Waseela-e-Rozgar Initiative in June, 2013 upon the direction of BISP Board due to weak design, fragile monitoring & evaluation mechanism, **overlapping of efforts and resources with other federal and provincial governments social protection initiatives. Therefore, there is no disbursement under this initiative during the last two years.**

(b) Keeping in view, there is no proposal under consideration for increase of allocation under Waseela-e-Rozgar Initiative.

*Question No. 59. **Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh:**
(Notice received on 21-03-2016 at 07:54 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 names of persons who filed their tax returns for September-October, 2015, have not been included in the tax filer's list, if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the banks have been deducting withholding tax on bank transactions of the said persons due to non-inclusion of their names in that list, if so, the amount deducted as withholding tax so far in such cases; and*

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to rectify the said situation?

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a)

1. Presently Active Tax Payers List (ATL) includes names of all those taxpayers:
 - (c) Who have filed their income tax return for the Tax Year 2014
 - (d) Who have filed income tax return for the Tax year 2015
2. In the case of electronically filed return the name of a taxpayer is included in the ATL within a week of such filing.
3. In case of manually filed returns, only those returns are not included in ATL which are invalid under the law. As per available data, 311,495 returns have been filed manually for the tax year 2015. Updated position in this regard is as under:

Manual Returns Received	Invalid Returns	Balance Returns for Data Entry into IRIS	Returns entered into IRIS	Balance Returns to be entered into IRIS
311,495	29,901	281,594	281,594	Nil

Notices for furnishing complete particulars have been issued to the taxpayers who have filed invalid return containing incomplete particulars such as CNIC etc. As soon as they furnish their accurate particulars their returns will be fed into the system as well.

4. In view of the above, names of persons who filed their tax returns for the Tax Year 2015 have been included in the ATL except those whose returns were invalid.
 - (b) As mentioned earlier names of only those persons have not been included in ATL whose returns were invalid. Since the return is invalid *i.e.* as if the return has not been filed, the person is non-filer under the law and banks are required to deduct tax, on banking transactions of those persons. No separate data is available for such persons as they are included in non-filers.
 - (c) Notices for furnishing complete particulars are issued to the taxpayers who have filed invalid return containing incomplete particulars such as CNIC etc. As soon as they furnish their accurate particulars their returns are fed into the system as well.

For convenience of the taxpayers, any taxpayer can check his or her ATL status through mobile SMS at 9966 (For Individuals write ATL space CNIC and for companies write ATL space company name)

Grievances of the taxpayers regarding ATL are redressed on priority basis.

***Question No. 60. Senator Ahmed Hassan:**
(Notice received on 22-03-2016 at 12:30 p.m.)

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

- (a) the number of people living below poverty line in the country at present; and*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government for the alleviation / welfare of the said people?*

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal: (a) According to the latest available estimates based on 2013-14 data, 29.5% of the population is below poverty line, which translates to approximately 55 million people. This is down from 64.3% in 2000-01.

- (b) The government has taken various steps to reduce poverty and income inequality including;
- i. Steering the economy to higher growth path and making economic growth more inclusive and sustained.
 - ii. The outreach of social safety nets is extended to over 5 million people which represents over 16 percent of the population.
 - iii. The amount of cash transfers under BISP to the poorest of the poor is increased from Rs.1.000/- per month in 2013 to Rs.1500/- per month in 2015.
 - iv. Reduced incidence of indirect taxation and broadening the base of income tax.
 - v. Enhancing the allocations for PSDP to improve distributional mechanism.
 - vi. Widening the access to quality services like endowment fund for education, upscaling nutrition etc.
 - vii. Prime Minister's Health Insurance Scheme to extend the coverage of health services.
 - viii. Ensuring equality of opportunities for all segments of society through merit based recruitment system.
 - ix. Revamping skill development and self-employment schemes through PM Youth Business loan initiatives.

- x. Reforming and strengthening institutions for better delivery of public services to people.
- xi. Making development more inclusive and participatory.

***Question No. 61. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh:**

(Notice received on 22-03-2016 at 03:10 p.m.)

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

- (a) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to raise the requirement to educational qualification prescribed for the posts of Assistant Collectors (BPS-17) and Appraisers (BPS-16) in the Customs department; and*
- (b) *the procedure / criteria laid down for promotion against the posts in BPS-17 and above in the said department?*

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Recruitment against the post of Assistant Collector (BS-17) in the Pakistan Customs Service is made through Competitive Examination (CSS) by FPSC. The criteria regarding educational qualifications, age, syllabus and examination is determined by FPSC. Any change therein is the subject matter of FPSC/ Establishment Division.

As regards, the post of Appraising Officer (Appraiser, BS-16), it is stated that the Recruitment Rules for the post have recently been notified in March, 2015 with the concurrence/ approval of FPSC, and presently there is no proposal for any change in it.

(b) According to Framework of Rules and Procedure applicable to Pakistan Customs Service, 75% posts in Pakistan Customs Service are required to be filled through CSS and remaining 25% by promotion of BS-16 officers of Customs Department. The sanctioned posts of BS-17 (Assistant Collector) in the Customs Service is **101** hence 25 posts of Assistant Collector have been reserved for promotion of BS-16 officers (Principal Appraiser, Superintendent (C&E), Superintendent (Preventive)). As regard, promotion against BS-18 and above posts in the Pakistan Customs Service, the same is governed by Promotion Policy 2007 devised by the Establishment Division.

***Question No. 62. Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar:**

(Notice received on 31-03-2016 at 03:20 p.m.)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that a new survey for Benazir Income Support Programme was to be conducted in March this year;*

(b) *whether it is also a fact that the said survey has been delayed, if so, the reasons thereof; and*

(c) *the time by which that survey will be conducted?*

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The survey of BISP was not to be conducted in March this year; however, BISP has already initiated the process of survey and procurement of firms for the task is under process.

(b) There is no delay on part of BISP for initiation of survey activity.

(c) The survey process is technically complex and it requires financial resources, deliberation and participation of various stakeholders, therefore, the activity will take time to be fully scaled up. Survey will be conducted in phased manner (subject to availability of funds from Government and Donor agencies) and updates regarding timeline is as under:

- The first phase of Survey/NSER/- update in 16 districts (List is attached as Annex-A) across the country is likely to be initiated by June, 2016 and is expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year;
- 2nd Phase of the Survey/NSER update in remaining areas of the country is expected to be completed by March, 2018.

***Question No. 63. Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 04-04-2016 at 09:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to bring corrective measures in the banking system to ensure that defaulters of bank loans are not let off, if so, the details thereof?

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: Currently following two laws allow financial institutions to file suits in the banking Courts for speedy recovery of nonperforming loans (NFL):

- (a) The Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 (FIRO)
- (b) National Accountability Ordinance, 1999, under which the banks can file criminal case for recovery of loans against their willful defaulters.

2. The Federal Government in consultation with State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has introduced the bill for amendment in Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001 (FIRO) to further strengthen the recovery mechanism.

***Question No. 64. Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 04-04-2016 at 09:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Science and Technology be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of meetings held by each Board and the Advisory Council constituted under the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority Act, 1996 during the last three years with year wise break up;*
- (b) the details of cases or issues placed in the said meeting and decisions taken thereon;*
- (c) the details of cases reported by the Inspectors appointed under section 15 of the said Act during that period and the action taken thereon;*
- (d) the details of cases of misuse of powers by the said Inspectors reported to that Authority by private persons during that period and action taken thereupon; and*
- (e) the details of cases of involvement of those Inspectors / officials in supporting or collaborating with persons in violation of provisions of that Act, which were brought or came into the notice of the said Authority during that period and the action taken against them in each case?*

Rana Tanveer Hussain: (a)

- (i) Detail of meetings of Board of Directors (BoD) of PSQCA held during the last three years, is as under:—

S. No.	Date of Meeting	Place of Meeting	Year of Meeting
1.	16-01-2013	Karachi	2013
2.	21-02-2014	Karachi	2014
3.	19-02-2015	Islamabad	2015

The next meeting of BoD is scheduled to be held soon.

- (ii) However, the meeting of Advisory Council of PSQCA has not been conducted during the last three years.
- (b) Details of cases/ issues placed in the meetings of BoD may be perused at **Annex - I**.
- (c) Details of the cases reported by the Inspectors may be perused at **Annex - II**.
- (d) There are two Field Officers/ Inspectors in PSQCA involved in misuse of powers resultantly the departmental action was taken. One Inspector is still under suspension from 15-10-2014 and the other has been transferred.
- (e) No such case has been reported.

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

***Question No. 65. Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari:**

(Notice received on 04-04-2016 at 11:16 a.m.)

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

- (a) whether banking activities through mobile phones like money transfers / transactions through easy-paisa require a Bank License or are being regulated by the State Bank of Pakistan, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (b) the number of the said transactions made during the last one year indicating also the value of the same with month wise break up?*

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a) No. Banking activities through mobile phones like money transfer/transactions through easy paisa do not require a separate Bank License. However, banks intending to offer Branchless Banking (BB) services are required to obtain prior approval of State Bank of Pakistan. Mobile banking services in Pakistan are being offered by the banks (including commercial banks, Islamic Banks and Microfinance Banks) under the umbrella of BB Regulations issued by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in 2008 and the same were updated in 2011.

So far nine banks (UBL, HBL, Waseela-Micro-Finance Bank (MFB), U-MFB, MCB Bank, Bank Alfalah, Meezan bank, Askari bank and Tameer-MFB) are providing BB services in Pakistan under various brand names with Easy Paisa being one of them offered by Tameer Microfinance Bank.

(b) During last one year *i.e.* from April 2015 to March 2016, a total of 356.14 million transactions were carried out worth Rs. 1.717 trillion through BB channels. The month wise break up of BB transactions along with the value is at Annex-A.

***Question No. 67. Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan:**

(Notice received on 05-04-2016 at 10:31 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the number of persons who applied for loans under Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme so far indicating also the number of persons who have been granted loans and the amount so granted with district wise break up?

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: Consolidated district wise position of financing under Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme is annexed.

***Question No. 68. Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan:**

(Notice received on 05-04-2016 at 10:35 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms be pleased to state the names and place of domicile of the persons who have been appointed under Young Development Fellows Programme during the last two years indicating also their highest educational qualifications and disciplines thereof and name and country of origin of degree awarding university in each case?

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal: Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform has initiated the project titled “Young Development Fellowship Programme” in financial year 2013-14. The programme seeks to groom talented young women and men with distinguished academic background and potential for leadership, who will lead Pakistan through the 21st Century. The Young Development Fellows (YDF) Programme will bring together about 220 emerging leaders during period of five years (up to 40 each year) from around Pakistan. After completion of their fellowship, these groomed leaders will have greater access to job opportunities in the market. The YDFP offers a one-year programme with built-in “stretch/learning assignment” where they will gain valuable on job experience. They will be member of team where they are expected to make significant contribution towards the unit’s work programme while gaining a broad overview of Planning Commission’s policies and function.

Two batches under the programme have successfully completed their fellowship period during last two years. The first batch of 32 Young Development fellows has successfully completed their fellowship in financial year 2013-14. Under the 2nd batch, 36 fellows joined the fellowship programme initially and have successfully completed their fellowships in financial year 2014-15.

The names and place of domicile of the persons who have been appointed as Young Development Fellows under project titled “Young Development Fellows Programme” during the last two years along with their highest educational qualifications and disciplines thereof and name of the country of origin of degree awarding in each case is enclosed at **Annexure-I & II** respectively.

*Question No. 69. **Senator Col.(R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:**
(Notice received on 05-04-2016 at 11:46 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the details of GST, FED and surcharge collected on gas consumed by power producers in the country for electricity generation during the financial years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15?

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: The power producers/IPPs import very negligible amount of gas products directly for electricity generation in the years mentioned in the subject question.

The IPPs/Power Producers purchase gas from gas companies and pay Sales Tax to gas companies which constitutes their input tax adjustable against sales tax payable on their supplies. The detail is given as under:—

(Rs. in Billion)

Period	Input Tax paid
2012-13	10.6
2013-14	8.9
2014-15	11.2

The amount of surcharge is not related to FBR and it can be obtained either from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources or Ministry of Finance.

***Question No. 70. Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 5-04-2016 at 02:05 p.m.)

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

- (a) the present status of work on Members of Parliament Development Schemes under PSDP launched during the last three years;*
- (b) whether any funds for the schemes initiated by Ex. Members of Parliament are also available, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) the steps taken / being taken by the Government to complete the remaining work of those schemes?*

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal: (a) There has been no provision of funds for the schemes of Members of Parliament in Federal PSDP since fiscal year 2013-14.

(b) As in part (a) above.

(c) As in part (a) above.

***Question No. 71. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh:**

(Notice received on 4-04-2016 at 02:55 p.m.)

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

- (a) the amount of sales tax collected on Petroleum products during the last three years with year-wise break up; and*
- (b) the details of amount distributed among the provinces out of the same with year wise and province-wise break up?*

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Year-wise break-up of the Sales Tax collected from the Petroleum products during the last three years is tabulated as under:

(Rs. in million)

Years	Tax Deductions		Total
	Domestic	Imports	
2012-13	221,823.40	159,826	381,649.40
2013-14	268,793.90	177,887	446,680.90
2014-15	264,564.70	168,568	433,132.70
Total:	755,182.00	506,281	1,261,463.00

(b) The details of the amount distributed among the provinces is as follows:

(Rs. in million)

Years	Punajb	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	Total
	51.74%	24.55%	24.55%	9.09%	
2012-13	111,283.11	54,222.02	35,223.23	19,550.90	220,279.25
2013-14	130,245.29	63,461.23	41,225.12	22,882.29	257,813.93
2014-15	126,294.85	61,536.40	39,974.73	22,188.25	249,994.22
Total:	367,823.25	179,219.64	116,423.08	64,621.44	728,087.40

Note:- Out of reported amounts of sales tax (*vide* part-a of the answer), the Provincial shares have been derived by deducting 1% as collection charges and subsequently 1% on account of war on terror. The balance is divided vertically 57.5% for provinces and 42.5% for Federal Government. The Provincial (57.5%) share is further distributed horizontally amongst the Provinces.

*Question No. 76. **Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari:**

(Notice received on 08-04-2016 at 09:45 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government had announced in May, 2014 to engage the Swiss Authorities to get access to the Dollars 200 billion of Pakistanis deposited in Swiss Banks, if so, the progress made in this regard so far?

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: It was stated in 2014 that the Government is seriously working to seek help of the new Swiss Policy which now allows Swiss Government to exchange heretofore confidential information about ill-gotten monies stashed up in the clandestine Swiss banking industry. The operational design through which advantage of the changes in Swiss laws could be taken is by way of exchange of information. Exchange of tax information is the new mechanism for catching the tax dodgers and the corrupt who siphon off and hide their ill-gotten wealth in Swiss Banks and other tax havens.

Accordingly, the Government decided to review the existing Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement, particularly its Article on the Exchange of Information. In September 2013, the Cabinet approved the Summary to re-negotiate the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement with Switzerland. Accordingly, the matter was taken up with Switzerland through diplomatic channels and the negotiations were held on 26-28 August, 2014 in Switzerland. The highlight of the re-negotiated treaty was replacement of the archaic Article 26 on "Exchange of Information" with the new one reflecting the internationally accepted standard on "Exchange of Information" backed both by latest OECD and UN models. The new Article, upon formal signing of the ADTA, will oblige the Swiss Authorities to exchange all the requested information, including heretofore confidential bank accounts.

The re-negotiated Pak-Swiss Treaty is however still under the process of review in respect of certain other Articles of the Convention. Pakistan has taken up the matter with Switzerland in December, 2014 for the second round of negotiations in order to settle the issues related to other Articles of the Treaty with mutual consent through negotiations. The Swiss Authorities have recently confirmed for the second round of negotiations and Pakistan has sought convenient dates for the purpose.

In the meantime, however, simultaneous efforts have been initiated by Pakistan to become member of internationally sponsored initiatives like Global Forum for Transparency and Exchange of Tax Information and the Multilateral Convention for Mutual Administrative Assistance. These steps will also Pakistan receive and send information under Automatic Exchange also provide a strong signal of its commitment to fight tax fraud and evasion at international level. Pakistan's integration with the rest of the world through above mentioned frameworks would help us retrieve in the coming years all important bank account, dividend, interest and asset ownership information, not only from Switzerland but also from other tax havens, and tax it accordingly.

***Question No. 77. Senator Shahi Syed:**

(Notice received on 12-04-2016 at 01:00 p.m.)

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

(a) *the number of persons working in the National Bank of Pakistan with grade wise and province wise break up; and*

(b) *the names, designations and place of domicile of the persons appointed in the said Bank during the last ten years?*

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a) At present 15093 persons are working in National Bank of Pakistan, details of their grade and province-wise breakup are as under:—

(b) 6479 appointments have been made in National Bank of Pakistan, during the last ten (10) years. Details of their names, designations and place of domicile are Annexed.

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

***Question No. 78. Senator Shahi Syed:**

(Notice received on 04-04-2016 at 02:45 p.m.)

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

- (a) *the procedure laid down for collection of GST and withholding tax from the cellular companies which they charge on their prepaid recharging cards; and*
- (b) *whether any mechanism has been devised for conducting forensic audit of the said companies, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?*

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a)

- There is no Federal Sales Tax on telecom services. However, there is provincial sales tax on these services which is collected by provinces. Further, there is Federal Excise Duty at 18.5% ad valorem on telecom services payable in sales tax mode.
- Applicable Withholding Income Tax is deducted upfront from customer at the time of recharge of scratch card or easy-load, whereas FED/Sales Tax is charged on actual call/usage basis as per applicable tariff.
- Withholding Income Tax deducted u/s 236 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 is deposited into the treasury on weekly basis.
- At the end of each month, Withholding Tax Statement is filed.

(b) FBR is undergoing negotiations with the World Bank to obtain funding and expertise to conduct forensic audit of the Telecom Sector for enhanced tax collection and efficient monitoring of tax collection, through outsourcing the task to some credible International Audit Firm.

***Question No. 79. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi:**

(Notice received on 14-04-2016 at 10:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the number of surveys and censuses like Pakistan Demographic Survey,

Mouza Census, Agricultural Machinery Census, Live Stock Census, conducted by the Federal Bureau of Statistics before and after enactment and enforcement of General Statistics (Reorganization) Act, 2011?

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, an attached department of Statistics Division, has been established under the enactment of General Statistics (Reorganization) Act, 2011 with the merger of Federal Bureau of Statistics, (FBS), Population Census Organization (PCO), Agricultural Census Organization (ACO) & Technical Wing of Statistics Division. Following table provides information regarding censuses/surveys conducted in 5 years prior to and after this Act:

Types of Censuses/ Surveys	Censuses/Surveys before Act, 2011 (2007-11)	Censuses/Surveys after Act, 2011 (2012-16)
Agriculture related Census / Surveys	2	1
National Accounts related Censuses/ Surveys	13	15*
Populations related Census	2	-
Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement related Censuses/Surveys	3	4
Labour Force related Censuses/Surveys	5	3
Demography related Censuses/Surveys	1	-

However, the following list of censuses/surveys are in progress:

- Rent Survey
- Small Scale & Household Manufacturing Industries
- Construction Survey
- Non-Profit Institutions (NGO's etc.)

- Censuses of Electricity Establishments
- Censuses of Exploration companies (Oil & Gas)
- Hotels & Restaurants (Study)
- Forestry (Study)
- Family Budget Survey
- Wholesale, Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles
- Other Private Services
- Agriculture and Livestock Censuses/ Surveys
- Road Transport (Study)
- Depreciation (Study)
- CMI 2015-16 (Census)
- Household Integrated Income and Consumption Survey (HIICS) 2015-16

*Question No. 80. **Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar:**
(Notice received on 25-04-2016 at 11:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the time / date on which work will be started on Customs Gate Way at Badini, District Qila Saifullah and Qamar ud Cares, District Zhob, Balochistan?

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Custom Station, Badini has been notified by FBR *vide* S.R.O No. 155(1)/2016 dated 24-02-2016. The custom station has office building but on account of lack of basic infrastructure requirements like telephone, internet connectivity, uninterrupted power supply for custom clearance under WeBOC system, bank branch etc. on the station, the same could not be operationalized. The Collectorate of Customs, Quetta has taken up . these issues with the concerned departments. Besides, the custom station is also to be equipped with weighbridge and scanners which may take some time. Development of proper road infrastructure between the custom station and the main road linking Quetta and Qila Saifullah is also needed before opening of the border station.

(b) As regards Qamar Din Qarez, besides the infrastructural requirement referred to in para (a) above, security situation in that area is not conducive for opening of the station.

(c) As the FBR is constrained to rely on other departments *i.e.* Telecommunication, NHA, WAPDA, Banks etc. for accomplishment of their respective tasks, the FBR is actively

pursuing these departments to complete the necessary work so that the custom stations become operational as early as possible.

***Question No. 81. Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari:**

(Notice received on 25-04-2016 at 11:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the targets on “ceiling on net domestic assets” and “floor on net national reserves” agreed with IMF to be achieved by December, 2015 and the actual numbers achieved by that date in respect of the same?

Reply not received.

***Question No. 83. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:**

(Notice received on 25-04-2016 at 12:00 p.m.)

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

- (a) the name of authority who regulates the service charges of international and local banks functioning in country at present; and*
- (b) whether it is fact that the service charges of the said banks are different, if so, the reasons thereof?*

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar: (a) As a part of financial sector liberalization and deregulation:

- (i) International Banks and Local Banks are free to determine rates of service charges in respect of various services they provide to their customers.
- (ii) State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), being a Regulator of banking sector, has issued comprehensive guidelines on Fairness of Service Charges which the banks have to consider while determining the service charges.

(b) Yes. As the services charges vary with the quality of the service provided by the banks therefore, Commercial banks levy service charges depending upon the quality of service they render to their customers.

ISLAMABAD:
The 11th May, 2016.

AMJED PERVEZ,
Secretary.