

(318th Session)

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Friday, the 27th May, 2022

DEFERRED QUESTIONS

*Questions Nos. 156 and 159 were deferred on 11th February, 2022
(317th Session)*

(Def) *Question No. 156 **Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**
(Notice Received on 3/01/2022 at 11:45 AM) QID: 38708

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 1.5 Billion dollar difference has been reported in the imports statistics of State Bank of Pakistan and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in November 2021, if so, reasons of the difference thereof?

Mr. Miftah Ismail: • The trade figures reported by SBP in the balance of payments (BOP) generally do not exactly match with the numbers provided by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). This is because the trade statistics compiled by SBP are based on banking data, which shows actual receipts and payments of foreign exchange against the export and import of goods, whereas the PBS records data on the physical movement of goods (Customs record).

• The **table** below shows the items that are contributing to the difference between PBS and SBP's BOP imports during November 2021. These are briefly discussed as follows:

1. Freight that is included in PBS data but is reported in services import in BOP data.

2. Difference in import of medicinal products that are much higher in the PBS data. The major impact is coming from imports of Covid-19 vaccine, for which even gifted and donated components are valued and recorded in the PBS data. On the other hand, BOP data only shows import of vaccines against which payments are made through banking channels.
3. The PBS data shows additional oil imports of US\$ 384 million. This may be due to the factor of using landed values in Custom valuation of oil while banking transaction occur on invoice values, which can be lower than the former in case of rapidly rising international prices.
4. This leaves the non-reconciled gap of about US\$ 215 million.
5. It is worth mentioning that Ministry of Commerce, FBR, PBS and SBP are coordinating to reduce the gap in future.

Table: Reconciliation of Imports by PBS and SBP (Million US\$)

Item	Nov-21
A: PBS Imports	7,899
B: SBP Imports	6,423
C: Difference (A-B)	1,476
<i>Items contributing to difference</i>	
i. Freight (cif)	250
ii. Refund Rebate	13
iii. Additional figure of Medicinal Products in PBS	614
iv. Additional figure of Petroleum in PBS	384
Minor differences (un-reconciled)	215

(Def) *Question No. 159 **Senator Irfan-Ul-Haque Siddiqui:**
(Notice Received on 13/01/2022 at 1:50 PM) QID: 38743

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:

- (a) *the criteria for selection / appointment of the present Governor State Bank of Pakistan indicating details of monthly salary, perks and other privileges drawn by him; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that the present Governor State Bank of Pakistan is former employee of IMF, if so, the period during which he remained associated with IMF?*

Mr. Miftah Ismail: (a) Present Governor, SBP has been appointed under Section 10(3) of SBP Act, 1956 which provides “that the Governor shall be appointed by the President for a term of three years, and on such salary and terms and conditions of service as the President may determine, except that neither the salary of the Governor nor his other terms and conditions of service shall be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment. No person shall hold the office of the Governor after attaining the age of sixty five years”. Monthly salary of Governor State Bank of Pakistan is Rs. 2500,000. Other perquisites are **Annexed**.

(b) Prior to Dr. Reza Baqir’s appointment as Governor, SBP, he worked for eighteen years at the IMF.

Annexure

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF GOVERNOR SBP

Items	Perquisites
Annual Salary Increment	10% of the monthly salary
Accommodation	Furnished and maintained (State) Bank House or House Rent Allowance with furnishing & maintenance by the Bank. [As approved by the SBP Board]
Transport	Two fully maintained Chauffeur driven cars with petrol ceiling of 600 liters each as follows: -1800CC local assembled car with the option to buy on book value -1600CC local assembled car.
Utilities	Actual expenses of electricity, gas, water and fuel for the standby Generator to be provided by SBP.
Children Education School Fees	75% of the total school fees of children.
Entertainment	On actual basis for business
Telephone	Facility of free land/mobile phones and internet access
Domestic Help	Reimbursement of actual salary paid for up to four servants of Rs.18,000/-/head with periodic reviews of the subsidy by the HR Committee as per requirement.
Security	24 Hours security as per requirement including security guards and security system.
Medical Facility	Full medical facilities as per SBP Rules.
Leave	3 days per month with leave encashment facility of up to 6 months on completion of the tenure.
Gratuity	One month monetized salary for each completed year of service on last drawn salary.
Contributory Provident Fund	8-1/3% of pay
Traveling Allowances	As per SBP rules/approved by the SBP Board.
Relocation expenses	Air ticket for self & family and freight on actual
Post Retirement Benefits	As approved by the SBP Board
Club Membership	One- time membership fee on actual alongwith monthly actual charges.

***Question No. 77 Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi:**
(Notice Received on 17/02/2022 at 1:50 PM) QID: 38833

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the rate of inflation registered in the country during the last three years with month wise breakup?

Mr. Miftah Ismail: The rate of inflation registered in the country during the last three years with month wise breakup is given below:

CPI Inflation Rate				
Month	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Jul	6.7	8.4	9.3	8.4
Aug	6.2	10.5	8.2	8.4
Sep	5.4	11.4	9	9
Oct	6.5	11	8.9	9.2
Nov	5.7	12.7	8.3	11.5
Dec	5.4	12.6	8	12.3
Jan	5.6	14.6	5.7	13.0
Feb	6.8	12.4	8.7	12.2
Mar	8.6	10.2	9.1	12.7
Apr	8.3	8.5	11.1	13.4
May	8.4	8.2	10.9	
Jun	8.0	8.6	9.7	
Period Average	6.8	10.7	8.9	11.0

***Question No. 78 Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi:**
(Notice Received on 18/02/2022 at 9:25 AM) QID: 38835

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the detail of increase / decrease made in the rate of taxes on purchase of new automobiles manufactured in the Pakistan during last three years with year wise breakup?

Mr. Miftah Ismail:

Income Tax:

- Year wise details of rate of advance tax on purchase of new automobiles manufactures in the Pakistan during last three years is given below:-

Section of Income Tax Ordinance, 2001	Rate of Tax																																	
231B - Advance tax on private motor vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Under sub-section (2) of section 231B, the advance tax at the time of registration of motor vehicle is as under:- <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tax year 2019</u></p> <table><tr><th>S. No.</th><th>Engine Capacity</th><th>Tax</th></tr><tr><th>(1)</th><th>(2)</th><th>(3)</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>upto 850cc</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>851cc to 1000cc</td><td>Rs. 5000</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>1001cc to 1300cc</td><td>Rs. 7,500</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>1301cc to 1600cc</td><td>Rs. 12,500</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>1601cc to 1800cc</td><td>Rs. 18,750</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>1801cc to 2000cc</td><td>Rs. 25,000</td></tr><tr><td>7.</td><td>2001cc to 2500cc</td><td>Rs. 37,500</td></tr><tr><td>8.</td><td>2501cc to 3000cc</td><td>Rs. 50,000</td></tr><tr><td>9.</td><td>Above 3000cc</td><td>Rs. 62,500</td></tr></table> <p>The rate of tax to be collected shall be reduced by 10% each year from the date of first registration in Pakistan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The tax rate shall be increased by hundred percent of the rate specified above in the case of persons not appearing on Active Taxpayers' List.	S. No.	Engine Capacity	Tax	(1)	(2)	(3)	1.	upto 850cc	—	2.	851cc to 1000cc	Rs. 5000	3.	1001cc to 1300cc	Rs. 7,500	4.	1301cc to 1600cc	Rs. 12,500	5.	1601cc to 1800cc	Rs. 18,750	6.	1801cc to 2000cc	Rs. 25,000	7.	2001cc to 2500cc	Rs. 37,500	8.	2501cc to 3000cc	Rs. 50,000	9.	Above 3000cc	Rs. 62,500
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Sub-section (2A) of section 231B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In order to discourage "on" money, additional tax was imposed where a vehicle is sold within 90 days of its ownership. This was introduced vide Tax Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021. It was applicable till 30.06.2021. Due to its positive impact, it was incorporated in Finance Act, 2021. Now the persons buying motor vehicles would be required to get them registered in their own names otherwise, this tax would be collectable. Tax rate is as under:—<table><tr><th>S. No.</th><th>Engine capacity</th><th>Tax</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Up to 1000cc</td><td>Rs. 50,000</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>1001cc to 2000cc</td><td>Rs. 100,000</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>2000cc and above</td><td>Rs. 200,000</td></tr></table>Through Finance (Supplementary) Act, 2022, advance tax on vehicle registration under sub-	S. No.	Engine capacity	Tax	1.	Up to 1000cc	Rs. 50,000	2.	1001cc to 2000cc	Rs. 100,000	3.	2000cc and above	Rs. 200,000																					
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7.	2001cc to 2500cc	Rs. 150,000
8.	2501cc to 3000cc	Rs. 200,000
9.	Above 3000cc	Rs. 250,000

• The tax rate shall be increased by hundred percent of the rate specified above in the case of persons not appearing on Active Taxpayers' List.

Under sub-section (7) of section 231B the "motor vehicle" includes car, jeep, van, sports utility vehicle, pick-up trucks for private use, caravan automobile, limousine, wagon and any other automobile used for private purpose.

Explanation.- For the removal of doubt, it is clarified that a motor vehicle does not include a rickshaw, motorcycle-rickshaw and any other motor vehicle having engine capacity upto 200cc.

Sales Tax and Federal Excise:

• Year wise detail of rate of sales tax and federal excise duty on purchase of new automobiles manufactured in the Pakistan during last three years is given below:—

July 2018 to June, 2019

Description	Rate of FED	Sales Tax
Locally manufactured or assembled motor cars, SUVs and other motor vehicles, excluding auto rickshaws principally designed for the transport of persons (other than those of headings 87.02), including station wagons and racing cars:		17%
(a) of cylinder capacity up to 1000cc		
(b) of cylinder capacity from 1001cc to 2000cc	2.5% ad val.	
(c) of cylinder capacity 2001cc and above	5% ad val.	
	7.5% ad val.	

July, 2019 to June, 20

Description	Rate of FED	Sales Tax
Locally manufactured or assembled motor cars, SUVs and other motor vehicles, excluding auto rickshaws principally designed for the transport of persons (other than those of headings 87.02), including station wagons and racing cars: (a) of cylinder capacity up to 1000cc (b) of cylinder capacity from 1001cc to 2000cc (c) of cylinder capacity 2001cc and above	2.5% ad val. 5% ad val. 7.5% ad val.	17%
Locally manufactured double cabin (4x4) pick-up vehicles except the vehicles booked on or before the 30th June, 2020 subject to the restriction or conditions specified by the Board.	7.5% ad val.	17%

Exemption from Sales Tax:

Following locally manufactured electric vehicles are chargeable to sales tax @ 1% under S. No. 70 of Table-1 of the Eighth Schedule to the Sales Tax Act, 1990:

- (i) Road Tractors for semi-trailers (Electric Prime Movers)
- (ii) Electric Buses
- (iii) Three Wheeler Electric Rickshaw
- (iv) Three Wheeler Electric Loader
- (v) Electric Trucks
- (vi) Electric Motorcycle

July, 2020 to June, 2021

Description	Rate of FED	Sales Tax
Locally manufactured or assembled motor cars, SUVs and other motor vehicles, excluding auto rickshaws principally designed for the transport of persons (other than those of headings 87.02), and till the 30th day of June, 2026 electric vehicles (4 wheelers) including station wagons and racing cars: (a) of cylinder capacity up to 1000cc (b) of cylinder capacity from 1001cc to 2000cc (c) of cylinder capacity 2001cc and above	0% ad val. 2.5% ad val. 5% ad val.	(i) 12.5% of cylinder capacity upto 1000cc (ii) 17% of cylinder capacity exceeding 1001cc
Locally manufactured double cabin (4x4) pick-up vehicles except the vehicles booked on or before the 30th	7.5% ad val.	17%

June, 2020 subject to the restriction or conditions specified by the Board.		
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Reduced rate of Sales Tax:

Following locally manufactured or assembled electric vehicles 4- wheelers) till 30th June, 2026 are chargeable to sales tax @ 1% under S. No. 71 of Table-1 of the Eighth Schedule to the Sales Tax Act, 1990:

- (i) Small cars/ SUVs with 50 Kwh battery or below; and
- (ii) Light commercial vehicles (LCVs) with 150 kwh battery or below

Import and local supply of Hybrid Electric Vehicles:	87.03		
(a) Upto 1800 cc	87.03		
(b) From 1801 cc to 2500 cc		8.5%.	
		12.75%	

July, 2021 till date through Finance (Supplementary), Act, 2022

Description	Rate of FED	Sales Tax
Locally manufactured or assembled motor cars, SUVs and other motor vehicles, excluding auto rickshaws principally designed for the transport of persons (other than those of headings 87.02), and till the 30th day of June, 2026 electric vehicles (4 wheelers) including station wagons and racing cars: (a) of cylinder capacity up to 1300cc (b) of cylinder capacity from 1301cc to 2000cc (c) of cylinder capacity 2001cc and above	2.5 % ad val. 5% ad val. 10% ad val.	(i) 12.5% of cylinder capacity upto 850cc (ii) 17% of cylinder capacity exceeding 851cc
Locally manufactured double cabin (4x4) pick-up vehicles except the vehicles booked on or before the 30th June, 2020 subject to the restriction or conditions specified by the Board.	10% ad val.	17%

Reduced rate of Sales Tax:

Locally manufactured Hybrid electric vehicle:			
(a) Upto 1800 cc			
(b) From 1801 cc to 2500 cc	87.03	8.5%.	
	87.03	12.75%	

With respect to Income Tax there have not been any major changes in tax rates except one, wherein a new additional tax rate was introduced, to tax "on" money income, vide Tax Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021. This new additional tax was later on increased in 2022. This measure was taken to reduce "on" money practice and bring the income from "on" money into the tax net.

***Question No. 79 Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi:**
(Notice Received on 18/02/2022 at 9:25 AM) QID: 38834

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the volume of trade deficit registered in the country during the last five years with year wise breakup?

Syed Naveed Qamar: The trade deficit for the last five fiscal years along with current fiscal year (M6) is as follows:

Exports & Imports of Pakistan			
Value in Million U.S \$			
Years	Exports	Imports	Trade balance
2016-2017	20,422	52,910	-32,488
2017-2018	23,212	60,795	-37,583
2018-2019	22,958	54,763	-31,805
2019-2020	21,394	44,553	-23,159
2020-2021	25,304	56,405	-31,101
2021-2022 (Jul-Dec)	15,125	40,649	-25,524

Source: PBS

***Question No. 80 Senator Mohsin Aziz:**
(Notice Received on 18/02/2022 at 10:20 AM) QID: 38808

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the increase / decrease in value of credit extended by commercial banks for Housing Sector in Pakistan, recorded during first half of Financial Year (2021-2022) against the same period during last year indicating also the reasons for increase / decline in the said credit?

Mr. Miftah Ismail: Housing finance has increased by Rs. 42 billion during first half of FY 2021-22 i.e. from Rs. 118 billion as of June 30, 2021 to Rs. 160 billion as of December 31, 2021. During the corresponding period in the previous FY 2020-21, housing finance increased by Rs. 6 billion i.e. from Rs. 100 billion as of June 30, 2020 to Rs. 106 billion as of December 31, 2021.

Allocation of mandatory targets for housing and construction finance to banks and introduction of Government's Markup Subsidy Scheme also known as Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar Scheme have been major driving factors contributing to this unprecedented growth in housing finance of banks during first half of FY2021-22. A number of regulatory and policy measures of State Bank of Pakistan have also given necessary impetus of growth in housing finance in line with these two key initiatives.

(Details of these initiatives and measures are attached as Annexure-A.)

Annexure A**Initiatives during CY2021 to promote housing and construction finance****Issuance of Revised Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar Scheme**

State of Bank of Pakistan issued initial version of Government's Markup Subsidy Scheme (G-MSS) for housing finance in October, 2020 while its revised version, incorporating feedback of stakeholders especially banks, was issued in March 2021. Both versions of the Scheme were issued as per advice of the Government. It may be highlighted that under this scheme, which is also commonly known as Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar (MPMG) Scheme, banks/HBFCL/MFBs provide housing finance at subsidized rates to individuals/households who currently do not own a house enabling them to purchase or construct their own houses.

Accordingly, as of December 31, 2021, banks have approved more than Rs. 117 billion and disbursed Rs. 38 billion under MPMG. Whereas, as of April 25, 2022, banks have disbursed more than Rs 70 billion under MPMG.

Mandatory Targets to Banks to Increase Housing & Construction Finance

In order to promote the housing and construction of buildings (residential and non-residential) in the country, as envisaged by the Government of Pakistan (GoP), SBP has assigned mandatory targets to banks to extend mortgage loans and financing for developers and builders. Banks will be required to increase their housing and construction finance to at least 5 percent of their private sector advances by end December, 2021.

Accordingly, banking credit to housing and construction sector increased by Rs163 billion, from Rs192 billion to Rs355 billion, during 2021. As of March 30, 2022, banks housing and construction finance portfolio has been recorded at Rs 404 billion.

State Bank initiatives to promote MPMG and housing finance

- Relaxation from regulatory requirement of debt burden ratio and verifiable income in case of banks using income estimation/repayment surrogate for extension of low cost housing finance to informal income applicants.
- Regulatory relaxation allowing banks/DFIs to extend low cost housing finance against personal guarantee of a third party for a maximum period of one (01) year.
- Standardized loan application form, facility offer letter, documents required for approval of financing and documents required for disbursement of financing.
- Launch of online complaint management system for MPMG
- Implementation of standardized income proxy model developed by banks to facilitate housing finance to customers with informal sources of income.
- Issuance of e-tracking numbers by banks to customers allowing them to track status of their financing applications under MPMG.
- Engagement with provincial Governments for reduction of stamp duties on mortgage registration.
- Facilitation to NAPHDA recommended builders/developers by working as conduit between NAPHDA, developers/builders and banks to promote developer finance/project finance.
- Development of standardized Risk Acceptance Criteria (RACs) for providing mortgage financing and builders/developers financing.
- Relaxation to banks count collaterals provided by customers in the form of liquid securities or other properties to meet prescribed 15% equity contribution for availing housing finance.
- Establishment of joint call center of banks to answer queries and resolve complaints of customers.
- Designation of at least 50% of branches of banks to receive and process applications of financing from customers under MPMG.
- Mystery shopping surveys of bank branches to assess their readiness and provide necessary insight/guidance to banks to improve their customer handling/facilitation at branches.

*Question No. 81 **Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 18/02/2022 at 10:21 AM) QID: 38809

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the increase / decrease in value of non-textile exports recorded during first half of current Financial Year (2021-2022) against the same period during last year, indicating also the reasons for increase / decline in these exports?

Sayed Naveed Qamar: A comparison of the exports of non-textile goods during the first half of FY 2021-22 with same period of FY 2020-21 is given below:

(value in Million US Dollars)

Category	Exports July to Dec FY 2020-2021	Exports July to Dec FY 2021-2022	Percent (%) change
Food	2,030.32	2,482.70	22.28
Petroleum and Coal	92.63	122.51	32.25
Other manufactured	1,694.49	1,925.19	13.61
Chemicals & pharmaceuticals	551.30	678.27	23.03
Engineering Goods	101.61	109.23	7.50
Others	850.19	1214.99	42.91
Total exports (non-textile)	4,667.63	5,745.38	23.09
Total exports (including textiles)	12,110.05	15,126.68	24.91

Source: PBS

Table-1

Not only textiles, but non-textile exports also have shown a trend of growth. Exports in food sector during July-December period of FY 2021-22 recorded a growth of 22.28% compared to the same period of FY 2020-21. Similarly, during said period, petroleum and coal products recorded an increase of 32.25% in exports, while exports of various other manufactured goods, chemicals & pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods increased by 13.61%, 23.03% and 7.50%, respectively.

Increase in exports in all the sectors has been a result of various export facilitation and promotion measures by the Government. The following export enhancement measures have been taken by the Government of Pakistan:

- The first ever National Tariff Policy (NTP) 2019-2024 was approved by the Federal Government with the aim to remove distortions in the tariff structure, so as to rationalize the tariffs on raw materials and intermediate goods for chemical industry, iron and steel, pharmaceutical industry, auto and tourism sector.
- To have better market access for Pakistani products, Pakistan has signed the second phase of Pak-China FTA, effective from 1st January, 2020, under which duty on 313 Tariff Lines will be reduced to zero by China. The enhanced market access will further diversify Pakistan's export in these Tariff Lines. Moreover, Russia has recently allowed import of Pakistani rice; Pakistan has secured re-entry of Pakistani Kinnow into UK market; three new varieties of Pakistani rice have been granted duty free access to Sri Lankan market, and the Government is exploring new markets for Pakistani products.
- State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has been undertaking a wide range of development finance activities. SBP has allowed the exchange rate to be market-determined, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of Pakistani products in the global market. Moreover, SBP offers following financing support schemes to the exporters:
 - a. Export Finance Scheme (EFS)
 - b. Islamic Export Refinance Scheme (IERS)
 - c. Long Term Financing Facility (LTFF) for Plant & Machinery
 - d. Islamic Long-Term Financing Facility (ILTFF) for Plant & Machinery
- To further facilitate the exporters, the previously fragmented schemes have been consolidated and revised in the form of Export Facilitation Scheme 2021 (SRO 957(I)/2021).

As evident from the export figures provided in Table 1 above, the steps taken by the Government are showing positive results.

***Question No. 82 Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**

(Notice Received on 22/02/2022 at 9:50 AM) QID: 38976

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:

- (a) the educational qualifications and merit criteria laid down for the vacancy of the President / Chief Executive Officer of the National Bank of Pakistan advertised by the Ministry of Finance on February 13, 2022; and*
- (b) the educational qualifications and criteria laid down for the appointment of Chairman Board of Directors, National Bank of Pakistan, indicating the details of appointment procedure thereof?*

Mr. Miftah Ismail: (a) The advertisement for appointment of President NBP was published in accordance with Section 11(3)(a) of Banks (Nationalization) Act, 1974 and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Fit & Proper Test Criteria (Corporate Governance Regulatory Framework) vide Circular No. 5 of 2021 dated 22.11.2021. As per regulation G-7 (1) of the said Regulatory Framework of SBP, the age, qualification and experience for the President/CEO is as under:—

“Age, Qualification and Experience: A person to be appointed as President/CEO of a bank/DF1 must have sufficient knowledge, skills and experience to fulfil his/her responsibilities effectively. Besides, he/she shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) Must be between 40 to 65 years of age. Further, no person shall hold the office of the President/CEO after attaining the age of 65 years. However, any existing President/CEO who has already attained the age of 65 years or attaining the age of 65 years during his/her current tenure may continue as President/CEO till completion of the current tenure and may be eligible for another tenure of not more than three years or attaining the age of 70 years, whichever comes earlier, subject to compliance with all other applicable laws/rules/regulations including FPT requirements.

- (b) Must have minimum qualification of graduation or equivalent. The President/CEO of an Islamic Bank should also preferably be having experience/training in Islamic Banking.
- (c) Must be a career banker having at least 5 years of experience at senior level as Executive Vice-President and above or equivalent in a bank/DFI. For DFIs, the senior level experience, preferably at CEO, Managing Partner or equivalent in capital markets, asset management, investment banking, public / private equity, venture capital, infrastructure or development financing is also acceptable. Moreover, He/she should have adequate knowledge, expertise and skill-mix related to the business model, overall size, complexity and risk profile of the bank/DFI.”

(b) the appointment of Chairman of the Board of NBP is in accordance of **Section 11(3) (a)** of the Bank’s Nationalization Act, 1974 (**“BNA 1974”**) which provides as under:

“(3) The Chairman, the President and other members of the Board.

- (a) shall be appointed by the Federal Government in consultation with the State Bank, for a term of three years, on such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the General Meeting of the bank: provided that the Chairman and the President shall be appointed from amongst professional bankers whose names are included in a panel of bankers qualified to be the Chairman or the President, which panel shall be determined, maintained and varied, from time to time, by the State Bank.”

The procedure for appointment of Chairman on the Board of NBP is as under:-

- i. A committee has been constituted *vide* Finance Division’s notification dated September 23, 2021 to give recommendations to the Finance Minister regarding suitable professionals for filling up vacant positions on the Board of Directors (BoDs) of Public Sectors Companies and DFIs under the Finance Division.

- ii. On the recommendation of the Committee, a summary for the Prime Minister is initiated for approval of the Prime Minister before submission to the Federal Cabinet in terms of The Cabinet Division's letter dated March 16, 2018 wherein the Cabinet Secretariat has issued directions to seek approval of the Prime Minister for appointments on Board of Directors prior to its placement before the Federal Cabinet.
- iii. After approval of the Prime Minister, Summary for the Federal Cabinet is initiated.
- iv. After approval of Federal Cabinet and on receipt of final FPT clearance from SBP with respect of the appointee, notification in this regard is issued.

***Question No. 86 Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 22/02/2022 at 3:30 PM) QID: 38812

Will the Minister for Commerce be please to state whether it is a fact that Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has recently allowed export of selected items to Afghanistan via land route in Pakistani rupee, if so, the detail of items and reasons for allowing exports in rupees?

Syed Naveed Qamar: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has recently allowed export of the following goods to Afghanistan against Pakistan currency (PKR):

- 1. Rice;
- 2. fish add fish products;
- 3. poultry, meat and products;
- 4. sugar confectionery and bakery products;
- 5. fruit, nuts and other edible parts of plants;
- 6. oilcake and other solid residues;
- 7. vegetable materials and vegetable waste;
- 8. salt;
- 9. cement;
- 10. pharmaceuticals;
- 11. matches;
- 12. textile and textile articles;
- 13. building stone; and
- 14. surgical instruments.

The reason for allowing exports to Afghanistan against PKR is mainly the political situation in Afghanistan. Due to the situation in Afghanistan and absence of any formal banking infrastructure in the country, exports from Pakistan to Afghanistan declined from US\$ 517.24 million during July-December FY 2020-21 to US\$ 328.25 million during same time period of FY 2021-22, which called for an intervention to secure the interests of Pakistani exporters in the Afghan market. Therefore, Ministry of Commerce took measures to carry out trade with Afghanistan by adopting alternate methods besides banking channels.

***Question No. 87 Senator Zeeshan Khanzada:**

(Notice Received on 22/02/2022 at 3:35 PM) QID: 38967

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

- (a) the details of the PSDP 2021-22 funds allocated and utilized till February 2022, also indicating percentage of released funds; and*
- (b) the reasons for the low allocations to certain division compared to others, if any?*

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary: (a) The National Economic Council (NEC), in its meeting held on 7th June, 2021 approved Public Sector Development Program 2021-22 at a size of Rs 900 billion including foreign assistance of Rs 100 billion.

As of February, 28, 2022, Ministry of PD&SI authorized Rs. 503 billion against local allocation of Rs. 800 billion as per release strategy of Finance Division and utilization based authorization during 3rd Quarter. whereas an amount of Rs. 78 billion has been reported as disbursement against Foreign Aid allocation of Rs. 100 billion upto January, 2022

As per SAP System, an amount of Rs. 389 billion has been reported as expenditure during July 2021 to February, 2022 which is 77% of authorized/released funds.

The Ministry/Division wise details of PSDP 2021-22 allocations, authorization and utilization is at Annex-I

(b) As per Public Finance Management Act-2019, funds are allocated to approved projects by the respective competent fora. Projects are conceived and prepared by the respective divisions as per assigned

rules of business. Certain Ministries/Divisions require higher allocations as they execute larger development projects such as Communication/ NHA, Water Resources, Power Division, Railways, Housing and Works, HEC etc as compared to other Divisions such as National Heritage and Culture, IPC, Establishment, Human Right etc.

Annex-I

PSDP 2021-22 Ministry / Division-wise Summary (July - February, 2021-22) (PIP Section)								
S. No.	Name of Ministry / Division	PSDP Allocation 2021-22			Authorization /Disbursement			Expenditure
		Rupee	Foreign Aid	Total	Rupee Auth. ¹	F.Aid Disb. upto Jan. 2022	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A. Federal Ministries:								
1	Aviation Division	1,872.09	1,686.11	3,558.20	1,123.26	264.60	1,387.86	677.70
2	Board of Investment	80.00	-	80.00	48.00	-	48.00	18.46
3	Cabinet Division	68,154.77	-	68,154.77	68,126.87	-	68,126.87	48,793.08
4	Climate Change Division	14,327.00	-	14,327.00	10,015.82	-	10,015.82	5,662.36
5	Commerce Division	1,613.50	-	1,613.50	1,000.37	-	1,000.37	509.68
6	Communications Division	104,009.79	22,191.53	126,201.32	64,477.05	19,629.35	84,106.40	49,355.09
7	Defence Division	2,277.64	-	2,277.64	1,305.24	-	1,305.24	656.76
8	Defense Production Division	1,745.00	-	1,745.00	1,151.70	-	1,151.70	719.57
9	Establishment Division	800.00	-	800.00	480.00	-	480.00	128.80
10	Federal Education & Professional Training Division	8,539.60	1,160.40	9,700.00	5,123.76	-	5,123.76	1,745.19
11	Finance Division	121,171.31	1,869.69	123,041.00	82,082.28	642.05	82,724.33	70,715.33
12	Higher Education Commission	40,450.00	2,000.00	42,450.00	24,242.00	145.88	24,387.88	12,672.40
13	Housing & Works Division	24,915.89	-	24,915.89	14,949.53	-	14,949.53	5,995.55
14	Human Rights Division	279.20	-	279.20	167.52	-	167.52	41.60
15	Industries & Production Division	2,916.08	-	2,916.08	1,749.65	-	1,749.65	295.09
16	Information & Broadcasting Division	1,399.68	500.00	1,899.68	839.81	-	839.81	207.26
17	Information Technology & Telecom Division	8,111.06	1,250.00	9,361.06	4,866.63	77.60	4,944.24	1,122.78
18	Inter Provincial Coordination Division	3,734.74	-	3,734.74	2,240.84	-	2,240.84	153.79
19	Interior Division	21,048.72	-	21,048.72	12,629.23	-	12,629.23	2,180.88
20	Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan Division	61,459.90	4,500.00	65,959.90	44,203.54	2,472.92	46,676.46	41,232.92
21	Law & Justice Division	6,027.35	-	6,027.35	3,616.41	-	3,616.41	964.76
22	Maritime Affairs Division	2,149.72	2,402.19	4,551.91	1,632.80	-	1,632.80	975.36
23	Narcotics Control Division	489.39	-	489.39	455.50	-	455.50	357.12
24	National Food Security & Research Division	11,017.28	1,000.00	12,017.28	6,830.71	3,435.54	10,266.25	6,993.47
25	National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination Division	19,003.51	2,719.00	21,722.51	11,402.10	1,753.19	13,155.30	6,420.84
26	National Heritage & Culture Division	125.93	-	125.93	75.56	-	75.56	4.54
27	Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission	27,000.00	-	27,000.00	18,900.00	-	18,900.00	17,325.82
28	Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority	200.00	-	200.00	200.00	-	200.00	144.00
29	Petroleum Division	3,249.54	-	3,249.54	1,949.72	-	1,949.72	313.43
30	Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Division	10,815.13	-	10,815.13	10,815.13	-	10,815.13	3,348.13
31	Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Division	598.91	-	598.91	359.35	-	359.35	139.79
32	Power Division	29,311.05	40,174.00	69,485.05	17,586.63	30,001.00	47,587.63	33,192.75
33	Railways Division	26,908.51	3,117.08	30,025.59	17,759.61	-	17,759.61	17,179.90
34	Religious Affairs & Inter Faith Harmony Division	493.85	-	493.85	306.19	-	306.19	171.35
35	Revenue Division	2,355.07	1,670.00	4,025.07	1,413.04	5,278.03	6,691.07	5,906.66
36	Science & Technological Research Division	8,341.00	-	8,341.00	5,004.60	-	5,004.60	713.02
37	S U P A R C O	5,368.86	2,000.00	7,368.86	3,328.70	-	3,328.70	2,205.21
38	Water Resources Division	91,712.69	11,760.00	103,472.69	55,805.39	13,987.89	69,793.28	49,143.41
Total (Federal Ministries):		734,073.74	100,000.00	834,073.74	498,264.52	77,688.06	575,952.58	388,383.89
B. COVID Responsive and Other Natural Calamities Programme		5,000.00	-	5,000.00	-	-	-	-
C. VGF for PPP Projects		53,500.00	-	53,500.00	-	-	-	-
D. SDGs Supplementary Funds		0.24	-	0.24	-	-	-	-
E. ERRRA		7,426.03	-	7,426.03	4,604.14	-	4,604.14	168.88
Total (Federal PSDP):		800,000.00	100,000.00	900,000.00	502,868.66	77,688.06	580,556.71	388,552.77

¹ Upfront authorization by Ministry of PD&SI

² Release Sanction issued by concerned Ministry/Division

³ Foreign Aid disbursement is taken as expenditure

***Question No. 89 Senator Danesh Kumar:**
(Notice Received on 22/02/2022 at 4:20 PM) QID: 38966

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state the details of ongoing projects in

Balochistan funded through Federal PSDP also indicating their cost, year-wise allocation / utilization of funds, completion time frame, progress made in terms of percentage by 30 January, 2022?

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary: The national level projects are conceived, prepared and implemented by the Federal Ministries / Divisions through Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). Such projects, irrespective of their location, generate benefits for the entire country like projects for electricity generation and transmission, water reservoirs, railways, motorway, highways, ports, airports, science and information technology, knowledge economy agriculture research and governance etc.

At present, there are 217 projects ongoing in Balochistan funded through Federal PSDP with approved cost of Rs. 1041 billion. The Ministry of PD&SI earmarked 90.187 billion for these projects in PSDP 2021-22. An amount of Rs. 51.662 billion has been sanctioned while utilization of Rs. 32.647 billion (63.2 %) has been reported against the sanctioned funds upto 28th March, 2022. The physical progress and dates of completion of these projects in various sectors varies from project to project. Details of projects located in Balochistan budgeted in federal PSDP 2021-22) indicating cost, expenditure, allocation authorization and physical progress is attached at **Annex-I**.

(Annexure has been placed in library and on table of the mover/concerned member)

***Question No. 90 Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**

(Notice Received on 23/02/2022 at 11:15 AM) QID: 38988

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that despite record tax collections during the first six months of financial year 2021-2022 budget deficit has become 1371 billion Rupees, if so, the reasons thereof indicating the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the current budget deficit?

Mr. Miftah Ismail: (1) Based on available data fiscal deficit for first six months of current financial year was Rs. 1,372 billion i.e. 2.1 % of GDP. This was largely in line with the expectation at the time of budget making. Similarly, FBR collection was also in line with the expectation in budget 2021-22. It was never expected that with this collection, fiscal deficit would be completely wiped out.

(2) The actual deficit for first six months of CFY, as compared to previous FY, was as under:—

Budget Deficit	
First Half FY 2020-21	First Half CFY 2021-22
-1,137	-1,372

The major items of expenditure contributing to deficit were:—

(Rs. in billion)

	FY-21	FY-20
• Grants/Transfer	603	311
• Subsidies	313	129
• Pension	252	210

Further, there was a shortfall of Rs.147.0 billion in non-tax receipt of the Government, mainly on account of lower collection of Petroleum Development Levy.

(3) The government has taken following measures to curtail the fiscal deficit to a reasonable level:

- i. Austerity measures are in place already, not allowing unnecessary procurements;
- ii. Subsidies are under review;
- iii. Ban on Creation of new posts;
- iv. The delegation for foreign visits are restricted;
- v. All Principal Accounting Officers (PAOs), were asked to ensure rationalization of utility consumption, purchase of assets etc;
- vi. Electricity subsidy policy and power sector reforms initiated; and
- vii. Revenue collection and expenditure are being monitored on monthly basis.

***Question No. 91 Senator Irfan-Ul-Haque Siddiqui:**

(Notice Received on 24/02/2022 at 1:55 PM) QID: 38987

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

- (a) *the total number of employees presently working in Pakistan Steel Mills, (PSM) Karachi alongwith status of employment either permanent, temporary, daily-wages or deputation;*

- (b) the expenditure incurred on their salaries for the period from 2020-2021;
- (c) the employees laid off, sacked or compulsory retired for the period from September, 2018 to January, 2022; and
- (d) income / production of PSM, if any, recorded from September, 2018 to January, 2022?

Syed Murtaza Mahmud:

(a)

Description	PSM	Education/ Cadet College	PSH/ Medical	Total
Regular Employees	2553	233	37	2823
Contract Employees	98	100	9	207
Daily Wage Employees	556	24	22	602
Total Employees	3207	357	68	3632

(b)

(Rs. in Millions)		
Expenditures	2019-20	2020-21
Gross Salaries	6,731.923	4,917.411
Net Salaries released by the GoP	4,095.000	2,818.000

(c)

Officers	Workers	Total
2952	4709	7661

(d)

(Rs. in Millions)				
Period	Jul-18 to Jun-19 (Audited)	Jul-19 to Jun-20 (Audited)	Jul-20 to Jun-21 (Audited)	Jul-21 to Jan-22
Sale	467.466	546.442	1,595.509	3,329.800
Other income	1,290.429	913.166	1,716.663	726.490
Total	1,757.895	1,459.608	3,312.172	4,056.290

***Question No. 92 Senator Zeeshan Khanzada:**

(Notice Received on 24/02/2022 at 4:10 PM) QID: 38992

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the steps taken by the government to implement the additional conditionalities as stipulated in Mutual Evaluation Report, 2019, released by the FATF indicating action taken against proscribed organization and persons involved in terror financing?

Mr. Miftah Ismail: Pakistan was assessed by Asia Pacific Group on FATF's forty recommendations and 11-Immediate Outcomes (effectiveness) in October 2018 and Pakistan's Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) was adopted by APG in August 2019. At the time of adoption of MER, Pakistan was compliant and largely compliant in 10 recommendations out of 40 Recommendations.

Subsequently Pakistan submitted Follow-up Reports (FURs) to APG on the progress made by Pakistan on FATF recommendations which were assessed non-compliant / partially compliant. As a result of collective efforts, Pakistan is now rated Compliant and Largely Compliant in 35 out of 40 FATF Recommendations. This is one of the largest set of upgrades not only in the APG, but in FATF and FATF- style regional bodies (FSRB) membership overall.

Regarding actions required in the MER against proscribed organizations and persons involved in terror financing, it may be noted that the FATF's Recommendation No. 6 (Targeted Financial Sanctions related to terrorism and Terrorist Financing) requires countries to implement Targeted Financial Sanctions regimes to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism and terrorist financing. The resolutions require countries to freeze without delay the funds or other assets of, and to ensure that no funds or other assets are made available, directly or indirectly, to or for the benefit of, any person or entity.

Current Status

Pakistan has taken all actions as required under the FATF Recommendation 6 and its corresponding Immediate Outcome 10 (effectiveness). Both these elements of FATF's Standards have been assessed as largely compliant / largely addressed by the APG/FATF. All identified assets including bank accounts of proscribed persons/ organizations identified, have either been frozen or taken over by the

Federal / Provincial Governments. As of now, the 78 organizations and 2584 persons have been proscribed (source Nacta.gov.pk).

***Question No. 93 Senator Zeeshan Khanzada:**

(Notice Received on 24/02/2022 at 4:10 PM) QID: 38993

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of urea at a uniform price and control its shortage / hoarding in the country?

Syed Murtaza Mahmud: Government has taken following steps to ensure availability of Urea:

- i. All the fertilizer plants manufacturing Urea have been kept operative in the winter months i.e Oct-Mar (Rabi Season).
- ii. Import of 100,000 MT Urea from China on G2G basis has been completed and is currently in Government's possession for sale during the Kharif Season.
- iii. Based on the demand for Urea fertilizer estimated by Ministry of National Food Security and Research of around 3.402 MMT for Kharif season 2022, ECC of the Cabinet has approved operations of SNGPL based Urea plants during the Kharif Season for meeting the demand of Urea fertilizer in the country.
- iv. Summary for import of 200,000 MT of Urea has been submitted to the ECC of the Cabinet for approval.
- v. Chief Secretaries of provinces have been requested to strictly ensure the sale of Urea on the prices printed on Urea bags.

***Question No. 94-A Senator Rana Mahmood-Ul-Hassan:**

(Notice Received on 25/02/2022 at 12:45 PM) QID: 39003

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is fact that under Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, the full-time researchers working in Federal Secretariat, autonomous bodies and constitutional institutions including Parliament House are granted exemption from income tax on their salary income, if so;*

(b) whether the full-time researchers working under nomenclature as Director or any other in such offices are also beneficiaries under this ordinance, if not, reasons thereof?

Mr. Miftah Ismail: (a) No. There is no such exemption. However according to clause (2) of Part III of 2nd Schedule to the Income Tax Ordinance, a reduction in tax liability by an amount equal to 25% of the tax payable on income from salary is allowed to a full time teacher or a researcher employed in a non-profit education or research institution duly recognized by Higher Education Commission, a Board of Education or a University recognized by the Higher Education Commission, including government research institution.

(b) The present legal dispensation is as narrated above

***Question No. 95 Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**
(Notice Received on 1/03/2022 at 10:55 AM) QID: 39044

Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state that whether it is a fact that the US Federal Reserves Board / BANK has imposed a fine USD 20.4 Million against National Bank of Pakistan and the New York Department of Financial services (NYDFS) fined upto USD 35 million, if so, the reasons thereof?

Mr. Miftah Ismail: NBP was officially notified on February 24, 2022 that financial penalties were imposed on its branch in New York by its two regulators, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRB) and the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS). These penalties amounted to US \$20.4 million and US \$35 million respectively, totaling US \$55.4 million, which were paid within the deadlines stated in the relevant agreements.

Prior to this, the bank had been in negotiations with the two US regulators for approximately 6 months and was able to reduce the amount of penalties substantially.

Details of the reasons are given in the following pages, but in summary, these penalties were imposed for historical weaknesses in documented processes and controls as well as for slow progress made by branch management to take appropriate corrective actions that had been initially brought to the Branch's notice in 2016 through a Written Agreement. These penalties do not relate to actions taken by the bank that

could have resulted in processing transactions related to money laundering, terrorist financing or sanctions evasion/violations.

Reasons for the financial penalties are part of the consent orders issued by the regulators (attached for your reference)

Details on the reasons for the penalties are summarized in the following pages.

2016 Written Agreement

Following examinations conducted by the DFS & FRB in 2014 and 2015, the New York branch was found to have inadequate Anti-Money Laundering(AML) compliance programs, issues with its transaction monitoring system, and significant shortcomings in managerial oversight. As a result, in March 2016, the regulators took enforcement actions against the Bank in the form of a Written Agreement in which the Bank acknowledged its oversight and compliance deficiencies and agreed to remediate them.

2016 Examination

In the same year as the Written Agreement, DFS and the FRB conducted another annual review of the Branch in mid- 2016 which primarily focused on the AML compliance in addition to the adequacy of the corrective actions identified in previous examinations. The conclusions of the 2016 Examination were much the same as the examinations that had prompted the Written Agreement.

2017 Examinations

In 2017, the US regulators conducted two examinations, as follows:

1. In mid- 2017, DFS and FRB conducted a targeted examination that focused on the Bank's corrective actions from the Written Agreement along with past examination findings. Once again, the examiners determined that the Bank's programs, including AML compliance and Sanctions/OFAC programs remained inadequate. In addition, the Branch lacked urgency in its remediation efforts and failed to adequately staff compliance units.

2. They also conducted a full examination of the Branch. That examination noted improvements made to the AML compliance program, but also found that risk management had more weaknesses than in the prior examination and that compliance remained inadequate. This examination noted that the Bank was once again slow in remediating prior AML observations and lacked adequate managerial oversight.

2019 Examination

This examination, whose report was issued in February 2020, noted the Bank's failure to complete remediation of significant and recurring deficiencies in its compliance policies and programs, including certain obligations under the Written Agreement and noted that the Branch Manager (who was in place since 2008) and Chief Compliance Officer (who was hired in 2016) failed to fix the issues at the Branch. The regulators noted that the Bank had an inadequate risk management program, with a local management team that failed to communicate fully the appropriate risk to Head Office management.

By May 2020, the services of the Manager and Chief Compliance Officer of the New York Branch were terminated. They were replaced by highly regarded and experienced professionals who had worked for large banks and had experience in remediating weaknesses in banks operating in the US.

2020 Examination

This examination was conducted in late 2020, approximately five months after new branch leadership joined.

This examination noted many positive changes emanating from new leadership, it concluded that the Bank continued to operate in an unsatisfactory manner with an inadequate compliance program and that the Bank had yet to address fully prior examination findings and the AML provisions of the Written Agreement.

Current Position of the branch

The current position is much different than the past because steps taken since 2019 have resulted in closure of all corrective actions required

to be taken by the bank. This was largely due to a change in leadership of the New York branch, enhanced oversight and guidance provided by senior management at Head Office and by the Board of Directors of the bank. To get to this stage, NBP invested extensively in implementing industry-leading systems, hiring exceptionally talented professions in the branch and Head Office, enhanced employee training programs and engaging independent third parties to test the enhanced controls multiple times. Management is confident that the events of the past will not recur and that the branch has a very strong control and governance program, backed-up by close oversight by experience professionals at Head Office.

The new branch management has rectified all the outstanding regulatory observations in less than 2 years, which is an achievement given the complexity and length of time it takes to comply with US bank regulatory requirements. A key element of the success of the actions was close oversight by Head Office management and Board.

***Question No. 96 Senator Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary:**
(Notice Received on 1/03/2022 at 11:50 AM) QID: 39028

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the growth rate of the industrial sector in the country recorded during the last two years (1/1/2020 to 31/12/2021) with year wise breakup indicating reasons of growth and decline thereof?

Syed Murtaza Mahmud: As per Economic Survey 2020-21, the growth rate of industrial sector in the last two years is tabulated below: -

Sector	2019-20 Growth Rate (%)	2020-2021 Growth Rate (%)
Industrial Sector	-3.77	3.57
1. Mining & Quarrying	-8.28	-6.49
2. Manufacturing	-7.39	8.71
a. Large Scale	-10.12	9.29
b. Small Scale	1.50	8.31
c. Slaughtering	4.05	3.89
3. Electricity Generation & Distribution & Gas Distribution	22.40	-22.96
4. Construction	5.46	8.34

The above-referred statistics depict that industrial sector has recorded a decline of 3.77% in the Financial Year 2019-20 owing to the COVID-19 Pandemic, depreciation in Pakistani Rupee and other factors. In order to improve the industrial sector growth rate, the Government introduced interventions like Kamyab Jawan Scheme, Rozgar scheme, Export Finance Schemes and Construction Package. As a result of the measures taken by the Government, an overall growth rate of 3.57% was observed in the FY 2020-21.

*Question No. 97 **Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri:**

(Notice Received on 1/03/2022 at 2:50 PM) QID: 39036

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state the total population of Karachi as per recent census indicating the number / percentage of foreign nationals including Afghanis residing on permanent basis in Karachi?

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary: According to Final results of Census-2017 (duly Approved by CCI on 12th April, 2021), the total Population of Karachi Division is **16,024,894** in which **15,922,174** are Pakistani and **102,720** are Non-Pakistani.

The total population of Karachi City is **14,884,402** in which **14,786,129** are Pakistani and **98,273** are non-Pakistani (detail is at **Annex-I**). However, it is pertinent to mention here that in Census-2017, there was no bifurcation for non-nationals, therefore, it is not possible to report Afghans and other nationals separately).

Annex-I

POPULATION OF PAKISTANI AND NON-PAKISTANI RESIDENCE IN KARACHI DIVISION, CENSUS - 2017

ADMN - UNIT	POPULATION - 2017				
	TOTAL	PAKISTANI	NON-PAKISTANI	%AGE PAKISTANI	%AGE NON-PAKISTANI
1	2	3	4	5	6
KARACHI DIVISION	16,024,894	15,922,174	102,720	99.4	0.6
KARACHI CITY	14,884,402	14,786,129	98,273	99.3	0.7

*Note: Data on status of nationality is compiled with respect to Pakistani and Non-Pakistani nationals in Census

*Question No. 97-A **Senator Danesh Kumar:**

(Notice Received on 3/03/2022 at 11:36 AM) QID: 39061

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state that:

- whether it is a fact that number of officers / officials have been posted in Commercial Wings of all Pakistani High Commissions, Consulates and Missions abroad, if so;*
- the embassy-wise detail of each officer / officials; and*
- the detail of officers / officials belonging to minorities and Balochistan province, separately?*

Syed Naveed Qamar: (a) Commerce Division Manages 57 Trade Missions in 45 countries. Presently 51 Officers and 55 officials are posted in Commercial Wings of Pakistan's Trade Missions Abroad.

(b) The Mission wise lists of Officers and Officials are attached at Annex-I & Annex-II.

(c) The detail of officers and officials posted at Pakistan's Trade Missions Abroad belonging to minorities and Balochistan are attached at Annex-III & Annex-IV respectively.

Annex-I

LIST OF TRADE & INVESTMENT OFFICERS POSTED ABROAD				
S #	Place of Posting	Post	Name of the Officers	BPS
1	Switzerland (WTO - Geneva)	Ambassador	Dr. M. Mujtaba Piracha	21/22
2	Afghanistan (Kabul)	Minister (Trade & Investment)	Mr. Asif Khan	20
3	Australia (Sydney)	Consul General	Mr. Muhammad Ashraf	20
4	Belgium (Brussels)	Economic Minister	Omar Hameed	20
5	Hong Kong (China)	Consul General	Mr. Bilal Ahmed Butt	20
6	China (Shanghai)	Consu. General	Mr. Hussain Haider	20
7	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	Minister (Trade & Investment)	Mr. Munir Saddiq	20
8	India (New Delhi)	Minister (Trade & Investment)	Vacant	20
9	Indonesia (Jakarta)	Minister (Trade & Investment)	Ms. Fouzie Perveen Ch	20
10	Russia (Moscow)	Minister (Trade & Investment)	Mr. Nasir Hamid	20
11	Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)	Minister (Trade & Investment)	Mr. Azhar Ali Dahar	20
12	Turkey (Istanbul)	Consul General	Mr. Bilal Khan Pasha	20
13	U.S.A. (Washington Dc)	Minister (Trade & Investment)	Mr. Azmat Mahmud	20
14	Afghanistan (Kandahar)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Vacant	19
15	Algeria (Algiers)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. M.Qazafi Rind	19
16	Argentina (Buenos Aires)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Jamil Ahmed Baloch	19
17	Brazil (Sao Paulo)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Waqas Alam	19
18	Canada (Toronto)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Azhar H Merchant	19
19	China (Beijing)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Badar uz Zaman	19
20	China (Guangzhou)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Muhammad Irfan	19
21	France (Paris)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Vacant	19
22	Germany (Frankfurt)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Vacant	19
23	Iran (Tehran)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Vacant	19
24	Italy (Rome)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Khalid Hanif	19
25	Japan (Tokyo)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Tahir Habib Cheema	19
26	Kazakhstan (Almaty)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Muhammad Farooque	19
27	Kenya (Nairobi)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Laiq Darez	19
28	Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Shafqat Ali Khan	19
29	Mexico (Mexico City)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Ms. Shabana Aziz	19
30	Morocco (Casablanca)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Junaid Ahmad Memon	19
31	Netherlands (The Hague)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Rao Rizwan-ul-Haq	19
32	Poland (Warsaw)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Muhammad Zahid	19
33	Saudi Arabia (Jeddah)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Abdul Wahed Shah	19
34	South Korea (Seoul)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Imran Razzak	19
35	Spain (Madrid)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Ahmad Affan	19
36	Sudan (Khartoum)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Ata Ullah	19
37	Sweden (Stockholm)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Ghulam Mustafa	19
38	Switzerland (WTO - Geneva)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Majid Mohsin Panhwar	19
39	Switzerland (WTO - Geneva)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Dr. Muhammad Irfan	19
40	Thailand (Bangkok)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Farukh Sharif	19
41	U.A.E (Dubai)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Dr. Adeem Khan	19
42	United Kingdom (London)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Shahzad	19
43	U.S.A. (Los Angeles)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Vacant	19
44	U.S.A. (New York)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Talat Gondal	19
45	Bangladesh (Dhaka)	Trade & Investment Attache	Mr. M. Suleman Khan	18
46	Belgium (Brussels)	Trade & Investment Attache	Mr. Salman Ali Chaudhry	18
47	Egypt (Cairo)	Trade & Investment Attache	Ms. Sidrah Haque	18
48	Jordan (Amman)	Trade & Investment Attache	Mr. Khadim Ali	18
49	Nigeria (Lagos)	Trade & Investment Attache	Mr. Ali Tamkin Butt	18
50	Qatar (Doha)	Trade & Investment Attache	Vacant	18
51	Senegal (Dakar)	Trade & Investment Attache	Mr. M. Shoaib Anwar	18
52	South Africa (Johannesburg)	Trade & Investment Attache	Ms. Humaira Israr	18
53	Sri Lanka (Colombo)	Trade & Investment Attache	Ms. Assma Kamal	18
54	Tajikistan (Dushanbe)	Trade & Investment Attache	Mr. Rashid Imtiaz	18
55	United Kingdom (Manchester)	Trade & Investment Attache	Mr. Muhammad Akhtar	18
56	U.S.A. (Houston)	Trade & Investment Attache	Ms. Shaistan Bunyad	18
57	Vietnam (Hanoi)	Trade & Investment Attache	Mr. Ali Qayyum Raja	18
58	Iran (Tehran)	Director (ECO)	Mr. Zahid Hussain Abbasi	19

* On Special Assignment

Annex-II**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE****Detail of Officials who have been posted in the Pakistan's Trade Missions abroad.**

S.N.	Mission	Name	Designation
1.	Brussels (Com. Section)	Mr. Muhammad Kashif	Assistant
2.		Mr. Faisal Rasheed Awan	Messenger-cum-Driver
3.	Brussels (Eco Wing)	Mr. Nauman Ghafoor	Messenger-cum-Driver
4.	Sydney	Mr. Muddasir Zaheer	Stenotypist
5.		Mr. Muddasir Hussain Cheema	Driver
6.	Istanbul	Syed M. Wasim	Assistant
7.		Mr. Muhammad Asif	Driver
8.	Paris	Mr. Muhammad Mubeen	Stenotypist
9.	Tehran	Mr. Umer Salauddin	Messenger-cum-Driver
10.	Dubai	Mr. Muhammad Arwar ul Haq	Assistant
11.		Mr. Sultanat Khan	Messenger-cum-Driver
12.	London	Mr. Adnan Khan	Data Entry Operator
13.		Mr. Imran Falak	Driver
14.	Dhaka	Mr. Muhammad Abbas Khan	APS
15.	Mexico	Mr. Naveed Riaz	Messenger-cum-Driver
16.	Cairo	Mr. Muhammad Farhad	Messenger-cum-Driver
17.	Manchester	Tauqeer Hussain	Stenotypist
18.		Mr. Muhammad Khan Yousafzai	Driver
19.	Algiers	Mr. Rameez ur Rehman	Messenger-cum-Driver
20.	Washington	Mr. Haroon Nazir	Driver
21.	Toronto	Mr. Saeed Ahmed	APS
22.	Jeddah	Mr. Muhammad Saqib Majeed	Messenger-cum-Driver
23.	Johannesburg	Mr. Asad Hussain Bukhari	Messenger-cum-Driver
24.	Kandahar	Mr. Ghulam Hussain	Driver
25.		Mr. Akhtar Ali	Stenotypist
26.	New Delhi	Vacant	Security Guard
27.		Vacant	Assistant
28.	Doha	Syed Iftikhar Hussain	Driver
29.	Colombo	Mr. Habib Ullah	Assistant
30.		Mr. Zaheer Ahmed	Messenger-cum-Driver
31.	Geneva	Mr. Shahid Imran	Accountant
32.		Vacant	Assistant
33.		Mr. Ejaz Ahmed Khan	Messenger-cum-Driver
34.	Addis Ababa	Mr. Tariq Ali	Driver
35.	Hong Kong	Mr. Mazhar Hussain	APS
36.		Mr. Muhammad Irshad Khan	Driver
37.	New York	Mr. Shahid ul Islam	APS
38.	Beijing	Mr. Safi ud Din	APS
39.	Shanghai	Mr. Rashid Hussain	Assistant
40.	Bangkok	Mr. M Idrees Khan	APS

41.	Kabul	Mr. Arshad Nawab	Stenotypist
42.		Mr. Umair Khan	Security Guard
43.	Dakar	Mr. Asif Abbas	Messenger-cum-Driver
44.	Jakarta	Mr. Zahid Hameed	Messenger-cum-Driver
45.	Hanoi	Mr. Dost Muhammad	Assistant
46.		Mr. Mudassar Nawaz	Messenger-cum-Driver
47.	Lagos	Sardar Fazalur Rahim	Stenotypist
48.		Mr. Shabbir Ahmed	Messenger-cum-Driver
49.	Amman	Mr. Khalid Hussain Memon	Stenotypist
50.		Mr. Tariq Masih	Messenger-cum-Driver
51.	Dushanbe	Mr. Zamir Akhtar	APS
52.		Mr. Ghulam Mustafa	Driver
53.	Moscow	Mr. Ali Hassan	APS
54.	Warsaw	Mr. Muhammad Asif Raja	Messenger-cum-Driver
55.	Houster (USA)	Mr. Abdul Waheed	Driver

Annex-III**LIST OF TRADE & INVESTMENT OFFICERS POSTED ABROAD**

S #	Place of Posting	Post	Name of the Officers	BPS	Domicile
1	Argentina (Buenos Aires)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Jamil Ahmed Baloch	19	Balochistan
2	Brazil (Sao Paulo)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Waqas Alam	19	Balochistan
3	South Korea (Seoul)	Trade & Investment Counsellor	Mr. Imran Razzak	19	Balochistan

Annex-IV**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE****Detail of Officials who have been posted in the Pakistan's Trade Missions abroad
belong from Balochistan.**

S.N.	Mission	Name	Designation	Domicile
1.	Moscow	Mr. Ali Hassan	APS	Balochistan

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE****Detail of Officials who have been posted in the Pakistan's Trade Missions abroad
belonging from minorities.**

S.N.	Mission	Name	Designation	Domicile
1.	Amman	Mr. Tariq Masih	M-c-Driver	Islamabad

***Question No. 98 Senator Seemee Ezdi:**

(Notice Received on 15/03/2022 at 3:00 PM) QID: 39109

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

- (a) the criteria and procedure of availing grants under the National Business Development Program for SMEs indicating the minimum and maximum limits and processing duration of grants; and*
- (b) the existing number of entrepreneurs including women who have availed start-up grants under the said program since 2020?*

Syed Murtaza Mahmud: (a) 1. Eligibility Criteria

- i. Sole Proprietor, Firm or Company with valid CNIC and Business NTN.
- ii. Business Age should be less than one (01) year for Early-Stage Start-up Grant (ESS) and between one (01) to five (05) years for Growth Stage Start up Grant (GSS).
- iii. The business must be operational for at least four (04) in case of ESS and six (06) months in case of GSS in last one year.
- iv. Applicant should be working in Manufacturing, Trading / Services and Mining Sector, Off-farm agriculture engaged in different types of Value Addition activities Livestock Farming (for SMEs of Balochistan Only)

2. Procedure of availing grants

Applications are submitted through a dedicated online portal. The procedure for online applications has been published on SMEDA's Website. The steps for submitting application is outlined below:-

- Online Application Submission
- Field Verification Visit
- Need Assessment Interview
- Grant Approval Information
- Entrepreneurship Development Training (EDT) Program

- Engagement of the Supplier
- Procurement of Goods or Services
- Post Delivery Verification Visit

3. Processing Duration of Grants

Grant processing duration is approximately three (03) months, subject to fulfillment of all codal formalities by the applicant.

(b) Start-up grant was launched in the current fiscal year and currently the eligible applicants are at the field verification stage. As of now no start-up grant has been disbursed.

***Question No. 101 Senator Seemee Ezdi:**

(Notice Received on 16/03/2022 at 9:35 AM) QID: 39117

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state the details of obligations on Government under United Nations Sustainable Development (SDG) Goal No. 5 & 8 and steps taken so far by the Government to fulfill these obligations?

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary: After committing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, Pakistan became the first country in the world to adopt the SDGs as its own national development goals through a National Assembly Resolution in February 2016. At the same time, Pakistan's Parliament became the first to establish SDG Unit dedicated solely to the 17 goals.

A National Parliamentary SDG Task force was launched in February 2016 to provide support and oversight to SDG implementation, and Provincial Parliamentary Task forces were created in 2017 to focus on the SDGs during parliamentary work. Pakistan has been declared as the first country to launch the SDGs locally.

Vision 2025 serves a comprehensive long-term strategy which is aligned with SDGs for achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development. It incorporates key development priorities of peace and security, governance, social development, gender equality and women's

empowerment, sustainable low-cost energy and disaster response and preparedness.

However, the Constitution provides for provincial autonomy, particularly in terms of social service delivery, while the Federal Government's support of provincial efforts is a state responsibility.

Key social sectors are primarily the responsibility of provincial governments – including health, education, climate change, human rights, population and social welfare, food and agriculture, water supply & sanitation while the Federal Government is responsible for coordination and international commitments.

To fast-track the SDGs several new policies have been formulated and approved by relevant authorities. A significant proportion of these policies across the board focus on empowering women at home and at work, as well as and improving governance and economic growth.

SDG-5 “Gender Equality” Obligations/ Targets

- 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

- 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
- 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- 5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

Government's steps taken for achieving SDG- 5

Women's labour force participation is gradually increasing in Pakistan. There is also an increase in the number of young women, between the ages of 15-24 years of age, in higher education and entering professional categories in the workforce. The proportion of women working in managerial positions has marginally increased from 0.3 per cent in 2012-13 to 0.5 per cent in 2018. Women represent over 70 percent of Pakistan's health workforce.

Progressive legislations have been passed since 2015 and workplace policies introduced to encourage more women to enter the labour market. With the establishment of provincial and national Commissions on the Status of Women, serious attempts to mainstream gender have been introduced by the Government.

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there have been key societal wins – women today serve as pilots in the Pakistan Air force, generals in the Armed Forces, occupy key

political and bureaucratic position win academy awards (Oscar) and represent Pakistan at international sports events and conferences. Gender mainstreaming has also made it to the mainstream media with the immense success of prime-time serials with strong educational content for changing behaviours around gender equality.

Federal initiatives:

- The draft 12th Five Year Plan (2018-2023) aims to improve female labor force participation from 14.50% to 24.50%.
- Anti-Honor Act, 2016 and Anti-Rape Act, 2016 promulgated.
- “one woman one bank account plan” was introduced in 2019 enabling 5.7 million Women to open their savings accounts.
- Introduced National Women Entrepreneurship Promotion Policy
- Development of Rural Women Entrepreneurship Promotion Policy
- Women quota in all programs under Ehsaas
- Launch of National Gender Policy Framework
- Development of Social Sector Accelerator
- Development of National Gender Portal
- Rs. 271 million allocated to the M/o Human Rights for women empowerment and raising awareness
- 47% loan for women under Interest Free Loan Programme by PPAF (total 490,368 loans)
- Free training to widows, orphans and the poor girls in different skill (Drafting, Cutting, Sewing, Knitting, Hand and Machine Embroidery) in Women Empowerment Centres under Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal.
- 47% females-out of 4.23 million children enrolled under Waseela-e-Taleem by BISP with stipend for girls increased to Rs.2,000 per quarter.
- Tetanus vaccination of 7 million pregnant women.
- State Bank of Pakistan program “Banking on Equality: Policy to Reduce the Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion”
- 10% quota in public sector employment, establishment of Day Care Centers, Working Women Hostels. Transport Facilities.
- 14 Legislative measures during 2019-21 addressing gender gap and protection of Women Rights such as the Zainab

Alert. Response and Recovery Act, 2020, Anti Rape (Investigation and Trial) ordinance 2020. Women's property rights Act, 2020, the domestic violence (prevention and protection) Bill, 2021. Harassment of Women at Work place (Amendment Bill), 2021.

- Establishment of "Gender Protection Unit (GPU)" in ICT with Helpline 8090 to rescue the victims of gender-based violence.
- Designation a all courts of sessions judges throughout Pakistan as Special Courts in May 2021, under the – "Ordinance" for speedy trials of rape cases
- Development of a Gender Management Information System (GMIS) including indicators on education, health, population, inheritance, employment, violence against women etc. by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW).

Punjab:

- Punjab Protection or Women against Violence Act 2016
- Punjab Protection Authority Act 2017
- Women's Income Growth and Sell-reliance Programme (WINGS)

Sindh:

- Establishment of Women Development Complex, Sales & Display Centres, Working Women Hostel Karachi and Women Complaint Cells across Sindh part of ADP 2021-22

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

- The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Domestic Violence Against Women (Prevention & Protection), Act 2021.
- Establishment of 21 readymade garment centers for women
- Allocation or 20 percent quota for micro-finance loans by Bank of Khyber (BoK).
- BOLO Helpline, established for the victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and persons with disabilities

Balochistan:

- Balochistan Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Policy (2020-2024)

A.J&K:

- AJ&K Women's Development Strategic Plan 2016-2020
- Gender Management Information System
- Women's economic empowerment centers to provide trainings to home-based female workers
- First Women Police Station in AJ&K

GB:

- Women's markets to promote women entrepreneurship in GB.
- Formulation of Women Harassment, Act 2013
- Formation of Economic Transformation Initiative in 162 Village Agriculture Cooperative Societies with 30 % women members.
- Home Based schools project launched to improve girl's enrolment in conservative areas with 4.000 girls enrolled

SDG-8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth" Obligations/ Targets

- 8.1: Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed Countries.
- 8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors.
- 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and encourage the formalizations and growth of micro, small in and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.
- 8.4: Improve progressively through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework -of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead.

- 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
- 8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.
- 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.
- 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
- 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.
- 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage: and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.
- 8.a: Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical - Assistance to Least Developed Countries.
- 8.b: By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.

Government's steps taken for achieving SDG- 8

Since 2015, sustained, indigenous and inclusive growth is a high priority agenda of the Government of Pakistan. Entrepreneurship and knowledge economy also rated high on the national agenda. Pakistan recognizes that a thriving, diverse economy — whose benefits are shared equitably by all members of society — is a necessary pathway to prosperity for all.

Pakistan has made substantial progress in improving business climate in recent years; Starting a business, registering property is now easy. This has been achieved by streamlining and automating administrative procedures and resolving insolvency issues easier. Integrated portal for online registration of company, getting construction permits, improved reliability, transparency and quality in getting electricity, registering property and contract enforcement, reduced procedures and time required in paying taxes and trading across borders and protection of legal rights of creditors and debtors in getting credit are the hallmark of new simplified system.

Federal initiatives:

- The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement – a USD 59 billion framework of regional connectivity – has created a large number of employment opportunities. Pakistan has also invested in several projects to support the CPEC initiative.
- Through the Prime Minister's Youth- Skills Development Programme, almost 147,000 unemployed youths were trained in different demand-oriented trades.
- The Prime Minister's National Internship Programme secured internships for 81,500 unemployed, educated youths in various public and private organizations.
- Developed investment Policy
- Prepared Industrial Transformation Policy
- Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Youth Entrepreneurships Scheme (PMKJ-YES)' to empower Pakistan's youth by extending affordable financing for new and existing startups.

- National Skill Strategy (NSS) for capacity enhancement through employable skills development for international market
- Prioritizing of Youth empowerment and productivity in National Youth Development Framework (NYDF).
- Developed 200 TVET qualifications and accredited 535 TVET institutes nationally.
- Prime Minister's Hunarmand Skill for All Program with 74,737 youth gaining employable skills and 25% quota specified for women.
- 23,000 Youth formally skill tested and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- Established 10 Countries of Destination Facilitation Centers.
- Developed National Employment Exchange tool and workforce database fully functional at: jobs.gov.pk, database: (413,197 Skilled work force and 411,735 Jobs Posted)
- Established National Accreditation Council for TVET Stream (NAC-TVS)
- Established Three Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) in the construction, hospitality renewable energy and textile sectors.
- Constituted Vigilance Committees in the Bonded Labor (Abolition Act) and Cadre of Inspectors for enforcement of the Employment of Children Act, Establishment of minimum Wages Board and Labor Courts under the Industrial Relations Act.
- Violation of the laws made a cognizable offence, with trial by a First-Class Magistrate and varying levels of punishment.
- Several packages and projects for spurring economic development and employment such as Construction Package Textile Industry Package, Bundal Island Project, Ravi River Urban Development
- Programme IT Parks Package

Punjab:

- Establishment of Job Centers in Punjab
- Punjab Rozgar Scheme to dishurse loans worth Rs.30 billion

Sindh:

- Social protection and economic sustainability package of Rs. 34.7 billion to support home-based businesses and small and medium enterprises
- Strengthening of TEVT Institutes

Balochistan:

- Balochistan Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Project

Azad Jammu & Kashmir:

- AJ&K Tourism Policy 2018, Youth Policy 2021 and industrial Policy 2019 (Drafts).

Gilgit Baltistan:

- Chief Minister Self Employment Loan Project for Interest-free loans for small businesses
- Technical and vocational trainings, micro-grants, and internships to young men and women to reduce unemployment.
- Digi-Skills program and Business incubation Centers launched
- IT park to promote youth entrepreneurship established

ISLAMABAD,
the 26th May, 2022

HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH,
Acting Secretary.