

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Thursday, the 3rd June, 2010

1. ***Mr. Muhammad Zahid Khan:** (Notice received on 19-05-2010 at 12:55 p.m.)

Will the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state..

- (a) *whether it is a fact that previous service rendered by the employees of Intelligence Bureau reinstated in pursuance of the provisions of the Sacked Employees (Reinstatement) Ordinance, 2009, is not being counted for their seniority; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that departmental identity cards have not been issued to the said employees so far; if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division: (a) The case of employees of Intelligence Bureau reinstated in pursuance of the Sacked Employees (Reinstatement) Ordinance 2009 was referred to the Anomaly Committee for clarification / guideline whether the reinstated employees in IB are amenable to lose or not all the service benefits like protection of pay, counting of previous service for pension and seniority etc under Section 10 of the Sacked Employees (Reinstatement) Ordinance-2009. In response, Anomaly Committed has intimated that “as per Section 10 of the Ordinance the reinstated employees shall not be entitled to claim seniority or arrears of pay or other service benefits save as provided in the Ordinance and shall be required on reinstatement to submit a surety bond in the form specified for the purpose”. Therefore, IB reinstated employees are not entitled to claim other service benefits according by and their previous service is not counted for their seniority. (Copy enclosed)

(b) The departmental Identity cards are issued to all employees on joining service in IB. The employees who got reinstated under Sacked Employees (Reinstatement) Ordinance, 2009 have also been issued departmental Identity Cards.

2. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 19-05-2010 at 13:00 p.m.)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the posts of Assistant Accounts Officers and Accounts Officers belonging to Pakistan Audit and Account Services (Departmental Cadre) under the control of Controller General of Account Offices have been upgraded from BPS 16 to 17 and from BPS 17 to 18 respectively;*

(b) *whether it is also a fact that the posts of Audit Officers and Assistant Audit Officers of the same group and cadre under the control of Auditor General of Pakistan have not been upgraded, if so, its reasons; and*

(c) *the steps being taken by the Government to remove the said anomaly?*

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: (a) Yes, it is correct that posts of Assistant Accounts Officers and Accounts Officers have been upgraded from BS-16 to BS-17 and BS-17 to BS-18 respectively.

(b) This is not correct. The posts of Audit Officers and Assistant Audit Officers have been upgraded vide Notification of the Office of Auditor General of Pakistan dated 18-05-2010 (Annexed).

(c) There is no anomaly.

3. ***Mr. Abdul Haseeb Khan:** (Notice received on 19-05-2010 at 13:15 p.m.)

Will the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state the names and other particulars of the persons who were nominated for civil awards on 14th August 2009 and conferred on 23rd March 2010 indicating also the performance / achievements on the basis of which the awards were conferred in each case?

Reply not received.

4. ***Hafiz Rashid Ahmad:** (Notice received on 19-05-2010 at 14:45 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Privatization be pleased to state the details of foreign visits undertaken by the persons holding the portfolios of Minister for Privatization since 2008 indicating also the names of countries visited, duration and purpose of each visit?

Mr. Waqar Ahmed Khan: Requisite details are at Annex-A.

5. ***Maulana Muhammad Saleh Shah:** (Notice received on 19-05-2010 at 15:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of water in Block Nos.148, 149 and 157, Cat-III, G-11/4, Islamabad if so, its reasons; and*

(b) *the steps being taken by the Government to overcome the said problem?*

Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division: (a) At present there is no (acute) shortage of water. Water to all the Blocks including Block Nos. 148, 149 & 157 Category-III, G-11/4 is being supplied at par with the other Blocks, from E-10 Reservoir on alternate days. Due to long dry spell. surface & ground water sources have depleted abnormally, therefore, CDA is forced to reduce supplies to various Sectors including G-11/4 to meet the increasing demands of inhabitants

of the Capital city. Besides, supply of water to the above said Cat-III Blocks was checked and found reasonable.

(b) The complaints received from the people of the locality are promptly attended to. CDA has no option but to resort to rationing to ensure equitable distribution of water in Islamabad. However, it is expected that during the coming monsoon season, the inadequacy of water is resolved to a greater extent. By proper rationing this problem is being handled and expected that position of regular supply of water is improved in the coming Monsoon rains.

6. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 20-05-2010 at 08:45 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Economic Affairs be pleased to state the names and designation of the officers in BPS-17 and above in the Ministry, its attached departments and subordinate offices who themselves or their spouses hold dual nationality indicating also the names of the countries of their nationality?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar:

Name of Officer whose spouses hold dual nationality or nationality of other country	Designation with BPS	Country of nationality of the spouse.
Mr. Najaf Khan	Assistant Chief BPS-18	United Kingdom
Mrs. Baseerat Memraiz	Section Officer BPS-18	United States of America.

7. ***Mir Wali Muhammad Badini:** (Notice received on 20-05-2010 at 08:55 a.m.)

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

(a) *the date on which Planning Commission of Pakistan was established; and*

(b) *the names of the members belonging to Balochistan Province appointed so far in the Commission indicating also their job titles?*

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: (a) The Planning Commission of Pakistan was established on 22nd October, 1958.

(b) There have been three (03) Members of Planning Commission from Balochistan Province namely, Mr. Sikandar Hayat Jamali Member (Science & Technology) and Member (Social Sector), Mr. Muhammad Khan Achikzai and Mr. Jalil Minhas, Members (Social Sector).

8. ***Prof. Khurshid Ahmed:** (Notice received on 20-05-2010 at 10:30 a.m.)

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

- (a) *the categories of Pakistani and foreign nationals who are exempted from payment of Income tax and the reasons for such exemption; and*
- (b) *the names of Foundations and hospitals etc. which are exempted from payment of income tax?*

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: (a) ♦ Under the provisions of Income Tax Law, income of persons (Individuals, Associations of Persons and Companies) is not taxed on the basis of a taxpayer being a Pakistani or Foreign National. Rather, income tax is chargeable on the basis of Tax Resident Status of a person.

- (i) An individual is resident, if he remains present in Pakistan for a period or periods, amounting in aggregate to 183 days or more in a tax year; or if he is an employee/official of Federal or a Provincial Government posted abroad in the tax year.
 - (ii) An association of persons (AOP) is resident if the control and management of the affairs of AOP is situated wholly or partly in Pakistan.
 - (iii) A company is a resident company, if it is incorporated/ formed under any law in Pakistan or the control and management of the affairs of the company is situated wholly in Pakistan at any time in the year; and Provincial and Local Governments are also classified as resident companies.
 - (iv) A non-resident person is one who is not a resident person for a tax year.
 - (v) Pakistan source as well as foreign source income of a resident person is chargeable to tax, whereas in case of a non-resident person only Pakistan source income is chargeable to tax.
- (b) (i) Under section 2(36) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, any person, other than an individual, can apply for registration as a non-profit organization (NPO) status, if established for religious, educational, charitable, welfare or development purposes or for promotion of an amateur sport, provided it is formed/registered under any law as an NPO and approved by the Commissioner Inland Revenue. On recognition (through an elaborate process of examination) as a Non-Profit Organization stands exempted from Income Tax.
- (ii) Also, specific exemptions from income tax have been provided under Second Schedule to the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, to certain persons. Particulars of entities which have been provided exemption under Second Schedule are provided as **(Annex-I)**.
 - (iii) These entities are exempted mainly on the grounds that these are not profit earning organizations and work for the betterment of the citizens

- (iv) List of organizations which are certified as 'Non-Profit' organizations with the Income Tax field offices is attached (**Annex-II**).

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

9. ***Prof. Khurshid Ahmed:** (Notice received on 20-05-2010 at 10:30 a.m.)

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

- (a) *the details of relief provided to the pensioners during the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that there was some discrimination in the said relief on the basis of year of retirement, if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish that discrimination in the budget for next financial year?*

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: (a) Government has allowed increase in pension to the pensioners during 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 as under:—

2008-2009 @20%
2009-2010

- (i) Pensioners who retired on or before
30-06-1999 20%
- (ii) Pensioners who retired after 30-06-1999
onwards 15%

(b) There was no discrimination in the said relief on the basis of year of retirement. During 2009-2010 higher rate of increase in pension was allowed to old pensioners in order to reduce the gap of pensions between old and new pensioners.

10. ***Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:** (Notice received on 20-05-2010 at 10:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the trade deficit of the country from June 2008 to June 2009 and June 2009 to 1st April, 2010;*
- (b) *the reasons of the said deficit; and*
- (c) *the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the deficit?*

Makhdoom Amin Fahim: (a) The country had a trade deficit of US\$ 19.249 billion in the period June 2008 to June 2009; the trade deficit during the period June 2009 to April 1, 2010 was US\$ 14.040 billion.

(b) Escalation in fuel and food items prices increased the import bill in 2008-09. Our import mainly comprised of essential items like petroleum, edible oil and wheat on one hand and

machinery and raw material on the other hand; import of neither the former nor the latter can be curtailed. Coupled with higher imports, reduction in export growth due to global economic slowdown in our major market are the major reasons for trade deficit.

(c) To discourage non-essential imports and to encourage/ facilitate and promote exports and thereby decreasing the deficit the government took following measures:—

- ◆ Imposition of duty on non-essential/luxury items w.e f. August 27, 2008
- ◆ Incentivizing exports by providing concessionary financing, zero-rating of exports, duty free import of raw material under special schemes to facilitate manufacturing for exports, development of export clusters.
- ◆ Initiation of trade diplomacy measures for getting better market access viz. Free Trade Agreements and Preferential Trade Agreements with different countries

11. ***Hafiz Rashid Ahmad:** (Notice received on 20-05-2010 at 14:20 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Privatization be pleased to state the details of foreign visits undertaken by the officers holding the charge of Secretary, Ministry of Privatization, since 2008 indicating also the names of countries visited, duration and purpose of each visit?

Mr. Waqar Ahmed Khan: Requisite details are at Annex-A.

*Islamabad :
The 2nd June, 2010.*

RAJA MUHAMMAD AMIN,
Secretary.