

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Friday, the 3rd January, 2014

1. ***Mr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari:** (Notice received on 21-11-2013 at 09:30 am)

Will the Minister Information Technology and Telecommunications be pleased to state:

- (a) the date of launching / establishment of Universal Service Fund (USF);*
- (b) the purpose for launching / establishment of the said fund;*
- (c) the amount in that fund as on 1st June, 2013; and*
- (d) whether any amount has been transferred from the said fund to the Federal Consolidated Fund, if so, whether such transfer is permissible under the relevant laws / rules?*

Mrs. Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan: (a) The USF fund was established on 1st March, 2006 in pursuance of amendment made in Pakistan Telecommunication Re-organization Act 1996.

(b) The purpose of USF fund is to provide access to telecommunication services to the people in the un-served, under-served, rural and remote areas of Pakistan.

(c) The amount in USF fund as on 1st June, 2013 was Rs. 61.253 Million.

(d) Yes, an amount of Rs. 62,003 Million was transferred to Federal Consolidated Fund in pursuance of amendment made in clause 3(2) of USF Rules 2006 on 29th June, 2013. The clause 3(2) of USF Rule is re-produced under:

“The USF shall be kept in Federal Consolidated Fund and Ministry of Finance shall release funds of USF, in accordance with the procedure laid down in these Rules, through budgetary mechanism”.

2. ***Mrs. Saeeda Iqbal:** (Notice received on 28-11-1013 at 12:20 pm)

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state whether any quota has been reserved in Medical Colleges in the Provinces for the students belonging to Islamabad Capital Territory, if not, its reasons?

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: No. There is no quota reserved in any Medical Colleges in the provinces for the students belonging to Islamabad Capital Territory because the students of ICT are considered in the Punjab Province on open Merit basis.

4. ***Mr. Muhammad Idrees Khan Safi:** (Notice received on 12-12-2013 at 02:00 pm)

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Board of Directors of PTCL has not approved the increase in the pension of their retired employees as per Government announcement, if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Mrs. Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan:

- i. The competent authority to approve any increase in the pension of PTCL retired employees is PTET Board of Trustees and not the PTCL Board. Although, PTET board has representation from PTCL as well as MoIT.
- ii. Since its inception in 1996, PTET Board has been approving the same increase as announced by the government till FY 2010-11, which on average was around 10% p.a. it is also brought to the attention of the Honorable Member that PTCL is the only contributor to the PTET Pension Fund.
- iii. FY 2010-11, Govt. announced an increase of around 46% (include, Medical Allowance) Due to this heavy increase, PTET Board exercised its exclusive right, empowered under the Section 46 (2) (a) of the Pakistan Telecommunication Re-Organization Act, 1996, and allowed only 8% increase in Pension.
- iv. Subsequently Pensioners filed various Writ Petitions in different High Courts.
- v. Various hearings have been held and the next Court hearing is expected in the 2nd Week of Jan. 2014.
- vi. The PTET Board has also approved 8% Pension increase for the FY 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14.
- vii. As the matter is pending in the Court of Law, therefore we are awaiting the outcome of the decision.

5. ***Mr. Muhammad Idrees Khan Safi:** (Notice received on 12-12-2013 at 02:00 pm)

Will the Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the agreement with M/s. ETISALAT for privatization of PTCL was vetted by the Ministry of Law and Justice, if so, the date / year of vetting of the same;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that no provision for termination of the said agreement was made therein in case of violation of terms and conditions of the agreement, if so, its reasons;*
- (c) *the names of the then Secretary Law and Draftsman who vetted / approved the said agreement; and*
- (d) *whether any action has been taken against the persons responsible for the said omission, if so, its details?*

Mr. Pervaiz Rashid: (a) As regards query at (a), it is submitted that as per the record of this Division, the draft Share-Purchase Agreement for the sale of ordinary shares of the Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited was vetted by this Division on 13-06-2005 along with certain observations on Article 5.3 relating to seller warranties and Sub-Articles 16.1 and 16.2 relating to the arbitration were communicated to the Ministry of Privatization and Investment. It is important to highlight that the said draft Agreement was referred to this Division during the course of bidding and was of general nature to be signed between the Government of Pakistan and successful bidder.

(b) As regards query at (b), it is pointed out that the draft Agreement contains an extensive termination clause in the shape of Article 7 of the Agreement.

(c) As regards query at (c), it is informed that the then Draftsman/Additional Secretary, Mr. Muhammad Azam Warraich, vetted the draft Agreement which was endorsed by Malik Hakam Khan, the then Draftsman-I. At the relevant time Mr. Justice (R) Mansoor Ahmed was the Secretary, Law and Justice Division. It is important to point out that pursuant to the observations of the Law Ministry with regard to Arbitration clause the matter was also examined by the then Attorney-General for Pakistan Mr. Makhdoom Ali Khan and the then Joint Secretary (Contract) Ch. Ghulam Rasool and finally case was also seen by then Law Minister Mr. Muhammad Wasi Zafar.

(d) As regards query at (d), it is pointed out that question of action did not arise at any point of time.

6. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 12-12-2013 at 03:30 pm)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of Post Offices working in the country, including FATA and Gilgit Baltistan, with Province-wise breakup; and*
- (b) *the number of persons working in BPS-1 to 20 in the said Post Offices with Province-wise breakup?*

Minister for Communications: (a) At present total number of Post Offices functioning in the country are 12035. The Province-wise break up of total No of P. O. including FATA & Gilgit Baltistan is an under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Province	Total No. of Post Offices
1.	Federal Capital	544
2.	Punjab	7039
3.	Sindh	1689
4.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1905
5.	Balochistan	454
6.	FATA	224
7.	Gilgit Baltistan	180
Total		12035

(b) Total No. of persons working in BPS-1 to BPS-20 with province wise breakup is attached at Annexure-A.

8. ***Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasir:** (Notice received on 20-12-2013 at 02:35 pm)

Will the Minister for Education, Training and Standards in Higher Education be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of persons working in the Higher Education Commission as on 1st December, 2013;*
- (b) *the names, designations, BPS and place of domicile of the said persons belonging to Balochistan;*
- (c) *the criteria laid down for appointment in the said Commission; and*
- (d) *whether appointments in the said Commission are made according to Provincial quota or otherwise?*

Mr. Muhammad Baligh-Ur-Rehman: (a) As on 1st December, 2013, the number of working employees, on regular basis, in Higher Education Commission (HEC) is **647**.

(b) List of employees containing names, designation, BPS and places of domicile of persons belonging to Balochistan is at **Annex-I**.

(c) The criteria for initial appointment in HEC is laid down in Higher Education Commission Employees (Recruitment) Rules 2009 is at **Annex-II**.

(d) The Higher Education Commission strictly observes the provincial quota in appointments. However, appointments in BPS-1 & 2 are made on local basis as permissible under the rules.

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

9. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 23-12-2013 at 09:15 am)

Will the Minister for Ports and Shipping be pleased to state the number of cargo ships under the control of the Ministry of Ports and Shipping, if none, the procedure being adopted for shifting of goods from sea to land?

Mr. Kamran Michael: PNSC has two types of vessels for carrying liquid cargo and bulk dry cargo. The vessels which carry liquid cargo are M.T, Lahore and M.T Karachi. The vessels which carry bulk / dry cargo are M.V. Kaghan. M.V. Chitral, M.V. Malakand. M.V. Hyderabad, M.V Sibi and M.V Multan.

10. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 23-12-2013 at 09:15 am)

Will the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of persons working in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) with grade-wise and province-wise breakup; and*
- (b) *the number of offices of ECP established in the country with province-wise breakup?*

Sheikh Aftab Ahmed: (a) The required information grade-wise & province-wise in respect of Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad is given hereunder:

Sl. No.	BPS	ECP Secretariat	PEC, Punjab	PEC, Sindh	PEC, KPK	PEC, Balochistan	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	22	1	—	—	—	—	1
2.	21	1	1	1	1	1	5
3.	20	7	1	1	1	1	11
4.	19	7	10	7	12	10	46
5.	18	26	44	34	42	41	187
6.	17	19	42	30	37	38	166
7.	16	17	7	7	10	7	48
8.	15	35	54	39	49	49	226
9.	14	14	19	19	17	17	86
10.	13	3	48	40	41	39	171
11.	11	—	1	—	—	—	1
12.	10	14	95	53	63	53	278

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	08	21	89	91	63	47	311
14.	07	02	—	—	45	—	47
15.	06	14	50	8	9	—	81
16.	05	5	11	2	14	49	81
17.	04	8	5	—	49	1	63
18.	03	32	86	99	2	88	307
19.	02	30	89	—	14	17	150
20.	01	—	19	41	39	12	111
Total:		256	671	472	508	470	2377

(b)

Sl. No.	ECP Secretariat, Islamabad	Province	Provincial Headquarters	Divisional Offices	District Offices	Total
2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	01	—	—	—	—	01
2.		Punjab	01	09	36	46

3.	Sindh	01	05	31	37
4.	KPK	01	07	25	33
5.	Balochistan	01	06	32	39
6.	FATAs (Agencies)	—	01	07	08

Grand Total: 164

ISLAMABAD :
The 2nd January, 2014.

AMJED PERVEZ,
Secretary.