

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Friday, the 1st January, 2016

*Question No.187. **Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**

(Notice received on 16-05-2015 at 09:25 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Trainings be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government for human resource development in the country;*
- (b) the names and locations of the institutes working for human resource development in the country; and*
- (c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to establish more such institutes in the country, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman: The subject Question pertains to public sector institutions across the country. However, the information is being sought from all the institutions and this will require more time and will be tabled on the floor of Senate upon collection/compilation of data from the Institutions as and when received.

*Question No.188. **Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**

(Notice received on 18-06-2015 at 04:45 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state the names and locations of ongoing projects of NHA in the country with province wise breakup indicating also the amount allocated for each project during the fiscal year 2014-15 and the amount released and utilized out of the same separately?

Minister for Communications: Name and location of ongoing projects of NHA in the country with province-wise breakup indicating also the amount allocated for each project during the fiscal year 2014-15, is attached at **Annex-A**. The details of amount released and utilized is at **Annex-B**.

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

***Question No.190. Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan:**

(Notice received on 13-11-2015 at 11:05 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the steps taken/being taken by the Government for promotion of commercial, economic and cultural ties with Iran?

Minister for Foreign Affairs: Iran is an important neighbor, it is coming out of the long international sanctions. We are cognizant of the coming opportunities of increased commercial relations with Iran and have been preparing to capitalize on these opportunities. Various steps have been taken to enhance political, economic, commercial and cultural ties with Iran.

High-level Visits

The Prime Minister visited Tehran in May 2014. Pakistan and Iran had signed one Agreement and eight MoUs for cooperation in various fields with Iran. The Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs as well as other Cabinet members have been interacting with their Iranian counterparts to build on the momentum generated by the visit of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources visited Iran in October 2014. Minister for Commerce, Mr. Khurram Dastgir visited Tehran in April 2015 for the 7th round of the Joint Trade Committee meeting. Signing of a Preferential Trade Agreement and enhancement of bilateral commercial relations with Iran were discussed.

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, visited Pakistan in April and August 2015. Secretary of Iran's National Security Council, Admiral Ali Shamkhani, also paid a visit to Islamabad in October 2015.

Commercial/Economic Ties

During the Prime Minister's visit to Iran in May 2014, the two sides had desired to raise the bilateral trade to US \$ five billion per annum.

Following meetings were held with Iran to realize the projected target of US \$ five billion with lifting of the sanctions on Iran:

- The 7th round of the Joint Trade Committee in April, 2015;
- The 5th round of Joint Consular Commission in April, 2015;
- The 3rd round of the Joint Border Trade Committee in August;
- The 2nd round of the Joint Working Group on Trade in August 2015.

Opening of New Border Crossings

The Government has also been successful in getting Iranian concurrence to opening of two additional border crossing points at Mand-Pishin and Gabd-Reemdan. The crossing point at

Gabd-Reemdan will greatly reduce distance between Gwadar and Chabahar Ports. It would especially facilitate export of agriculture goods to Iran as it would reduce travel/transit time from current over 8 days to 2 days at the most. With the initiative of the Government, Gwadar and Chabahar have been declared sister-ports by the two countries. This development, with the opening of the additional border crossing points, will greatly help in enhancing economic relations, tourism, and facilitate movement of business people and also enhance people to people contacts.

Energy.

In the energy sector, the Government is working on a few important projects with Iran. These include the construction of IP Gas Pipeline and import of electricity from Iran. The Government is in the process of finalizing the deal for construction of Phase-I of the IP Gas Pipeline Project. This will entail construction of the pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah. In the second phase the remaining 80 km of the pipe line will be constructed as soon as the sanctions on Iran are lifted. We currently import 74 MW of electricity from Iran for Makran Division. This will be increased to 100 MW by January 2016. Two additional projects involving import of 100 MW and 1000 MW of electricity from Iran are under consideration. The latter has the potential to increase the import of electricity up to 3000 MW.

Cultural and People-to-people contacts

More than 20,000 zaireen visit Iran from Pakistan, annually. It is expected that opening of the two new border crossing points would facilitate people-to-people contacts.

In routine cultural exchanges continue to happen between the two countries. For example, the consulate of Pakistan in Mashhad organized a Conference on Allama Iqbal on 9 November 2015. At the occasion, a statue of Dr. Allama Iqbal was unveiled and a postal stamp was issued by the provincial postal authorities of Mashhad. Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran organized a number of performances by a well-known Pakistani Qawwal group in various cities of Iran.

Likewise, the Iranian media is amply utilized on various occasions to provide useful information on the country with a view to enhance the image of Pakistan.

***Question No. 191. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:**

(Notice received on 19-11-2015 at 04:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of drugs registered in the generic list in Pakistan; and*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to decrease the price and increase the production of the said drugs at national level?*

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: (a) There are more than 60,000 generic drugs of around 1400 molecules/formulations registered by the DRAP to various manufacturers. DRAP is in the process of compiling/updating separate list of generic drugs registered with it.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Federal Government to decrease the price and increase the production of the said drugs at national level:

I. Regulation imposed:

In March, 2015, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, with the approval of Federal Government and Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet, notified a Drug Pricing Policy -2015 wherein prices of medicines have been frozen till July, 2016 except increase allowed under orphan drugs, intravenous infusions and drugs under hardship category which have become non-viable to market.

II. Market surveys

DRAP field offices have been advised to be vigilant, conduct market surveys and take actions against the companies if found overcharging of drugs.

III. Actions taken by DRAP

- i. Manufacturing of generic drugs is being encouraged and facilitated, as by and large the generic products are cheaper than the branded drugs. Priority and all facilitations are being given to the manufacturers of generic drugs and to make their investment fruitful in the shortest possible time. For that purpose, meetings of the various boards are being held frequently.
- ii. Priority is also being given to grant registration to new licenses/new sections to increase production of drugs which increase competition in the market which in turn results in the reduction of prices of drugs.
- iii. Federal Inspector of Drugs have conducted raids on the warehouses of manufacturers and importers and have seized stocks of few drugs of 7 companies being sold at prices over and above than the prices fixed by the Federal Government.
- iv. In case of Zam Zam Corporation Karachi, in April 2015, Federation of Pakistan and DRAP filed an appeal in the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the order of the Sindh High Court, Karachi. The honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan *vide* its order dated 19th May, 2015 granted leave to appeal and suspended the operation of decree dated 11-03-2013. In compliance to the court order, DRAP directed the firm to decrease the prices and the firm recalled all overpriced stock from the market.
- v. In 2013, DRAP also filed an application in the Supreme Court of Pakistan seeking to pass appropriated orders for disposal of petitions /suits filed by

pharmaceutical companies in Sindh High Court, Karachi, Lahore High Court, Lahore and Civil Judge Lahore and the honorable court issued notices to 17 companies for illegal price increase of medicines. The matter is pending adjudication before the apex court.

- vi. In 2013, DRAP also filed 25 Civil Miscellaneous Applications (CMAs) in the Sindh High Court, Karachi, Lahore High Court, Lahore and Civil Judge Lahore to vacate stay orders issued by the courts in matters of unauthorized price increase on medicines by pharmaceutical companies.
- vii. Under Section 6 of the Drugs Act, 1976, the storage and sale of drugs is regulated by the Provincial Governments, therefore, DRAP has advised the Provincial Health Authorities to take action under the law against the companies who increase prices of drugs above than approved prices.

*Question No.192. **Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 20-11-2015 at 10:11 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *the revenue collected from toll plazas between Hasan Abdal and Haripur during 2013-2014 and 2014-2015; and*
- (b) *the amount paid out of the same to the local districts for public services?*

Minister for Communications: (a) National Highway Authority (NHA) Act 1991 empowers NHA to levy and collect toll tax from National Highways and Motorways falling under the jurisdiction of NHA. Hassanabdal (N-35) toll plaza between Hassanabdal and Haripur falls under the jurisdiction of NHA. Revenue collected on 2013-14 and 2014-15 is given as under:—

Hassanabdal Toll Plaza (N-35)

Sr. No.	Financial Year	Revenue Collected
1	2013-14	122,626,786/-
2	2014-15	115,298,454/-
Total		237,925,240/

(b) No amount has been paid to any Local District for Public Services in any mode or manner.

*Question No. 193. **Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:**

(Notice received on 20-11-2015 at 02:22 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that department of Postal Services has constructed rest houses in the country, if so, the purpose for which the same were constructed and the purposes for which the same are being used at present;*
- (b) the average monthly expenditures presently being incurred on each of the said rest houses; and*
- (c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to privatize the said rest houses, if so, when?*

Minister for Communications: (a) It is fact that the department of Postal Services has constructed rest houses in the country. These rest houses are being used for official visits of officials and officers for Inspection purposes. The rest houses located in the main cities / towns are also availed by officials / officers on their private visit on prescribed rental charges.

(b) The detailed annexed as “A”

(c) No proposal is under consideration of the Government to privatize the rest houses.

*Question No. 194. **Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:**
(Notice received on 23-11-2015 at 03:30 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Pakistani prisoners repatriated from USA since 15th March, 2008;
and*
- (b) the main allegations against the said prisoners?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a & b) 64 Pakistani prisoners have been repatriated from USA during the requested period on the completion of their respective sentences. The list of Pakistani prisoners repatriated from the USA and the offenses committed by them are given at **Annexure-A.**

*Question No.195. **Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 30-11-2015 at 11:31 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Trainings be pleased to state:

- (a) *the criteria laid down for admission in Public Universities in Islamabad; and*
- (b) *whether any relaxation is being given to the students belonging to FATA Balochistan and Gilgat-Baltistan in admissions in the said Universities?*

Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman: (a) University-Wise and Program-wise minimum criteria for admission of Public Sector Universities in Islamabad is attached at ANNEX-I.

(b) University-wise relaxation policy for admission of the students of FATA, Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan is attached at ANNEX-II.

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

*Question No.196. **Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 01-12-2015 at 10:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state the present literacy rate in Pakistan with province wise break up and the position in world ranking in this regard?

Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman:

Literacy Rate of Pakistan and Provinces
(Age group 10+)
2013-14
(In Percentages)

	Male	Female	Total
Pakistan	71.29	48.35	59.98

Punjab	70.40	53.26	61.77
Sindh	73.05	48.19	61.38
Khyber	72.08	35.06	53.16
Pakhtunkhwa			
Balochistan	70.30	28.70	51.84

(Source: Labor Force Survey, 2013-14,
Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad)

- As far as ranking of Pakistan is concerned, Pakistan's Human Development Index is 147 out of 188. Human Development Index is calculated based on (i) long and healthy life, (ii) Knowledge, and (iii) A decent standard of living. (Source: Human Development Report 2015).

*Question No.197. **Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani:**

(Notice received on 08-12-2015 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for National Health, Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the number of persons presently working in the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, its attached departments, corporation, subordinate offices and institutions etc. with grade-wise and province-wise breakup?

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: The number of persons presently working in the Ministry and its attached departments, subordinate offices and institutions etc with grade-wise and province-wise breakup is **annexed** as under:—

- M/o NHS, R&C (Annex-A)
- Population Program Wing (Annex-B)
- National Institute of Health (Annex-C)
- Health Services Academy (Annex-D)
- Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Annex-E)
- Pakistan Medical Research Council (Annex-F)
- National Health Emergency Preparedness (Annex-G)
& Response Network
- T.B Control Programme (Annex-H)
- National AIDS Control Programme (Annex-I)
- Expanded Programme on Immunization (Annex-J)
- Malaria Control Programme (Annex-K)
- Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (Annex-L)
- Pakistan Pharmacy Council (Annex-M)
- Tibb Council (Annex-N)
- National Council for Homeopathy (Annex-O)
- National Institute of Population Studies (Annex-P)
- Pakistan Nursing Council (Annex-Q)
- Central Health Establishment (Annex-R)

- College of Physicians & Surgeons of Pakistan (**Annex-S**). The Ministry has referred back to CPSP disagreeing with their point of view as CPSP is autonomous body and attached with this Ministry under Rules of Business.

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

***Question No.198. Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani:**

(Notice received on 08-12-2015 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Trainings be pleased to state the number of persons presently working in the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, its attached departments, corporations, subordinate offices and institutions etc. with grade-wise and province-wise breakup?

Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman: The requisite details in respect of Ministry of Federal and Professional Training and its attached Departments/ Organizations are annexed at **Annexure-I**.

(Annexure has been placed on the Table of the House as well as Library.)

***Question No.199. Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani:**

(Notice received on 08-12-2015 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state the number of persons presently working in the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, its attached departments, corporations, subordinate offices and institutions etc. with grade-wise and province-wise breakup?

Pir Syed Saddaruddin Shah Rashidi: The number of employees presently working in the Ministry and its departments are as under:

Ministry / Departments	Number of Persons Presently Working
Main Ministry of Officers / Officials may be seen at	Total: 287 The grade-wise and province-wise detail Annex-I.
Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment Annex-II.	Total: 259 The grade-wise and province-wise detail of Officers / Officials may be seen at
National Industrial Relation Commission Annex-III.	Total: 110 The grade-wise and province-wise detail of Officers / Officials may be seen at

Overseas Pakistanis
Foundation

Total: 1749

The grade-wise and province-wise detail
of Officers / Officials may be seen at

Annex-IV.

**Ministry /
Departments**

**Number of Persons
Presently Working**

Overseas Employment
Corporation

Total: 104

The grade-wise and province-wise detail
of Officers / Officials may be seen at

Annex-V.

Workers Welfare
Fund

Total: 294

The grade-wise and province-wise detail
of Officers / Officials may be seen at

Annex-VI.

Employees Old
Age Benefits Institutions

Total: 950

The grade-wise and province-wise detail
of Officers / Officials may be seen at

Annex-VII.

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

ISLAMABAD,
the 31st December, 2015

AMJED PERVEZ,
Secretary.