

SENATE SECRETARIAT

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“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

**Tuesday, the 12th January, 2016**

\*Question No. 1. **Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 15-10-2015 at 12:35 p.m.)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan is ranked 134th out of 143 countries of the world in research and development field;*
- (b) the steps taken by the government to further improve its ranking for the said field; and*
- (c) how a country can make progress without investing in Research and Development field?*

**Rana Tanveer Hussain:** (a) No. It is not a fact. Global Innovation Index Report 2015 indicates Pakistan's ranking in R&D as **68th** out of **141** countries (*The Global Innovation Index 2015 is jointly released by Johnson Cornell University, WIPO & INSEAD*) (Annexure-I).

(b) The present government has taken following steps for the improvement of status of science and technology in the country:

**1. Introduction of National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Strategy 2014-18**

In the ST1 strategy, national R&D expenditure will be enhanced up to 1.0% of GDP by 2018 for building capacity and HRD in S&T Sector (Annexure-II).

**2. Technology Foresight Studies in Pakistan**

Technology foresight studies in the 11 areas have been conducted by Ministry of Science and Technology and disseminated among the stakeholders. These areas of R&D include Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Energy, Industry, Education, Health, Agriculture, Environment, Electronics, Water, Biotechnology and Nanotechnology (Annexure-III).

**3. Preparation of National Research Agenda**

The National Research Agenda has priority areas and under each priority area, a number of focus areas of research have been identified (Annexure-IV). Work is in progress in consultation with HEC to update the National Research Agenda in line with Pakistan Vision 2025 document of the Government.

#### 4. Incentives to Scientists/Researchers/Technologists

To encourage Scientists/Researchers/Technologists following categories of awards have been announced by the government.

- Civil Awards in the category of Science & Technology.
- President's Medal for Technology.
- Research Productivity Award.

(c) In the present age, investment in R&D is very crucial for socio-economic development of any country. Realizing this, the Government is making efforts to increase its allocations for R&D.

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

\*Question No. 2. **Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:**  
(Notice received on 25-11-2015 at 09:00 a.m.)

*Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide interest free loans to the Tea and Mushroom growers in the country, if so, the details thereof?*

**Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar:** No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

\*Question No. 3. **Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**  
(Notice received on 01-12-2015 at 09:00 a.m.)

*Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the details of raids carried out by the officials of Inland Revenue service during the last two years and the results thereof?*

**Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar:** Following are the details regarding raids carried out and amount of tax evasion detected by Federal Board of Revenue during the last two years:

No. of Raids	Amount of Tax evasion detected (M)
142	9895.839

\*Question No. 4. **Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**  
(Notice received on 01-12-2015 at 10:20 a.m.)

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

(a) *the amount of foreign exchange reserves as on 30th June of each of the last five fiscal years; and*

(b) *the steps being taken by the Government to increase the said reserves?*

**Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar:** The material is being collected and reply will be forwarded by Next Rota Day.

**\*Question No. 5. Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani:**

(Notice received on 04-12-2015 at 09:30 a.m.)

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

**Rana Tanveer Hussain:** The No. of persons presently working in the main Ministry grade wise and its Subordinate Offices, Autonomous Bodies, Educational Institutions and Company is placed at **(Annex-A) Part-I.**

The No. of persons presently working in the main Ministry province wise and its Subordinate Offices, Autonomous Bodies, Educational Institution and Company is placed at **(Annex-A) Part-II.**

The summary of the contents is placed at **(Annex-B).**

The province-wise break-up of each organization is placed at **(Annex-C).**

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

**\*Question No. 6. Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani:**

(Notice received on 07-12-2015 at 09:30 a.m.)

*Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the number of persons presently working in the Ministry of Industries and Production, its attached departments, corporations, subordinate offices and institution etc. with grade-wise and province-wise breakup?*

**Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi:** The details of number of persons presently working in the Ministry of Industries and Production and its attached department (grade and province wise) are at Annex-I. As many as 30 organizations/corporations are operating under the administrative control of Ministry of Industries and Production. Most of the organizations/corporations have their own pay scales. Province-wise details are at Annex-II.

**\*Question No. 7. Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani:**

(Notice received on 07-12-2015 at 09:30 a.m.)

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

**Mr. Ahsan Iqbal:**

Main Ministry	=	589
Attached Departments	=	4842
<b>Total:</b>	=	<b>5431</b>

The details are attached as **Annex-I** and **Annex-II** respectively.

**\*Question No. 8. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**

(Notice received on 09-12-2015 at 09:00 a.m.)

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

- (a) the number of Chinese working in Pakistan on various projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor; and*
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for security of the said Chinese?*

Reply not received.

**\*Question No. 9. Senator Saleem Zia:**

(Notice received on 10-12-2015 at 02:20 p.m.)

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

- (a) the main functions and responsibilities of the Statistics Division;*
- (b) the procedure being adopted by that Division for collection of data of various types; and*
- (c) the number of field staff working in the said Division with grade wise and Province-wise breakup?*

**Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar:** (a) According to (Section 4) of General Statistics (Re-organization) Act, 2011 regarding Powers and functions of the Statistics Division and its attached department namely Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), are at **Annex-I**.

(b) As per General Statistics (Re-organization) Act, 2011 of Section 23 regarding procedure of data collection and methodology details are at **Annex-II**.

(c) **Annex-III**

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

**\*Question No. 10. Senator Saleem Zia:**

(Notice received on 11-12-2015 at 12:20 p.m.)

*Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economics Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the amount of sales tax and excise duty collected from three star and above hotels in Islamabad during the months of May and June, 2015 with hotel wise break up?*

**Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar:** The detail of amount of the sales tax and excise duty collected from three stars and above hotels in Islamabad during the months of May and June, 2015 with hotel-wise break-up is as under:—

**\*Question No. 11. Senator Rozi Khan Kakar:**

(Notice received on 14-12-2015 at 02:30 p.m.)

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

- (a) the amount allocated for the western route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC);*
- (b) the names of districts through which the said route will be passing;*
- (c) the names of area/point from where work will be started on that route indicating also the time by which the same will be started; and*
- (d) the name(s) of district(s) in Balochistan in which industrial zone(s) will be established under CPEC?*

**Mr. Ahsan Iqbal:** (a) The amounts allocated for the western passage other than Northern Alignment are as under:—

It may be noted that PM Office has issued a directive to construct CPEC western corridor on top priority. As stated above the alignment from Islamabad to D.I.Khan is being finalized and land acquisition of 100 meter Corridor accommodating 6 lane Motorway is in progress. However four lane Motorway shall be constructed initially. Upon traffic justification two additional lanes shall be added. Subsequent to D.I.Khan to Zhob the feasibility study/detailed design is in hand.

- (b) The **Western Passage** is proposed to pass through:

Gwadar-Kech-Panjgur-Washuk-Kalat-Mastung-Quetta-Pishin-Qila Saifullah-Zhob-Sherani-FATA-Dera Ismail Khan-Mianwali, and Attock onward with northern alignment.

(c) The work has already started after ground breaking by the Prime Minister on 30th December 2015 which consists of the existing improvement/upgrading N-50 from Zhob to Mughal Kot which will become part of CPEC western passage. For Islamabad to D.I.Khan

Motorway, it is likely that the work shall commence from D.I.Khan and ground breaking shall take place in the first quarter of 2016.

(d) New industrial zones under CPEC will be finalized by the Joint Working Group on industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan with mutual consent. In the 5th JCC held on 12th November 2015 decision was taken to establish the Joint Working Group. However in accordance with the decision of APC held on 28th May 2015, a working group has been established with members from Provinces to identify potential sites with economic feasibility.

Further, the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan has constituted a committee to identify the potential sites of industrial zones along western passage of CPEC under chairmanship of Chairman BOI which has also begun its work and Chief Secretary Balochistan has recommended following five sites to this committee:—

- a. Turbat Industrial and Trading Estate.
- b. Industrial Estate Khuzdar.
- c. Dasht Industrial Zone near Quetta.
- d. Bostan Industrial Estate.
- e. Industrial Zone at the junction of Qila Saifullah, Zhob and Loralai.

Implementation work on Gwadar Free Zone has already begun and initial land for the Free Zone has been handed over to the Port Operator in a ceremony held on 11th November, 2015. Total land measuring 2281 Acres has been acquired at the cost of Rs. 6,691 Million through Federal Government funding.

**\*Question No. 12. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz:**

(Notice received on 15-12-2015 at 01:40 p.m.)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that an amount of US Dallar 800 million on account of privatization of PTCL has not been paid by its buyer so far, if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) the steps taken by the privatization commission to recover the said amount and the reasons of its failure in recovering the same so far; and*
- (c) whether any mark up will be charged on that amount, if so, the rate at which the same will be charged?*

**Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar:** (a) Yes, 26% shares of PTCL were sold to M/S Etisalat for US\$ 2,598,960,000. The amount paid by the company so far is US\$ 1,799,653,313.31. **The total outstanding amount against Etisalat is US\$ 799,306,686.62.**

As per the Share Purchase Agreement, the payment of the balance amount was contingent upon transfer of clean and clear titles of 3248 properties by January 2008. The Government of Pakistan did not meet the deadline and, therefore, Etisalat International Pakistan (EIP), the purchaser of PTCL has been delaying further payments on

the ground that all properties included in the Share Purchase Agreement have not been transferred in the name of PTCL.

(b) Privatisation Commission is actively pursuing and facilitating the process of transfer of properties to PTCL. Till date, out of a total of 3248 properties, 3215 (99%) have been transferred while the remaining 33 (1%) properties cannot be transferred due to various reasons, including, legal impediments. Pursuant to the Share Purchase Agreement (SPA), the 33 non-transferred properties have been forwarded to M/s Etisalat as “Second Shortfall” for resolution of the matter as per the SPA.

(c) No

ISLAMABAD,  
*The 11th January, 2016*

AMJED PERVEZ,  
*Secretary.*