

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Wednesday, the 9th March, 2016

@*Question No. 1. **Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan:**

(Notice received on 22-01-2016 at 12:36 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Ports and Shipping be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of profit earned by Pakistan National Shipping Corporation from its cargo ships during the last five years with ship-wise breakup;*
- (b) the number of the ships of the said corporation which are functional at present;*
- (c) the number ships of the said corporation which became non-functional during the said period indicating also the reasons for non-functioning of the same; and*
- (d) the amount spent on repairing and maintenance of ships by that corporation during the said period with ship-wise details?*

Mr. Kamran Michael: (a) Details of last five years' profit earned by Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) from its cargo ships with ship-wise breakup are enclosed at **Annex “A”**.

(b) At present, PNSC fleet comprises 09 vessels of various types and sizes including 05 Bulk carriers and 04 Aframax tankers. The total deadweight capacity of entire fleet is 681,806 metric tons.

(c) All PNSC ships during the period under consideration were remained operational with routine repair, maintenance and periodical surveys which were due. There were only 07 vessels which were sold upon completion of their useful commercial life. Name and year sold of each vessel is tabulated below.

PNSC has been maintaining highest carrying capacity commensurating targets set out in Pakistan merchant Marine Policy 2001 and has timely embarked upon modernization of its fleet to remain efficient and competitive in international market as well as to meet tonnage requirements of the country. PNSC is also in the process of acquiring additional oil tankers.

(d) Details of expenditure incurred on repair and maintenance of ships during the period under consideration is enclosed at **Annex “B”**.

@*Question No. 2. **Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi:**

(Notice received on 22-01-2016 at 12:40 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Ports and Shipping be pleased to state:

- (a) *the year in which sea voyage to perform Hajj and Umrah was discontinued;*
- (b) *the per head expenditures of Hajj and Umrah by sea voyage at the time when the said service was discontinued and the estimated expenditures at present if the same is restored; and*
- (c) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to restore the said service, if so, when?*

Mr. Kamran Michael: (a) Sea voyage to perform Hajj and Umrah was discontinued in the year 1993.

(b) The sea fares offered to pilgrims at the time of discontinuation of the said service were:

- For Day Class - Rs. 8,000 per passenger.
- For First Class - Rs. 10,000 per passenger.

At present estimated break even cost for Umrah and Hajj by sea ferry is approximate Rs. 45,000 - 48,000. The operation requires heavy initial investment with probability of losses in the initial years.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

@*Question No. 19. **Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**

(Notice received on 29-01-2016 at 11:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Ports and Shipping be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of berths which have been constructed at Gawadar port indicating also the number of berths operational out of the same at present and the time by which the remaining berths will be made operational; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to construct more berths at the said port, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Kamran Michael: (a) First phase of Gwadar Port was completed in 2005 with 03 multipurpose berths - each 200 meters long dredged to -14.5 m including one Roll-on-Roll off (RORO) facility and another 100 meter service berth. All these berths are fully operational.

(b) The port's operations are handed over to M/s China Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd (COPHCL) since May 2013, under a Concession Agreement (CA). During the Concession period, the Concession-Holder (COPHCL) shall construct additional multipurpose

berths on 3.2 KM (0.900m+2700m) seafront eastwards of the existing multipurpose terminal and 12 KM long Container Terminal westwards and northwest of existing multipurpose terminal in the Concession Area. First expansion of the existing multipurpose terminal eastwards on 990 meters is planned in the second stage of Ferly Harvest Phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Outside the Concession Area, an LNG terminal is being constructed at Gwadar Port by Inter State Gas System and China Petroleum. Work on the LNG is planned to start during first quarter of 2016.

*Question No. 145. **Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 28-01-2016 at 10:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the number of deaths due to cancer has been increasing in the country and cost of treatment of that disease is very high, if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: According to WHO, every year about 150,000 new cancer cases occur in both genders and all ages and of these 8% die each year.

Cancer is due to either (A) genetic factors or (B) environmental factors like food, addictions, radiations and infections. Environmental factors can be controlled through diet, food quality and preventing infections.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVT:

- Federal government has **constituted a committee on non communicable diseases (NCD) including cancer.**
- **Recently NCD survey** has also been undertaken in Pakistan, to see the risk factors for these diseases.
- In Pakistan most NCDs and cancers are due **to tobacco use.** To combat tobacco use, there is a tobacco control unit in the NHSRC which is monitoring and reducing tobacco use through legislation and punishment which is enforced through police and other departments.
- Pakistan has placed a pictorial picture and warning on the cigarette packs and is one of the few countries in the world to do so.
- The educational institutions, airlines and most public places have been declared smoke free.
- In Punjab, Shisha smoking is banned while use of smokeless tobacco- gutka has been banned in Sindh.
- **Mostsecondary care public sector hospitals and all tertiary care hospitals and 20 atomic energy commission centers** are providing diagnostic and treatment facilities for cancer free of cost.

- Media especially TV and news paperis creating awareness on cancer by showing documentaries of patients suffering from cancer due to use of gutka and pan.
- No Tobacco day is celebrated on 31 May every year, with full media coverage.
- Written information on TV and film screens are shown that “tobacco use can kill” during an act of smoking shown in the drama or films.

***Question No. 146. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**

(Notice received on 02-02-2016 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- the names and designations of the persons working in Pakistan Embassy/Mission in Thailand;*
- the names and designation of the said persons against whom complaints have been received during their present posting in that embassy/mission indicating also the action taken in each case; and*
- the names and designation of the those persons who have completed their tenure of posting in that said embassy / mission indicating also the time by which they will be transferred/called back?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) The requisite information is as follows:

- No complaint has been received against any of the above officers and staff.
- None of the above-mentioned officers/officials have completed their tenure in the Mission.

***Question No. 147. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:**

(Notice received on 02-02-2016 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that it has recently been decided by the Government to bring back all Pakistanis who are imprisoned in foreign countries, if so, their number with country wise break up and the time by which they will be brought back?

Reply not received.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has transferred this question to the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control. However, the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control has not yet accepted the question.

***Question No. 148. Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 03-02-2016 at 10:55 a.m.)

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

- (a) the number of children vaccinated under the Polio Vaccination Scheme during the last three years;*
- (b) whether the Government has set up centers for expansion of the said scheme across the villages of the country, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) whether the Government has chalked out any comprehensive strategy for formation of teams of officials from Health departments to cover the unvaccinated / partially vaccinated children in the country under that scheme, if so, the details thereof?*

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: (a) During last 3 years, a total of around 862 million doses of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) were administered to all children under 5 years of age across Pakistan through the National (NIDs) and Sub-National (SNIDs) supplementary immunization activities conducted during 2013 to 2015. as per following yearly breakup:

(b) As the Programme aims at complete eradication of virus, all children under 5 years of age are accessed through door to door strategy covering all villages and even households.

- Nationwide campaign involves around 85041 mobile and 5125 transit teams, a total of 6697 fixed sites support vaccine and logistics for the activity. The said fixed sites also provide vaccination services visiting health facilities during the campaign the children against polio all across the country.
- To access each village during every campaign detailed micro plans are worked out at Union Council level. Within the micro plan, teams comprising of two members each are also guided about their daily work and route to be taken. Adequate arrangements are therefore, in place to cover all villages targeted during a particular campaign.

(c) The polio teams comprising of the officials from the health, education and security and other Government departments as well as volunteers record all children that could not be vaccinated during first visit for being not-available or refusal as the case may be. The following strategy is pursued to ensure vaccination of these missed children:

- The teams revisit the missed households on the same day of the 3-day campaign to covering the missed children and update record accordingly.
- 4th (and if required 5th) day of the campaign is utilized to cover the remaining missed children.
- The children that remain still-missed, are covered up by health officials and WHO/UNICEF staff during the 14 days extended catch-up period.
- The community influencers and religious leaders are also engaged to vaccinate the recorded refusals as required during the process.

The above operation is completed by using around 223,000 personnel in every nationwide campaign including 19,211 Area Incharges, 9,792 UC Medical Officers, 85,041 Mobile, 9,995 Fixed and 5,125 Transit Teams.

*Question No. 149. **Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**
(Notice received on 04-02-2016 at 08:50 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the names and designation of the persons working in Pakistan Embassy/Mission in Switzerland;*
- (b) the names and designation of the said persons against whom complaints have been received during their present posting in that embassy/mission indicating also the action taken in each case; and*
- (c) the names and designation of the said persons who have completed their tenure of posting in that Embassy/Mission indicating also the time by which they will be transferred/called back?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) The requisite information is as follows:

S. No.	Names & Designation
Officers	
7.	Dr. Aman Rashid, Ambassador
8.	Mr. Murad Baseer, Counsellor
Staff	
9.	Mr. Adeel Keeneth, Assistant Private Secretary
10.	Mr. Touqeer Ahmed, Additional Assistant
11.	Mr. Saeed Ahmad, Accountant
12.	Mr. Muhammad Saleem, Security Guard

(b) No complaint has so far been received against any officer/staff member of the Mission.

(c) None of the above-mentioned officers/officials have completed their tenure in the Mission.

***Question No. 150. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**
(Notice received on 04-02-2016 at 08:50 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to construct motorway from Lahore to Sukkur, if so, the estimated cost of the project;*
- (b) *whether the said motorway will be constructed by the Government at its own or under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor; and*
- (c) *the time by which work will be started and completed on the said project?*

Minister for Communications: (a) Yes there is proposal for completion of Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM).

● Sections under planning/construction are as below:—

1. Karachi-Hyderabad (136 Km) - widening/rehabilitation on BOT with FWO
2. Hyderabad- Sukkur (296 Km) - BOT under negotiation
3. Sukkur - Multan (392 Km) - Rs. 294.352 Billion (EPC cost)
4. Multan-Lahore (230 Km) - Rs. 148.654 Billion (EPC cost) Without FEC

(b) **Sukkur-Multan Section**

Sukkur - Multan section will be constructed under China - Pakistan Economic Corridor funded through China EXIM Bank China at the cost of Rs. 294.352 Billion (FEC).

Multan - Lahore Section

Multan - Lahore Section will be constructed through PSDP by Government of Pakistan.

(c) **Construction Period**

The work is likely to start as mentioned against each;

Sukkur - Multan section : 36 Months (March/April 2016)
Multan - Lahore section : 30 Months (Jan. 2016)

***Question No. 151 Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 04-02-2016 at 11:35 a.m.)

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

- (a) the number of persons died in the country due to dengue and swine flu epidemics during the last three years;*
- (b) whether the Provincial Government have sought any help/ assistance from the Federal Government to control the said disease, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) whether the Federal Government has taken any steps on its own to control the said diseases in the country, if so, the details thereof?*

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: (a)

A. Dengue Fever

The year-wise summary of deaths due to Dengue Fever in the country is given in table below:

B. Swine Flu/ H1N1 pdm09

It is pertinent to mention here that Swine Flu has been downgraded to ordinary Influenza-A Category by WHO 5 years ago. However, the year-wise summary of deaths due to H1N1 pdm09 in the country is given in table below:

(b) The Ministry of NHSRC has been providing the following support to the provinces through its various program and departments, which includes the following:

(i) Support for Dengue:

- Provision of Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs).
- Fogging and spraying facilities.
- Awareness and training sessions for capacity building.
- Workforce development for outbreak response through FELTP/NIH.
- Provision of free of cost Dengue diagnostic facilities and serotyping.

(ii) Support for Influenza A H1N1

- Sentinel surveillance in all provinces/areas with diagnostic facilities.
- Training of lab and public health staff on case identification, sample collection and transportation/diagnosis and rapid response teams.

- Supplies for samples collection including Viral Transport Medium (VTM) for public and private sector hospitals.
- Free of cost diagnostic facilities at NIH and provincial sentinel laboratories.
- Workforce development for outbreak response through FELTP/NIH.

(c) A. Following steps have been taken by the M/O NHS,R&C for the control of Dengue Fever:

The M/o NHSRC is observing the situation and has taken the following steps for the prevention and control of Dengue fever;

- (i) Health professionals and authorities throughout the country are regularly sensitized through Seasonal Awareness and Alert Letters (SAAL) being issued by the National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad thrice a year since 2004 (**Annexure-II**).
- (ii) Advisory regarding dengue has been issued to all concerned in August 2015 (**Annexure-III**).
- (iii) The updated version of National Guidelines on Dengue Fever is available at NIH website for ready reference.
- (iv) Provision of free of cost diagnostics and genotyping facilities for Dengue Fever at NIH.
- (v) Training on Rapid Response Teams for the provincial public health staff has been conducted.
- (vi) Establishment of Federal and Provincial Disease Surveillance Unit (DSRUs) at provincial headquarters. Qualified Epidemiologists have already been deputed to work in these DSRUs.

Steps taken specially for Rawalpindi Division:

- (i) A special seminar on Dengue was conducted by expert epidemiologists from Center for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, USA at NIH in October 2015 for the Rawalpindi health teams and representatives from allied departments.
- (ii) An Epidemiologist from Field Epidemiology & Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) Pakistan, NIH, was deputed to evaluate the risk factors for Dengue fever at Rawalpindi.
- (iii) An Epidemiologist from FELTP Pakistan posted at DCO office Rawalpindi was assigned special duty to coordinate preventive and control activities in the district.

- (iv) Joint meetings of FELTP, NIH and District Health Management were conducted at NIH. The recommendations were provided to provincial health departments for the control of Dengue with special emphasis on vector control.

B. The steps taken by the M/o NHS,R&C for the prevention and control of Influenza-A virus:

- (i) Provision of free of cost diagnostic facilities at NIH which is also designated National Influenza Centre (NIC) since 1980s.
- (ii) Setting up lab based Influenza Surveillance network in the Pakistan with 7 sentinel sites functional for surveillance and /or molecular diagnostic facilities.
- (iii) NIH continues to provide technical and logistic support to these sites since their establishment.
- (iv) Multiple advisories and alerts issued.
- (v) Health professionals and authorities throughout the country are regularly sensitized through Seasonal Awareness and Alert Letters (SAAL) being issued by this Institute thrice a year since 2004.
- (vi) Advisories on the subject matter have been issued to all stakeholders.
- (vii) Updated guidelines have been shared with all stockholders.
- (viii) Sensitization of health care personnel through seminars, physician trainings, Rapid Response Trainings, and laboratory diagnosis of seasonal influenza.
- (ix) Contingency plan for communicable diseases with NHEPRN is being finalized.
- (x) The Ministry is closely monitoring the current situation and is in continuous liaison with the provincial/ area health departments and coordinating to deal with untoward situation.
- (xi) The Field Epidemiology & Disease Surveillance Division and the Public Health Laboratories Division remains available on phone and through e-mail for any technical assistance in this context.

***Question No. 152 Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan:**

(Notice received on 10-02-2016 at 01:50 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of Pakistani prisoners in India at present indicating also the nature of allegations against them and date of their imprisonment in each case; and*
- (b) *the number of Pakistani prisoners released by India during the last three years?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) At present, there are 460 Pakistani detainees in the Indian Jails. They are divided into two broad categories of civil prisoners (347) and fishermen (113). These persons have been arrested on a variety of charges, including illegal entry into India, overstay, drug smuggling, espionage and terrorism.

(b) India released 329 Pakistani detainees during the last three years. Year wise breakdown is as follows:

*Question No. 153 **Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan:**

(Notice received on 10-02-2016 at 01:50 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state whether the foreign countries provide any funding to end child labour in Pakistan, if so, the funds provided during the last three years and the details of its utilization?

Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi: During the last three years following projects have been initiated in the provinces of Balochistan and Punjab with foreign funding to address the issue of child labour:

1. **“Strengthening Capacity of Constituents to address Unacceptable forms of Work focusing Child Labour, Bonded Labour and Informal Economy Workers” Project:**

Donors: Governments of Sweden and Denmark.
Project Duration: May 2015 to April 2016
Project Location: Provinces of Punjab and Balochistan
Project Budget: US\$ 180,000/-

2. **“Elimination of Child Labour and Promotion of Decent Work in the Stora Enso Value Chain, with a focus on Pakistan” Project:**

Donors: **Stora Enso, Finland** (a global packaging industry, biomaterials, wood products and paper company)
Project Duration: 2015 to 2017
Project Location: Provinces of Punjab (Lahore and Kasur)
Project Budget: US\$ 860,000/

As far as details of utilization of funds is concerned, the same is available with labour departments of Balochistan and Punjab as subject “Labour” has been devolved to the provinces under 18th Amendment and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development only deals with International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Office on matters of legislative nature.

*Question No. 154. **Senator Ahmed Hassan:**

(Notice received on 12-02-2016 at 12:20 p.m.)

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

- (a) *the number of TB patients registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last three years with year wise break up; and*
- (b) *the details of treatment provided to the said patients indicating also the expenditure incurred on the same?*

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: (a) The Total Numbers of TB Patients Registered in KPK during the Last Three years as under:

***Question No. 155. Senator Ahmed Hassan:**
(Notice received on 12-02-2016 at 12:20 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the road from Mardan to Temargara, Dir and Chitral is under the administrative control of the National Highway Authority; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that there is mushroom growth of illegal encroachments on the said road which creates hurdles in smooth flow of traffic, if so, the steps being taken by the said Authority to remove those encroachments?*

Minister for Communications: (a) Yes, Nowshehra-Chitral Road (N-45) was Federalized in 2004 and is under the administrative control of NHA.

(b) Yes, it is also fact that lot of illegal encroachments have been established before and after federalization on N-45. NHA with assistance of provincial Government and local administration have removed illegal encroachments in Mardan PRC Market (left side), Chakdara, Timergara, Rabat, Chitral and Darosh areas.

Recently notices were again served in Malakand, PRC Market Mardan (right side) and operation for removal is scheduled in March 2016.

In few areas, locals have obtained *status quo* from the different courts. Hence the encroachments would be removed upon vacation of *status quo*.

***Question No. 156. Senator Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai Advocate:**
(Notice received on 15-02-2016 at 10:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state:

- (a) *the quantum of pesticides produced in the country during the last three years;*
- (b) *the quantum of pesticides imported during the said period and the amount of foreign exchange spent on the same; and*
- (c) *whether the Government has provided any subsidy to the farmers on local or imported pesticides during that period?*

Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan: (a) At present pesticides are imported in the country either in finished / formulated/ ready to use form or as technical grade material / concentrate for local formulation. There are 135 different types of formulation plants in the country. Local formulation during the last three years as per available record with Department of Plant Protection are as under:

Year	Import of Technical Grade Material and Formulated Locally (MT)
2013	42706
2014	58219
2015	119154

(b)

Year	As Per Available Record Import In Finished + Technical Grade (MT)	Approx. C& F Value In Million (Rs)
2013	19259	11504
2014	21497	14196
2015	33571	23020

(c) There is no subsidy on agro pesticides.

*Question No. 157. **Senator Ahmed Hassan:**
(Notice received on 15-02-2016 at 10:30 a.m.)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the number of Hepatitis patients is increasing in the country particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, if so, the steps taken / being taken by the Government to control the same;*
- (b) *the number of the said patients registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last three years with year wise break up; and*
- (c) *the number of the those patients who have been provided vaccine and other medical treatment by the Government during that period?*

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: (a) According to the national hepatitis survey, the prevalence of HCV was 1.1% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while in Punjab it was 6.7% followed by 5.0% in Sindh and 1.5% in Balochistan. The prevalence of HCV is increasing all over the country and also in KPK.

Steps taken/ being taken:

1. Registration of Sovaldi
 2. Implementation of Infection Control Campaign in 4 high hepatitis districts named Hangu, Swat Upper Dir and Lower Dir
 3. Formulation of Technical Advisory Group on prevention and control of viral hepatitis
 4. Development of national hepatitis strategy
 5. Development of HCV Treatment Guidelines
 6. Awareness campaigns
- (b) Year-wise data for Hepatitis B & C registered patients:—
- (c) Year-wise treated data for Hepatitis B & C patients:—

Year-wise No. of Patients vaccinated for Hepatitis B:—

***Question No. 158. Senator Kalsoom Parveen:**
(Notice received on 17-02-2016 at 09:45 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state the names of projects of the National Highway Authority in Balochistan which could not be completed within the stipulated time during the last five years indicating also the reasons for delay, escalation in the estimated cost and action taken against the officers of NHA and contractors responsible for delay in each case?

Minister for Communications: The list of projects of the National Highway Authority in Balochistan which could not be completed within the stipulated time during the last five years with reasons for delay alongwith details is attached at **Annex-A**.

***Question No. 159. Senator Rahila Magsi:**
(Notice received on 18-02-2016 at 02:32 p.m.)

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

- (a) *the steps taken / being taken by the Government to create awareness amongst the masses in the country about Thalassemia; and*
- (b) *whether the Federal Government has emphasized upon the Provincial Government to make legislation in this regard, if so, the details thereof?*

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: (a) The M/o NHS, R&C has, through the Safe Blood Transfusion Programme, requested the WHO for Technical Assistance for the development of a National Thalassemia Policy. Creation of awareness amongst the masses will be an important component of the Policy which will be implemented by the government and the stakeholders. Work on the Policy is expected to start within a few weeks.

(b) The National Thalassaemia Policy will address the issue of drafting a suitable legislation for Thalassaemia prevention in Pakistan. The provincial health departments and the Thalassaemia Federation of Pakistan are going to be fully involved in the process of development of the Policy and the legislation.

***Question No. 160. Senator Sirajul Haq:**

(Notice received on 23-02-2016 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *the per day income being received from each toll plaza established on National Highway from Islamabad to Lahore;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that new toll plazas are being established on the National Highways in the country, if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (c) *whether it is also a fact that increase has been made in toll tax on the said highways many times during the year 2014-15, if so, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Communications: (a) The per day income being received from each toll plaza established on National Highways from Islam.abad to Lahore is attached as **Annex-A**.

(b) Total 15 x Toll Plazas are in the process of being established on NHA network. Detail is at **Annex-B**.

Reason for New Toll Plazas

NHA is maintaining a road network of 12,000 KMs spread across the country. The regular maintenance of this network requires spending timely expenditures so that the condition of existing infrastructure is not deteriorated to worst level.

The major source of meeting the maintenance needs of the authority is through toll (a user fee) which NHA can levy under the NHA Act.

(c) The Toll rates have not been increased many times during F.Y 2014-15. The fact is that toll rates were only increased once in F.Y 2014-15. Detail is at **Annex-C**.

ISLAMABAD:
The 8th March, 2016.

AMJED PERVEZ,
Secretary.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“UN-STARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Wednesday, the 9th March, 2016

Question No. 16 **Senator Sirajul Haq:**
(Notice received on 03-02-2016 at 09:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of Pakistanis imprisoned in South Korea, Iran, Iraq and Malaysia at present indicating also the main allegations levelled against them; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government for the release of said prisoners?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) The number of Pakistanis imprisoned in South Korea, Iran, Iraq and Malaysia at present indicating also the main allegations leveled against them is as under:

Sr. No.	Country	Number of Prisoners	Main allegations leveled against the above prisoners
1	South Korea	4	Murder, Robbery and Sexual Assault
2	Iran	196	Possession of narcotics, murder, kidnapping, adultery and theft, illegal entry and smuggling of goods
3	Iraq	544	Over stay and working illegally.
4	Malaysia	336	Overstay/illegal entry, drug trafficking, murder and robbery charges.

(b) The Government of Pakistan makes following efforts in respect of the detainee/prisoner:

- As soon as an arrest is reported, consular access is immediately requested to collect information on the detained person and establish his/her Pakistani citizenship;
- Once the national status of a prisoner is confirmed, efforts are made to get the detainee released and repatriated;
- If efforts to get the detainee released do not succeed and the host government initiates legal proceedings, necessary assistance is provided to the detainees;
- When a detainee/prisoner is acquitted or completes his sentence, Pakistan Embassy/High Commission coordinates with the host country for expeditious repatriation.

Question No. 17 **Senator Samina Abid:**
(Notice received on 22-02-2016 at 11:00 a.m.)

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

- (a) The percentage of increase registered in the prices of life saving drugs in the country during the last two years;*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce/control the prices of drugs in the country; and*
- (c) whether there is any authority to monitor the prices and standard of drugs in the country, if so, the salient performance thereof?*

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: (a) The Federal Government has not allowed any increase in the prices of life saving drugs during last two years. However, some pharmaceutical companies increased prices of their registered drugs after managing to obtain restraining orders by misleading the Sindh High Court at Karachi.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Federal Government to control prices of drugs in the market at approved rates:

I. Regulation imposed:

In March, 2015, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, with the approval of Federal Government and Economic Coordinatin 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. Federal Inspector of Drugs have conducted raids on the warehouses of manufacturers and importers and have seized stocks of overpriced drugs of 5 copmanies being sold at prices over and above than the prices fixed by the Federal Government.
- ii. 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.

- iii. In 2013, DRAP also filed an application in the Supreme Court of Pakistan seeking to pass appropriate orders for resolving /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 came up before the apex court for hearing but adjourned.
- iv. 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 unilateral price increase on medicines by pharmaceutical companies.

(c) Under Section 6 of the Drugs Act, 1976, the storage and sale of drugs in the market 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 more than approved prices. Federal Inspector of Drugs at Islamabad & Lahore have also seized following quantities of overpriced stocks of drugs of 5 pharmaceutical companies:

Dosage Form	Stocks seized (in numbers)	Packs
Capsules	1,80,610	6018
Tablets	36,242,158	408,597
Syrups	14,005	14,005
Ointments Creams	23,561	23,561
Eye drops	1473	1473
Oral Drops	298	298
Injections	1915	1033

ISLAMABAD:
The 8th March, 2016.

AMJED PERVEZ,
Secretary.