

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

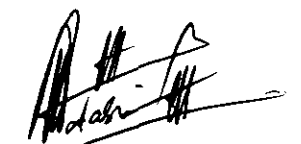
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESEARCH MEETS TODAY

Islamabad, 08th May, 2015. A meeting of the Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research held today at 02:00 p.m. in the Committee Room No.7, 4th Floor, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the Chairmanship of **Malik Shakir Bashir Awan, MNA** to discuss the total budget allocation of ZTBL for loan to the farmers for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 as well as province-wise budget allocation of the said financial year, and recommendations/consideration for the lowest mark-up on loans to the farmers by the ZTBL.

2. The President, ZTBL apprised the Committee that ZTBL is the premier financial institution geared toward the development of agriculture sector. It is dedicated to serve the needs of the farming community by delivering financial products and technical services on a competitive and sustainable basis. ZTBL is providing the largest institutional agricultural credit disbursement i.e. 77.9 billion which is the 20% of total agricultural loans in the country.

3. The Committee strongly recommended that an amount of 6.5 billion which has been struck off in Balochistan in the past few years may be write-off immediately and the said amount may be provided by the Ministry of Finance and afterwards the re-lending may be initiated to uplift the farmers of the province. The Committee also suggested that a revolving fund may be evolved by ZTBL. The Committee also recommended that the administrative expenses of ZTBL may be curtailed to maximum extent which would be great relief to the farmers. The Committee also strongly recommended that the budget allocation for ZTBL may be increased considering the precarious situation of agriculture sector. It was also suggested that the soft loans may be provided for fruit farming especially in the Northern Areas of the country.

4. The meeting was attended by Capt.(Retd) Muhammad Safdar, Choudhary Nazeer Ahmed, Choudhary Iftikhar Nazir, Sayed Essa Nori, Syed Iftikhar-ul Hassan, Ms. Shahnaz Saleem, Pir Muhammad Aslam Bodla, Ms. Khalida Mansoor, Pir Shafqat Hussain Jilani, Mr. Junaid Akbar, Dr. Fouzia Hameed and Mr. Muhammad Salman Khan Baloch, MNAs beside Minister for National Food Security and Research, senior Officers from Ministry of National Food, Security and Research, Chairman, (PARC) DG, NARC and Chairman ZTBL also.



(DAWOOD NASIM)

Secretary Committee