

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

to be asked at a sitting of the National Assembly to be held on

Monday, the 16th May, 2016

97. ***Ms. Shamas Un Nisa:**
(Deferred during 28th Session)

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total number of Afghans being entered in Pakistan daily at present; and*
- (b) *whether there is any mechanism to check their activities; if so, the details thereof?*

Transferred to Interior Division for answer on next rota day.

75. ***Mr. Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi:**
(Deferred during 31st Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistan has participated in BRICS summit recently; if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that Pakistan has participated in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit recently; if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) *the details of issues discussed in said summits alongwith the outcomes thereof;*

- (d) *whether it is further a fact that said summits have given sufficient scope to the developing countries with regard to finance and trade; if so, the details thereof;*
- (e) *the benefits likely to be accrued to Pakistan in the field of finance and trade therefrom; and*
- (f) *the mechanism put in place to safeguard the common interests of all the countries involved in said summits?*

Transferred to Foreign Affairs Division for answer on next rota day.

121. ***Dr. Fozia Hameed:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state the steps taken by the Ministry for issues stirred-up between provinces having administrative or economic implications for the country as a whole?

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): As per Rules of Business, 1973, this Ministry has, *inter alia*, been assigned the work of general coordination between the Federal Government and the Provinces in the economic, cultural and administrative fields.

In this regard, the following three fora in the Ministry have been set up to coordinate between the Federal and the Provincial Governments in economic, cultural and administrative fields:—

- i. Inter Provincial Coordination Committee (PCC)
- ii. Council of Common Interests (CCI); and
- iii. Standing Committee of CCI

Therefore, this Ministry is actively coordinating between the Federal and the Provincial Governments in the economic, and administrative fields through the above fora. In addition, matters enumerated in Federal Legislative List, Part-II are also dealt with in the CCI.

Since 2010 to-date, eighteen (18) meetings of CCI have been convened, wherein, national issues related to Federation and Provinces have been discussed

and settled. Moreover, this Ministry also convened a meeting of IPCC on 9th December, 2015 to address the important issues raised by the Provinces. Therefore, this Ministry is actively playing its role for handling and solving the administrative or economic implications for the country as a whole.

122. ***Ms. Munaza Hassan:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the large quantum of Pakistan's trade particularly with neighboring countries is un-documented at present; if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the Government has gaged the negative impacts of such un-documented trade on national exchequer/trade; if so, the details; if not the reasons thereof; and*
- (c) *the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Transferred to Revenue Division for answer on next rota day.

123. ***Ms. Munaza Hassan:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the movement of Indian forces has extraordinarily increased on the line of control adjacent to the Neelam Valley; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the said movement is violation of the Ceasefire Agreement of 2003; if so, the reasons thereof?*

Transferred to Defence Division for answer on next rota day.

124. ***Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total quantity of gold sent abroad or sold illegally during the year 2012-13;*

- (b) *the loss suffered by country's economy due to devaluation of rupees therefrom alongwith the details thereof; and*
- (c) *the actions taken by the Government against the responsables thereof?*

Transferred to Finance Division for answer on next rota day.

125. ***Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that China has requested to sign an agreement in respect of the meat and hide of donkeys with Pakistan; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (b) *the reasons for not implementing thereupon so far; and*
- (c) *the steps being taken by the Government to control the sale of haram meat in Islamabad?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) There is no special request from China for any agreement related to meat and hide of donkey received in Ministry of Commerce. Whereas these items are already covered under China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement.

(b) Since there is no case of any special agreement between Pakistan and China regarding donkey meat and skin, so therefore there is no delay in implementation.

(c) This matter doesn't relate to Ministry of Commerce.

126. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the trade relations with Brunei Darussalam?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): Brunei is a small country but one of the richest members of ASEAN on account of *per capita*

income and enjoys a standard of living *at par* with many industrialized nations. Although a very small market, it holds special significance in the context of ASEAN as Pakistan has interest in elevating its present status of Sectoral-Dialogue Partner to Full-Dialogue Partner.

The present level of bilateral trade is insignificant (table below) however, Pakistan-Brunei Joint Commission has been established for enhanced economic / commercial cooperation. So far two meetings of the Commission have been held. In 2006, the Commission set up a Joint Study Group comprising experts from both the countries with directions to explore the possibility of a Free Trade Agreement / Comprehensive Economic Partnership between the two countries. Three meetings of the Joint Study Group have been convened to set up the modalities to facilitate / promote bilateral trade between the two countries. Pakistan has proposed to hold fourth and final meeting of Joint Study Group in Brunei to finalize the joint study in areas like trade in goods and services, investment, regional and multilateral trade initiatives etc. Response from Brunei side is awaited.

Currently Pakistan's trade with Brunei stands at:

Unit: Million US\$

2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
Exp	Imp	Exp	Imp	Exp	Imp
0.533	0.018	0.649	0.000	0.396	0.001

127. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to enhance trade relations with Chile?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): Following steps are being taken by the Government to enhance the trade relations with Chile.

- * Ministry of Commerce has constituted a Joint Study Group (JSG) with Chile to explore possibilities of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries. Ministry of Commerce has requested Chilean authorities for holding of 1st meeting of JSG. Response is awaited.

128. ***Ms. Sajida Begum:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to improve trade relations with Mexico?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): Following steps are being taken by the Government to enhance the trade relations with Mexico:

- i. Pak-Mexico Joint Commission on Trade, Commerce and Investment was established in 2004. So far one meeting of the Commission has been held.
- ii. Mexico has an Observer status in MERCUSOR. Pakistan is also trying to join MERCUSOR. Sharing the platform will open up opportunities for improving trade relations with Mexico further.

129. ***Ms. Sajida Begum:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to enhance trade relations with Malaysia?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): Government of Pakistan has undertaken various steps to enhance trade relations with Malaysia. These include;

Enhanced Market Access.

Pakistan and Malaysia signed a Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA) effective from 01-01-2008 to promote bilateral trade. Under this comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, both the countries have provided concession to each other on over 5000 tariff lines. Pakistan has allowed access to Malaysia on palm oil, processed food, crude oil chemicals, plastic material and articles of wood and metal etc. Malaysia has provided access to Pakistan on cotton yarn, cotton textiles, bed linen, home textiles, jewelry, kinnow, mangoes, engineering goods, leather products and minerals etc.

Export Promotion;

- o Incoming and outgoing delegations:
 - * 41 Malaysian companies visited during, Expo Pakistan 2015.

o Exhibitions and fairs:

Pakistan participated in the following exhibitions held in Malaysia during 2015:

- Malaysian International Halal Showcase (MIHAS), Malaysia, 9-12 April, 2015.
- The 15th SE-Asian Healthcare Show, Malaysia, Malaysia, April-2015.
- IFSEC South East Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, September 2015.

130. ***Mrs. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total number of Pakistanis arrested in Turkey due to illegal crossing of border for Europe during the tenure of the present Government alongwith the details thereof; and*
- (b) *the step being taken by the Government for their legal assistance?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) Approximately, 5100 Pakistani nationals have been arrested by Turkish authorities due to illegal border crossing since May 2013.

(b) Our Missions in Turkey have taken the following steps for timely repatriation of the Pakistani nationals:

- Maintained continuous contact with relevant Turkish authorities to provide identity documents of Pakistani nationals for the purpose of verification of their national status, as per the SOPs.
- Undertook periodic visits to deportation centres to ascertain the wellbeing of Pakistani nationals.
- Established contact with the family members of the Pakistani nationals arrested by the Turkish authorities, as necessary and feasible, in order

to seek their assistance in provision of identity documents and confirmation of national status.

- Liaised with Turkish authorities for ensuring timely repatriation of the immigrants after due verification of their national status.
- Transmitted the identity information and travel details of the Pakistani nationals to be repatriated to the relevant authorities in Pakistan for necessary facilitation/disposal of the cases, as per the SOPs.
- Thus far, more than 4800 such Pakistani nationals have been repatriated, while the due process with respect to the remaining is underway.

131. ***Mrs. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the reasons of imbalance of exports and imports of the country during the last three years?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): The reasons of imbalance of exports and imports of the country during the last three years are as follows:

A. **Endogenous factors**

I. **Supply Side**

The supply side of export is beset with several challenges *e.g.* severe shortage of energy supply, poor quality of infrastructure, out-dated technology, lack of export culture and weak contract enforcement mechanism.

II. **Market Side Issues**

Pakistan's export market lacks diversification and is concentrated only in few regions and countries as 51% of exports are confined to six countries/ regions like EU, USA, UK, China, Afghanistan and Middle East. Pakistan has not been able to tap its export potential in the regional market and is facing tariff and non-tariff barriers in markets like Iran and India.

III. **Trade Facilitation**

Trade facilitation at the border is one of important impediments in the export growth. The issues related to Trade Facilitation are: (a) high international shipping/forwarding costs, (b) lack of supply chain management skills, (c) legislative provisions inconsistent with trade facilitation objectives, (d) high insurance costs due to Pakistan's country risk, (e) long dwell time at ports, (f) manual customs procedures, (g) corruption in border agencies, (h) lack of coordination amongst border agencies, (i) inadequate port infrastructure.

IV. **Inelastic demand and supply**

The imbalance of exports and imports is inherent phenomena of our economy due to our production base. Pakistan is not an oil producing country, thus, major chunk of our imports are petrol based products. The demand for tea, palm oil and machinery is inelastic.

V. **Increase in the development projects**

The import of machinery, fertilizer, cement and steel have increased due to the development work taken up by the government which could not offset the price impact of petroleum products.

VI. **Lack of diversification in the export basket**

Lack of diversification in the export basket is another reason for the trade imbalance. Textile and textile products constitute more than 50 % share in our exports. Moreover, Pakistan is still exporting primary and secondary goods and thus, falters when it comes to exports of the value-added products.

VII. **Low investment in the export sector**

Investment in exporting sectors has remained disturbingly low, as a cutthroat competition with emerging players like Bangladesh and Vietnam, has made margins in the exporting business fairly unattractive. Because of consistently low levels of investment, the exporters have not incorporated production efficiencies and competitiveness *vis-a-vis* regional competitors.

B. Exogenous factors

These factors include shift in the demand from our top importing partner countries, decline in the international price of basic commodities, and currency appreciation.

I. Decrease in the price of major commodities

The prices of commodity goods are volatile by nature and fluctuated tremendously over the last 3 years. Pakistan exports experienced growth in 2012 mainly due to increase in the commodity prices. However since then, there has been a global trend of decrease in prices of yarn and rice. These commodities have seminal importance in Pakistan's exports and the decrease in prices has adversely affected Pakistan's exports.

II. Decline in exports to our partner countries

Pakistan's exports to China and UAE have decline by 13.71% and 24.5% in the FY 2015, respectively. China has abandoned its policy to store raw cotton and yarn that comprises major portion of Pakistan export basket. China's policy shift has also affected international prices of yarn. Pakistan's exports to UAE have declined due to decrease in the exports of petroleum products, chemicals, jewellery and rice. Similarly, South Africa has imposed anti-dumping duty on Pakistani cement companies, whereas, the demand from Afghanistan for cement has shifted to Tajikistan.

III. Overvalued Pak. Rupee

Pak Rupee is considered approximately 16-20 % overvalued against its equilibrium price to USD and EURO in the international market, thus, making Pakistan's exports less competitive.

IV. Economic slowdown in the major markets

A major factor constraining Pakistan's export growth has been the slowdown in the economies of our major importing partners—China and the EU.

V. Changes in consumer taste and preferences

Pakistan has not kept pace with the changing trends across the globe. The world has moved from natural fibers to man-made products, but Pakistan' exports still depend heavily on Cotton and Leather garments.

132. ***Ms. Aisha Syed:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to select the players of various games at national and international level on merit basis?

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): For the National Games/Championships selection of players is carried out by respective Provincial Sports Board and Provincial Sports Association through their open trials by their constituted selection committees on merit basis.

The departmental teams are selected by their respective selection committees through trials on merit basis.

For International Games the selection committees of respective National Sports Federations select their sportspersons through open trail on merit basis. The Government normally does not interfere in the selection of players. However, if a complaint is received, proper inquiry is conducted to find out the facts and to take further necessary action.

The National Sports Federations, after selection of their best players, send their names to PSB for training camps orlianzed for participation in the mega sports events. PSB organizes the national training camps for national sportspersons and provides them the various facilities included:—

- i. Balanced diet.
- ii. Qualified National and Foreign Coaches.
- iii. Medical and Rehabilitation services.
- iv. International level training venues, facilities and equipments etc.

133. ***Ms. Aisha Syed:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the steps taken by the Ministry during the year 2015 for the release of those Pakistanis imprisoned in the jails of Saudi Arabia?

Minister for Foreign Affairs: The following steps have been taken to help our prisoners in Saudi Jails:

- (a) Consular visits were undertaken to meet the detainees and extend them possible assistance;
- (b) Emergency Travel documents were issued to those detainees who had completed their sentence to travel back home;
- (c) Raised the case of those who are near completing their sentences to ensure that they are set free without delay;
- (d) Translation services were provided on request in the labor court;
- (e) Assistance has been provided in the disposal of assets and legal attorneys whenever needed;
- (f) Problems coming into our notice related to the detainees were raised with relevant authorities.

134. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state the budget allocated by the Government for Sports Federations particularly the Pakistan Hockey Federation during the last three years?

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): Pakistan Sports Board released annual and special grants to the National Sports Federations for meeting their day to day expenses and participation in the international competition. The statement of grants released to the National Sports Federations during the last three years is attached at **Annex-I**. The statement of grant paid during the last three years to Pakistan Hockey Federation is given below.

Year	Annual Grant (Rs.)	Special Grant (Rs.)	Prime Minister Grant (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)
2013-14	3,500,000	-	1,750,000	5,250,000
2014-15	3,500,000	5,000,000	31,406,790	39,906,790
2015-16	3,500,000	10,000,000	104,500,000	118,000,000
Total:	10,500,000	15,000,000	137,656,790	163,156,790

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

135. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) the Pakistan's Livestock export earnings for the last three years; and*
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to promote livestock and exports?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) A total amount of US\$ 18.460 million was earned from the export of livestock over the last three years (2012-15).

(b) Promotion of livestock falls under the purview of the provincial governments after the 18th Constitutional Amendment. As regards promotion of livestock exports, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on a summary moved by Ministry of National Food Security and Research imposed ban on the export of live animals *w.e.f* 1st October 2013. The ban was imposed to enhance export of value added products.

136. ***Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan:**

Will the Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to promote cultural activities, tourist resorts and sports in the Gilgit-Baltistan?

Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan (Mr. Muhammad Barjees Tahir): In order to promote cultural activities, tourist resorts and sports in Gilgit-Baltistan, following steps have been taken:

Cultural Activities:

- Preservation of Archeological Sites in the following areas of GB:—
 - o Manthal Rock Art Skardu
 - o Karga Buddha Site Gilgit
 - o Lamsa Buddha Site Shighar Skardu
 - o Fugush Monastery District Diamer
 - o Hanzal Stupa Gilgit
 - o Rock carvings and inscriptions Ganish Hunza
- Implementation of Annual Calendar of events-2016 to promote indigenous culture and arts which includes following events:—
 - o Spring Blossom Festival
 - o Silk Route Festival
 - o Ginnani Festival
 - o Babusar Festival
 - o Rama Festival
 - o Jash-Nouroz
 - o Baba Gundi Festival
 - o Thukham Razi Festival
- Holding of Gilgit-Baltistan Festival in Lahore and Faisalabad.

Sports Activities:

- Improvement and rehabilitation of 33 Polo grounds across GB.
- Holding of All Pakistan under 14 Football Championship in Gilgit.
- Holding of All Pakistan under 14 Table Tennis Championship in Gilgit.
- Construction of multipurpose sports and recreational complex in district **Gilgit, Skardu, Ghizer, Ghanche** and **Astore**.
- Approval of GB Sports Act.

Tourist Resorts Activities:

- Development of tourism facilitation infrastructure including Tourism Information Centers in District **Skardu, Ghizer, Ghanche** and **Astore**.
- Establishment of Tourist facilitation Centers at entry points of Gilgit-Baltistan at **Babusar, Teru** and **Khunjerab**.
- Construction of 30 km approach roads to Tourist destinations in District **Gilgit, Skardu, Diamer, Astore** and **Hunza Nagar** which will be beneficial to promotion of Tourism.

137. ***Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the steps being taken by Pakistan on the basis of humanitarian intervention to help Muslims being victimized in all over the world including Palestine, Kashmir and Myanmar?

Minister for Foreign Affairs:

Palestine

Pakistan has consistently extended unequivocal and unreserved support to the Palestinian cause. We consider all territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 war as being under illegal occupation, and call for Israeli withdrawal to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East.

2. Pakistan has always supported a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed principles. The fundamental elements of Pakistan's policy on Palestine include total withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab territories and the restitution of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in an independent and viable State of Palestine, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Qudus Al-Sharif as its capital; and a just resolution to the plight of Palestinian refugees, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948.

3. Pakistan has always opposed the Jewish settlements on Palestinian land, and all such measures which could change the on ground situation, including illegal settlements, separation wall, excavations beneath Al Aqsa mosque and forced eviction of Palestinians from their homes.

4. We also recognize the right of Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, damage, loss or depletion, or endangerment of their natural resources resulting from illegal measures taken by Israel and the Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

5. As a mark of solidarity and support to Palestinian people, the President of Pakistan attended the 5th Extraordinary OIC Summit in Jakarta on 7th March 2016.

6. In September 2006, a sum of US\$ 3 million was provided by Pakistan as humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian National Authority.

7. Besides its regular annual contribution to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), Pakistan donated an additional \$1 million to UNRWA for alleviating the sufferings of the Palestinian victims of Israel's military offensive in Gaza.

Kashmir

Pakistan extends unflinching political, moral and diplomatic support to the just cause of the Kashmiri people for the achievement of their right to self-determination as was promised to them by UN Security Council resolutions and shall continue to do so. Pakistan's principled position on the settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute is consistent with the UN Security Council Resolutions, which provide for the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with

the will of the Kashmiri people, to join India or Pakistan, to be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices.

2. In this regard, Prime Minister of Pakistan has made a strong case at the UN General Assembly sessions highlighting the Kashmir dispute and atrocious human rights violations in IOK.

3. Pakistan has been availing the UN Human Rights Council platform to highlight India's continued denial of the right to self-determination to the Kashmiri people and human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In the 31st Session of UNHRC, held in March 2016, Pakistan underscored that it would continue to extend political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people, in their just cause to achieve their right to self-determination.

Kashmir and OIC

4. Pakistan raises the Kashmir dispute at the OIC forum. Several resolutions on Kashmir have been adopted by OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) sessions and OIC Summits.

Joint Communiqué of 13th OIC Summit

5. 13th OIC Summit held in Istanbul 14-15 April, 2016 adopted 6 paras on Jammu and Kashmir dispute in its joint communique (paras 21-26). It emphasized the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, affirmed that Kashmir is the core dispute between India and Pakistan and expressed concern at gross human rights violations in IOK. It calls upon India and the international community to implement UN Security Council resolutions and recognizes the legitimacy of Kashmir struggle and differentiates it from terrorism.

Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir

6. A Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir comprising of Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Niger and Azerbaijan hold its meetings regularly. A meeting of the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was held on 12 April, 2016 in Istanbul on the sidelines of 13th OIC summit. The Contact Group reiterated OIC's continued support to the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) in their just struggle for realization of their right to self-determination in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. The participants made strong statements conveying their continued support and solidarity with the people of IOK.

Kashmir Black Day and Kashmir Solidarity Day

7. Kashmir Black Day is observed by Pakistan every year on 27th October and Kashmir Solidarity Day on 5 February, every year. Like every year, last year our missions held effective events to observe Kashmir Black Day in order to sensitize the international community about the Kashmir dispute and human rights violations.

8. This year Kashmir Solidarity Day was observed in a re-invigorated manner. Our Missions abroad held different events to express solidarity with the people of IOK in their just struggle. We express our solidarity and moral, diplomatic and political support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Myanmar

Pakistan has been taking a serious view of the plight of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. We have been raising the issue of Rohingya Muslims at the bilateral level with the Government of Myanmar. The issue has also been taken up at the platform of the OIC. In June 2013 and March 2015, Pakistan, as OIC Group Coordinator for Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues in the UN, Geneva expressed deep concern at the gross violation of the human rights against Muslims in Myanmar and urged the Government of Myanmar to grant citizenship and other rights to Rohingya Muslims.

2. The Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs addressed a letter to the OIC Secretary General on 20 May 2015, urging the Council of Foreign Ministers to take measures for the rescue and rehabilitation of stranded Rohingya Muslims.

3. Pakistan supported the OIC Resolution titled 'The Situation of the Muslim Community in Myanmar', adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers on 27-28 May 2015 in Kuwait. Among others, the Resolution renewed the call to the Myanmar authorities to adopt an inclusive, transparent policy towards the Rohingya Muslims as an integral part of their democratization process and reform, and to recognize them as ethnic minority.

4. Taking a serious view of the plight of Rohingyas, the Prime Minister addressed a letter to the UN Secretary General in June 2015, calling for intensification of diplomatic and moral pressure on the Myanmar Government to grant the requisite rights to Rohingya Muslims and provide them the relief.

5. The Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs addressed a letter to the OIC Secretary General on 9 June 2015, urging him to take necessary steps to alleviate the sufferings of Rohingya Muslims.

6. The Senate of Pakistan passed a Resolution on 9 June 2015, urging the international community to take steps to assist the stranded Rohingyas. On 10 June, the National Assembly of Pakistan and Provincial Assembly of the Punjab also passed Resolutions on similar lines.

7. A resolution proposed by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC titled “Situation of Human Rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar” was adopted by consensus at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 3 July 2015. The resolution condemned the systematic gross violations of human rights and abuses committed in Rakhine state, and called upon the Government of Myanmar to ensure the protection of human rights of Rohingya Muslims.

138. ***Dr. Shazia Sobia:**

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

- (a) *the demand for Pakistani workers received from the Middle East Countries during the year 2014-15 and 2015-16;*
- (b) *the total number of Pakistani workers sent to the said countries during said period; and*
- (c) *the steps taken by the Government to enhance the capacity of Pakistani workers?*

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi): (a) The demand for Pakistani workers received from Middle East countries during the year 2014-15 & 2015-2016 (July-March) was 547,006 & 650,815 respectively.

(b) During the year 2014-15 & 2015-2016 (July-March), the total number of Pakistanis proceeded to Middle East countries is 814,703 & 727,201 respectively.

(c) Government of Pakistan has established the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) which regulates and facilitates skills

development of workers. Some of the objectives of the NAVTTC are to produce skilled manpower equipped with market demand driven competencies and to promote skill development in line with international standards.

139. ***Ms. Musarat Rafique Mahesar:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to enhance the export of rice and wheat and to ensure the quality of the said products?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): Government has taken following steps to enhance export of rice and wheat:

Rice

- i. Rice, being the second largest export sector of Pakistan, is given priority in the Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2015-18. To promote and develop rice exports, a Rice Development Council is being established. Basmati rice has been selected as one of the focus products for short term turn around in exports. The policy measures include support for the import of parboiling machinery, technology upgradation, incentives for branding and certification and development of warehousing facilities for rice in Iran and Saudi Arabia. "Pakistani Basmati Rice" will be branded in both the markets to generate consumer preference.
- ii. Ministry of Commerce has recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia for export of one million tons of rice over the next four years.
- iii. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) organizes participation of Pakistani rice exporters in all the leading international food fairs and organizes trade delegations to the export markets.
- iv. Ministry of Commerce through Commercial Sections assists traders to find prospective buyers abroad.
- v. Federal Government has contacted Chinese Government for enhancing export of rice. An exercise is under way to identify/register rice processing plants for export of rice to China.
- vi. A gift of rice (15,000 MT) is being sent to Cuba. This is more than a gift to the Cuban people, it is a marketing effort which will expose the Cuban consumer to our rice and be our first step in the Cuban domestic rice market.

Wheat

Federal and Provincial Governments are providing transport rebate of US \$ 90 per ton to the private sector for enhancing export of surplus wheat stocks of Provincial Food Departments of Punjab and Sindh.

As regards mechanism to ensure quality of the products, Department of Plant Protection (DPP), Ministry of National Food Security & Research regulates the export of rice and wheat by conducting quarantine inspection and issue Sanitary & Phytosanitary Certificates (SPS) in accordance with the requirements of the importing countries.

140. ***Ms. Shakila Luqman:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise total quantity of edible oil imported during the last three years;*
- (b) the names of countries/firms from where the said oil was imported; and*
- (c) the criteria and procedure adopted alongwith the purposes and utilization thereof?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) The year-wise total quantity of edible oil imported during the last three years is as follows:

Import of Edible Oil

Million US\$

Commodity	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Edible oil total	2,037	2,019	1,836
Palm Oil	1,963	1,902	1,779
Soya bean Oil	74, 467	117,150	56,313

Source: PBS

(b) The names of the countries from where the said oil was imported are placed at Annex-A.

(c) The edible oil is imported to meet the consumption requirements of the country. The procedure necessary for the import of the edible oil under IPO, 2016, stipulates that the import of all the edible products including edible oil is subject to the following conditions:—

- (i) It must be fit for human consumption;
- (ii) It shall be free of any 'haram' element or ingredients;
- (iii) Edible products shall have at least 50% (fifty per cent) of the shelf life, calculated from the date of filing of Import General Manifest (IGM).
- (iv) Import of edible oil in bulk quantity shall be on landed weight and quality basis.

Annex-A

Import of edible oil

Thousand US\$

Commodity By Country	Unit	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		QUANTITY	VALUE	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Edible Oil Total		2,224,107,993	2,037,396	2,382,841,589	2,019,309	2,449,243,682	1,835,618
PALM OIL	KG	2,163,805,186	1,962,929	2,264,748,494	1,902,159	2,396,730,431	1,779,305
Austria		1,500,000	1,575				
Australia				500,000	423	--	--
Bahrain				--	--	1,000,000	635
Belgium		1,200	1				
French Southern Terr				--	--	500,000	324
Indonesia		798,892,774	713,807	1,167,275,263	988,288	1,901,063,328	1,406,887
Iran (Islamic R.)				500,000	397	--	--
Italy		250,000	260	--	--	500,000	331
Japan				--	--	500,000	325
Malaysia		1,352,063,472	1,235,493	1,094,790,169	911,226	488,062,502	367,074
Nigeria		35	..				
O.Asia(Tai.For.Pe.Ki		1,000,000	959				
Singapore		9,421,120	10,151	1,682,722	1,825	5,092,403	3,720
Sri Lanka		668,850	674				
United Arab Emirates		6,464	7	10	..	11,968	9
United Kingdom		1,071	2				
SOYABEAN OIL	KG	60,302,807	74,467	118,093,095	117,150	52,513,251	56,313
Argentina		51,894,000	63,741	79,425,000	79,095	29,500,000	31,269
Brazil		--	--	9,600,000	9,304	2,802,569	4,226
China		--	--	400,000	576	1,124,990	1,205
Egypt(U.A.R.)				17,774,803	17,039	13,750,000	13,073
France		320	1				
Germany		1,005	2	--	--	905	2
Hong Kong S.A.Re.Chi		3,829	7				

Japan	306	1				
Korea, Republic of	19,275	34	32,208	64	--	--
Malaysia	991,060	1,520	3,885,770	4,147	2,034,543	2,319
Netherlands	3,375	7				
O.Asia(Tai.For.Pe.Ki)	457	1				
Paraguay			2,500,000	2,389	--	--
Syrian Arab Republic		--	--	--	250,000	247
Saudi Arabia	7,020,000	8,517				
Singapore	39,216	64				
Spain	2,247	3				
J.S.America	317,865	554	500,000	488	3,050,044	3,973
United Arab Emirates	7,708	11	3,974,993	4,046	--	--
United Kingdom	1,929	4				

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

141. *Ms. Shakila Luqman:

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of Government departments which monitor to explore new trade markets;*
- (b) *the performance shown by those departments during the last three years; and*
- (c) *the names of countries with whom Pakistanis exports have increased during the last three years?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) Ministry of Commerce and its attached department *i.e.* Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) are responsible for exploring new trade markets;

(b) Ministry of Commerce has taken following initiatives to explore new markets.

- * Signing of PTA with Indonesia.
- * Initiation of negotiations for FTA/ PTA with Turkey, Thailand & Afghanistan.
- * Pakistan is in process of negotiating an Early Harvest Program (EHP) with Japan.

- * A Joint Trade Committee (JTC) has been formed with Korea to explore the opportunities for further expansion in trade. Furthermore, a feasibility study is in its completion phase, which is aimed at exploring the viability of Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Korea.

(c) During the last three years Pakistan's exports to several countries have increased including Singapore, Spain, Afghanistan, Germany, Mozambique, Indonesia, Oman, Kenya etc. Further details are attached as Annex-I.

Annex-I

LIST OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH PAKISTAN'S EXPORTS HAVE INCREASED

SI.No	Country/Region	2012-13 Exports	2013-14 Exports	2014-15 Exports
1.	Singapore	73.985	107.498	300.767
2.	Spain	527.139	700.053	806.316
3.	Afghanistan	2,065.955	1,870.516	1,962.295
4.	Germany	967.040	1,146.085	1,174.528
5.	Viet Nam	262.735	255.117	278.315
6.	Mozambique	101.730	111.572	133.461
7.	Indonesia	196.241	123.193	143.174
8.	Oman	175.690	188.983	206.247
9.	Kenya	221.108	297.775	313.281
10.	Thailand	114.534	112.770	125.732
11.	United Kingdom	1,253.100	1,569.764	1,581.920
12.	Cameroon	23.847	17.313	28.680
13.	Turkmenistan	2.330	1.778	11.835
14.	Nigeria	37.903	57.239	66.709
15.	Poland	79.465	129.724	138.521
16.	Sierra Leone	29.337	15.533	24.081
17.	Iraq	26.956	33.754	41.984
18.	Sri Lanka	327.141	259.977	266.939

SI.No	Country/Region	2012-13 Exports	2013-14 Exports	2014-15 Exports
19.	Guinea-Bissau	6.339	5.751	12.701
20.	Azerbaijan	29.970	37.434	43.486
21.	Netherlands	494.660	668.584	674.582
22.	Slovenia	25.171	46.386	52.243
23.	Angola	28.940	33.478	38.400
24.	Myanmar	13.391	13.191	18.061
25.	Greece	48.427	65.811	70.048
26.	Paraguay	3.264	5.905	10.017
27.	Gambia	14.172	13.511	17.608
28.	Jordan	56.698	46.150	49.922
29.	Sweden	101.481	124.043	127.557
30.	Honduras	4.043	3.731	6.879
31.	Ghana	9.758	17.915	20.853
32.	MELANESIA	0.000	0.000	2.874
33.	Eritrea	0.424	0.673	3.520
34.	Zimbabwe	5.689	8.414	11.206
35.	Dominican Republic	9.305	9.247	11.751
36.	Croatia		9.593	11.943
37.	Czech Republic	26.957	32.145	34.323
38.	Serbia & Montenegro	4.828		1.979
39.	Bulgaria	12.871	15.312	17.129
40.	Nepal	1.113	0.651	2.168
41.	New Zealand	38.335	38.280	39.777
42.	Kazakhstan	6.028	5.189	6.602
43.	El Salvador	2.493	1.403	2.769
44.	Liberia	3.517	1.092	2.255
45.	Mayotte	0.090	0.848	1.960

SI.No	Country/Region	2012-13 Exports	2013-14 Exports	2014-15 Exports
46.	Trinidad and Tobago	4.177	6.055	7.079
47.	Peru	29.360	27.349	28.293
48.	Congo, Republic of	1.944	1.046	1.982
49.	Ireland	45.685	49.680	50.614
50.	Seychelles	2.621	2.706	3.467

142. ***Rai Hasan Nawaz Khan:**

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of amount sent by Overseas Pakistanis during the current financial year alongwith the details thereof; and*
- (b) *the steps taken by the Government for the welfare especially education and health care of the said Pakistanis and their dependents?*

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi): (a) During current Financial Year 2015-16 (July-March) Billion US\$ 14.16 have been sent by the Overseas Pakistanis. Country-wise details are at Annex-A.

(b) The Government has taken the following steps for the welfare, especially education and health care of the Overseas Pakistanis and their dependents:

Education:

- * OPF an organization of the Ministry has established twenty four (24) educational institutions (Schools/Colleges) throughout the country including AJK.

- * 25% concession in tuition fee is allowed to the children of overseas Pakistanis. Besides, 100% admission guaranteed to OPs' children in all OPF educational institutions.
- * **322** seats are reserved for admissions of children of overseas Pakistanis in different educational institutions including professional colleges/universities.
- * **Rs. 25.31** million has been distributed among **12,262** children of overseas Pakistanis till date on account of Needy Scholarships & Merit Award. An amount of **Rs. 2.52 million** has been allocated in current financial year 2015-16.

Health:

- * A 10-bed eye hospital established at Yaro Khoso, District D.G. Khan in 1993.

In order to facilitate the people of overseas Pakistanis concentration areas, OPF started establishing eye camps where eye treatment facilities are nonexistent. So far **103** eye camp have been established in which **2,38,309** patient have been treated and **20,526** patients have been operated.

Annex-A

**THE COUNTRY-WISE TOTAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE SENT BY
THE OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS DURING THE CURRENT
FINANCIAL YEAR 2015-16 (UPTO MARCH 2016)**

(Provisional)
(Million US Dollars)

Country	2015-16 July-March
1. USA	1,884.27
2. U.K.	1,758.55
3. Saudi Arabia	4,337.11
4. UAE	3,125.29
Dubai	2,121.86

Country	2015-16 July-March
Abu Dhabi	953.25
Sharjah	48.88
Other	1.30
5. Other GCC Countries	1,711.67
Bahrain	326.74
Kuwait	544.03
Qatar	274.42
Oman	566.48
6. EU Countries	277.55
Germany	62.38
France	22.22
Netherlands	3.48
Spain	37.03
Italy	28.12
Greece	4.78
Sweden	10.32
Denmark	6.98
Ireland	97.20
Belgium	5.04
7. Norway	22.18
8. Switzerland	17.02
9. Australia	132.17
10. Canada	115.33
11. Japan	7.95
12. Other Countries	768.56
TOTAL:	14,157.65

Source: State Bank of Pakistan.

143. ***Syed Waseem Hussain:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that International Cricket Matches were regularly held in the Niaz Stadium, Hyderabad in the past;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the same stadium is in a dilapidated condition at present; and*
- (c) *whether it is further a fact that the Government intends to repair/ rehabilitate the said Stadium; if so, the details thereof?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) Following International Cricket Matches have taken place at Niaz Stadium Hyderabad in the past:

Test Matches:

16th March 1973	Pakistan Vs. England	2nd Test
23rd October 1976	Pakistan Vs. New Zealand	2nd Test
2nd January 1978	Pakistan Vs. England	2nd Test
14th January 1983	India Vs. Pakistan	4th Test
25th November 1984	New Zealand Vs. Pakistan	2nd Test

One-Day International Matches:

20th September 1982	Pakistan Vs. Australia	1st ODI
3rd November 1985	Pakistan Vs. Sri Lanka	4th ODI
18th November 1986	Pakistan Vs. West Indies	5th ODI
8th October 1987	Pakistan Vs. Sri Lanka	World Cup
		Group B Match
15th January 1992	Pakistan Vs. Sri Lanka	3rd ODI
28th September 1997	Pakistan Vs. India	1st ODI
24th January 2008	Pakistan Vs. Zimbabwe	2nd ODI

- (b) The stadium is in good condition.

(c) The PCB maintains Niaz Stadium at its own cost without seeking any grants from the Government. The stadium/outfield and pitches are kept in decent condition by PCB to cater the cricketing needs.

144. ***Syed Waseem Hussain:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total number of employees working in the Ministry and its attached departments at present; and*
- (b) *the number of those employees working in the Ministry and its attached departments having domiciles of District Hyderabad alongwith the names, grades and designations thereof?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) Out of 279-Sanctioned Posts in BS-01 to 22 presently 223 employees are working in this Ministry.

(b) Out of 223 working employees only one employee *i.e.* Dr. Qazi Mujtaba Kamal, Deputy Secretary (BS-19) has a domicile of District Hyderabad. So for as Attached Departments are concerned, according to Schedule -III of Rules of Business, 1973, there is no Attached Department of this Ministry.

145. ***Ms. Aasiya Nasir:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) *the efforts being made by the Ministry to encourage Youth of Minorities to participate in national games; and*
- (b) *whether any special quota for said youth in the national games has been allocated?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) The National Sports Federations selects players based on their performance/ merit at National level without any discrimination of cast and creed. Due to the fair selection process equal opportunities are provided to the Youth of Minorities for participation in National/ International sports events.

Recently Ministry has organized Quaid-e-Azam Inter Provincial Games from 23rd to 26th April, 2016 in which over 3000 sports persons from all the provinces including Kashmir, Gilgit/ Baltistan and FATA attended in 13 events.

(b) Since the selection is based on open merit for all, therefore, no special quota is allocated for the Youth belonging to Minorities in the National Games.

146. ***Ms. Aasiya Nasir:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the impacts on Pakistan's exports after attaining the Generalized System of Preference + Status?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): GSP+ offers duty free access to those lower middle income developing countries whose exports are considered to be vulnerable in European Union member states. These developing countries also undertake to adopt policies of good governance and sustainable development by implementing 27 UN conventions pertaining to human rights, labour rights, climate change, narcotics control and eradication of corruption. As a result of GSP+ Pakistani products have duty free access in 28 member states of EU since 1st January, 2014. As a result of these concessions Pakistani exports to EU grew by 22% in 2014. In 2015 also Pakistani export to EU grew by 11% in Euro terms.

147. ***Mr. Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Government has announced strategic trade policy framework for the year 2015-18; if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the targets set for exports in the said policy/framework seem ambitious particularly the framework does not explain how the Government plans to increase exports by almost half by 2018 and dismal performance of previous such framework; and*
- (c) *the steps being taken by the Government to guarantee the said framework and set rationalize?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2015-18 was approved by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 18th March, 2016. The same was announced by the Commerce Minister on 22nd March, 2016. The details are at Annex-A.

(b) The target set is achievable subject to successful implementation of 'whole of the government approach'. The previous frameworks clearly set the basis of formulation of STPF 2015-18. Moreover, the initiatives/measures mentioned in the framework along with short term measures and regulatory amendments clearly spell out the strategy. For exports enhancement within the prescribed time frame.

(c) The steps being taken by the government to guarantee the said framework and to rationalize the set target are annexed as above.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

148. ***Mr. Murad Saeed:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistanis are facing problems in renewal of residence permits (IQAMA) in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since long;*

(b) *if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to facilitate the said Pakistanis in said problems?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) According to available information there is no such problem faced by Pakistani nationals in renewal of resident permits (IQAMA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(b) Mission takes all possible measures to facilitate Pakistani nationals, if they face any problem in renewal of Iqama.

149. ***Mr. Murad Saeed:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state whether any inquiry conducted by the Ministry regarding poor performance of the Pakistan Cricket Team made/shown in the WT20; if so, the actions taken against the responsables therefor?

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada): (a) A Special Committee was formed by Chairman PCB to probe into the poor performance of Pakistan cricket team in the ICC WT20 2016. Upon receiving the input from the said committee, Chairman PCB announced the following decisions to address the problems in Pakistan cricket:

(a) **Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee has been disbanded and a new Selection Committee is comprised of the following:

Name	Designation
1. Inzamam-ul-Haq	<i>Chief Selector</i>
2. Tauseef Ahmed	<i>Member</i>
3. Wajahatullah Wasti	<i>Member</i>
4. Waseem Haider	<i>Member</i>

(b) **T20 Captain**

The PCB has appointed Sarfraz Ahmed as new T20 Captain in place of Shahid Afridi.

(c) **Team Coach**

After Waqar Younis' resignation, a new coach (Mickey Arthur) has been named.

(d) **Fitness Camp**

A fitness Camp at Kakul is being organized.

150. ***Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the total number of persons presently working in the Ministry and its attached departments, subordinate offices and institutions at present alongwith the grade and province-wise break-up thereof?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): Grade wise and province wise break up of number of persons, presently working in the attached departments/organizations of Ministry of Commerce are annexed:—

1. Ministry of Commerce(Annex-I)
2. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (Annex-II)
3. Trading Corporation of Pakistan (Annex-III)
4. Trade Dispute Resolution Organization (Annex-IV)
5. National Tariff Commission (Annex-V)
6. Pakistan Institute of Trade & Development (Annex-VI)
7. Directorate General of Trade Organization (Annex-VII)
8. Pakistan Tobacco Board (VIII)
9. Pakistan Institute of Fashion & Design (Annex-IX)
10. Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Company (Annex-X)

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

ISLAMABAD:
The 15th May, 2016

ABDUL JABBAR ALI,
Secretary.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Monday, the 16th May, 2016

75. **Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak:**
(Deferred during 30th Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to utilize local inputs under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project; if so, the details thereof; and*
- (b) *the details of said inputs/finished goods including equipments and machineries being imported from China in this regard during the inception of said project?*

Transferred to Planning Development and Reform Division for answer on next rota day.

81. **Dr. Fozia Hameed:**
(Deferred during 30th Session)

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state the percentage of foreign funds have been incurred on the Internally Displaced Persons so far alongwith the utilization thereof?

Minister for States and Frontier Regions [Lt. Gen (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch]: Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Unit deals with funds for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the return areas. The foreign funds received till date to rehabilitation and reconstruction unit are NIL. Government of Pakistan is meeting all expenditures in this regard from its own resources.

65. **Rai Hasan Nawaz Khan:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the trade deficit of the country?

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): The Government has taken following steps to reduce trade deficit of the country:—

- I. Under Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF), 2015-18, several initiatives have been announced to enhance Pakistan's export competitiveness and institutional strengthening. A total of Rs. 20 billion will be spent on development of export sector over the next three years. The initiatives *inter-alia* include:
 - i. Establishment of Export Promotion Council for Leather, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics, and Rice Export Promotion Council.
 - ii. Support for the import of plant and machinery to strengthen supply chain and encourage value-addition.
 - iii. Performance Based Incentive (PBI) to offset the burden of higher utility costs and local levies and taxes on the export sectors, *i.e.* per unit price based refund @ 4% of 10% over last year's exports.
 - iv. Under short-term export enhancement measures, the following four product categories be focused: (i) Basmati rice, (ii) horticulture, (iii) meat and meat products; and (iv) jewellery; with the parallel focus on the following markets: (i) Iran, (ii) Afghanistan, (iii) China, and (iv) European Union.
- II. Through active trade diplomacy, Government is trying to get enhanced market access for the local businesses in international markets by concluding Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) with different countries.
- III. Bilateral free trade agreements with China, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Iran, Mauritius and Indonesia are already in place. The opportunity of zero-rated market access in European Union market under GSP

Plus scheme has provided a fillip to our exports to our largest market. Moreover, Government is in the process of negotiating trade agreements with Thailand and Turkey.

- IV. The leading business support institutions are being strengthened. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan has recently been restructured; Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Company is being revitalized and strengthened.
- V. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is undertaking various export promotional activities through trade exhibitions and delegations.
- VI. The TEXPO Pakistan has recently been held in Karachi for showcasing a large number of Pakistan's textile products to foreign Textile buyers.
- VII. In order to fulfil long awaited demand for reducing cost of doing business, Government has taken a major step of reducing electricity tariff by Rs. 3 for the industrial units with effect from 1st January 2016.
- VIII. Drawback of local taxes at the rate of 2-4% of FOB- realized value of enhanced exports has also been announced under SRO 177(I)/2015 dated 27th February, 2015.
- IX. The availability of affordable finance for the export sector has considerably improved. The State Bank of Pakistan has further reduced the discount rate which currently stands at 6%. The Export Finance Rate currently at 3.5% is the lowest in a decade.
- X. EXIM Bank and the release of funds (Rs. 7-8 billion) by Finance Division will enable our trading sector to compete internationally.

66. **Ms. Sabiha Nazir:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that there is an increasing demand of Pakistani products in the Central Asian States at present; and*

- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to give relief to exporters to enhance exports to the said States?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) In Central Asian States, there is demand for Pakistani products such as Rice, Sugar, Pharmaceutical / Medical Products, Sugar Confectionery, Dairy Products, Edible Fruits and Vegetables etc. Demand for Pakistani exports can be encouraged through enhanced market access and improved connectivity.

(b) The Government has given relief to the exporters to enhance exports through land routes and elimination of non-tariff barrier to Central Asian States through exemption of the requirement of E-Form. Under the Export Policy Order 2016, export of perishable goods to Afghanistan and through Afghanistan to Central Asian Republics are allowed against Pak currency on filling of regular shipping bills without the requirement of Form-E. The following items are allowed to be exported in Pak Rupee: (i) fruits (ii) vegetables (iii) dairy products and (iv) meat.

Furthermore, TDAP also provides support in the form of subsidies to exporters for participation in Trade exhibitions in Central Asian States.

67. **Mr. Abdul Qahar Khan Wadan:**

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that ban has been imposed on import of commercial arms w. e. f. 30-06-2015; and*
- (b) *the quantity of commercial arms imported after the said ban alongwith the types and value thereof?*

Minister for Commerce (Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan): (a) Yes, it is a fact that *vide* S.R.O. 1112(1)/2014 dated 16th December, 2014 (**Annex-I**), all the previously Value Based Authorizations (VBAs) for import of arms and ammunition have been suspended since July 1, 2015 and are being replaced by Quantity Based Authorizations (QBAs), devised in the new policy on arms imports. The applications for grant of QBA in place of VBA have been invited from the existing importers. The last date of receipt of applications was 30th April, 2016. The applications are being examined in the Ministry and soon QBAs will be issued to qualifying importers. While rolling out the new arms import policy in December,

2014, the old VBA holders were allowed till June 30, 2015 to execute the contracts signed under VBAs. Also, all the contracts/LCs registered on or before 30th June, 2014 have been covered under para 3 of the new SRO.

(b) The quantity of arms imported by commercial importers from July 2015 to April, 2016 are as under:—

S.#	Description/Type	Quantity	Import Value (Rs. in Million)
1.	Pistol	11,681	145.11
2.	Shotguns	687	10.18
3.	Rifle	1,057	15.50
4.	Shooting Rifle	8,814	64.15

Source: FBR

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

ISLAMABAD:
The 15th May, 2016.

ABDULJABBAR ALI,
Secretary.