

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”**

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

Friday, the 18th January, 2019

2. ***Ch. Muhammad Shahbaz Babar:**
(Deferred during 6th Session)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to provide medical treatment and education to children of diplomatic staff deputed abroad and total expenditures incurred every year under the said two heads?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): The Head of Mission with prior approval of Ministry, appoints a local medical officer as “Authorized Medical Attendant” and makes arrangements with the medical attendant for provision of medical advice to all officials in the Mission. Mission with the prior approval of the Ministry may also make arrangements with medical insurance companies, if found economical, for provision of comprehensive medical insurance to all officials and their family members in the Mission.

As regards education, Missions make payment of ninety percent admissible charges for upto two children between the ages of five and twenty years directly to School on the approved list against original bills/ invoices, subject to revised rules on the subject.

The expenditure incurred on medical treatment during 2017-2018 is Rs. 833,718,195/- while expenditure incurred on education subsidy during the same period is Rs. 597,428,315/-.

22. ***Mr. Raza Rabani Khar:**
(Deferred during 6th Session)

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

- (a) *what percentage of workers in the local industries hail from the local community.*
- (b) *specifically with regards to Muzaffargarh district;*
- (c) *if no quota is allocated, why not especially when the locals have the qualification and expertise required for the jobs;*
- (d) *are local industries abiding by the corporate social responsibility standards placed on them?*

Reply not received.

87. ***Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani:**

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

- (a) *whether Pakistan Cricket Board has constructed a playground in Latifabad Kohsar by incurring huge expenditure;*
- (b) *whether the said playground is in an extremely dilapidated condition at present;*
- (c) *whether an inquiry/action is being taken against the responsables thereof; if so, the detail thereof; and*
- (d) *the time by which the Government will take positive steps for improvement of the said playground?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):

(a) A full-fledged DCA cricket ground Kohsar, Latifabad, Hyderabad had been developed with a pavilion, 2 dressing rooms, 7 turf match pitches, 3 turf + 2 cemented practice pitches and iron bar nets by PCB in the year 2008-9.

Physical possession had been handed over to the elected representatives of District Cricket Association Hyderabad for smooth operation and upkeep as per the signed MoU.

(b) The said ground is not in a good condition because the developed ground was handed over to elected District Cricket Association Hyderabad to operate and maintain the venue in accordance with signed MoU, so the cricket activities of all levels be regularized.

It was the responsibility of DCA Hyderabad and district admin to maintain it which was not happened.

(c) No inquiry has been initiated by PCB.

(d) (i) PCB extended a bailout package again on the persuasion of said Regional Cricket Association in 2012-13 to improve outfield level and re-plantation of grass but the work done could not be sustained because of non-availability of regular water supply (when restoration of water was ensured by local cricket association).

(ii) Local government should be instructed by Federal government to fulfill their leftover obligations as per the signed MoU at the earliest so the invested funds by PCB could be safe guarded in the larger interest of cricketers and cricket.

89. ***Ms. Nuzhat Pathan:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that no increase has been made in Pakistan export products for the last five years; if so, the names of said items during the same period;*

(b) *whether it is also a fact that we are losing our share in export market; if so, the reasons thereof; and*

(c) *the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) Export from Pakistan during the last five years is given below:

(Value in US\$ million)

Year	Exports
2013-2014	25,110
2014-2015	23,667
2015-2016	20,787
2016-2017	20,422
2017-18	23,222

Export of Pakistan did not increase mainly due to following reasons.

- (a) Fall in international prices of commodities.
- (b) Higher cost of utilities in Pakistan compared to regional countries.
- (c) Fall in demand in the international markets.
- (d) Unrealistic exchange rate of Pakistan also decreased competitiveness of exports.
- (e) Energy Crisis.

However, export in 2017-18 rebounded to US\$ 23.22 billion against US\$ 20.244 billion during the same period last year reflecting an increase of 13.71%.

(b) **Share of Pakistan' Exports in World Export Basket**

(Value in US\$ million)

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
World Exports	17236.31	15907.96	14277.46	14776.98	15805.63
Pakistan Exports	25.11	23.67	20.79	20.45	23.222
% share	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.14%	0.15%

(Source: trade map)

The data shows that Pakistan's share in global exports has remained stagnant at 0.15%.

(c) Initiatives taken by Ministry of Commerce

- (a) Ministry of Commerce is working on new Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF 2018-23) with focus on reducing cost of production and encouraging investment into export oriented sectors.
- (b) Ministry of Commerce is finalizing National Tariff Policy, which will make the tariff structure to reflect trade policy priorities, improving competitiveness through duty-free access to imported raw materials and encouraging value addition through the principle of cascading of tariffs and removing anomalies in the tariff structure. The policy will aim to encourage value added exports of the country.
- (c) Moreover, STPF would also include measures for tariff rationalization, promotion of Research & Development in manufacturing sector and facilitation of SMEs for integration into Global Value Chains.
- (d) Furthermore, for market access Pakistan is currently engaged

with China for the second phase of FTA, investment and transfer of technology is part of the broader collaboration under CPEC. For next five years, exports to China will be focused on processed food, high value products, Chinese government procurement of goods and services and services sector in general. Ministry of Commerce is also expanding preferential trade arrangement with Indonesia and reviewing a free trade agreement with Malaysia. Both sides have agreed on broadening the scope of FTA by inclusion of chapters on services and investments. Currently, Pakistan is in the advanced stages of negotiating FTAs with Thailand and Iran.

- (e) As per PM package 2017-18, Rs.180 billion worth of incentives were allowed for exporters of Textile and Non-Textile sectors wherein 50% of incentives are allowed to exporters and the remaining 50% to those who enhance their export by at least by 10% in FY 2018. Besides, in order to encourage market diversification, 2% incentives of FOB value was allowed for exports to Non-traditional markets. The above mentioned PM package has also been extended for the period of 2018-21.

91. ***Ms. Zaib Jaffar:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of Pakistanis detained in the jails of Central Asian States at present alongwith the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): The details of Pakistani prisoners detained in Central Asian States and step being taken by the Government in this regard are placed at Annex-I.

Annex-I

Sr. No.	Name of the Country	Number of Prisoners	Charges	Steps taken / being taken by the Mission
1.	Kyrgyz Republic	09	Fake travel documents murder, human trafficking, defrauding Pakistani and foreign students, entry into Kyrgyzstan without travel documents	Mission is maintaining constant liaison to ensure their well being. MOU for change of prisoners under process In three cases the Embassy has hired a lawyer and approached the local Government at appropriate level. Embassy's lawyer is pursuing the case.
2.	Kazakhstan	01	Drug Smuggling	Embassy is providing consular access on regular basis, However, any legal / financial assistance is not provided to drug traffickers / smugglers as directed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan.
3.	Tajikistan	02	Travel on forged documents, drug smuggling	Mission provided legal assistance and Foreign Minister specially requested Tajik Government for clemency for these two Pakistanis. Mission maintains constant contact with them to ensure their well being.
4.	Azerbaijan	04	Sexual assault, and forged documents	The Mission remains in contact with all prisoners and daily use items / edible are provided. The Mission is also pursuing the matter with the concerned Pakistani authorities for early ratification of the Agreement on Transfer of Convicts.
5.	Uzbekistan	Nil		
6.	Turkmenistan	Nil		

92. ***Mr. Ali Gohar Khan:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the assistance packages received by Pakistan from Saudi Arabia, China and other countries during the last five years till date?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi):

Saudi Arabia

During the Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia for Future Investment Initiative (FII) Conference on 22-23 October 2018 at the invitation of Saudi King, the following major outcomes were achieved:

- i. Deposit of US\$ 3 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan by Saudi Arabia for a period of one year as balance of payment support;
- ii. Import of oil on one year deferred payment facility, up to US\$ 3 billion, the arrangement will be in place for three years, which will be reviewed thereafter;
- iii. Willingness of Saudi Arabia to invest in a petroleum refinery in Pakistan, and
- iv. Development of mineral resources in Balochistan.
- v. Reduction of visa fee for Pakistani workers at par with the visa fee charged from Indian workers *i.e.* SAR 305;

UAE

The Prime Minister visited UAE twice on 19 September and 18 November 2018 at the invitation of the Crown Prince of UAE. He was accompanied by a high level delegation comprising Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Finance, Petroleum, Power and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce. The two leaders agreed to build a Long-Term Strategic Economic Partnership and underscored the importance of effectively pursuing various initiatives including working on a long term investment framework agreement.

The UAE announced balance of payment support package of US\$ 3 billion on 19 December 2018.

China

Pakistan-China relations are marked by a high degree of understanding, trust and goodwill. The two countries are “All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners” and have wide-ranging engagements in political economic, defence and cultural spheres.

Since 2015, commercial ties have increased as CPEC has accentuated the bilateral economic engagement between Pakistan and China. Under the broader mandate of CPEC, a considerable headway has been made in infrastructure and energy projects. The current government is working with its Chinese counterparts to enhance the bilateral economic cooperation in socio-economic development, agricultural cooperation, industrial capacity, poverty reduction, trade and commerce, science and technology, climate change and job-creation.

93. ***Mr. Salahuddin:**

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

- (a) the names of games/sports having more than one sports Federations in the country;*
- (b) the law under which such parallel Federations are operating; and*
- (c) the names of Federations which are not registered with the Pakistan Sports Board but their players and officials were sent abroad for participation in international sports events during the last one year?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):

(a) As per available record, following games have more than one parallel Federations in the country:-

- (i) Badminton
- (ii) Chess
- (iii) Table Tennis
- (iv) Wushu

(b) Currently, there is not any enacted legislation governing National Sports Federations. They are constituted under their own constitution / statutes etc.

(c) Pakistan Sports Board sends abroad players and officials of affiliated National Sports Federations for participation in international sports events only and not otherwise.

95. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textiles be pleased to state the quantum and value of the cropped human hair exported to China during the last five financial years?

Minister for Commerce and Textile: In the international harmonized system of custom tariffs (HS System), the item “cropped human hair” does not have a distinct HS Code. It is rather included in HS Code 0501.0000 (human hair and waste of human hair).

The following table indicates quantum and value of the items included in the said HS Code which were exported to China during the last five financial years:

Years	Quantity (Kg)	Value (US\$ Million)
2013-14	83,901	0.102
2014-15	13,150	0.017
2015-16	1,410	0.002
2016-17	-	
2017-18	7,000	0.011
Total	105,461	0.132

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

96. ***Mr. Gul Dad Khan:**

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

- (a) *whether Pakistan Sports Board works for Development of sports; if so, the province, Federal Capital and erstwhile FATA-wise details of the projects/efforts under taken during the last five years;*
- (b) *the details of the funds/grants etc. spent/given to different sports federations; and*
- (c) *details of corruption/misappropriation of funds made during the said period?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):

(a) Yes, Pakistan Sports Board has spent funds for development of sports infrastructure in Federal Capital and in provinces for the last five years. Year wise allocation, releases and utilization is attached at **Annex-I** while no funds have been allocated for development of sports infrastructures in FATA.

(b) Financial assistance/grant to the tune of Rs. 1,105,159,709/- provided to affiliated National Sports Federations during the last five years is enclosed at **Annexure-II**.

(c) In order to find whether there was any corruption/ misappropriation of funds, an exclusive Forensic Audit of Pakistan Sports Board and 14 major sports federations for the last five years has been assigned to Auditor General of Pakistan. Forensic Audit is in progress and outcome awaited.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library).

97. ***Ms. Nooreen Farooq Khan:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian atrocities are increasing day by day in held Kashmir; if so, the number of innocent Kashmiris martyred during the last five years?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): The human rights violations by the Indian occupation forces in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir continue unabated. According to Kashmir Media Service, during last five years, total number of innocent people martyred in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir is 1139. Of these:

161 have been martyred in the year 2014
 156 have been martyred in the year 2015
 156 have been martyred in the year 2016
 291 have been martyred in the year 2017
 375 have been martyred in the year 2018

2018 was one of the deadliest years in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK) in which Indian occupation forces killed more than 350 innocent Kashmiris and blinded and maimed many more including women and children.

98. ***Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Pakistan Cricket Board for betterment of Niaz Stadium, Hyderabad; and*
- (b) whether the matches of Pakistan Super League will be held in Hyderabad and the steps being taken for rehabilitation of cricket in Hyderabad alongwith details thereof?*

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):

(a) Niaz Stadium Hyderabad was forcibly taken over from PCB by Municipal Committee Qasimabad, Hyderabad on 2nd April 2018. As a consequence PCB has removed man power and equipment from Niaz Stadium as it is no longer under PCB's control.

(b) The PCB does not have control over this stadium and has no plans to organize matches of the upcoming PSL 2019 in Hyderabad.

99. ***Ms. Nuzhat Pathan:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to resolve border issues with the neighbouring countries?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): Boundary issues with India are part of Dialogue Process between India and Pakistan, which has been unilaterally suspended by India since 2013. Pakistan remains committed to resolve the border issues with India through peaceful dialogue process.

As far as the LoC and Working Boundary are concerned these are part of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute which has to be resolved in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

100. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**

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

- (a) the details of the remittances received from different Gulf countries by the Government; and*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to facilitate the remittances to the country?*

Transferred to Finance Division for answer on next Rota Day.

103. ***Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America (USA) has designated Pakistan as a country of particular concern with regard to religious freedoms; and*

- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government for tackling such issues as most of the countries in this particular list are the most arch rivals of USA?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) The USA Government designated Pakistan as a country of Particular Concern (CPC) on 28 November, 2018. This unilateral designation was made under a Religious Freedom Report which was released in May, 2018.

(b) Pakistan has rejected the unilateral decision of US State Department designating Pakistan as a country a Particular Concern. We have, through diplomatic channels, conveyed to the US authorities the constitutional provision regarding protection of rights of minorities in Pakistan, reservation of special seats for minorities in Parliament, presence of an independent National Commission on Human Rights to address concerns of minorities and efforts by successive governments including establishment of legal and administrative mechanisms to safeguard rights of minorities in Pakistan. We believe that this designation is clearly biased and politically motivated. We still continue to engage US Government and impress upon it that Pakistan is fully cognizant of the right of minorities.

104. ***Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khan:**

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to establish Overseas Pakistanis Foundation Schools and Colleges in Karachi; if so, when; if not, the reasons thereof?

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development: There is no proposal under consideration for the establishment of any new OPF School & College in Karachi, as OPF has already established a School at Nishter Road, Near K.M.C Workshop, (Garden East/Liyari) Karachi in 2009. The school is upto Matric level. Presently, 375 students are enrolled.

Furthermore, OPF Board of Governors in its 126th meeting held on 4th March, 2015 resolved that:

“OPF should not establish new Educational Institutions in any rented building and low Overseas Pakistanis concentrated areas. OPF may explore the possibilities to establish OPF educational institutions in purpose built buildings in its own Housing Schemes.”

105. ***Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that a large number of power looms and sizing sectors have been closed in the country especially in the South Punjab during the last three years; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the total number of employees of the said sector rendered jobless thereby?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: Power loom sector is mostly cottage based Industry. Further, this industry consists of machinery that is either obsolete or has out lived its economic life. The year wise following data doesn't show any decline in cloth production.

000' sqm

Year	Mill Sector	Non-Mill Sector	Total
2012-13	1,029,090	8,085,950	9,115,040
2013-14	1,036,100	8,088,750	9,124,850
2014-15	1,036,950	8,089,649	9,126,599
2015-16	1,039,183	8,120,122	9,159,305
2016-17	1,043,340	8,126,370	9,169,710
*2017-18	1,043,740	8,127,155	9,170,895

* Provisional

July-18	87,150	677,900	765,050
Aug-18	87,200	677,975	765,175

Source: Textile Commissioner's Organization, Karachi

(b) On basis of above available data on cloth production this statement is not endorsed.

106. ***Ms. Shazia Marri:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the inquiries initiated against diplomatic staff posted abroad at present alongwith nature of allegations against each one of them;*
- (b) *the present status of each inquiry; and*
- (c) *what steps are being taken to conclude such inquiries at the earliest?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): Details of inquiries initiated against diplomatic staff posted abroad at present is placed below:

S#	Designation	BPS	Mission	Brief Details of Case	Current Status of Inquiry
1	APS	16	New York	Non resumption of duties after expiry of authorized ex-Pakistan leave	An Inquiry committee has been constituted.
2	Assistant	15	Sofia	Embezzlement of Government funds	Official recalled from mission. Disciplinary proceedings underway and case has been referred to NAB.
3	Assistant	15	Tripoli	Shifted Embassy premises without authorization of Ministry	Memo issued and explanation sought. Inquiry committee has been formed.
4	Assistant	15	Milan	Embezzlement of Government funds	Show Cause Notice issued. Inquiry committee has been formed.
5	Driver	4	Chicago	Absence without leave after completion of tenure	Show Cause Notice issued. Inquiry committee has been formed.

6	Driver	4	Los Angeles	Subletting of Government accommodation	Official has been prematurely recalled from mission. Inquiry committee has been constituted.
7	Naib Qasid	1	Buenos Aires	Absconder	Show Cause Notice issued. Inquiry committee has been formed.
8	Naib Qasid	1	Mashad	Unauthorized leave and careless attitude towards official duties	Official prematurely recalled from mission. Inquiry is being initiated.

107. ***Mr. Riaz Fatyana:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *the comparative facts and figures of the imports and exports of the country with foreign countries for the year 2017-18;*
- (b) *the reasons of decrease in exports of rice, wheat, cotton, mandarin, mango, textile and leather products for the year 2017-18 and the details of those persons who are responsible for such decrease along with their names, designations and the action taken against them;*
- (c) *the total budget for financial year 2017-18 for pay, allowances, utility bills and visits of officers in BPS-17 and above;*
- (d) *the target of the Government to boost the exports along with the steps taken by the Government to increase the exports; and*
- (e) *the details of exports made during the current financial year?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) The required data is at Annex-I.

- (b) 1. It is encouraging to mention that Pakistan's exports during last decade have increased from US\$ 17.4 billion (2008-09) to US\$ 23.2 billion (2017-18), with an average annual growth rate of almost 6%. During July—June 2017-2018 exports were

US\$ 23.22 billion against US\$ 20.422 billion during the same period of last year, thus showing an increase of 13.71%. Continuing the momentum of rising export the first quarter has also showed export growth of 5%.

Export Comparison Between 2016-17 And 2017-18
Value in Thousand US\$

Commodity	Export 2016-17	Export 2017-18	% change
Wheat	1,083	236,339	22,668.69
Rice Basmati	453,441	540,231	19.14.
Rice Other varieties	1,153,393	1496,844	29.78
Raw Cotton	43,567	58,227	33.65
Leather manufactures	491,152	522,869	6.46
Textile	12,450,733	13530,055	8.67
Mango	48,098	56,096	15.46

2. Apart from the previous financial year export suffered a decline during the last few years, which is as follows;

EXPORT OF PAKISTAN

(Value in M \$)

Year	Exports
2013-2014	25,110
2014-2015	23,667
2015-2016	20,787
2016-2017	20,422
2017-18	23,222

The reasons behind decline in exports

- (a) Fall in international prices of commodities.
- (b) Higher cost of utilities in Pakistan compared to regional countries.

- (c) Fall in demand in the international markets.
 - (d) Unrealistic exchange rate of Pakistan also decreased competitiveness of exports.
3. However, overall export position during 2017-18 was encouraging. Increase in Pakistan exports was mainly because of better performance of Food products, Textile, Footballs, Leather goods, Footwear, Surgical goods, Chemical & Pharmaceutical, Gems, Engineering goods etc.
 4. Textile products continue to dominate the Pakistan's export basket with 58% share and it has increased from US\$12.45 billion in FY 2016-17 to US\$13.53 billion in FY 2017-18. The items which showed increase in textile group are Raw Cotton (33.65%), Bed Wear (5.77%), Cotton Yarn (10.30%) Yarn and other than Cotton (38.85%), Art, Silk and Synthetic textile (65.09%), Knitwear (15.17%), and Readymade Garments (11.22%). The items which showed decline in the textile group are Tents, Canvas and Tarpaulin (-36.26%), Cotton carded or combed (-97.87%).
 5. The Food products showed an increase of 29.28% in FY 2017-18 in comparison with same period of last year. The Food group's share has reached 20 percent of total exports of Pakistan. The items which showed landmark increase in export growth are Wheat (22,668.69%), Sugar (215.662%), and products that shown reasonable increase are Rice (26.78%), Fish and Fish preparation (14.17%), Vegetables (30.56%), Fruits (5.08%) and Meat & Meat preparation (2.26%).
 6. In other manufacturing group products that contributed towards positive growth in the group include: Gems (34.97%), Fertilizer manufactured (405.20%) Molasses (65.75%) Footballs (9.38%) Leather Gloves (15.36%), Leather Footwear (17.15%), and Guar & Guar products (21.83%) etc. The items which registered decrease in the export of other manufactures group are Canvas Footwear (-55.94%), other Footwear (-9.46%), Transport Equipment (-7.73%), and Furniture (-14.27%) etc.

(c) The total annual budget granted to Ministry of Commerce (Main Secretariat) for the F.Y. 2017-18 and expenditure upto June, 2017-18 is as under:

Final Budget Allocation F.Y. 2017-18(Rs.)	Expenditure during F.Y. 2017-18(Rs.)
461,771,000	440,632,245

Whereas, the final allocated budget and expenditure incurred by Ministry of Commerce (Main Secretariat) on account of Pay, Allowances, Benefits, Utility Bills, Visits, and Other expenditures is as under:

Head	Final Budget Allocation	Expenditure (Final) during F.Y. 2017-18
A01101-Pay of Officers	97,152,000	92,673,775
A01151-Pay of Other Staff	75,797,000	73,006,386
A012-1-Regular Allowances	125,865,000	120,040,067
A03302-Water (utilities)	20,000	13,082
A03303-Electricity (utilities)	1,000,000	892,662
A03305-POL for Generator (utilities)	200,000	199,406
A03805-Travelling Allowance (visits)	7,700,000	6,965,281
A03912-Delegation Abroad (visits)	15,750,000	15,129,578
Grand Total:	323,484,000	308,920,237

(d) The Government is undertaking the following policy measures to boost Pakistan's export performance during the current financial year:

I. Short Term Policy Measures:

- i. Reduction of electricity tariff for the industry.
- ii. Early refund of sales tax to ensure availability of liquidity for export sector.
- iii. Reduction of tariffs on raw materials and inputs.

II. Medium to Long Term Policy Strategy: The following medium to long term policy measures that are linked to the structural reform of the export sector will be introduced in the current financial year:

- i. **Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2018-23:** Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2018-23 will cover the policy interventions aimed at creating competitiveness, tariff reform, investment in export-oriented production, integration into global value chains, enhanced market access, institutional strengthening and improvement in export eco system etc.
- ii. **Trade Related Investment Policy Framework:** To channelize investment into export-oriented production and competitive import substitution. The five-year policy will identify the priority sectors with a comprehensive package of incentives for investment in the export oriented sectors.
- iii. **National Tariff Policy:** Ministry of Commerce is finalizing National Tariff Policy, which make the tariff structure to reflect trade policy priorities, improving competitiveness through duty-free access to imported raw materials and encouraging value addition through the principle of cascading of tariffs and removing anomalies in the tariff structure. The policy will aim to encourage value added exports of the country.

Target for the export will be decided by the Government with the approval of Strategic Trade Policy Frame Work 2018-23. However, details of trade for the period July-September, 2018 are as below:

Value in US \$ in Million

Exports	July-December 2018	July- December 2017	% Change in July-Dec. 2018 over July-Dec. 2017
Exports	11,216	10,976	2.19
Imports	28,017	28,695	2.29
Balance of Trade	-16,821	-17,719	-5.07

(e) Pakistan's exports during the current of the financial year 2018-19 have increased by 2.19 percent to US\$ 11.216 billion from US\$ 10.976 billion during the corresponding period of 2017-18. The imports have remained stagnant during the same period, which has resulted in decline in trade deficit. The following table provides trade statistics during the first six months of 2018-19.

Value in US\$ Billion

Exports	July-December 2018	July- December 2017	% Change in July-Dec. 2018 over July-Dec. 2017
Exports	11,216	10,976	2.19
Imports	28,017	28,695	2.29
Balance of Trade	-16,821	-17,719	-5.07

Exports: 2018-19 (July-Oct)

- The export data shows that export of the food group increased by 9.9 percent to US\$ 1.174 billion in 2018-19 from US\$ 1.068 billion in 2017-18. In the food group exports of

basmati rice (27.4%), fruits (35%) and vegetables (38.2%) have registered a positive growth rate, whereas, exports of non-basmati rice (-16.4%) and fish and its preparations (-10.23%) have declined.

3. The export of textile group remained stagnant, registering a marginal increase of 0.41 percent rising to US\$ 4.4 billion in 2018-19 from US\$ 4.38 billion in 2017-18. In the textile group exports of knitwear (10.4%), bedwear (2.1%), tents & canvas (4.4%) have increased, whereas, exports of cotton (-71.5%), cotton yarn (-11.19%) have declined.
4. The export of petroleum group has shown a substantial increase of 94.14 percent rising to US\$ 187.6 million in 2018-19 from US\$ 96.6 million in 2017-18. The rise is reflected in all the sub-groups *i.e.* petroleum crude (214%) and petroleum products (30.78%).
5. Exports of sports goods (3.51%), footwear (22.69%), surgical items (2.03%), plastic materials (35.42%), pharmaceutical products (4.99%), electric fans (15.2%), auto parts (15.9%) and cement (21.32%) have increased during 2018-19 compared to previous year. On the other hand leather tanned (-16.54%), leather garments (-15.4%) and cutlery (-5.11%) have declined compared to previous year.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library).

108. ***Sheikh Rohale Asghar:**

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to increase trade relations with Canada, so far; and*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to increase exports to Canada?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) Following steps are being taken by the Government to increase trade relations with Canada;

During 11 months of FY 2017-18 (July-May), Pakistan's exports to Canada increased by 10.8% to US\$ 294.7 million whereas Canada's exports to Pakistan decreased by 18.5% to \$ 516.3 million. The trade deficit with Canada has decreased by 40% to \$221.6 million.

Aggregate Bilateral Annual Trade with Canada (Million \$)

Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
2013-14	235.71	211.46	447.16	24.25
2014-15	229.57	438.65	668.23	-209.08
2015-16	221.05	648.50	869.55	-427.44
2016-17	230.23	744.85	975.09	-514.62
2017-18	260.62	626.33	886.95	-365.71

Source : FBR

Joint Working Group

A Joint Working Group was constituted between Pakistan and Canada as a result of some bilateral consultations arranged at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. First meeting of JWG was held on 16-05-2008 and 2nd meeting of the JWG held on 16-03-2009. The third meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade and Investment between Pakistan and Canada was scheduled in March 2018 but the same was postponed. The Canadian authorities have been approached to intimate set of dates for 3rd meeting of JWG.

General Preferential Tariff (GPT)

Canadian legislation implementing a system of tariff preferences in favor of developing countries including Pakistan was brought into effect on 1st July, 1974 as part of a concerted international effort by industrialized countries to help developing countries to expand their exports and thus increase their foreign exchange earnings.

However, Pakistan's major export products to Canada like textile and apparel are not covered under GPT. Pakistan exported worth US \$ 312 million of goods to Canada in 2017. Average tariff on Pakistan's export is around 11% mainly due to high tariff on Textiles and Apparels. US \$ 39.46 million Pakistan's major exports entered Canada under GPT scheme *i.e.* 13% of value of total exports. Leather gloves, lamps, salt, carpets, manicure / pedicure instruments and pliers. The duty advantage for GPT products ranges between 1.5% to 5%. However, the GPT advantage of Pakistan cannot be rules out and export of most of the GPT products have increased significantly.

(b) Following steps are being taken by the Government to increase exports to Canada;

Visa Issue

Ministry of Commerce has taken up with Canadian authorities the problem of delay in issuance of visa to Pakistani applicants. They were sensitized that due to hurdles in visa issuance and negative travel advisories B2B interactions could not materialized between Pakistan and Canadian businesses. During the visit of Commerce Minister to Canada in February 2018, the Canadian Minister for Immigration & Citizenship agreed to reduce visa issuance time from 45 days to 23 days and even more. The measure will enhance exports from Pakistan with greater trade promotional activities by conducting trade delegations to Canada to participate in exhibitions, trade shows and B2B meetings.

Trade & Investment Promotion in Canada in 2017-18

Consul General, Montreal, Canada took following Trade & Investment Initiatives in 2017-18:

- The Consulate managed / participated in 5 trade Shows / delegations in 2017, up from just one in 2016.
 - (a) SIAL Canada (2-4 May 2017, Toronto)
 - (b) Pakistan-Canada ICT Forum (23-26 May 2017, Toronto and Montreal)
 - (c) 70th anniversary of Pakistan Independence & Trade Show (16-17 August 2017, Ottawa)

- (d) Apparel Textile Sourcing Canada (21-23 August 2017, Toronto)
- (e) PCBC International Tradeshow (3-4 December 2017, Montreal)
- Official website of the consulate was launched in March 2017.
- 5 Trade disputes reported in 2017.
- 43 business visas were issued.
- 154 trade queries responded in 2017.
- Organized one seminar 'Rising Pakistan'.
- Participated in Montreal International Auto Show
- Participated in Montreal international auto show.
- Affordable Shopping Destination (ASD) Market Week (March 11-14, 2018), facilitated the attendance of 6 exhibitors at ASD

Trade Fairs Scheduled in 2019:

Following trade fairs have been scheduled in 2019 to increase exports in Canadian market;

S.#	Event	Year	Country	Product
1.	Sial Food Fair, Montreal	May, 2019	Canada	Agro Food
2.	Apparel Textile Sourcing	Aug, 2019	Canada	Textile and Apparel

109. ***Mr. Junaid Akbar:**

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

- (a) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to develop a separate Sector in Islamabad for Overseas Pakistanis living abroad;*
- (b) *if so, when it will be implemented; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource

Development: (a) There is no proposal under consideration to develop a separate sector in Islamabad for overseas Pakistanis. However, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) is pursuing development of OPF Housing Scheme in Zone-V, Islamabad.

(b) The development of sectors in Islamabad falls under the jurisdiction of Capital Development Authority (CDA).

110. ***Ms. Nusrat Wahid:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government for Human Resource Development in the country during last three years; and*
- (b) the amount allocated for the said purpose alongwith its utilization with head-wise break-up thereof?*

Transferred to Federal Education and Professional Training Division for answer on next Rota Day.

111. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Pakistanis imprisoned in France at present alongwith the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) There are 77 Pakistani Prisoners imprisoned in various jails in France. The breakup of these prisoners in different French cities is as follows:

Name of City	Number of Prisoners
Paris	38
Marseille	14
Lille	09
Lyon	08
Rennes	06
Strasbourg	01
Toulouse	01

The French authorities inform only about the number of the prisoners without giving other details.

(b) Our Mission in France time and again requests complete information regarding Pakistani prisoners. Under French laws, legal assistance to all prisoners is provided by the French government. The prisoners have to complete their sentence before being released. The French government provides legal assistance to all prisoners.

112. ***Mr. Mahesh Kumar Malani:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether private sector has been taken on board in the joint venture being incorporated between Afghanistan and Pakistan?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): There are joint currently between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

113. ***Syed Mehmood Shah:**

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of persons alongwith their posts who belong to Balochistan in Ministry and its attached departments;*
- (b) *the quota of Balochistan against each post;*

- (c) *the number of allocated vacant posts for Balochistan in each pay scale; and*
- (d) *the steps being taken by the Government to fill the above said posts?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): (a) There are 24 officers from BS-17 to 22 and 59 officials from BS-1 to 16 working against Balochistan Quota at present. Break up of filled posts is attached as **Annex-I**.

(b) The recruitment of FSP Cadre officers (BS-17 and above) is done by the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) which fulfils quota requirements as per rules. As per Esta Code, provincial quota is only observed at the time of recruitment/ appointment in the Ministry.

(c) Break-up of filled posts and share of Balochistan quota against each post (BS-1-16)

Sr. No.	Designation / Nomenclature	BPS	Quota against each post	Filled-in Posts
1.	Assistant Private Secretary	16	6.8	9
2.	Assistant	15	10.8	18
3.	Cypher Assistant	15	5.5	5
4.	Stenotypist	14	9.5	8
5.	Communication Assistant	15	1.6	2
6.	UDC	11	2.9	1
7.	LDC	09	8.9	10
8.	Driver	04	9.1	6
Total:			55	59

(d) The Establishment Division has been requested to provide NOC to initiate recruitment process against the vacant posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Once the NOC is received from the Establishment Division, recruitment process will be initiated.

Annex-I**Grade-wise break-up of posts on Balochistan Quota**
BPS 17-22

Sr.	Post	BS	Filled in Posts
1.	Ambassador	22	01
2.	Ambassador	21	01
3.	Ambassadors/Directors General / Minister	20	04
4.	Counsellor/Directors	19	03
5.	First Secretary/Acting Directors / Second Secretary/Deputy Directors	18	09
6.	Third Secretaries/Assistant Directors	17	06
	Total		24

BS 01-16

Sr.	Designation / Nomenclature	BPS	Quota against each post	Filled-in Posts
9.	Assistant Private Secretary	16	6.8	9
10.	Assistant	15	10.8	18
11.	Cypher Assistant	15	5.5	5
12.	Stenotypist	14	9.5	8
13.	Communication Assistant	15	1.6	2
14.	UDC	11	2.9	1
15.	LDC	09	8.9	10
16.	Driver	04	9.1	6
	Total:		55	59

ISLAMABAD:
The 17th January, 2019

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”**For Friday, the 18th January, 2019**

45. **Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitralli:**
(Deferred during 5th Session)

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) the make, model and engine power of Government vehicles presently at the disposal of the Commerce Division and its attached departments/organizations/corporations alongwith the names and Basic Pay Scales of the officers who are using these vehicles; and*
- (b) the expenditure incurred on fuel, repair and maintenance of the said vehicles during the years 2013 to 2018?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) & (b) The reply of the Commerce Division and its attached departments / organizations under the administrative control of Commerce Division is attached.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library).

48. **Mr. Muhammad Aslam Khan:**

Will the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government for the promotion of sports particularly Hockey, Football and Squash as the standards of such games are deteriorating day by day in Sindh particularly in Karachi?

Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (Dr. Fehmida Mirza):
 The Ministry of Sports was devolved under the Devolution Plan in pursuance

of 18th Constitutional Amendment to the Provinces. However, Federal Government, through Pakistan Sports Board provided funds amounting to Rs. 425,672,790/- to Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) during the last five years for promotion of Hockey. Likewise, PSB provided an amount of Rs. 121,429,400/- to Pakistan Squash Federation for the promotion of Squash but performance is deteriorating.

Despite liberal financial grants, the game of Hockey has deteriorated. PHF has been asked to explain reasons of persistent deterioration and downfall as to why performance has gone down? PHF has constituted an inquiry committee. Final response is awaited. In order to inculcate accountability, a forensic audit is being carried out of the selected sports federations including Hockey and Squash.

Recently, the Prime Minister of Pakistan has constituted a Task Force under Mr. Ehsan Mani, Chairman, PCB for recommendations to revamp the sports system of the country. Final recommendations are awaited.

49. Ms. Mussarat Rafiq Mahesar:

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether Pakistan has held talks with the UAE and Saudi Arabia for establishment of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan; if so, the details thereof?

Minister for Foreign Affairs (Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi): We believe peace in Afghanistan is in the best interest of Pakistan. It is essential for Pakistan's socio-economic development. It is high priority of our Government to support Afghan peace process. Pakistan in general and our Prime Minister in particular have maintained for long that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan; an Afghan led and Afghan owned peace and reconciliation process is the only way forward. We are pleased that others have also arrived at this conclusion.

Due to recent developments, a convergence emerged between Pakistan and the US to pursue the political settlement in Afghanistan. President Trump in his letter addressed to Prime Minister Imran Khan recognized Pakistan's important role in fight against Terrorism and sought our cooperation in achieving a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan.

In our view, role of Afghanistan's neighbors and important regional countries is important in ensuring a sustainable peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Therefore, Pakistan is reaching-out to all important regional countries to support Afghan peace process. In this regard our engagements with the regional countries including Saudi Arabia and UAE have been helpful in developing consensus to pursue peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

Pakistan will continue its outreach to neighboring and regional countries to extend support for Afghanistan in its endeavor to bring lasting peace in the country.

ISLAMABAD:
The 17th January, 2019.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.