

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 5th August, 2019

87. ***Syed Mehmood Shah:**
(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether the Ministry or Human Rights Commission for Pakistan have taken the notice of increasing poverty in Balochistan, as it is the responsibility of the state to provide maximum facilities for spending life as enunciated in the fundamental rights provided in the Constitution of Pakistan; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken or taken by the Ministry or Human Rights Commission for Pakistan in collaboration with Federal Government and the provincial Government of Balochistan for the eradication of poverty in Balochistan?*

Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division: (a) Currently 196,088 eligible beneficiaries are being paid by BISP @ Rs. 5000 per quarter in Balochistan. Stipend disbursed to beneficiaries in Balochistan since inception of BISP in 2008 comes to **Rs. 25,846,525,306**. District wise detail of disbursements of UCT stipend in Balochistan is at **Annex-I**. Waseela-e-Taleem Programme of BISP is also providing quarterly stipend @ Rs.750 to eligible children between the ages of 4-12 years encouraging poor households to send their out of school children to primary schools. In Balochistan, BISP has enrolled **72,427** children and disbursed an amount of **Rs. 207,684,000/-** since FY 2012-13. District wise detail of

Waseela-e-Taleem disbursements since start of the Program in 2012-13 in Balochistan is at **Annex-II**.

(b) As above.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

154. ***Mr. Sher Akbar Khan:**
(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state the province-wise function and performance of the National Social Welfare Council funds utilized during the last ten years particularly in District Buner?

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Shafqat Mahmood): ➤ In the wake of 18th Constitutional Amendment, the subject of Social Welfare has been devolved to the Provinces. National Council of Social Welfare (NCSW) is not operating in Provinces. Before devolution, the NCSW did not have any office in the Provinces. After devolution, the NCSW has been restricted to Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and no funds were allocated to NCSW against the Development Schemes for disbursement to Provinces.

➤ However, before devolution NCSW provided grant to Volunteer Social Welfare Agencies (VSWAs) registered under the Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control Ordinance 1961) to strengthening the VSWAs and motivation of community for self-help in improvement of health, education, water and sanitation facilities. The grant was provided through Scrutiny Committee's with involvement of the Provinces Social Welfare Departments. After 2010-11 no grant was given for disbursement to VSWAs.

➤ An amount of Rs.12.644 million was disbursed to Volunteer Social Welfare Agencies to all Pakistan bases during the period under question.

➤ As per NCSW record no grant was given in District Buner during the period under question.

264. ***Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak:**

(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that UNICEF has recently warned about the dangers posed by online violence, cyber bullying and digital harassment for people between the ages of 15 to 24 in Pakistan using Internet;*
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to stop cyber violence against children and youth in our country?*

Transferred to Interior Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

282. ***Ms. Nuzhat Pathan:**

(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister for Climate Change be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan received financial and foreign assistance in connection with various projects of climate change during the last three years;*
- (b) if the answer to part (a) above is affirmative, the detail thereof?*

Minister of State for Climate Change (Ms. Zartaj Gul): (a) Yes.

(b) List of Foreign Funded Projects is placed at **Annex-I**.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

300. ***Ms. Uzma Riaz:**

(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that mismanagement and financial irregularities on larger scale have come to fore in the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) during last ten years;*
- (b) *if so, whether the present Government has prepared any plan of conducting performance audit and financial audit of the BISP and; if so, the details thereof?*

Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety

Division: (a) In this context attention is invited to the following facts:

- a. In last ten years, six printed audit reports for the year from 2011-12 to 2016-17 have been issued by office of the Auditor-General of Pakistan containing sixty five irregularities. These reports have been discussed in DACs/PACs meetings. After due deliberation and compliance, 14 observations have been settled by the PAC. In 33 irregularities, PAC directives have been issued for compliance and remaining 18 paras PAC has not been held till date.
- b. The Draft audit report (Not printed) for the year 2017-18 has been issued having 17 audit paras. DAC meeting has been held on 19-03-2019. The minutes of the meeting are under finalization.

(b) Auditor-General of Pakistan has also conducted Special Audit of BISP for last ten years (Financial year 2008 to 2018) in Aug.-Dec. 2018. Audit team has issued 'forty' initial observations. However, Final report is still awaited from Federal audit. After receipt of the report the observations will be discussed in the DAC.

317. ***Mr. Muhammad Bashir Khan:**
(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state:

- (a) *the Union Council-wise number of beneficiaries of BISP at its inception in District Lower Dir;*

- (b) *Union Council-wise number of persons who were removed from the beneficiaries once enrolled in the list since the inception of the program alongwith justification thereof; and*
- (c) *whether the Government intends to conduct resurvey of the above mentioned District in order to include more deserving persons into the program; if so, when; if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety

Division: (a) Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) was initiated by the Government of Pakistan in October 2008 to help the poorest families to cushion the negative effects of rising prices of food and fuel. In the first phase, identification of the poor families was entrusted to the Parliamentarians (Phase-I) as no such data was available. Forms were distributed among parliamentarians irrespective of political affiliation. In Parliamentarian phase, there were 1,120 beneficiaries in tehsil Samar Bagh, 463 beneficiaries in tehsil Munda, 485 beneficiaries in tehsil Lal Qilah and 706 beneficiaries in tehsil Balamabat, at the inception of BISP in 2008. Tehsil wise break up is given in the above table.

District	Tehsil	Total Beneficiaries 2008 (Parliamentarian Phase)	Beneficiaries exited after Poverty Score Card survey 2010/11
Dir Lower	Samar Bagh	1,120	654
	Munda	463	259
	Lal Qilah	485	279
	Balamabat	706	444
Total		2,774	1,636

(b) Later, the Government introduced a more sophisticated and objective approach of Poverty Score Card (PSC) based on Proxy Means Test (PMT). Hence beneficiary identification through Parliamentarians was stopped on 30th April, 2009 and a door to door survey based on international best practice, using the Poverty Score Card was conducted in 2010/11.

An exit strategy at the time of switch from Parliamentary Phase to Poverty Score Card (PSC) survey 2010/11 was adopted as per following decision of the 6th meeting of BISP Board:

“The cut-off score was fixed at 16.17 and in order to implement transition, *i.e.* to stop the payment to those who are not identified in the new format and inform them in writing accordingly about the determination of their poverty status.”

Based on the information provided in survey 2010/11, the Poverty Score Card generates a poverty score for surveyed households and a household below the cut off score of 16.17 is considered as “eligible” for cash grants by BISP. The cash benefit is provided to adult ever married women possessing a valid CNIC within an “eligible” household.

Under the PSC survey, in Tehsil Samar Bagh 654 out of 1,120, in tehsil Munda 259 out of 463, in tehsil Lal Qilah 279 out of 485 and in tehsil Balambat 444 out of 706 females could not become beneficiaries under the PSC survey. Hence, they may be treated as removed/exited form the programme.

(c) In this regard it is intimated that resurvey/ national rollout in the entire country including **District Dir Lower**, which falls in Cluster-4, is planned under National Socio Economic Registry. Hiring of firm for Clusters 2, 3 & 4 is under Technical Evaluation phase. After award of contract the firm will have to complete survey in 180 days.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

47. ***Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state the steps, being taken by the Government to improve performance of Higher Education Commission (HEC) alongwith the number of Ph. D degree holders who have been provided jobs as per the promise of Chairman HEC?

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Shafqat Mahmood): Higher Education Commission (HEC) continues to take elaborate steps to improve the performance and standards of all public &

private sector universities/ Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) across the country. HEC achievements and detail is attached at **Annex-I**.

A total of **4337** fresh PhDs have been provided jobs under “Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs Program (IPFP)” since 2009. Year-wise breakup is as under:

Year	Placements
2009-10	115
2010-11	300
2011-12	389
2012-13	485
2013-14	499
2014-15	503
2015-16	563
2016-17	527
2017-18	431
2018-19	525
Total	4337

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

48. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state what is the status of the Poverty Survey in BISP?

Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division: BISP survey has started and is being conducted through a schedule planned to cover all areas across Pakistan in a gradual manner. Some areas have been covered and rest would be covered later. The survey is expected to be completed by end of 2019-20 after validation subject to NOCs.

49. ***Ms. Rubina Irfan:**

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:

- (a) *the quota of Medical Seats of Balochistan in the country; and*
- (b) *what is the criteria of distribution of the seats?*

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Shafqat Mahmood): (a) A total of 467 (Four hundred and sixty seven) Medical Seats for Balochistan are reserved in Medical Universities in the country. The Institution-wise breakup is attached at Annex-I.

(b) As per PM&DC “Admission Regulation 2019 as amended on 30th May, 2019” under Section 6 (5) the students domiciled in a particular province or region shall have first preference to public sector medical and dental colleges located in such province or region upto 90% of the total seats, including special category seats, in such college. The remaining 10% of the seats shall be available to students irrespective of their domicile.

Provided there shall be no restriction of domicile or preference on any seat of any private medical or dental college.

Annex-I**UNIVERSITY-WISE BREAKUP QUOTA OF MEDICAL SEATS OF BALOCHISTAN**

S.No	Name & University	Category	Seats
1	Bahria University, Islamabad	Medical & Dental	2
2	Baqai Medical University, Karachi	Medical & Dental	1
3	Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences, Quetta	Medical & Dental	224
4	Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi	Medical & Dental	3
5	Fatima Jinnah Medical University, Lahore.	Medical	5
6	Foundation University, Islamabad	Medical	0
7	Gandhara University, Peshawar	Medical & Dental	Not responded
8	Hamdard University, Karachi	Medical & Dental	Not responded
9	Isra University, Hyderabad	Medical & Dental	Not responded
10	Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Karachi	Medical	1
11	Khyber Medical University, Peshawar	Medical & Dental	64
12	King Edward Medical University, Lahore.	Medical	2
13	Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro	Medical & Dental	6
14	National University of Medical Science (NUMS), Rawalpindi	Medical	73
15	Peoples University of Medical & Health Sciences, Nawabshah	Medical	2
16	Riphah International University, Islamabad	Medical & Dental	1
17	Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University, Larkana	Medical	6
18	Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Medical University, Islamabad	Medical	5
19	Superior College, Lahore.	Medical	0

20	The Aga Khan University, Karachi	Medical	0
21	University of Faisalabad	Medical & Dental	2
22	University of Gujrat, Gujrat.	Medical	2
23	University of Health Sciences, Lahore	Medical & Dental	68
24	University of Sargodha, Sargodha.	Medical	0
25	Zia-Uddin Medical University, Karachi	Medical & Dental	0
Total			467

50. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state whether Rahim Yar Khan is beneficiary of the Benazir Income Support Programme including the cash financial assistance for the needy women?

Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division: Yes, Rahim Yar Khan is beneficiary of BISP including cash financial assistance for the needy women. Following table shows the number of beneficiaries receiving BISP Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) (Rs. 5,000/ per quarter per beneficiary) and Conditional Cash Transfer (Rs. 750 per child per quarter paid to the mother who must be a UCT beneficiary) in Rahim Yar Khan.

District	Beneficiaries UCT	Children from Waseela-e- Taleem (CCT)
Rahim Yar Khan	147,730	217,243

51. ***Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz:**

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:

- (a) *what steps have been taken to ensure implementation of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012;*
- (b) *have the rules, framed under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012, been notified; and*
- (c) *what administrative and legal measures have been taken to protect children from maltreatment and corporal punishment in schools (public and private) and madarassas?*

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Shafqat Mahmood): (a) The Federal Directorate of Education, Islamabad has been implementing Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan *i.e.* The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012 in letter and spirit since its promulgation. The following steps have so far been taken in this regard:-

- Education Advisory Council has been constituted to oversee Implementation of Act.
- Academic Authority has been established to perform functions defined in the Act.
- Admission Policy of FDE has been reviewed and amended as per provision of Act.
- The admission procedure has been simplified as well as documentary requirements condoned.
- Charging school fee/funds from the students have been discontinued since November, 2013 in all the educational institutions under FDE.
- Free textbooks are being provided to students from Class-I to Class-X.
- School Management Committees (SMCs) have been constituted in all the schools/ colleges for effective and meaningful participation of the local community in the educational affairs of the students.
- Age limit for admission to Class-I has been extended from 5 years to 6 1/2 years.
- Addressing access related issues of the students, transport facilities have been provided to the students through provision of 200 school buses to the educational institutions under PMERP.

(b) No such specific rules were framed by FDE under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012, however free education is being provided to the students in compliance with the act. An Implementation Unit for Article 25-A was created in defunct CA&DD under the supervision of Joint Secretary (Education).

(c) Consequent upon a number of complaints registered in FDE, Islamabad reporting specific instances of award of “Corporal Punishment” to children by the teaching staff/Head Teachers in the educational institution, this Directorate re-iterated the earlier instruction conveyed for protection of children against Corporal Punishment guaranteed as fundamental rights in Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as per detail given below:—

All Area Education Officers (AEOs), Heads of Institution and the teaching and non-teaching staff employed in the schools/colleges of FDE shall make necessary provision and take every step for the protection of children against corporal punishment by any person which would include any type of punishment using physical force and intended to cause certain degree of pain or discomfort, however light it might be involving hitting, smacking, slapping, spanking a child with hand(s) or with an implement (a whip, stick, belt, shoe, wooden spoon etc.), kicking, shaking or throwing a child, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair or boxing/twisting ears, forcing a child to stay in uncomfortable position, burning, scolding or forced ingestion (for example washing a child’s mouth with soap or forcing him to swallow hot spice) and other non-physical forms of punishment which are cruel and degrading such as, but not limited to, punishment(s) which belittles, humiliates, denigrates, scapegoats, threatens, scares or ridicules the child.

Every child has the right to be shown respect for his/her personality and individuality and shall not be made subject to corporal punishment or any other humiliating or degrading treatment. Disciplinary measures concerning the child can only be taken in accordance with the child’s dignity and under no circumstances corporal punishment or punishment which relate to the child’s physical and mental development or which may affect the child’s emotional state be tolerated by FDE in future and shall be treated as “misconduct” on the part of concerned Civil Servant for proceeding against him/her in accordance with the relevant provisions contained in the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1964 and Government Servants (E&D) Rules, 1973.

52. ***Ms. Naz Baloch:**

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what steps have been taken to resolve the salary issue of the media employees?

Minister for Information and Broadcasting: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting realizes the sensitivity of the non-payment of salaries to media employees and has been keen to resolve it. In this regard matter pronged strategy was adopted.

Firstly, the issue was taken up with the representative bodies of the media including All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) and Pakistan Broadcasters' Association (PBA).

Secondly, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (M/o I&B) / Press Information Department (PID) have also expedited the payment of outstanding dues of media industry pending with the Federal Government. In this connection, a payment of **PKR 1,344,970,990/-** (Rupees one billion three hundred forty-four million nine hundred seventy thousand nine hundred ninety only) (**Print & Electronic Media**) **Annex-I**, has been verified / recommended for payment by PID during the period from 18-08-2018 to 30-06-2019. This includes bills submitted earlier as well as during the mentioned period.

Lastly, in order to ensure that the said amount will be spent to pay the arrears of salary of media employees, an undertaking to this effect, has been taken from APNS. Copy of the undertaking is enclosed at **Annex-II**.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

53. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Establishment Division be pleased to state:

- (a) date-wise number of applications, alongwith names of applicants, submitted for different educational stipends and fee reimbursement in Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds since 1st January, 2019;*
- (b) number of applications, alongwith names of applicants, which have been accepted for stipend including date of submission of each application;*
- (c) number of applications, alongwith names of applicants, which have been rejected alongwith reasons thereof;*

- (d) *number of applications, alongwith names of applicants, which are lying pending alongwith date of submission of each application and reasons of its pendency; and*
- (e) *what steps are being taken to clear all the pending applications?*

Minister In-charge of the Establishment Division: (a) Collectively 18259 applications for fee reimbursement and educational stipend were received from 1st January 2019 to 30th June 2019 in all three Regional Boards of Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds (FEB & G1F). Detail of date-wise number of applications alongwith names of applicants of educational stipend and fee reimbursement received in each Regional Board is as under:

- (i) 11,261 applications were received in Regional Board, Islamabad **(Annex-A)**.
- (ii) 5,334 applications were received in Regional Board, Lahore **(Annex-B)**.
- (iii) 1,664 applications were received in Regional Board, Karachi **(Annex-C)**.

(b) Detail of applications alongwith name of applicants which have been sanctioned by three Regional Boards during the period is as under:

- (i) 10,687 applications were sanctioned in Regional Board, Islamabad **(Annex-D)**.
- (ii) 4,689 applications were sanctioned in Regional Board, Lahore **(Annex-E)**.
- (iii) 1,129 applications were sanctioned in Regional Board, Karachi **(Annex-F)**.

(c) Detail of applications alongwith names of applicants which have been rejected by three Regional Boards are as under:

- (i) 3,301 applications were rejected in Regional Board, Islamabad **(Annex-G)**.

- (ii) 67 applications were rejected in Regional Board, Lahore **(Annex-H)**.
- (iii) 149 applications were rejected in Regional Board, Karachi **(Annex-I)**.

(d) Detail of applications, with names of applicants, which are pending in three Regional Boards are as under:

- (i) 1,386 applications are pending in Regional Board, Islamabad **(Annex-J)**.
- (ii) 134 applications are pending in / Regional Board, Lahore **(Annex-K)**.
- (iii) 386 applications are pending in Regional Board, Karachi **(Annex-L)**.

The reasons for delay in sanctioning of claims are as under:

- i. Receipt of huge number of cases on announcement of annual results. Inflow of cases is increased in the start and mid of each academic year which mostly starts in July and January of each year.
- ii. Incomplete / deficient cases are sent by the employees / departments, which amount to about 60% of the total receipt. it causes delay due to extended correspondence with applicants for removal of objections.
- iii. Late as well as incomplete replies to the queries raised by this office from the employees / departments (*of the applicants*) further delay the settlement of applications.
- iv. Every year an amount of about Rs. 1.2 billion is disbursed on account of educational stipend / fee reimbursement, Scrutiny of the applications along with required authentic documents is a time consuming process which is unavoidable in order to check any fraudulent / duplicate payment.

- v. Applicants submit claims of fee reimbursement of fee twice in a year *i.e. for two semesters separately*. Whereas, under Rule 25-A of FEB & GIF Rules, 1972 (copy attached), “*fee shall be reimbursed on annual basis*” (means that fee is reimbursed after completion / passing of two semesters in an academic year). Thus such cases are returned to the employees for re-submission of applications for reimbursement of fee after completion of academic year.
- (e) Following steps have been taken to clear the pending applications:
- i. The applicants are sensitized about submission of cases on annual basis under Rule 25-A of FEB & GIF Rules, 1972 after completion of two semesters.
 - ii. Scrutiny of the cases has been started at the time of submission and the incomplete / deficient claims are being returned at spot to the applicants for removing objections / deficiencies.
 - iii. Prescribed application forms have been revised for the better understanding of the beneficiaries to curtail number of incomplete cases.
 - iv. Separate officer for sanctioning of fee reimbursement cases has been deputed in Regional Board, Islamabad where about 70% of all the claims are received.
 - v. After in process approval of revised FEB & GIF Service Rules, the process for fresh recruitment will be started to overcome shortage of staff to handle work load increasing every year.
 - vi. The FEB & GIF is keeping its user friendly website <http://www.febgif.gov.pk> Default.aspx updated regularly which provides all information regarding filling and submission of complete application forms with required documents.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

54. ***Ms. Naz Baloch:**

Will the Minister for Aviation Division be pleased to state why the international flights from Karachi are declining day by day?

Minister for Aviation Division (Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan): 1. The international airlines have been operating to Karachi with almost same number of flights as in the recent past and no decline has been observed rather some airlines have increased their flights to Karachi.

2. However, due to closure of Pakistan airspace from 27th February, 2019, some eastern bound airlines *i.e.* Srilankan Airlines and Thai Airways flights were reduced during the period due economically not viable by the airlines themselves.

3. Both the airlines have now resumed their flights to Karachi from 15th July, 2019 with the opening of the airspace.

55. ***Mr. Saleh Muhammad:**

Will the Minister for Aviation Division be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the previous Government for approval of Mansehra Airport;*
- (b) whether it is a fact that the previous Government had allocated an amount under this head as well; and*
- (c) the intention of the present Government with regard to the said project?*

Minister for Aviation Division (Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan): (a) The Prime Minister issued directives on 7th January, 2014 for the construction / establishment of airport at Mansehra. Thereafter, the District Administration Mansehra proposed site for Mansehra airport in 2014, which is located approximately 27km from city Mansehra at Mozua Swan Mera, Kund and Lograhain Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province. Moreover, CDWP in its meeting held on 4th March 2015 approved the project for acquisition of 1000 acres of land for the purpose of Mansehra Airport at a total cost of Rs. 1.600 Billion. PSDP funds of Rs.450.389 Million were released to Deputy Commissioner, Mansehra for the acquisition of land on 1st August, 2016.

(b) Government of Pakistan made allocation of funds under PSDP for Mansehra Airport Project, as under:—

S. N.	Year	Allocation
1.	2014-15	Rs. 450 Million
2.	2015-16	Rs. 200 Million
3.	2016-17	Nil
4.	2017-18	Rs. 395 Million
5.	2018-19	Nil

(c) During mid-year review meeting of PSDP 2018-19 held in Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning Development & Reform, Government of Pakistan on 25th January, 2019, it was decided to withdraw all payment made to DC Mansehra in respect of dropped project “**Acquisition of Land for Construction of Airport at Mansehra**”.

56. ***Dr. Nafisa Shah:**

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state what steps are being taken to upgrade and enhance Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur?

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Shafqat Mahmood): A total 16 (Sixteen) development Projects have been approved, costing Rs. 179 billion, for upgradation and strengthening of Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU), Khairpur by the Government. The list of projects is shown at **Annex-I**.

In addition, HEC has established two (02) sub campuses of SALU at Ghotki and Shandadkot, through its project titled “Establishment of Sub-Campuses of public sector universities at district level”. So for an amount of Rs. 88.50 million to Shahdaddock and Rs. 78.50 million to Ghotki campus have been release.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

57. ***Ms. Mehnaz Akber Aziz:**

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the state owned media to create awareness about key child health, development and protection issues i.e promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for six months and its

continuance till further two years, importance of education and particularly girls education, negative effects of child marriages on the girls and the society, promotion of peace and tolerance among children as well as youth and promotion of the rights of the child?

Minister for Information and Broadcasting: Pakistan Television exclusively telecasts programs on child health care, development and protection issues, importance of breastfeeding for first six months to 2 years of age, female education and empowerment, repercussions of child marriage on the girls and society, child behavior and tolerance along with rights of the youth and child. These issues are being promoted through various in house and outdoor programs. Special reports and promos are produced and aired either on special occasions or in general. Following is the list of programs that cover the above mentioned issues as essential part of their content.

S#.	Title	Duration	Frequency	Issues covered
1.	Subah-e-Nou	90mts	05days	Child Health, Development & Protection, Importance of Breast Feeding, Child Marriage
2.	45 Minutes	50mts	02days	Importance of education for girls, child marriage impacts on girls
3.	Meri Awaz	25mts	02days	Child Health, Development & Protection, Importance of Breast Feeding, Child Marriage
4.	Youth Talk	25mts	02days	Importance of education for girls, child marriage impacts on girls
5.	Special Reports	5-10mts		Child Health, Development & Protection, Importance of Breast Feeding, Child Marriage Importance of education for girls, child marriage impacts on girls

Furthermore, PTV News provides coverage to the government activities over the above mentioned issues through Live cuts and news bulletins.

58. ***Ms. Rubina Irfan:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state what criteria and mechanism of delivery have been set under Ehsas Programme for the remotest areas of Pakistan, especially in Balochistan, lacking the facility of Bank or Post Office?

Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division:

BISP

The Ehsaas Programme is for the needy with the lowest Poverty Scores. The programme is for all areas of Pakistan including Balochistan. Innovative ways are being used to deliver services to the remotest areas e.g. using polio teams that are most well mobilized and have an outreach to the poorest regions.

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund Response:

• **Selection of Target Areas:**

- Districts with low socio-economic indicators, high food insecurity and social sector investments by PPAF. Presently PPAF is covering 45 districts and 442 UCs all over the country including AJK and Gilgit Baltistan.
- Low or no coverage by conventional microfinance.
- The loans are being provided mostly in the rural areas of these districts.

• **Mechanism of Delivery:**

- Presently PPAF is working with 24 partner organizations, who implement the interest free loan program at grass root level through 291 loan centers including 27 in Balochistan.

59. ***Ms. Munawara Bibi Baloch:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state the steps, being taken by the Government to make the Zakat Policy more effective during the last three years?

Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Under Ehsaas Programme the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division was created on 4th April, 2019. The objective is to address current fragmentation. BISP, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Zakat, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Trust for Voluntary Organization, Center for Social Entrepreneurship, and secretariats of the Poverty Alleviation Coordination Council are now under the administrative control of this division.

2. The organizations are being revamped with introduction of governance policy and IT based delivery of social security services in a totally transparent manner. The one-window social protection operation is designed to assist beneficiaries and to reduce duplication and abuse of the social security interventions by unscrupulous elements. Software is being procured that will ensure that the deserving are provided with assistance in a transparent and honourable and dignified manner. Each organization will deliver services to the deserving as per its area of expertise.

3. As a consequence of 18th constitutional amendment the subject of Zakat has been devolved to the Provinces/federal Areas. The Central Zakat Council (Apex Body) had ceased to exist *w.e.f* 07-12-2010. Accordingly the subject of Zakat has been deleted from the Federal Legislative List. Being domain of the Provinces, the Provinces are now fully empowered to devise new Zakat programmes, make disbursements under their own Zakat Act/ Laws.

4. The Federal Government in consensus with all the Stakeholders is responsible for Collection of Zakat and its in bulk distribution in accordance with the formula approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI). (ANNEX-I).

5. On the commencement of each Financial Year, the Federal Government makes in bulk disbursement to the Provinces/ Federal Areas in

accordance with the Zakat Distribution Formula approved by the Council of common Interests (CCI) after approval of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

6. The formulation of new policies and steps to improve and make the Zakat system more effective, is the domain of Provinces being devolved subject.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

60. ***Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state the details of Ehsas Programme alongwith the names of the districts of Sindh where the said programme has been launched?

Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division:

BISP

The BISP Registry that targets the poorest covers every region of the country and disbursements are regularly being made for all those falling in the lowest income Poverty score card between zero and 16.18 including all of Sindh.

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

Response:

- At present Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Funds is implementing Interest Free Loan (IFL), in following 11 districts of Sindh;
 - o Badin
 - o Dadu
 - o Ghotki
 - o Karachi (Rural)
 - o Kashmore
 - o Khairpur
 - o Sajawal
 - o Sanghar
 - o Shikarpur
 - o Tharparkar
 - o Thatha

61. ***Mr. Saad Waseem:**

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether the Government has taken notice that cellular companies (licencee) could not extend 3 & 4 G technology, as per the mutually agreed upon time-frame, across the country; if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *whether Government intends to invoke relevant clause(s) of the agreement to make cellular companies accountable for not extending 3 & 4 G technology; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof; and*
- (c) *what steps are being taken by the Government to pursue the cellular companies, as per the agreement, to extend the services of 3G and 4G technology?*

Transferred to Cabinet Division for answer on Next Rota Day.

62. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

Will the Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state the steps, being taken by the Government for social safety and poverty alleviation from the country alongwith the detail of cities that would be included in the Ehsas Programme of the Government?

Minister In-charge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division: BISP The Ehsaas programme is a social security scheme for the poor with lowest scores where ever they are located. All cities, towns villages are covered by BISP Poverty Score Card.

**Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
Response:**

At present Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Funds does not work in the cities. It only works in the rural areas of the districts with low socio economic indicators and high food insecurity.

63. ***Ms. Munawara Bibi Baloch:**

Will the Minister for Climate Change be pleased to state the present Government's strategy to date regarding adverse impact of climate change on the agriculture sector of Pakistan?

Minister of State for Climate Change (Ms. Zartaj Gul): Climate Change is considered as one of the most perilous phenomenon and a biggest challenge being faced by the world today and no country including Pakistan is an exception to it. Pakistan due to its geographic location and poor resource base is amongst the countries which are most vulnerable to the vagaries of climate and the agriculture is one of the major sectors being affected by it. To define a strategy in tackling the adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture is the mandate of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. However, Ministry of Climate Change is well linked up with Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) in providing every possible support in the areas of research, project development and partnership for joint implementation and agriculture related climate change actions and negotiations.

For example, Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), a dedicated research institute for climate change studies in the country and serving as a research arm of the Ministry of Climate Change, is doing research to assess the impacts of projected climatic changes on Agriculture Sector. For the impact assessment studies, various crop simulation and water management models are being employed. Projections indicate that average temperature over Pakistan will increase in the coming decades at a pace faster than that of the average global temperature and may exceed by about 1°C by the end of this century. Studies carried out at GCISC point towards yield losses and reduced growing cycles in the various climatic zones of the country under the influence of increasing temperatures. The water security of the country is also threatened by the climate change which further accentuates the food insecurity concerns. Comprehensive studies carried out at the Centre to assess the impact of climate change, on various crops in different climatic zones of the country using crop simulation models reveal that Wheat crop yield will be reduced by 3.4-12.5%, in Semi-arid irrigated areas (like Faisalabad, Sheikhpura), 3.8- 14.5% in arid areas (like Hyderabad, Badin, Bahawalpur, Multan) and more than 16% in rainfed (Chakwal) areas under different climate change scenarios towards the end of the century. Similarly. Rice yields are expected to decline by 12- 22% under different climate change scenarios by the end of the century.

The growing season length of these crops will also be shortened resulting in significant decline in yields. Studies also reflect an increase in net crop water requirements owing to the increase in temperatures. Such likely yield reductions call for adaptation measures to protect/increase the yield. Some adaptation measures like increased rate of fertilizer application, use of higher seed rate, 3-split application of fertilizer, change in sowing window, improved scheduling of irrigation and dry sowing of rice have been evaluated and have shown promise to maintain yield to a certain extent.

Similarly, Ministry of Climate Change is also well engaged with MNFSR on the prospects of climate smart agriculture in Pakistan and in this context is also leading the most recently awarded project by Green Climate Fund to Pakistan on “Transforming the Indus Basin with Climate Resilient Agriculture and Climate-Smart Water Management”.

ISLAMABAD:
The 4th August, 2019

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”

For Monday, the 5th August, 2019

60. **Ms. Shazia Marri:**
(Deferred during 7th Session)

Will the Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state:

- (a) the date of appointment of Senior Executive Director Media Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority;*
- (b) whether applications were invited for said post through advertisement; if so, the details thereof;*
- (c) the details of committee constituted to shortlist and recommend a suitable candidate;*
- (d) if so, the names of member of said committee; and*
- (e) the names of candidates who were short listed for the said post?*

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: (a) The appointment concerned was made on December 23, 2016.

(b) Yes. The Post of Senior Executive Director (Corporate & Media Affairs) was advertised in the national Newspapers *i.e.* Daily Dawn (Combined) and Daily Express (Combined) on November 14, 2016.

(c) The applications were initially opened and scrutinized by Mr. Muhammad Asad Latif, Joint Executive Director (Admn/PR) and later examined by Mr. Sarmad Aslam, Secretary OGRA/ In-charge-HR, as per the directions of the Authority, in the light of advertised criteria. A total of 18 applications were received out of which 05 candidates were found meeting

the requisite advertised criteria and shortlisted for interview. Accordingly, they were called for interview by the Departmental Selection & Promotion Committee *i.e.* the Authority comprising the following:

- i. Ms. Uzma Adil Khan, Chairperson
 - ii. Mr. Aamir Naseem, Member (Gas)
 - iii. Mr. Noorul Haque, Member (Finance)
- (d) As provided in Sr. # c above.
- (e) The following five (05) candidates were shortlisted.
- i. Mr. Nazeer Ahmed
 - ii. Mr. Muhammad Idrees Mirza
 - iii. Mr. Imran Ghazvani
 - iv. Mr. Khurram Ali
 - v. Syed Imran Ahmed Shah

103. **Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**
(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication be pleased to state the total number of telephone connections provided at the residences of Government Officers in Sector F-6/1, Islamabad during the last five years by the National Telecommunication Company?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui): The total number of telephone connection provided at residences of Government Officers in Sector F-6/1, Islamabad during the last five years by the National Telecommunication Corporation are detailed as under:—

Year	Connection
2014	04
2015	03
2016	01

Year	Connection
2017	05
2018	03
2019	01
Total:	17

Before the year 2014, total working Government connections in the sector were 44, summarized working connections status is as under:

a. Government working telephone connections before year 2014	44
b. Addition in telephone connections in last 5 years	17
Grand Total:	61

18. **Ms. Maiza Hameed:**

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state how much money has been given to different media groups during the last year by the Government?

Minister for Information and Broadcasting: PRINT MEDIA: An amount of **PKR 657,880,657/-** (One hundred thirteen million fifty six thousand two hundred seven only) has been paid on account of print media advertisements of the Federal Government during the period of incumbent Government, *i.e.* from 18-08-2018 to 30-06-2019 through Press Information Department (PID).

ELECTRONIC MEDIA: During the period in question, bills amounting to **PKR 235,932,902/-** (Two hundred thirty-five million nine hundred thirty-two thousand nine hundred two only) has been sponsored / recommended for payments by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) **(Annex-I)**.

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

19. **Ms. Maiza Hameed:**

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state how many universities are providing transport services and how many have withdrawn the same?

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Shafqat Mahmood): A total of 122 universities/ Degree Awarding Institutions (DAIs) are providing transport services to the students and only one university *i.e.* Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agriculture University, Peshawar has withdrawn transport services due to security reasons.

Note: A Total of 204 universities/ DAIs are in the country. The data from 145 universities/ DAIs have been received. The remaining data is being compiled and will be provided shortly.

20. **Begum Tahira Bukhari:**

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state whether it is a fact that education emergency has almost failed; if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Shafqat Mahmood): 1. After 18 Amendment in the Constitution, the subject of education has been devolved to Provinces. Article 25-A of the Constitution guarantees the right to education for all children of the age from 5-16 years. The following steps are being taken by the Federal and Provincial Governments under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education, Act, 2012:

- (i) Totally subsidized / free education.
- (ii) Mainstreaming Out of School Children (OOSC) aged 5-16 years.
- (iii) Infrastructural facilities to existing educational institutions.
- (iv) School Management Committees to further cement the School-community bond.
- (v) Education Advisory Council to oversee Implementation of Act.

(vi) Academic Authority for quality education.

2. The Government has not declared any education emergency in the country due to which the question of failure of emergency policy does not arise.

21. **Mr. Abdul Shakoor:**

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether the Ministry is consulting the provinces to introduce uniform education system in the country; if so, the detail of consultation conducted by the present Government in this regard and opinion of provinces thereupon;*
- (b) *whether the Ministry has taken notice that the Bureau of Curriculum Development, Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has removed the chapters regarding KHATM-E-NABUWAT from the curriculum of Islamyat of Grade-IV; if so, the steps being taken by the Federal Government, in this regard, in consultation with the Provincial Government?*

Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training (Mr. Shafqat Mahmood): (a) National Curriculum was constituted under the Chairmanship of Federal Minister for Education with the representative of provincial education Minister, provincial education secretaries, Head of provincial curriculum wings.

Two meetings of the committee have been held where the idea of uniform education was discussed at length.

On the forum of Inter Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) a detail presentation was made to all the federating units.

At the moment National Curriculum Council, Secretariat is in the process of developing Uniform National Curriculum from grade pre-I to V. The same will be shared with provinces for their input.

The final draft for Uniform Curriculum pre-I to V will be presented in meetings of National Curriculum and later on in the meeting of Inter Provincial Education Minister Conference (IPEMC).

After having the consensus from all the stakeholders, same will be implemented in the country.

(b) The Bureau of Curriculum, Education Department KPK has been asked to respond on this issue. As and when the reply will be received from KPK Government, the same would be presented in the Parliament.

22. **Mr. Junaid Akbar:**

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the post of Director Programme is lying vacant in Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Radio Pakistan) for a long time, causing difficulties;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the eligible officer is not promoted to the said post; if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (c) *if answer to parts (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, the time by which the post will be filled by promoting the eligible officer?*

Minister for Information and Broadcasting: (a) The post of Director Programmes in PBC has fallen vacant since 15-01-2019 due to the retirement of Mr. Layaq Zada Layaq, Director Programmes.

The post of Director Programmes is a selection post in M-III Grade which is filled in by selection from amongst the senior most Controllers (Programmes). However, the post could not be filled as the revised criteria for appointment to the said post was under consideration of the Govt. The criteria for appointment (by promotion) to the post of Director Programmes in PBC has recently been notified *vide* order, dated 13-03-2019.

The case of eligible Controller (Programme) of PBC for appointment (by promotion) to the post of Director Programmes is under process. The Ministry shall hold a meeting of Selection Board soon to consider the appointment (by promotion) of senior most Controllers to the post of Director Programmes in PBC. The recommendations of the Selection Board will be sent to the Establishment Division for consideration/onward submission to the Prime Minister for final approval. It shall be done in due course of time.

ISLAMABAD:
The 4th August, 2019.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.