بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

Monday, the 17th August, 2026

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6. **Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan**

Secretary
Mr. Saeed Ahmad Maitla

Advisor (Legislation, Parliamentary Proceedings and Training)
Mr. Muhammad Mushtaq

Senior Director General (Proceedings)
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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN
(ASSEMBLY DEBATES)

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Monday, the 17th August, 2026

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The National Assembly of Pakistan met in the National Assembly Hall (Parliament House) Islamabad, at 05:11 p.m. with the honourable Speaker (Sardar Ayaz Sadiq) in the Chair.

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RECITATION FROM THE HOLY QUR`AN

اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطٰنِ الرَّجِيْمِ۔ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ۔

اِنَّ اللّٰهَ وَمَلٰٓئِكَتَهٗ يُصَلُّوْنَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ ؕ يٰٓاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا صَلُّوْا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوْا تَسْلِيْمًا ﴿۵۶﴾ اِنَّ الَّذِيْنَ يُؤْذُوْنَ اللّٰهَ وَرَسُوْلَهٗ لَعَنَهُمُ
اللّٰهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْاٰخِرَةِ وَاَعَدَّ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا مُّهِيْنًا ﴿۵۷﴾ وَالَّذِيْنَ يُؤْذُوْنَ الْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنٰتِ بِغَيْرِ مَا اكْتَسَبُوْا فَقَدِ احْتَمَلُوْا
بُهْتَانًا وَّاِثْمًا مُّبِيْنًا ﴿۵۸﴾

(سورۃالاحزاب،آیات:56تا58)

[ترجمہ: پناہ مانگتا ہوں میں اللہ کی شیطان مردود سے۔ شروع اللہ کے نام سے جو بڑا مہربان نہایت رحم فرمانے والا ہے۔
بے شک اللہ اور اس کے فرشتے نبیؐ پر درود بھیجتے ہیں۔ اے ایمان والو! تم بھی انؐ پر درود بھیجو، اور خوب سلام بھیجا کرو۔ جو لوگ اللہ اور اس کے رسولؐ کو تکلیف پہنچاتے ہیں، اللہ نے دنیا اور آخرت میں ان پر لعنت کی ہے، اور ان کے لیے ایسا عذاب تیار کر رکھا ہے جو ذلیل کر کے رکھ دے گا۔ اور جو لوگ مومن مردوں اور مومن عورتوں کو ان کے کسی جرم کے بغیر تکلیف پہنچاتے ہیں، انہوں نے بہتان طرازی اور کھلے گناہ کا بوجھ اپنے اوپر لاد لیا ہے۔]

RECITATION OF HADITH

عَنْ أَنَسٍ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، قَالَ: يَسِّرُوا وَلَا تُعَسِّرُوا، وَبَشِّرُوا وَلَا تُنَفِّرُوا.

[ترجمہ: حضرت انس بن مالک رضی اللہ تعالیٰ عنہ، رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ والہ وسلم سے روایت کرتے ہیں کہ آپ صلی اللہ علیہ والہ وسلم نے ارشاد فرمایا، آسانی کرو اور سختی نہ کرو اور خوش کرو اور نفرت نہ دلاؤ۔]

RECITATION OF NAAT

بزم کونین سجانے کے لیے آپ آئے

شمع توحید جلانے کے لیے آپ آئے

ایک پیغام جو ہر دل میں اُجالا کر دے

ساری دنیا کو سنانے کے لیے آپ آئے

NATIONAL ANTHEM

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

جناب سپیکر: اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰہِ مِنَ الشَّیْطٰنِ الرَّجِیْم۔بِسْمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ۔ Panel of Chairpersons.

In pursuance of sub-rule (1) of rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the following Members, in order of precedence are nominated to form a Panel of Chairpersons for this session of the National Assembly of Pakistan:-

1. Mr. Ali Zahid
2. Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel
3. Mr. Riaz Ul Haq
4. Syeda Shehla Raza
5. Syed Amin Ul Haq
6. Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan

2. In the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, National Assembly, the Member having precedence amongst those present at the sitting, shall take the Chair.

FATEHA PRAYERS

جناب سپیکر: میں افسوس کے ساتھ آپ کو اطلاع دینا چاہ رہا ہوں اور دعا کے لیے گزارش کروں گا، ہمارے ممبر قومی اسمبلی محمد اقبال چنڑ صاحب، جن کا تعلق بہاولپور سے تھا وہ انتقال کر گئے ہیں۔ وہ ڈپٹی سپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی ملک ظہیر اقبال صاحب کے والد صاحب تھے۔ ہمارے سابقہ ایم این اے ملک مختار احمد اعوان صاحب اور محترمہ فوزیہ حبیب صاحبہ بھی انتقال کر گئی ہیں۔ سابق رکن قومی اسمبلی محترمہ بیگم نفیسہ خالد صاحبہ بھی انتقال کر گئی ہیں۔ ہمارے sitting ممبر بیرسٹر گوہر علی خان صاحب کی والدہ صاحبہ انتقال فرما گئی ہیں۔ سید وسیم حسین صاحب کی والدہ صاحبہ بھی انتقال کر گئی ہیں۔ طاہرہ اورنگزیب صاحبہ کے بہنوئی انتقال کر گئے ہیں۔ بلوچستان اسمبلی کے سپیکر عبدالخالق خان اچکزئی صاحب کے نوجوان صاحبزادے میرے

خیال میں 21، 22 سال ان کی عمر تھی، ان کا انتقال ہو گیا ہے۔ کوٹ ادو میں 15 لوگ نہر میں ڈوب کے اللہ تعالیٰ کو پیارے ہو گئے ہیں۔ 35 مزدور بلوچستان میں کوئلے کی کان میں گیس کے دھماکے کی وجہ سے اللہ تعالیٰ کو پیارے ہو گئے ہیں۔

حالیہ دنوں میں دہشت گردی کے واقعات میں فتنہ الخوارج کے ساتھ لڑائی میں ہماری افواج، پولیس، دیگر قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کے متعدد افسران، civilians بشمول میجر حافظ احسان الٰہی صاحب اور کیپٹن حمزہ اکرم جام شہادت نوش کر گئے ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ جو بھی کوئی اس طرح کے واقعات ہوئے ہیں جس کا ہمیں علم نہیں ان سب کی۔ دعا کے لیے میں حافظ نعمان صاحب سے گزارش کروں گا۔

(دعائے مغفرت کی گئی)

CONDOLENCE REFERENCE IN HONOUR OF MALIK MUHAMMAD IQBAL (LATE), MNA

جناب سپیکر : میرا خیال ہے چنڑ صاحب 1985ء سے Member صوبائی اسمبلی منتخب ہو رہے تھے اور وہ کبھی بھی اپنا election نہیں ہارے تھے۔ 2018ء اور 2024ء میں بھی National Assembly کے ممبر بنے۔ تو جو ہماری Parliament کی روایت ہے کہ اگر sitting Member انتقال کر جائیں تو ہم Session adjourn کر دیتے ہیں۔ ریاض پیرزادہ صاحب آپ بات کرنا چاہیں گے۔

وزیر برائے مکانات و تعمیرات (میاں ریاض حسین پیرزادہ): بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ۔ جناب سپیکر! شکریہ۔ آج ہم نے ملک اقبال چنڑ صاحب کے لیے دعائے مغفرت بھی کی، اللہ تعالیٰ اُن کو کروٹ کروٹ جنت نصیب کرے، آمین۔ ہمارا دیرینہ ساتھی تھا، سیاست میں کافی نشیب و فراز میں، میں اور وہ اکٹھے رہے۔ جب میں وکالت کرنے بہاولپور گیا اور سیاست میں حصہ لینے لگا، تو ملک صدیق چنڑ صاحب advocate تھے، ان کا بھی chamber ساتھ تھا۔ تو وہاں سے ہماری دوستی شروع ہوئی۔ اور پھر ضلع کونسل کے election میں، جب 1983ء میں میرا بھائی سجاد پیرزادہ Chairman ضلع کونسل بنے تو طارق بشیر چیمہ اور ملک اقبال چنڑ صاحب Member ضلع کونسل تھے اور انہوں نے ہماری حمایت کی۔ اور اس طرح یہ سفر چلتا رہا اور ہر نشیب و فراز میں ملک صاحب ہمیشہ ایک پارٹی میں رہے اور وہ تھی مسلم لیگ۔ میں پیپلز پارٹی میں تھا، اکٹھے رہتے تھے، جب بھی میں نے ان کو کہا مسلم لیگ چھوڑ کر پیپلز پارٹی میں آؤ، تو انہوں نے ہمیشہ مسلم لیگ کو ترجیح دی۔ ہر مشکل وقت میں وہ پارٹی کے ساتھ کھڑے رہے۔

ہمارے سرائیکی علاقے کا headquarter بہاولپور ہے، وہاں پر local آبادیاں، indigenous لوگ، جیسے indigenous لوگوں کے ساتھ ہوتا ہے۔ New Zealand میں، Australia میں، America میں اور یہاں ہندوستان میں بھی جب گورا گیا اور اس نے تمام دراڑیں ڈالیں۔ بنگال میں لکیر کھینچی، مسلمانوں کی اور سکھوں کی لڑائیاں کرائیں، ہر جگہ ایک فساد برپا کیا اور ہمارے aborigines کے ساتھ جب Pacific Ocean سے چھوٹے چھوٹے قبیلے آ کر New Zealand میں settle ہوئے تو پھر ان aborigines کو ختم کیا، Maoris جو تھے وہ New Zealand میں تھے، Australia Aborigines میں تھے، Red

Indians America میں تھے۔ ہمارے ساتھ بھی یہی ہوا جب بہاولپور State merge ہوئی تو لوگوں کے جن کے main ڈاک خانے فیصل آباد، لاہور اور Central Punjab میں تھے، اُن لوگوں کو زمینیں تو ملیں لیکن آہستہ آہستہ وہ ہم پر حاوی ہوتے گئے اور آج وہ وقت آ گیا ہے کہ ہمارا survival مشکل ہو گیا ہے۔ ملک اقبال صاحب سرائیکی علاقے کی نمائندگی کرتے تھے اور بہاولپور شہر سے MNA تھے۔ ان کی پانچ Union Councils شہر کے اندر ہیں۔ پچھلے بلدیاتی election میں ان کا بیٹا ملک منیر اقبال چنڑ advocate سب سے زیادہ ووٹوں کے ساتھ بیٹھا ہوا تھا لیکن وہی Central Punjab اور وہی مرکزی دفاتر میں پھرنے والے لوگ بلاوجہ وہ nominate ہو گئے اور وہ chairman بن گئے۔ ہم سب چپ کر گئے۔

جناب سپیکر! میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ اب وقت آ گیا ہے، اس سے پہلے کہ ہم زیادہ کچھ بولیں، ملک اقبال چنڑ صاحب ہمارے سرائیکی علاقے کی نمائندگی کرتے تھے۔ ان کا بیٹا ملک محمد منیر چنڑ advocate اس وقت اس کی پگ کا وارث ہے اور جناب سپیکر! یہ ہماری دلی خواہش ہے آپ کی معرفت سے کہ ہماری leadership مہربانی کرے اور یہ ticket پگ کے وارث کو ہی دی جائے۔ یہ اور بات ہے کہ لوگ کہتے ہیں کہ وراثتی سیاست کو ختم کیا جائے لیکن وراثتی سیاست کیسے ختم ہو؟ جن لوگوں کی اپنے علاقوں میں عقیدت ہے، جن کی اپنی Union Councils ہیں ان کو کیسے آپ negate کر سکتے ہیں؟ کسی صورت میں بھی یہ negation اچھی نہیں ہو گی۔ پہلے ہی ہم بہت تھوڑی تعداد میں بنتے ہیں، ہمیں blackmail کیا جاتا ہے اور ان افسران کی طرف سے، جو بہت junior ہیں اور ہمارے اضلاع میں لگ جاتے ہیں، جن کی کوئی standing نہیں ہے، کوئی تجربہ نہیں ہے، اُن کو ہمارے علاقوں میں سکھانے کے لیے postings دی جاتی ہیں، وہ افسران جو کسی ادارے کی وردی نہیں پہنتے لیکن اُن اداروں میں کام کرتے ہیں اور ان کی جائیدادوں پر ہر جگہ قبضہ groups ہیں، یہاں پر میں فی الحال کھل کر بات نہیں کر سکتا کیونکہ یہ نظام مصلحتوں کا شکار ہے۔ جب مصلحتوں کا شکار ہوں اور درمیانی راستے ڈھونڈنے پڑیں تو وہ نظام، نظام نہیں ہوتا وہ flop نظام کہلاتا ہے۔ مزہ تو تب ہے کہ سچائی اور انصاف کا بول بالا ہو اور ہم کھل کر سچ بولیں۔ یہ ٹھیک ہے کہ حاکمِ وقت کبھی بھی کسی کو اقتدار نہیں دیتا لیکن اقتدار نہ دینے کا یہ مطلب نہیں کہ سچائی اور انصاف کا دامن چھوڑ دیں۔

تو میری یہ استدعاء اور دعا ہے کہ ملک صاحب اور ان کا خاندان، ہم سب ایک ہیں، میری مکمل حمایت ہے۔ جب ملک صاحب پہلی دفعہ صوبائی اسمبلی کے Member بنے تھے تو وہ میری seat سے بنے تھے، ایک طرف اوپر میں نے ملک فاروق اعظم کو ملت پارٹی کے ticket سے جتوایا تھا اور (ن) لیگ کے ticket پہ یہ نیچے تھے، ہم نے ملت پارٹی کا candidate نہیں دیا تھا اور یہ وہ seat تھی جہاں سے میں 1985ء میں ممبر بنا تھا اور اس وقت سے لے کر آج تک ملک صاحب وہاں پہ نمائندگی کرتے رہے، ان کا چھوٹا بیٹا Member صوبائی اسمبلی ہے اور وہ یہی seat ہے جس سے میں election لڑا کرتا تھا۔ تو میری پورے خاندان کے لیے بہت ساری دعائیں اور بہت ساری محبت، اور اس اسمبلی کے Floor سے ان شاءاللہ میں اُن کے خاندان کی ہمیشہ حمایت کرتا رہوں گا، بڑی مہربانی، شکریہ۔

جناب سپیکر: شکریہ۔ Order in the House کیجئے۔ Please ممبران سے درخواست ہے یا تو Galleries میں بیٹھ کر مل لیجئے یا تشریف رکھیئے۔ یہ جو خواتین Gallery میں کھڑی گفتگو کر رہی ہیں، آواز echo کر رہی ہے۔ ملک عامر ڈوگر صاحب۔

ملک محمد عامر ڈوگر: بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ۔ جناب سپیکر! بہت شکریہ۔ آج یہاں ہم ایک تعزیتی reference سے خطاب اور اپنے مرحومین کے لیے مغفرت کی دعا کر رہے ہیں، خاص طور پر ہمارے ایک sitting MNA ملک اقبال چنڑ صاحب، جن کا گزشتہ دنوں انتقال ہوا، اُن کا تعلق بہاولپور سے تھا، جنوبی پنجاب سے تھا۔ وہ میرے دوست بھی تھے، بڑے بھائی بھی تھے اور ایک طرح سے بزرگ بھی تھے۔ میرے ساتھ وہ رکن صوبائی اسمبلی رہے، پھر میرے والد صاحب کے ساتھ بھی وہ متعدد بار MPA رہے اور میری آخری ملاقات بھی اس budget اجلاس میں، جس دن budget پاس ہونا تھا voting والے دن ہوئی اور میں انہیں پھر ساتھ lobby میں لے گیا، وہاں ہم نے coffee پی، گپ شپ کی، علاج معالجے کی ساری باتیں کیں لیکن زندگی نے وفا نہ کی اور وہ اللہ کو پیارے ہو گئے۔ ہم آج ان کو خراجِ تحسین پیش کرتے ہیں اور ان کے لواحقین کے لیے صبرِ جمیل کی دعا کرتے ہیں، اللہ اُن کو جوارِ رحمت میں جگہ عطا فرمائے۔ مرحوم ایک بڑی باکمال شخصیت کے مالک تھے۔

جناب سپیکر! جہاں ساری زندگی وہ ایک سیاسی party کے ساتھ وابستہ رہے اور بڑی دھڑے کی سیاست کی، انہوں نے ہمیشہ بہاولپور شہر اور جنوبی پنجاب کے لیے، وہاں کے حقوق اور شہر کی تعمیر و ترقی کے لیے اپنا ایک کردار ادا کیا۔ Punjab Assembly میں صوبائی وزیرِ جیل خانہ جات بھی رہے اور وہاں بھی جیلوں کی reforms میں انہوں نے بڑا کام کیا وہ عوامی اور worker آدمی تھے اور یہی اُن کی پہچان تھی۔ آج ان کا بیٹا ظہیر چنڑ Deputy Speaker, Punjab Assembly ہے، میرا چھوٹا بھائی ہے، دعا ہے کہ وہ مرحوم کے اُس mission کو جو عوامی خدمت کا mission تھا، اس کو آگے لے کر چلے۔

اسی طرح ملتان شہر سے، جس seat پر میں آج Member قومی اسمبلی ہوں، ہمارے بزرگ ملک مختار اعوان صاحب اس seat پر منتخب ہوئے تھے، جو 1988ء میں MNA بھی تھے اور وفاقی وزیر محنت و افرادی قوت بھی رہے اور 1970ء کی صوبائی اسمبلی میں صوبائی وزیرِ قانون بھی رہے۔ اُن کا شمار پیپلز پارٹی کے بانی اراکین بھی ہوتا تھا۔ میرے والد مرحوم صلاح الدین ڈوگر صاحب کے دوست تھے، ان کے colleague تھے اور انہوں نے بھی ساری زندگی نظریے اور اصولوں کی سیاست کی، دھڑے کی سیاست کی۔ آج کے اس دور میں جہاں نفسا نفسی کا عالم ہے، کوئی سوچ نہیں، کوئی نظریہ نہیں اور ایک طرح سے power politics اور hybrid نظام چھایا ہوا ہے، ایسے لوگ جو آج ہم میں نہیں ہیں، ملک اقبال چنڑ صاحب یا مختار اعوان صاحب، اس طرح محترمہ فوزیہ حبیب صاحبہ میری آنٹی بھی تھیں، بزرگ تھیں۔ یہ وہ لوگ تھے جنہوں نے اصولوں اور وفا کی سیاست کی۔ تو آج پورا House ان کو خراجِ تحسین بھی پیش کرتا ہے اور دعا گو ہیں کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ان کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا فرمائے اور ہمیں بھی ان اکابرین کے افکار، ان کے راستے پر چلنے کی توفیق دے جنہوں نے سیاست ہمیشہ اصولوں اور نظریے کی بنیاد پر کی۔ بہت شکریہ۔

جناب سپیکر: آمین، شکریہ۔ موسیٰ گیلانی صاحب۔

سید علی موسیٰ گیلانی: بِسْمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ۔ جناب سپیکر! شکریہ۔ میں آپ کے توسط سے اس ایوان میں سب سے پہلے تو اپنی اور بالخصوص Pakistan People's Party کی طرف سے بھی جناب اقبال چنڑ صاحب کی وفات پر گہرے دکھ کا اظہار کرتا ہوں، چونکہ وہ ہمارے جنوبی پنجاب کا ایک بہت پرانا نام تھے ان کی جمہوریت اور electoral politics کے لیے بہت ساری خدمات تھیں، اور وہ ایک ایسا خلا چھوڑ گئے ہیں جس کو میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ان کے بیٹے پنجاب اسمبلی میں بھی اپنا کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں، Deputy Speaker ہیں، ظہیر بھائی، اور اللہ تعالیٰ ان کو صبر دے اور اپنے والد صاحب کے نقش قدم پر چلنے کی توفیق عطا فرمائے۔

ہم تمام جو سیاسی لوگ ہیں، ہمیں ان بزرگوں سے، ان کی خدمات سے سیکھنے کو ملتا ہے۔ یہ ہمارے لیے مشعلِ راہ بنتے ہیں، اور میں بھی اس ایوان میں ان کے لیے تعزیت پیش کرتا ہوں، اپنی اور پارٹی کی طرف سے بھی، اور جنوبی پنجاب کی نمائندگی کرتے ہوئے بھی۔ اور بالخصوص جناب ملک مختار اعوان صاحب، یہ ایک بہت بزرگ تھے ہماری ملتان کی سیاست میں، اور انہوں نے dictatorship کے دوران بہت struggle کی، کوڑے کھائے، جمہوریت اور آئین کے لیے بہت قربانیاں دی تھیں۔ حقیقی معنوں میں وہ ایک worker تھے، 1988 میں جب وہ Minister بنے اور ان کی بھی بے شمار قربانیاں ہیں۔ تو یہ وہ لوگ ہیں جن کو اگر یہ ایوان یاد رکھتا ہے اور ایوان کی کارروائی کا جب یہ حصہ بن جاتے ہیں اور تاریخ یاد رکھتی ہے تو یہ ایک ایسا عمل ہے جو ہمیں جاری رکھنا چاہیئے۔ ملک مختار اعوان صاحب اور فوزیہ حبیب صاحبہ کی محترمہ بینظیر بھٹو صاحبہ کے ساتھ اور Pakistan People's Party کے ساتھ آئینی اور جمہوری وابستگی رہی ہیں۔ تو یہ وہ لوگ ہیں مثالیں اور خدمات ہمیں نہیں بھولنی چاہئیں، اور ان کو ہمیں اپنے لیے example بنا کے، ان پر عمل درآمد کرنا چاہیئے۔ بہت مہربانی، شکریہ۔

جناب سپیکر: ڈاکٹر نثار صاحب۔

جناب نثار احمد: بہت بہت شکریہ، جناب سپیکر صاحب۔ سر! جیسا کہ آپ نے پہلے بھی دعا کرائی، بیرسٹر گوہر صاحب کی والدہ محترمہ کے لیے اور دیگر جو ہمارے فوجی ساتھی اور مزدور بھائی شہید ہوئے، اس کے ساتھ ساتھ specially ہمارے MNA ساتھی ملک اقبال چنڑ صاحب کا انتقال ہوا۔ وہ ہمارے block میں رہتے تھے، تو ہماری بڑی ایک مختصر دورانیے میں ان کے ساتھ ملاقات رہی اور میں ان سے بہت زیادہ متاثر ہوا۔ وہ بڑی ایک سیاسی قدآور شخصیت کے مالک تھے۔ وہ بہاولپور region اور اپنے علاقے کے لیے اچھے خیالات اور جذبات رکھتے تھے۔

اور سب سے بڑی بات ان کی جو مجھے اچھی لگی کہ وہ اپنے حلقۂ احباب میں جس طرح اپنے لوگوں سے رابطے میں تھے، یہ بہت کم سیاست دان ہوتے ہیں جو اس طرح سے رابطے میں رہتے ہیں۔ تو میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ملک اقبال چنڑ صاحب کی جو رخصتی ہے، وہ بہاولپور کے لیے ایک بہت بڑا نقصان ہے۔ شاید یہ gap پورا نہ ہو سکے۔

اس دعا کے ساتھ کہ جتنے بھی شہداءاور ملک اقبال چنڑ صاحب وفات پا چکے ہیں، اللہ رب العزت ان کے آخری سفر کو آسان فرمائے اور ہم سب کو ایک ہدایت نصیب عطا فرمائے ہم ان کے نقش قدم پہ چل کر آگے بڑھیں۔ بہت بہت شکریہ۔

جناب سپیکر: ایک دن جمعہ کو وہ مجھے ملے، ان کی صحت ٹھیک نہیں تھی تو میں نے کہا کہ آج آپ رک جائیں۔ آپ حلقے میں مت جایئے گا۔ آج جائیں گے، پھر پیر کو صبح آئیں گے یا اتوار کی رات کو۔ تو کہنے لگے کہ میرا ڈیرہ خالی رہ جائے گا۔ ان کی اس طرح کی dedication لوگوں کے ساتھ تھی۔ پروفیسر عبدالغفور حیدری صاحب۔

مولانا عبدالغفور حیدری: بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ۔ کُلُّ نَفۡسٍ ذَآئِقَۃُ الۡمَوۡتِ ، ہر متنفس کو موت آنی ہے، چاہے وہ انسان ہوں، چاہے وہ کوئی جاندار چیز ہو۔ ہمارے جن حضرات کا یہاں نام لیا گیا، اللہ تعالیٰ ان سب کی مغفرت فرمائیں۔

اس کے ساتھ ساتھ سپیکر صاحب کے پاس وہ تفصیل نہیں تھی شاید کہ بہت سارے لوگ ظلماً قتل کیے گئے۔ میں اسماء جنگ کی بات کرتا ہوں کہ اس نے قرآن مجید سینے میں لے کے دہائی دی کہ مجھے بچاؤ، لیکن چند گھنٹوں میں اس کے والد کو شہید کیا گیا۔ اس کی شہادت پہ بھی ہمیں تعزیت کرنی چاہیئے۔ بلوچستان میں بہت سارے لوگ جو بے گناہ شہید کیے جاتے ہیں، اسی طرح کشمیر میں، خیبر پختونخوا میں، جو بے گناہ لوگ قتل کیے جاتے ہیں، اللہ تعالیٰ ان سب کی مغفرت فرمائے اور جو بھی شہداء ہیں، اللہ تعالیٰ ان کو شہادت کا درجہ نصیب فرمائیں اور ان سب کی مغفرت فرمائیں۔ والسلام علیکم ورحمتہ اللہ۔

جناب سپیکر: شکریہ جی۔

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DETAILS OF DEDUCTED AMOUNT DEPOSITED BY EACH BANK

†83. * Ms. Aliya Kamran:

Will the Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety be pleased to state:

a) the amount of Zakat deducted by each bank on the 1st Ramadan, 2025, and the 1st of Ramadan, 2026; and

b) the details of the accounts(s) or funds(s) in which the deducted amount has been deposited by each bank after collection for the respective years?

(Question Hour not being observed, the remaining Starred Questions were treated as Unstarred and placed on the Table of the House.)

Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (Syed Imran Ahmad Shah): (a) All banks/ financial institutions deduct the Zakat on compulsory basis under Section 3 of Zakat and Ushr Ordinance, 1980 and deposit the deducted amount of Zakat into the Central Zakat Account (CZ-08), maintained by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The State Bank of Pakistan provides consolidated figures of total Zakat collection to this Ministry for each year. The collection of Zakat for the year 2024–2025 is as follows, while the figures for the year 2025–2026 will be provided by SBP to this Ministry in July 2026 after the close of the financial year:

Sr. No.	Year	Amount
1.	2024-2025	11,770,557,146.90

(b) After the devolution of the subject of Zakat, the Provinces have enacted their own Zakat Acts and are responsible for devising Zakat programmes, as well as for the distribution of Zakat funds to beneficiaries through District Zakat Committees and Local Zakat Committees.

The Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (MoPASS) releases Zakat funds to the Provinces/Areas in bulk, subject to the approval of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and has no any role in the subsequent allocation, management or distribution of these funds at the provincial or area level, including any direct disbursement to beneficiaries such as orphans, widows or other eligible recipients.

<u>LOSSES OCCURRED IN THE DROUGHT AND FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS</u>

1. * Mr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) whether any sustainable scheme has been prepared with the coordination of G-20 countries by the Ministry alongwith the details of steps already taken in this regard;

b) **whether the losses have been evaluated which occurred in the drought and flood affected areas; and**
c) **the steps being taken by the Government to control the said situations?**

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) It is submitted that Pakistan is not a Member of G-20 therefore, no scheme has been prepared in coordination with G-20 as a Forum. G-20 has 19 countries, i.e. France, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy, India, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Turkeye, UK, US, EU and African Union. However, Pakistan has significant bilateral cooperation related to climate action with some of the G-20 Member countries, particularly, Germany, UK, China and Japan. This cooperation focuses on areas that include disaster resilience, emission reduction, carbon markets and adaptation to build resilience against disasters. At the forum level, the G20 supports environment and climate resilience for highly vulnerable developing countries.

(b) The Government of Pakistan, through the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI), assesses, consolidates, and maintains the national record of flood-related losses and damages. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is responsible for monitoring, coordinating, and overseeing disaster management activities at the national level including drought. As per report published by the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI), the preliminary assessment indicates that total damages across all provinces and regions are estimated at Rs. 822 billion (approximately USD 2.9billion). The majority of the financial impact is concentrated in Punjab, underscoring the province's heightened vulnerability to the disaster. While other provinces and regions have incurred comparatively lower levels of damage, the impacts remain significant in the context of their local economies and infrastructure. Following table provides estimated financial damages by province and region province, along with percentage share in total damages;

Region/Province	Damages (Rs. Billion)	Damages (%)
Punjab	631.0	76.8
KP	51.3	6.2
Sindh	32.2	3.9
GB	13.0	1.6
AJ&K	9.3	1.1
Balochistan	7.0	0.9
Others[1]	78.1	9.5
Total	822.0	100

The major losses from stemming from floods during the years 2022-2026 are given below:

Floods 2022: The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) of the 2022 Pakistan estimates total damages to exceed USD 14.9 billion, and total economic losses to reach about USD 15.2 billion. Estimated needs for rehabilitation and reconstruction in a resilient way are at least USD 16.3 billion. The floods have taken the lives of more than 1,700 people, one-third of which were children.

Floods 2025: Whereas, total damages across all provinces and regions are estimated at Rs. 822 billion (US$2.9 billion). The majority of the financial impact is concentrated in Punjab. Other provinces/regions experienced relatively minor damages in comparison, but the impacts remain significant in the context of local economies and infrastructure. The death toll includes 1,039 confirmed deaths, with over 229,763 houses damaged or destroyed. Approximately 4.0 million people have been temporarily displaced.

Floods 2026: According to the NDMA Monsoon 2026 Situation Report, a total of 155 deaths had been reported up to 11 August 2026, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab accounting for the majority of fatalities. House collapses remain a major cause of deaths. The report also records 432 houses damaged/collapsed and 580 livestock losses to date.

Apart from the tragic loss of 1,039 human lives, widespread displacement of affected communities, and disruptions to education, the floods caused extensive economic damage, particularly in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors. Crops accounted for the largest share of losses, estimated at Rs. 442billion, followed by road infrastructure (Rs. 187.75 billion), housing infrastructure (Rs. 91.20 billion), water sector (Rs. 17.68billion), and bridges and culverts (Rs. 10.77 billion). The M/oPD&SI assessment report is provided at **Annex-I.** It is submitted that no major drought emergency situation enquiring national response has been reported during recent years.

(c) The Government is strengthening flood preparedness and resilience through a coordinated national approach. While provinces remain primarily responsible for flood protection, river management, urban drainage, and land-use regulation, recurring floods have highlighted the need for stronger legal and institutional frameworks. In response, the Prime Minister directed the preparation of the Monsoon 2026 Strategic Plan. The same was developed by the Ministry of Climate Change &Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) in consultation with federal and provincial stakeholders. The Plan outlines 14 priority interventions to strengthen flood risk management, early warning systems, preparedness, response, and climate adaptation.

To oversee implementation, a Prime Minister's Steering Committee, led by the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives and co-chaired by MoCC&EC, was established to coordinate implementation, mobilize resources, engage development partners, and improve integration of early warning and disaster-related data systems. Federal ministries, provincial governments, AJK, GB, and relevant agencies have initiated implementation through regular coordination meetings, technical consultations, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure timely execution of interventions and enhance coordination in flood forecasting, water management, disaster preparedness, infrastructure rehabilitation, public health, education, and community resilience. Further, on the directions of the Prime Minister, the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Chairman NDMA, and a senior representative of SUPARCO are holding high-level meetings with the Provincial Governments to review monsoon preparedness and measures for strengthening flood resilience. To date, meetings with the

Governments of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh have been successfully held, while meetings with the remaining provinces and regions are in progress.

Likewise, continuous follow-up is being maintained with the Provincial Governments to facilitate and ensure the enactment of Floodplain Management Acts/Regulations. During the meetings of the Federal Minister and Chairman NDMA with the Provincial Governments, particular emphasis is being placed on the enactment and effective implementation of Floodplain Regulations, along with other priority areas relating to monsoon preparedness, flood risk management, early warning systems, and disaster preparedness and response.

Additionally, a comprehensive framework is being developed for convening a National Policy Dialogue with key stakeholders, including Provincial Governments, Federal Ministries/Divisions, government and semi-government organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector, and the media. The National Policy Dialogue is being undertaken under the Prime Minister's Committee on National Policy, chaired by the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) is providing secretariat support to the Committee and is undertaking the key tasks and assignments entrusted to it by the Committee, including the design of a National Climate Finance Strategy; proposing necessary revisions and amendments to relevant laws and regulatory frameworks to curb reckless deforestation in the provinces; and developing policy and institutional measures to address and mitigate urban flooding and strengthen urban flood resilience.

To strengthen drought preparedness, monitoring and management in the country, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) has developed the National Drought Plan 2025–2035, which has been widely circulated among relevant stakeholders to promote its coordinated implementation. Furthermore, the International Water Management Institute, in collaboration with MoCC&ECand the Pakistan Meteorological Department, has developed the Pakistan Drought Management System (PakDMS). The system has been handed over to PMD for operationalization to support the implementation of the National Drought Plan. PakDMS is designed to strengthen drought monitoring, early warning, preparedness and evidence-based decision-making, thereby facilitating a shift from reactive crisis response to a proactive, coordinated and risk-informed approach to drought management.

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

DETAILS OF PROGRAMMES OF PAKISTAN BAIT-UL-MAL

2. *Mr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar:

Will the Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety be pleased to state:

a) the detail of programmes or projects launched in the country by Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) since January, 2018; and

b) the number of persons who benefited from these projects?

Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (Syed Imran Ahmed Shah): (a) Since January 2018, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has launched the following programs/projects:

- PBM Shelter Homes
- Khana Sab Key Liye (KSKL)
- Orphan & Widow Support Program
- Cochlear Implant

The details of above programs are as under:

PBM SHELTER HOMES:

PBM Shelter Home program is started in July, 2020 from Islamabad, PBM Shelter Home is the place where deserving / needy people are provided free meal and shelter. The target groups are people faraway from homes, unemployed, laborers, daily wagers, poor and transit passengers, attendants of the patients, students or any other deserving individuals. Currently, (16) Shelter Homes are functional in the country, as under:

Province/Region	Numbers
ICT	04
AJK	01
Punjab	01
South Punjab	02
Sindh	07
Gilgit Baltistan	01

Benefit: In each Shelter Home, free of cost dinner is provided to upto (400) people and night stay plus breakfast to upto (100) people on daily basis.

Procedure:

i. Citizens of Pakistan including AJ&K and Gilgit Baltistan urban/ rural homeless, far away from homes, unemployed, laborers, daily wagers, poor and transit passengers, attendants of the patients, students etc can avail the facility of PBM Shelter Homes.
ii. Free meal (dinner) is served to all the above inside the PBM Shelter Home in a respectable manner.
iii. Those who are provided free night stay in the PBM Shelter Home are required to have valid CNIC or any other identification document.
iv. Biometric check-in registration.
v. Preference to such persons who have no/less history of stay.
vi. Dependents of the applicants will also be allowed to stay in PBM Shelter Home on case to case basis.

KHANA SAB KEY LIYE (KSKL):

Khana Sab Key Liye program is started in March, 2021 to provide free food to those beneficiaries who could not approach PBM Shelter Homes due to certain reasons, e.g. engagements in work/labour, mobile food unit, Khana Sab Key Liye have been initiated where food is provided to the deserving people near to their workplaces. Principle of first come first serve is being observed. Currently, (17) KSKL food vehicles are functional in the country as under:

Province/Region	Numbers
ICT	03
AJK	01

South Punjab	03
Punjab-I	02
Sindh	03
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	03
GB	01
Balochistan	01

Benefit: From each KSKL food vehicle upto (1000) beneficiaries are provided free meal, (500 lunch and 500 dinner) on the designated routes.

Procedure: Residents/citizen of Pakistan including urban/rural, far away from homes, unemployed, laborers, daily wagers, poor and transit passengers, attendants of the patients, students or any other deserving individual can avail the facility of free food. Principle of first come first serve basis is observed.

ORPHANS & WIDOWS SUPPORT PROGRAM (OWSP):

The "Orphans & Widows Support Program" (OWSP) is a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) intervention started in 2020. The program is providing institutional family support to widow for orphan's education particularly, girls' education. The program aims to revolutionize the care paradigm by transitioning from institutionalized care to family-based customized support.

Program Components:

- Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Sweet Homes lagging behind in their performance, their children are shifted on Orphans & Widows Support Program model.
- Children of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Sweet Homes who have passed their matriculation/ intermediate are enrolled in Orphans & Widows Support Program after admission in public sector educational institutions, colleges, universities.
- Children of 6th/7th/8th class in public sector cadet colleges.
- 100 BISP beneficiary families with orphan girls are enrolled in each Provincial/Regional Headquarters, initially to be assisted through Orphans & Widows Support Program.

Benefit:

- Families of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Sweet Homes children enrolled under Orphans & Widows Support Program are entitled to Rs.8,000/- and Rs.16,000/- per month having one child and two & more children respectively.
- BISP Families enrolled under Orphans & Widows Support Program are entitled upto Rs.12,000/- per month having at least one school going orphan girl.
- Payment is made on quarterly basis through Bio-metric verification, at present through UBL Omni.
- First payment is made on the basis of school admission and subsequent payments are made on the basis of academic attendance compliance.

Province	**Families**	**Children**		
		Male	**Female**	**Total**
Balochistan	107	68	136	204
Gilgit-Baltistan	93	100	159	259
ICT & AJK	110	76	100	176
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	285	243	102	345
Punjab-I	151	126	75	201
Sindh	86	24	107	131
South Punjab	107	16	124	140
Total	**939**	**653**	**803**	**1456**

Cochlear Implant:

In Nov-2019 Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal initiated Cochlear implant program with the coordination of Capital Development Authority Islamabad to provide Cochlear Implant to by birth deaf and mute children to make them listen, learnt and speak. Financial assistance of Rs. 2.15 million per patient is provided to the public as well as private empanelled hospitals for Cochlear Implant surgeries under Individual Financial Assistance (IFA) Cochlear Implant Policy. It is pertinent to mention that recommended age for promising results of Cochlear Implantation is less than 03 years. In this regard; the children requiring Cochlear

Implant surgeries are registered on line through PBM Website www.pbm.gov.pk.

(b) Since inception, following number of persons benefitted from these projects.

PBM Shelter Homes:

Number of beneficiaries benefitted from the program:

Meal provided	= 9,611,270 (9.61 million)
Night stay + breakfast	= 1,798,867 (1.79 million)
Total	**= 11,410,137 (11.**410 **million)**

Khana Sab Key Liye:

So far, 9,717,565 (9.72 million) meals are served to the beneficiaries from the program.

Orphan & Widow Support Program:

1,456 children (803 female and 653 boys) of 939 families are enrolled in Orphans & Widows Support Program. An amount of Rs.169.245 (m) has been disbursed.

Cochlear Implant:

So far, **2891** Cochlear Implant surgeries have been conducted through empanelled hospitals involving an amount of Rs. **5,010,825,000 (5.01 billion).**

WEAK NETWORK COVERAGE IN BANNU DISTRICT AND OTHER BACKWARD AREAS

3. * Mr. Nasim Ali Shah:

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

a) how many financial penalties, additional levies or other financial disciplinary measures were imposed by Federal Government or relevant agencies against telecommunication companies providing substandard mobile internet and data services in the country during the last four years;

b) **whether the Government is aware that several telecom operators including Jazz, Ufone and Zong are charging full charges from customers in Bannu district and other backward areas despite weak network coverage, poor internet services and frequent service disruptions; and**

c) **whether the Government is formulating any policy to impose additional financial penalties on such companies and improve the quality of service in the affected areas and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same?**

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja): (a) During the last four years, PTA has conducted over 500 QoS surveys across urban centers, rural areas, highways/motorways, and railway corridors, including highways, motorways, railway track surveys, and additional 200+ complaint-based surveys, PTA has maintained an active enforcement regime, summary of actions is appended below:

Warning Letters	SCNs Issued	Penalty (Billion) PKR
20	86	3.41

(b) Operators charge for their services as per advertised tariffs and are responsible to maintain quality of services standards as per their license terms and conditions. It is pertinent to note that some operators offer regional / location-based packages at discounted / lower tariffs compared to their corresponding nationwide packages. These packages are based on commercial considerations and regional market dynamics.

(c) The Government has not proposed a separate policy for imposing additional financial penalties. Enforcement against non-compliance is already provided under the existing legal and regulatory framework through the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996, applicable licenses, and the Cellular Mobile Network QoS Regulations. PTA takes regulatory action, including issuance of Warning Letters, Show Cause Notices (SCNs), and imposition of financial penalties where operators fail to comply with prescribed license and Quality of Service (QoS) obligations.

In parallel, the Government has strengthened the regulatory framework through the recent spectrum auction and revised NGMS license conditions, which incorporate enhanced rollout obligations, deployment of additional 4G/5G sites, higher QoS benchmarks, and phased network modernization. These measures, coupled with ongoing regulatory enforcement, are aimed at improving service quality in underserved and affected areas while ensuring operator accountability. For specific complaints, details along with point of contact (POC) may kindly be provided to enable identification and subsequent rectification of the issues.

GLOBAL INJUSTICE AT THE INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

4. * Ms. Tamkeen Akhtar Niazi:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) how monitoring will be made to use the funds allocated for increasing the area of forests and plantation so that the funds are not wasted;

b) whether the Government has developed a comprehensive plan to get benefit from Climate Financing and Loss Damage Fund;

c) whether the government is one of the countries with the lowest carbon emissions in the world and the most affected country; and

d) if so, as to how the Government would highlight the global injustice at the international forums?

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination through its PSDP project titled "Upscaling of Green Pakistan Programme (UGPP)" undertakes forestry interventions across Pakistan. The programme will run up to 2028 and has a cost of Rs 122,146.00 (million) with an allocated budget of Rs2,335.499 billion for 2026-27.

Under the programme, the UGPP has a dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, headed by Deputy Project Director (M&E), which undertakes regular monitoring through Monitoring and Field Monitoring Officers.

Furthermore, an independent third party monitoring mechanism has also been developed under the UGPP programme with a consortium of reputed international organizations including International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

(b) The Government of Pakistan has developed a National Climate Finance Strategic Framework to tap private sector financing for the green projects. The Government of Pakistan has submitted 3 Project Proposals to Loss & Damage Fund, which are under process. Two proposals; one each from UNDP and WHO were submitted to the Fund in June 2026, amounting to 20 million USD each. These are titled "Pakistan loss and damage action: responding to unavoidable climate impacts through recovery and systems strengthening" and "Climate Resilient Health systems for loss an damage reduction in Pakistan"

(c) Yes. Pakistan is a low greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting country contributing approximately 1% of global annual GHG emissions and, at the same time, one of the countries most highly and disproportionately vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

(d) The Government of Pakistan, under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, has consistently highlighted the issue of climate injustice during negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other international forums. Pakistan has actively worked with like-minded countries and negotiating groups to advocate for the principles of climate justice and equity, emphasizing that developing countries, despite their negligible contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, and would continue to do so at all relevant international forums.

CURRENT STATUS OF 7 MILLION FLOOD AFFECTED PEOPLE

5. * Dr. Nafisa Shah:

Will the Minister In-Charge of the Prime Minister's Office be pleased to state:

a) the current status of flood rehabilitation for the 7 million people affected by the 2025 monsoon floods; and

b) how much of the allocated relief funds have been disbursed to the affected communities?

Minister In-Charge of the Prime Minister's Office: (a)

i) Under the National Disaster Management Framework, disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction are primarily the responsibility of the Provincial Governments. District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs)/ District Administrations serve as the first responders, while Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) act as the second-tier responders. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), as the federal coordinating and policy-formulating body, primarily facilitates coordination at national level, mobilization of federal resources when and if required and policy guidance and does not directly implement rehabilitation or reconstruction projects.

ii) In the case of the Monsoon/ Floods 2022 and 2025, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities are being undertaken by the respective Provincial Governments and other relevant executing agencies. At the Federal level, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPD & SI) is the lead Ministry responsible for coordinating rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

iii) During the Monsoon 2025, approx 3.029 million people were evacuated and rescued. Details of the immediate relief provided during Monsoon 2025 are attached as Appendix-I to Annex-A. In addition, upon the directions of the Federal Government, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) provided Ex-Gratia assistance to the Next of Kin (NoK) of those who lost their lives during the Monsoon/ Floods 2025. The details are attached as Appendix-II to Annex-A.

(b) NDMA within its mandate as a third-tier responder only provide Ex-Gratia Assistance in pursuant to the directions of the Federal Government. Details of Ex-Gratia Assistance provided by NDMA to the Next of Kin (NoK) of the deceased affected during Monsoon/ Floods 2025 is attached as Appendix-II to Annex-A.

RELIEF EFFORT PROVIDED / COORDINATED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AT NATIONAL LEVEL (OVERALL SUMMARY)

Province	NDMA Log Support	PM Relief Package	PDMA	Armed Forces Ration Sup		NGOs	National Resource					Grand Total (Tons)
				Army	PAF/ PN		Pvt	Govt Corp	Industry	Donation	Total	
GB	86	-	233	13	7	896	45	118	50	250	463	1,698
KP	259	45	354	130	51	4,066	118	395	150	16	679.5	5,584
AJ&K	-	-	8	8	-	-	-	233	15		248	264
Punjab	2,124	147	1353	382	23	6,170	259	1,282	352	15	1,887	12,107
Sindh	-	-	1150	-	5	999	-	119	-	-	119	2,273
Balochistan	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	21
ICT	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	5
Total (Tons)	2,469	192	3,124	533	86	12,131	422	2,147	567	281	3,417	21,952
	2,661		3,124	619		15,548						

Appendix II to Annex A

EX-GRATIA ASSISTANCE - MONSOON/ FLOODS 2025

Zones	Deaths		Summary			
	Death Cases	Approved Ex Gratia @ Rs 2 Mn	Compensated		Balance (Deaths)	
			Cases	Released Rs (Mn)	Cases	Rs (Mn)
KP	509	1,018	442	885 @	18	36

GB	31	62	31 + 51^	62 + 13.2^	Nil	Nil
AJ&K	38	76	30	60	8	16
Balochistan	38	76	16	32	12	24
ICT	9	18	3	6	Nil	Nil
Punjab	322	644	259	518	52	104
Sindh	90	180	68	136	11	22
Total	1,037	2,074	900	1,712.2	101	202

Compensation of 51 injured cases (10 Major @ 0.5 & 41 Minor @ 0.2) i.e. Rs. 13.2 Mn

@ Award 2 x Cases (KP) heroic action 2.5 Mn each

Note: Appreciation award GB 3 x cases amounting Rs 7.5 Mn

Grand Total (Rs Mn) (Ex Gratia +Injuries + Reward Money)	2,095.7 (2,074 + 13.2 + 7.5 + 1)

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF HEAT WAVES AND CLIMATE-INDUCED WATER STRESS

6. * Ms. Shahida Begum:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) whether the Ministry has conducted a national assessment of Pakistan's preparedness for increasing heat waves, urban heat Island effects, droughts and Climate-induced water stress, indicating the major findings thereof;

b) the cities and districts identified as being at highest risk from extreme heat and climate-related mortality, and the adaptation measures currently in place in such areas;

c) the details of Federal programmes undertaken to promote urban tree, cool roofs, heat-resilient infrastructure, climate-resilient water systems and heat action plans, including budget allocations and implementation status; and

d) whether the Government has established measurable national adaptation targets and indicators to assess climate resilience, and if so, provide the baseline values, targets and timelines for achievement?

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) Pakistan's preparedness for heat waves has been assessed via the lenses of national policies, climate reports, and vulnerability assessments, including the National Adaptation Plan (2023), Third National Communication to the UNFCCC (2025), Biennial Transparency Report (2024), Third Nationally Determined Contributions (2025), Environment and Climate Change Outlook Report, Urban Heat Island geospatial studies (2024–2025), and the draft National Drought Plan (2025-35).

The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) conducted a study titled "Spatiotemporal Changes in Land Use/Land Cover (LULC) and Associated Impact on Urban Heat Islands (UHI) over Pakistan Using Geospatial Techniques – A Case Study of Six Metropolitan Cities of Pakistan." This study evaluated Karachi, Hyderabad, Quetta, Faisalabad, Peshawar, and Mardan, utilizing satellite imagery, GIS, and remote sensing to examine urban growth, vegetation cover, land surface temperature, and UHI intensity.

Key findings include significant urban expansion leading to increased built-up areas while decreasing vegetation and green spaces, worsening UHI effects, and higher temperatures in built-up and barren lands. Vegetation and water bodies showed lower temperatures, indicating their importance in cooling urban areas. The study emphasizes the need for climate-resilient urban planning, protection of green infrastructure, and the incorporation of heat mitigation strategies, which will assist in enhancing resilience to climate change in Pakistan's cities. These assessments indicate that climate-related risks are intensifying in Pakistan, just as they are across the world. Heatwaves are becoming more frequent and severe, particularly in Sindh, southern Punjab, and in Balochistan. Rapid urbanization and declining green cover are exacerbating urban heat stress. At the same time, drought frequency and water scarcity are increasing, further heightening climate vulnerability.

Although the issue is being dealt with under the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan and the expansion of meteorological and climate monitoring systems, preparedness and implementation challenges persist.

Ministry of Climate Change is working with the Provinces to address the challenges. The Ministry is advancing key initiatives such as the National Drought Plan (2025-35), National Urban Strategy, and nationwide Geospatial Assessments.

In this connection, the assessments and studies have been shared with the relevant stakeholders at the federal and provincial levels for preparedness to protect the public from heatwaves. Subsequently, the provincial governments are providing shelter and health facilities at different sites in cities to protect the public from heat island impacts.

Moreover, the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) has developed a Sponge City Model concept and proposal, which has been shared with the provincial governments for implementation. The initiative aims to address urban water scarcity, reduce the risk of urban flooding, and enhance groundwater recharge through the adoption of nature-based solutions and sustainable urban water management practices.

(b) According to the NDMA Summer Contingency Plan (2026) and Heatwave Guidelines (2026), the areas at highest risk from extreme heat include Jacobabad, Dadu, and Karachi in Sindh; Bahawalpur and Lahore in Punjab; Sibi and Turbat in Balochistan; and Tank and Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These locations are characterized by persistently high temperatures, severe heat stress, and an elevated incidence of dehydration, heat-related illnesses, and excess mortality during prolonged heat wave events.

The assessments further identify elderly persons, children, pregnant women, outdoor workers, individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, and residents of densely populated urban settlements as the most vulnerable groups. Consequent upon advisories from NDMA and PMD, steps are taken by local authorities regarding cooling facilities, provision of drinking water, and healthcare camps.

(c) The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) leads national climate adaptation efforts through policy formulation, coordination, and mainstreaming climate resilience into development planning. Key preparedness and response measures include:

- **Early Warning and Forecasting:** The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) issues heatwave forecasts and advisories covering affected areas, expected temperature anomalies, causes, and precautionary measures. Based on these advisories, NDMA and PDMAs activate contingency plans, coordinate provincial responses, establish cooling centres, and disseminate public awareness messages.

- **Policy Framework:** MoCC&EC has developed the National Climate Change Policy (2021), National Adaptation Plan (2023), and Green Building Codes (2023), which promote climate-resilient infrastructure, water conservation, climate-smart agriculture, public health, and energy-efficient buildings to reduce heat vulnerability.
- **Institutional Coordination:** A Prime Minister's Taskforce on Global Warming and Heatwaves (2022) was constituted to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, prepare contingency plans, develop communication strategies, and formulate SOPs on water conservation and agricultural resilience.
- **National Cooling Action Plan (NCAP):** The NCAP promotes energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling technologies, sustainable urban planning, green buildings, efficient refrigeration and air-conditioning practices, and reduced greenhouse gas and HFC emissions.
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** MoCC&EC is expanding afforestation, urban forestry, landscape restoration, rangeland management, REDD+, sustainable forest management, and forest fire management under national and provincial programmes to reduce urban heat island effects and enhance ecosystem resilience.

Drought Preparedness: The Ministry has developed the National Drought Action Plan to strengthen preparedness, improve water security, and enhance resilience to increasing drought risks.

(d) Currently, policies and plans are in place for federal programs developed by the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, including Green Building Codes 2023 for cool roofs and energy-efficient buildings and urban forestry programmes for urban tree covers; these initiatives promote passive cooling and reflective building materials. Heat-resilient infrastructure is supported but is mostly driven by policy rather than a unified program. The government is pursuing multiple water-related projects carried out by the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Climate Change for better management of water and the introduction of the Rainwater Harvesting and Recharge Pakistan Programme, etc.

MoCC&EC, via the "Building Capacity to Advance the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process in Pakistan" project is establishing a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanism to track climate adaptation actions and progress across the country. To achieve this, the Project is procuring a consulting firm to develop a digital M&E system that will enable the Ministry to monitor ongoing climate change projects, collect adaptation-related data, and support the preparation of annual reports required under Pakistan's international climate change commitments. The procurement process is currently underway, and the firm is expected to be on board by September 2026.

The selected firm will review key national climate policy and planning documents, including the National Climate Change Policy (2021), the National Adaptation Plan (2023), and other relevant frameworks, to design and operationalize a comprehensive digital M&E system for the MoCC&EC. The system will strengthen the Ministry's capacity to monitor adaptation progress, evaluate outcomes, and facilitate evidence-based reporting and decision making.

<u>INCUBATION CENTERS ESTABLISHED IN THE PROVINCES</u>

7. * Ms. Shahida Rehmani:

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

a) whether it is fact that any financial or technical assistance package has been provided by the Government to promote startup companies;

b) if so, the number of startups which were funded and the results accrued therefrom;

c) whether incubation Centers are established in the provinces; and

d) if so, the strategy of the Ministry to promote startup ecosystem?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja): (a) The Government of Pakistan, through Ignite-National

Technology Fund under the Ministry of IT & Telecommunication, provides both financial and technical assistance to promote startup companies. This support is delivered through a national network of incubation centers and a suite of dedicated funding instruments, including:

i. **National Incubation Centers (NICs):** Ignite has established a network of eight (8) National Incubation Centers (NICs) across the country's major cities. These centers provide aspiring technology startups with free-of-cost incubation support, including mentorship, co-working spaces, specialized laboratories, legal and financial advisory services, business development support, and access to investors and industry networks.

ii. **Pakistan Startup Fund (PSF):** PSF supports early-stage Pakistani startups with up to 30% grant of the total investment round size, to bridge funding gaps and scale operations, fostering innovation and reducing startup risks across sectors and regions.

iii. **Spark and Elevate Programs:** The Spark and Elevate programs are going to be launched in FY 2026-27 that will provide grants to researchers, innovators and startups from both academia and industry for projects working on 4^{th} Industrial Revolution.

iv. **Ignite's Acceleration Program:** Seed funding of up to PKR 5 million per startup through NIC acceleration programs at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi.

v. **Pakistan Venture Fund:** The fund is planned to be launched in FY 2026-27 to mobilise growth-stage capital for Pakistani startups, bridging the funding gap for ventures scaling beyond the incubation and seed stage.

(b) Since 2017, Ignite has established and funded a nationwide network of National Incubation Centers (NICs) in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, and Hyderabad. These centers have played a transformative role in strengthening Pakistan's startup and innovation ecosystem by nurturing high-potential entrepreneurs, supporting technology-driven startups, and fostering innovation-led economic growth. The key results of the NIC network since its inception are summarized below:

- Over 2,250 startups incubated across eight National Incubation Centers;
- More than 185,000 jobs were created;
- Over PKR 36.3 billion in revenue generated by incubated startups;
- Over PKR 34.7 billion raised in investment by these startups from local and international investors;
- 31% of incubated startups are women-led (about 700 startups)

(c) Ignite has established eight (8) National Incubation Centers across all provinces and the federal capital, ensuring distributed and inclusive access to incubation support:

- **Federal Capital:** Islamabad;
- **Punjab:** Lahore, Rawalpindi (specialized aerospace vertical), and Faisalabad (specialized agri-tech incubator);
- **Sindh:** Karachi, and Hyderabad;
- **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:** Peshawar;
- **Balochistan:** Quetta.

The 9th National Incubation Center in Sialkot is being established which will commence operations in July 2026.

In addition to the above, the Pakistan Startup Fund provides equity-free grants per round. So far, 3 startups have been selected by PSF for the last round of the investment grant by Ignite.

Moreover, Ignite has also established two Centers of Excellence (CoE) in Gaming and Animation at Lahore and Karachi. These CoEs are operational since November 2025. These centers aims to nurture Pakistan's talent in gaming and animation by providing state-of-the-art training, mentorship, and infrastructure

(d) The Ministry of IT & Telecommunication, through Ignite, pursues a comprehensive strategy to build a self-sustaining national startup ecosystem, comprising the following elements:

i. **Pakistan Startup Fund (PSF):**
PSF supports early-stage Pakistani startups with up to 30% grant of the total investment round size, to bridge funding gaps and scale operations, fostering innovation and reducing startup risks across sectors and regions.

ii. **Ignite's Acceleration Program**
Seed funding of up to PKR 5 million per startup through NIC acceleration programs at Islamabad, Lahore & Karachi has been launched.

iii. **Promote the Creative Industry sector**
Ignite under Ministry of IT & Telecom has established two centers of excellence (CoE) in gaming and animation at Lahore and Islamabad. These CoE are established to incubate startups and build world-class talent in Pakistan's gaming, animation, and creative-tech industries.

iv. **Spark and Elevate Programs**
The Spark and Elevate Programs will provide grants to researchers, innovators and startups from Industry and academia working on projects involving 4^{th} Industrial wave technologies.

vi. **Pakistan Startup Fund (PSF)**
PSF supports early-stage Pakistani startups with up to 30% grant of the total investment round size, to bridge funding gaps and scale operations, fostering innovation and reducing startup risks across sectors and regions.

vii. **Pakistan Venture Fund**
The fund is planned to be launched in FY 2026-27 to mobilise growth-stage capital for Pakistani startups, bridging the funding gap for ventures scaling beyond the incubation and seed stage.

viii. **AI Innovation Ecosystem**
The National AI Innovation Hub (NAIIH) enables AI startups in line with the National AI Policy 2025, providing compute and inference infrastructure, structured development pathways for innovators and startups, and a marketplace where they can showcase and commercialize their working AI solutions.

PRESENT COVERAGE STATUS OF MOBILE SERVICE IN CHITRAL

8. * Ms. Ghazala Anjum:

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication be pleased to state the present coverage status of mobile service in different areas of Chitral and the steps taken for improvement of the quality of mobile service to coverage to during the last two years in the said areas?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja):

a) Cellular services are available in both Upper and Lower Chitral, covering an area of 14,850 km² with a population of 515,935 (Census 2023). Telenor remains the major service provider, supplemented by Jazz, Ufone, and Zong. A total of 141 sites (2G), 96 sites (3G), and 130 sites (4G) are operational, with 31 new sites added since 2022.

Cellular Infrastructure - Chitral					
Operator	**2G**	**3G**	**4G**	**Total**	**New Sites (since 2022)**
Telenor	103	95	103	103	31
Jazz	25	–	23	25	
Ufone	8	1	4	8	
Zong	5	–	–	5	

b) USF has facilitated network development through multiple projects. These include the RTeS Chitral Lot (2015–17) covering 1,048 Mauzas, the NG-BSD Chitral Lot (2020–24) covering 486 Mauzas, and the OFC KPK Package laying 645.9 km of fiber with 43 nodes. These initiatives have extended voice and broadband services to underserved and unserved areas.

c) Future measures include the Telenor–Ufone merger, which will equip BTS sites with an additional 48% spectrum, easing congestion and improving QoS parameters. PTA has coordinated with PESCO to address prolonged power outages, with proposals for dedicated feeders to telecom towers. A Joint Task Force under MoITT has also been constituted to facilitate uninterrupted power supply and telecom sector reforms.

d) Fiber redundancy is being pursued through PTCL and Jazz ring topology, with enhanced cable protection and strict timelines for restoration. Under new licenses, QoS thresholds have been revised from 4 Mbps to 20 Mbps for 4G throughput, with phased increases to 50 Mbps, to be achieved gradually with network upgrades.

e) PTA has initiated district-level CVAS licensing to support local businesses and enhance broadband penetration in underserved tehsils. One license has already been issued for Lower Chitral, while another for Upper Chitral will be issued in July 2026.

f) Progress monitoring is being ensured through half-yearly surveys to evaluate improvements in Chitral. USF has scheduled a field visit in July 2026 to assess coverage gaps and plan future projects. These measures, coupled with spectrum expansion, fiberization, and power reforms, are expected to significantly improve the quality and reliability of mobile services in Chitral.

RECURRING SMOG PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY

9. * Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) the details of protective precautions and safety measures adopted by the Government to solve the recurring smog problem in the country during the last five years; and

b) the results accrued from these strategies and measures?

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) Smog is a seasonal air pollution phenomenon that occurs primarily during the winter months due to a combination of vehicular emissions, industrial emissions, brick kiln emissions, burning of crop residue and municipal solid waste, construction dust, and adverse meteorological conditions.

The Government has undertaken a range of preventive and regulatory measures to mitigate smog, particularly within the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), while coordinating with provincial governments on matters of shared concern. The key measures adopted during the last five years include:

1. Pak-EPA, in collaboration with the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP)and Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICT Administration), conducts roadside inspection of commercial diesel vehicles to ensure compliance with prescribed emission standards. Non-compliant vehicles are fined and, where necessary, impounded. Public and private organizations have also been directed to ensure periodic maintenance and emissions testing of their vehicle fleets through Pak-EPA certified environmental laboratories. During 2025-26, more than 10,000vehicles were inspected.
2. All 30 brick kilns operating in ICT have been converted to environmentally friendly zigzag technology. Pak-EPA regularly monitors emissions from these kilns to ensure compliance with environmental standards.
3. Industrial units, including steel and marble industries, are subject to regular environmental monitoring. Continuous surveillance of steel furnaces and chimneys is undertaken through installed monitoring systems, while emissions from marble processing units are routinely inspected. Enforcement actions, including issuance of Environmental Protection Orders (EPOs) and sealing of non-compliant facilities, have been taken where violations were identified.
4. Pak-EPA ensures implementation of dust suppression measures at major construction sites through regular inspections and enforcement of environmental management requirements.
5. Pak-EPA coordinates with ICT Administration and the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to discourage open burning of municipal solid waste and recommends the imposition of restrictions under Section 144, where required, to prevent activities contributing to smog formation.
6. Pak-EPA is enhancing the Air Quality Monitoring System (AQMS)network in ICT, strengthening its technical and institutional capacity, improving coordination

with Provincial EPAs for addressing trans boundary air pollution, and reviewing the environmental regulatory framework in line with international best practices.

7. Public awareness campaigns on the environmental and health impacts of smog are conducted through electronic, print, and social media. Tree plantation initiatives are also being undertaken in collaboration with CDA and other stakeholders to improve urban air quality.

(b) The above measures have contributed to improved environmental compliance and strengthened air quality management within ICT. Significant achievements include the complete conversion of brick kilnsin ICT to zigzag technology, regular inspection of more than 10,000vehicles during 2025-26, continuous monitoring of industrial emissions, enforcement actions against non-compliant industrial units, improved control of construction dust and open waste burning, and enhanced public awareness regarding smog prevention. Furthermore, expansion of air quality monitoring infrastructure and strengthened coordination with provincial environmental authorities have improved the Government's capacity to monitor air pollution and implement timely mitigation measures.

<u>NAMES OF COUNTRIES WHO PROVIDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE</u>

10.* Ms. Samina Khalid Ghurki:

Will the Minister In-charge of the Prime Minister Office be pleased to state:

a) the names of the countries of Middle East and China/ Japan/ Germany including the United Nations, that have provided financial assistance to Pakistan for floods affected areas, quantity of goods/ tents supplied during the last 5 years; and

b) the locations where the aforementioned assistance and goods have been distributed during the said period, province wise breakup?

Minister In-Charge of the Prime Minister's Office: (a) Detail of international cash receipts for Floods 2022 and 2025 received from the following countries by NDMA is as under: -

i. International Receipts for Floods-2022

Sr. No.	Country	PKR (In Million)
(1)	Kuwait	278
(2)	China	28
(3)	Indonesia	205
Total		511

ii. International Receipts for Floods-2025

Sr. No.	Country	PKR (In Million)
(1)	Malaysia	28.80
(2)	China	562.95
Total		591.75
Grand Total (a+b)		1,102.75

(b) Detail of disaster relief assistance **(**foreign aid received in kind**)** undertaken by NDMA during last 5 years and further distribution is attached as Appendix I to Annex A.

Input from Economic Affairs Division

Part (a): Economic Affairs Division (EAD) is responsible for the assessment of requirements, programming, and negotiation of external economic assistance from foreign governments and international organizations. EAD has no direct role in the implementation of project or the distribution of in kind support.

In the event of a natural disaster, the humanitarian response is led by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), which is the designated agency for receiving and coordinating in cash/financial assistance and in-kind support, as well as overseeing their subsequent distribution.

It is further highlighted that UN Agencies are not donors, but they are implementing, executing and coordinating entities that mobilize fund from different multilateral and bilateral donors and then execute the assistance.

It is pertinent to mention that, under the Geneva Pledges, only Azerbaijan and Vietnam pledged and deposited cash amount of US$ 2.0 million and US$ 0.10 million, respectively, into the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund.

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

DISTORTED NETWORK AND POOR QUALITY OF SIGNALS

11.* Mr. Ramesh Lal:

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

a) **whether Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA) being a regulatory body has taken notice of distorted network and poor quality of signals of Ufone, Jazz, Telenor in Sectors I-14 and I-16 Islamabad; if so, the details thereof; and**
b) **what steps have been taken or being taken by the PTA in terms of directions to cellular companies to rectify network/data issues for provision of signals quality services to the inhabitants of aforesaid area?**

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: (a) Sectors I-14 & I-16 are newly developed sector with low population density with I-16 being the least populated sector of Islamabad. Currently, Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) have established **12x** dedicated sites across these sectors (earlier 9x reported sites).

Sector I-14: Served by Jazz, Zong, Telenor and Ufone site(s), providing partial to adequate coverage. Moreover, Zong has additionally commenced 5G services in the sector.

Sector I-16: No CMO has a dedicated site; coverage is extended from adjoining Jazz, Zong and Ufone sites are located at the sector's edge, resulting in weak coverage.

Sector I-14 and I-16 Infrastructure				
Sector/CMO	**Jazz**	**Zong**	**Telenor**	**Ufone**
I-14	3	3	2	1
I-16	1	1	-	1

(b) PTA has taken up the matter with all concerned Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) and directed them to analyze the coverage deficiencies, undertake network optimization, and explore feasible solutions for improving voice and data services in Sectors I-16. PTA will continue to engage all CMOs on the matter.

Based on the aforementioned findings, Sector I-14 has partial to adequate cellular coverage, while Sector I-16 continues to have limited to no coverage due to the absence of dedicated sites. All serving sites are reported to be operating normally; however, it is pertinent to note that:

- No CMO has reported any immediate plans for site expansion, technology upgrade or 5G deployment in Sector I-16 at present;
- Ufone's future expansion in the area also remains contingent upon completion of the Ufone-Telenor merger.
- It is also important to highlight that low population density, limited commercial viability, and insufficient return on investment (RoI) make it challenging for CMOs to expand and deploy new infrastructure in these sectors.
- Type-approved repeaters/amplifiers or VoWifi can be utilized to enhance indoor coverage in areas with weak signals.

STEPS TAKEN REGARDING THE CLIMATE CHANGE

12.* Ms. Mussarat Rafique Mahesar:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) **the steps being taken by the Government regarding the Climate Change in the country during the last three years; and**
b) **details of funds provided for the climate change during the aforesaid period?**

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) Pakistan is among the world’s most climate-vulnerable nations, despite contributing a minuscule share in global greenhouse gas emissions. For the past three years, the country has been facing and witnessed recurrent climate-induced disasters, resulting in widespread human, economic, and environmental losses.

To institutionalize climate resilience and prevent recurring disasters as witnessed in the last three years, the Government of Pakistan has strengthened its policy and planning frameworks through key national instruments.

The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) is mandated to formulate, coordinate, and oversee national policies and actions related to climate change, particularly climate adaptation and resilience. It has undertaken several strategic initiatives to guide and mainstream climate considerations into national and provincial development planning. These include:

National Climate Change Policy 2021 – updated to align national priorities with emerging climate challenges.

National Adaptation Plan 2023 – a comprehensive plan to guide climate-resilient development pathways.

Nationally Determined Contributions – supporting mitigation and adaptation actions in line with global commitments.

Monsoon 2026 Strategic Plan: Approved by the PM in November 2025, the Plan delineates short, medium, and long-term goals for flood preparedness, resilience, and recovery mechanisms.

Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy (2014–2030) – a roadmap for sectoral climate actions across the country.

National Communication on Climate Change – reporting progress and commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Mainstreaming gender considerations in all climate action programs.

MoCC&EC is also working to strengthen institutional coordination, enhance climate finance access, build provincial capacity, and promote research, awareness, and early warning systems to deal with evolving climate risks.

Major National Climate Initiatives:

To respond to these challenges, several ongoing and planned initiatives offer scalable models:

SAFER Project (by MoCC&EC and International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, funded by Adaptation Fund): focuses on integrated watershed management, nature-based recharge systems, wetlands rehabilitation, climate-resilient WASH systems, cryosphere risk management, and early warning systems across Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh—aligning with the National Adaptation Plan and Living Indus Initiative.

Buner and Shangla Early Warning Project (by World Food Program): installs hydromet stations, river monitoring, and community-based early warning systems in glacier-prone mountainous areas.

District Adaptation Plans/Locally Led Adaptation Plans: In order to bolster the resilience of the vulnerable communities, district adaptation plans are in process.

Coordination with the Provinces: The Ministry keeps liaison with the provinces, issues advisories, and engages them in capacity-building and training, under the umbrella of NAP.

Other cross-cutting supportive policy and financing instruments include:

• ESG Guidelines by SECP for Listed Companies – Promote ESG disclosure and climate risk integration in corporate practices.

• Carbon Market Trading Guidelines 2024 by MoCC&EC – Enable carbon credit generation and trading to mobilize climate finance.

• Green Banking Guidelines by State Bank of Pakistan – Encourage banks to finance green and climate-resilient projects.

• Environmental and Social Risk Management Framework by State Bank of Pakistan – Integrates environmental and climate risk into financial lending decisions.

• Green Finance Taxonomy by State Bank of Pakistan and MoCC&EC – Defines and classifies green and climate-aligned investments.

• Climate Hazard and Impact Risk Assessment by Planning Commission – Screens public development projects for climate risks.

Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) pertains to the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

(b)

S. No.	Name of Projects	Total Cost	PSDP/Foreign Funded	Duration
1	Integrated climate risk management for strengthened resilience to climate change in Buner and Shangla Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan	USD 9.8 million	Foreign Funded	4 years (2025-29)
2	Sustainable Actions for Ecosystem Restoration in Pakistan (SAFER Pakistan Project)	USD 10 million	Foreign Funded	4 years (2025-29)
3	Capacity Building on Water Quality Monitoring SDG 6 (6.1) Reporting	PKR 102.006 million	KOICA -in-kind support USD 7.420M (PKR 1,187.2 million) and PSDP Component PKR 102.006 million	5 years (2021 - 2026

NOISE, SMOKE AND VEHICLES POLLUTION EFFECTS ON TEENAGERS

13.* Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) the noise, smoke and vehicles pollution/status in G-6, G-7 and I&T Center G-6; and

b) its effects on the teenagers and the students of the schools in the above area?

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination through Pak-EPA has conducted a comprehensive study to assess noise levels in various sectors of Islamabad in order to evaluate noise pollution in commercial areas, residential areas, industrial areas and silence zones. The maximum permissible noise levels for commercial areas, residential areas, industrial areas and silence zones during daytime are 65dB, 55dB, 75dB, and 50dBrespectively and 55db, 45dB, 65dB and 45dB during night time vide National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) for noise. Findings indicated average noise levels in G-7 residential area as63dB during daytime and 45db during night time. In addition, findings indicated average noise levels in G-7 commercial area as59dB during daytime and 60db during night time. The noise levels were found to be somewhat higher in some areas and within limits elsewhere.

Pak-EPA has special focus on mobile primary contributing factors like Diesel engine commercial transport vehicles; the said vehicles are inspected on roadside (in collaboration with ITA and ITP) for road worthiness with respect to exhaust emissions. Drivers of non-compliant vehicles are issued fines and/or confiscated. Owners of private vehicles are directed through print and social media to get respective vehicles properly maintained/tuned and checked from any of Pak-EPA certified environmental laboratories before coming on roads. Organizations/agencies/institutions in public as well as private sector are directed to get respective fleet of vehicles properly maintained/tuned and checked from any of Pak-EPA certified environmental laboratories before coming on roads.

(b) The potential health effects of noise pollution on the teenagers and the students in G-6, G-7 and I&T Center G-6 may include increased stress levels, sleep disturbance, or hearing damage.

NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY 2025

14.* Dr. Sharmila Faruqui:

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

a) whether the National Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy 2025 includes training one million on IT professionals with 300,000 young Pakistanis already being trained yet industry reports that demand for e-commerce and data analytics professionals continues to outpace supply, with the e-commerce market valued at 5 billion aiming to reach 20 billion by 2030;

b) what specific skills gap assessment has been conducted in this regard;

c) **whether under the Digital National Pakistan Act and Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) have been established under the Virtual Assets Act, 2026, with a regulatory sandbox for block-chain projects;**
d) **what timeline exists for issuing the complete licensing framework expected in Q.3 2026; and**
e) **what coordination exists with National Vocational and Technical Commission (NAVTTC) and Higher Education Commission (HEC) to develop specialized courses in digital asset management?**

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja): (a) The National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2025 recognizes human capital development as one of its core strategic pillars. The Policy envisages the development of a highly skilled AI and digital workforce through coordinated efforts of the Government, academia, industry, and development partners.

Under the Policy, the Government aims to facilitate the training and upskilling of **one million individuals** in Artificial Intelligence and allied digital technologies over the implementation period. As part of this initiative, approximately 300,000 young Pakistanis are currently undergoing training through various government-supported programmes implemented by organizations including Ignite, National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), Higher Education Commission (HEC), Virtual University, National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC), provincial governments, and private sector partners.

The Government acknowledges that demand for specialized professionals in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, Cyber security, Cloud Computing, Blockchain, Digital Marketing, and E-Commerce continues to grow rapidly both domestically and internationally. Accordingly, the AI Policy provides for:

- Continuous revision of curricula based on industry requirements;
- Public-private partnerships for market-driven skills development;
- Industry-recognized certifications;
- Expansion of internship and apprenticeship opportunities;

- Establishment of AI Centres of Excellence;
- ProMotion of research and innovation;
- Support for freelancing, startups, and digital entrepreneurship.

The Government continuously reviews labour market trends and updates its training programmes to align with emerging technologies and evolving industry requirements. These initiatives are expected to contribute significantly towards meeting the growing demand for skilled professionals and supporting Pakistan's expanding digital economy.

(b) The Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, through its attached organizations and implementing partners, regularly undertakes skills demand assessments based on:

- Labour market intelligence;
- Industry consultations;
- Employer feedback;
- International technology trends;
- Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) industry engagement;
- Ignite market studies;
- Reports of international organizations including the World Economic Forum, World Bank and ITU.

These assessments consistently identify shortages in:

- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- Data Science & Data Analytics
- Cybersecurity
- Cloud Computing
- Software Engineering
- DevOps
- Blockchain
- UI/UX Design
- Digital Marketing
- E-Commerce Management

- Embedded Systems
- Internet of Things (IoT)

Training programmes are periodically updated to address these identified skills gaps and improve graduate employability.

(c) The Digital Nation Pakistan Act, 2025 (Act No. I of 2025) came into force in January 2025 and provides the overarching legal framework for Pakistan's digital transformation through improved digital governance, digital public infrastructure, innovation, and data-driven public service delivery. The Act establishes the Pakistan Digital Authority (PDA) which functions as the lead executing body. It is responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring and periodically updating the National Digital Masterplan together with sectoral digital plans, and for issuing and enforcing regulations, standards and guidelines pertaining to Digital Public Infrastructure, the Pakistan Stack, and inter-agency data exchange layers. The National Digital Commission (NDC) constitutes the apex strategic body under the Act. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises the Chief Ministers of the provinces along with relevant federal ministers and departmental heads. The Commission is vested with the authority to approve the National Digital Master plan, issue directives for inter-governmental alignment, and adjudicate matters of non-compliance arising between federal and provincial entities. The Oversight Committee, chaired by the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, provides day-to-day governance oversight of the Pakistan Digital Authority and reports on its operational performance and compliance status to the National Digital Commission.

Meanwhile, The Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) is a separate statutory regulatory authority established under the Virtual Assets Act, 2026. It is responsible for regulating virtual asset service providers, promoting responsible innovation, ensuring consumer protection, and maintaining compliance with applicable legal, financial, and Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) requirements.

The Virtual Assets Act, 2026 also provides for the establishment of a Regulatory Sandbox, enabling eligible blockchain and virtual asset innovators to test innovative products, services, and business models within a controlled regulatory environment, subject to the applicable regulatory framework and oversight of PVARA.

Accordingly, while the Digital Nation Pakistan Act, 2025 provides a broader policy and digital governance framework that acknowledges virtual assets as an emerging technology, the regulation, licensing, and supervision of virtual asset activities are vested in PVARA under the Virtual Assets Act, 2026. The two legal frameworks are complementary and operate within their respective statutory mandates.

(d) It is submitted that Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) has developed a comprehensive regulatory framework titled as "Pakistan Virtual Assets Services Regulations" for the regulation and supervision of Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs) in Pakistan. The framework has been designed in accordance with international best practices and adopts a risk-based approach aimed at fostering responsible innovation while ensuring financial stability, investor protection, market integrity, and compliance with AML/CFT/CPF obligations. As part of a transparent and consultative regulatory development process, the draft Pakistan Virtual Assets Services Regulations together with the Virtual Asset Activity-Specific Handbook were published for public consultation on 11th June 2026. The consultation process enabled PVARA to receive valuable comments and feedback from industry participants, relevant stakeholders, and the general public, which have been duly considered during the finalization of the regulatory framework. The Authority is currently undertaking the final approval processes and implementation arrangements necessary to support an orderly, coordinated and effective rollout of the regulatory framework.

Further, with reference to point (D) of Starred Question No. 14 regarding the regulatory sandbox, it is submitted that the Pakistan Virtual Assets Authority has published Sandbox guidelines on its Official Webpage and has initiated Sandbox for Asset References Tokenization.

PVARA is in the process of receipt and evaluation of these applications. Sandbox is operating in agile environment and applicants can at any time submit applications as per the format included in the Sandbox guidelines.

(d) With regard to the development of specialized courses in Digital Asset Management through coordination with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), it is submitted that, at present, no dedicated collaborative programme has been initiated in this specific area. HEC has not received any policy direction from the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoIT&T) regarding the development of such specialized courses through a coordinated HEC–NAVTTC arrangement.

Notwithstanding the above, HEC continues to promote the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies into higher education through curriculum development, quality assurance, research proMotion, faculty capacity building, and academic collaborations. HEC facilitates universities through its structured curriculum development mechanism led by the National Curriculum Review Committees With regard to the development of specialized courses in Digital Asset Management through coordination with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), it is submitted that, at present, no dedicated collaborative programme has been initiated in this specific area. HEC has not received any policy direction from the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoIT&T) regarding the development of such specialized courses through a coordinated HEC–NAVTTC arrangement.

Notwithstanding the above, HEC continues to promote the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies into higher education through curriculum development, quality assurance, research proMotion, faculty capacity building, and academic collaborations. HEC facilitates universities through its structured curriculum development mechanism led by the National Curriculum Review Committees.

NCRCs), which periodically review and update curricula in line with evolving technological advancements, industry requirements, and international best practices. The NCRCs, inter alia: Furthermore, universities are facilitated through: develop standardized curriculum guidelines, programme objectives, programme learning outcomes, course learning outcomes, and model schemes of studies; recommend appropriate credit structures and academic frameworks; and periodically review and update curricula to incorporate emerging technologies and interdisciplinary domains.
flexibility to introduce new programmes, specializations, electives, and interdisciplinary courses in emerging technology domains in accordance with HEC's academic policies and prescribed approval mechanisms; faculty development initiatives, academic collaborations, and digital learning resources; and access to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and other online learning platforms to strengthen teaching and learning in emerging.

<u>TRANSPARENT APPEAL AND REVIEW MECHANISM FOR DIGITAL CONTENT</u>

15.* Syed Rafiullah:

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

a) **the number of websites, mobile applications, online platforms and digital services blocked, restricted or subjected to bandwidth limitations during the last five years, alongwith year-wise breakup thereof;**
b) **the legal provisions, criteria and institutional mechanisms under which such actions were taken indicating the role of Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and other relevant authorities;**
c) **whether any assessment has been conducted regarding the impact of internet restrictions on digital rights, business activity, exports, freelancing, foreign investment and Pakistan's international rankings relating to internet freedom; and**

d) **whether the Governments intends to establish a transparent appeal and review mechanism for digital content restrictions and publish periodic reports regarding such actions?**

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: (a) A total of 645329 unlawful URLs were possessed by PTA for blocking from 1st June 2021 to 30th June, 2026, out of which 495747 were blocked and 60105 are still under review. A detailed platform-wise summary and year-wise breakdown is attached as Annex-A.

(b) PTA is mandated under section 37, read with section 50A of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendments) Act 2025 (PECA), for removal and blocking of unlawful online content. Under section 37 (2) of PECA 2016, the Federal Government has approved the Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content (Procedure, Oversight and Safeguard), Rules, 2021 (**Rules 2021**) that provide safeguards, processes and mechanism for the exercise of powers by the Authority under PECA for removal or blocking access to unlawful online content through any information system. PTA fulfills its statutory obligations strictly in line with the aforementioned provisions and as per procedures clearly outlined in Rules 2021.

(c) PTA only takes action against unlawful content available on online platforms. The internet restrictions, if any, are subject only to the federal government's directives and are intended solely to avoid serious harm to citizens' lives and property. However, no such assessment has been conducted by PTA.

(d) Section 37 of PECA 2016 provides adequate recourse to an aggrieved party if any action of the Authority w.r.t. removal/blocking is deemed unsatisfactory. Any person aggrieved by any order passed by the Authority may file a review application under Section 37(4) of PECA. If they are still not satisfied with the Authority's review decision, they may file an appeal before the High Court as laid down under Section 37(5) of PECA. PTA annually publishes its annual report, which includes major achievements, highlights, blocking statistics, and other important information of the subsequent year.

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

COMPANY-WISE BREAK-UP OF FUNDS ALLOCATED TO DISCOs

16.* Ms. Aliya Kamran:

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

a) **whether it is a fact that vide decision of the Steering Committee on Sustainable Development Goals Achievement Progamme (SAP), approved under Ex-Agenda Item No.05 of the 48th Meeting and circulated by the Cabinet Division on 29th October, 2025, Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) and Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) were directed to transfer PKR. 175 million from their savings/unutilized Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing (SAP) funds to Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) for utilization in District Lahore;**

b) **if so, the company-wise break-up of the said funds and the criteria, under which these funds were initially reserved/allocated to the respective Distribution Companies(DISCOs) under SAP;**

c) **whether Rs. 50 million transferred from QESCO was originally earmarked for development projects in Balochistan;**

d) **if so, the reasons and justification for such diversion, whether any impact assessment was conducted; and**

e) **whether the Government proposes to restore the said amount to QESCO in the interest of equitable development?**

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: (a) The Steering Committee, in its 48th Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals Achievement Programme (SAP), while considering the availability of savings/unutilized funds as informed by the Power Division, approved the utilization of Rs. 175 million in District Lahore from the savings/unutilized funds available with the Power Division/DISCOs. The Committee further approved the utilization of the remaining savings/unutilized funds available with the DISCOs, as on 03-10-2025, for incomplete/ongoing schemes and new schemes in the concerned districts. It is further clarified that the funds were originally allocated to the Power Division in lump sum under the SAP, for implementation of approved development schemes. The reallocation was made from unutilized balances/savings identified by the Power Division and accordingly approved by the Steering Committee in accordance with the approved policy Guidelines governing the programme.

(b) As per the approved SAP Policy Guidelines, the Steering Committee allocated lump-sum funds to the Power Division for the implementation of development schemes in the electricity sector. The scheme-wise allocation and distribution of these funds among the respective Distribution Companies falls within the administrative domain of the Power Division.

(c) As in Para (b) above.

(d) Not Applicable.

(e) Not Applicable.

<u>TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED REGARDING TELECOM COMPANIES</u>

17.* Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:

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

a) the total number of complaints received during the last three years regarding the quality of mobile and internet services provided by various telecom companies operating in the country;

b) the fundamental reasons for weak mobile signals, call drops, slow internet speeds, and frequent service disruptions in various urban and rural areas of the country, particularly in remote and underdeveloped regions;

c) whether the Government or the relevant regulatory body conducted any audit or prepared any performance report to evaluate the quality of services of Telecom companies; If so, the details thereof;

d) the action taken against telecom companies providing poor services during the last three years, and the number of fines imposed on them; and

e) whether the government intends to introduce any policy or an effective monitoring system to bound telecom companies to provide quality services

in accordance with the terms and conditions of their license; if yes, the details thereof?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja): (a) Details are placed at Annex-A.

(b) The fundamental reasons contributing to weak mobile signals, call drops, slow internet speeds and frequent service disruptions include:

- Prolonged power outages/load-shedding;
- Fiber cuts and damage to telecom infrastructure due to road/construction activities, and;
- Theft or vandalism of telecom equipment, cables and batteries **(9,000+** recorded cases during the last year);
- Network congestion during peak hours, in high-density urban areas;
- Terrain and line-of-sight limitations in mountainous, remote and sparsely populated areas,
- Commercial non-viability of network rollout, Universal Service Fund (USF) intervention in such areas.
- Delays in Right-of-Way (RoW) approvals for laying fiber and new sites.

(c) Yes. PTA operates a structured Quality of Service (QoS) monitoring framework comprising quarterly drive tests, Complaint Management System (CMS)-based hotspot analysis, Operational Support System (OSS) KPI monitoring, and crowdsourced Quality of Experience (QoE) assessment.

During the last four years, PTA has conducted approximately 500 planned QoS surveys, 200 complaint-based surveys, 60 surveys along highways and motorways, and 2 surveys along railway tracks, covering more than 700 locations nationwide. Survey findings are published on a quarterly basis on PTA's website.

In addition, PTA published Pakistan's first Quality of Experience (QoE) Report during FY 2025–26, providing a consolidated performance evaluation of Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs).

(d) During the last four years multiple actions have been taken against Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) found non-compliant with prescribed thresholds including:

- Issuance of 20 Warning Letters and 86 Show Cause Notices (SCNs);
- Imposition of financial penalties amounting to approximately Rs. 4.19 billion;
- Directions for implementation of corrective measures, including network optimization, capacity enhancement, and deployment of additional sites; and
- Re-verification of compliance through subsequent QoS surveys and monitoring.

(e) Yes. PTA continuously strengthens its regulatory and monitoring framework to bind telecom companies to license terms and conditions. Key measures include:

- A graduated enforcement mechanism comprising Root Cause Analysis (RCA), time-bound corrective measures, re-verification, and Warning Letters, Show Cause Notices (SCNs), and financial penalties;
- Raising the minimum 4G user throughput threshold from 4 Mbps to 20 Mbps, with phased increase to 50 Mbps, along with tiered network downtime and latency KPIs;
- Introduction of District-Level Class Licenses for Internet Services to expand broadband access in underserved/rural areas; and
- Regular publication of quarterly QoS survey results and the QoE Report for transparency.

Annex-A

Summary of Complaints (July 2023 – June 2026)			
Complaint Nature	**Received Complaints**	**Total Processed Complaints**	**% of Processed/Addressed Complaints**
Coverage issues related to Data Services (3G/4G/LTE)	29,951	29,857	99.69%
Quality of Service Issues (Poor Network, Noise, Call Drops)	9,177	9,117	99.35%
Service Provision Issues in Specific Areas/Coverage Problems	6,916	6,885	99.55%
Service Interruption Due to Power Outage/Load Shedding	6,029	6,005	99.6%
Total	**52,073**	**51,864**	**99.55%**

FUNDS EARMARKED FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PROJECTS

18.* Mr. Fateh Ullah Khan:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) details of allocations made from Federal Climate finance national budget or international climate funds mobilized by the Federal Government; and

b) whether such funds have been earmarked or disbursed for adaptation and resilience projects specifically benefiting Dera Ismail Khan during the last three Fiscal Years?

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) The details of international climate funds allocated/mobilized through GCF, GEF, AF etc are attached as Annex-I.

(b) In Dera Ismail Khan, one of the GCF project, titled "Recharge Pakistan" has certain project activities i.e., design and construction of flood protection infrastructure, afforestation and reforestation, and conducting farmers training on climate smart agriculture that are on ground since last fiscal year and has disbursed PKR 457 M, for Irrigation, Agriculture and Forest sector.

Annex-I

The details of the ongoing foreign funded projects under different funding streams and the financial inflow under each stream is as below:

S.No.	Funding Agency	Number of Project Under Implementation	Total Budget ($ million)
1.	Green Climate Fund (GCF)	10	299.729
2.	Global Environment Facility (GEF)	16	30.52
3.	Adaptation Fund (AF)	5	104.965
4.	GIZ	1	€14 Million
5.	International Climate Initiative (IKI)	1	€1.8 million

FORMULATION OF COMPREHENSIVE CLOUD COMPUTING POLICY

19.* Ms. Shahida Rehmani:

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

a) whether the Ministry has formulated any comprehensive Cloud Computing Policy for Pakistan;

b) whether there is any plan to migrate the data of Government institutions to cloud infrastructure;

c) whether any legal or regulatory framework exists to regulate public and private cloud service providers; and

d) if not, the policy of the Ministry with regard to ensuring digital security and digital sovereignty in this regard?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja): (a) Yes, the Pakistan Cloud First Policy (PCFP) was officially approved by the Federal Cabinet in February 2022. This comprehensive policy serves as the primary guiding document and strategic framework for all Public Sector Entities (PSEs) across the country to adopt cloud technologies safely and efficiently. Additionally, all provinces, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), have also aligned their respective Cloud First policies by adopting the federal government's PCFP to ensure a harmonized cloud first approach.

(b) Yes. Under the PCFP, all federal and provincial Public Sector Entities (PSEs) are now required to prioritize cloud services for any new IT investments, rather than building their own independent and expensive data centers. This strategic transition is designed to drastically reduce government expenditure, streamline operations, and enhance the delivery of digital public services across the board at the same time providing a secure environment.

(c) Under the PCFP, a comprehensive accreditation criteria and procurement framework has been formally formulated, approved, and published on the website for Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) and Public Sector Entities (PSEs) to follow. Both public and private CSPs can follow this framework if they wish to offer their services. The Accreditation Criteria for CSPs has been formulated through a well-thought-out process and in thorough consultation with all relevant stakeholders to ensure it meets both national security needs and global technical standards. Till date seven (07) Cloud Service Providers have submitted their formal applications for accreditation to offer their services to the government. Furthermore, apart from the CSP accreditation criteria, other applicable regulations of the relevant sectoral regulators may also be applied to ensure complete statutory compliance.

(d) As referred to above, the Cloud Accreditation Criteria provides a robust mechanism to help ensure a secure cloud ecosystem. Apart from this, to further strengthen digital security, other sectoral regulations may also apply. For example, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's (PTA) CTISDR, and for the financial sector, the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) cyber security compliance frameworks are enforced. Additionally, the National CERT and relevant sectoral CERTs are continuously providing advisories to ensure ironclad digital security.

Furthermore, to guarantee our national digital sovereignty, the Pakistan Cloud First Policy strictly mandates that any cloud infrastructure hosting Restricted, Confidential, or Secret government data must be physically located on servers within the territorial boundaries of Pakistan. Under the policy, government data is systematically classified into five distinct categories—Open, Public, Restricted, Confidential, and Secret—each demanding specific levels of localized protection. This multi-layered approach ensures that our critical national information remains safe and firmly under our own sovereign control at all times.

GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION

20.* Dr. Sharmila Faruqui:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) **whether only 9% of the world's plastic is recycled, with Pakistan generating approximately 3.9 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, of which an estimated 70 percent ends up in landfills open dumps or water bodies, despite the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) provisions introduced under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997;**
b) **whether single use plastics including shopping bags, food packaging, and waste bottles constitute a majority of litter nationwide and untreated burning of plastic waste releases toxic emissions linked to respiratory illnesses; and**
c) **what specific enforcement mechanisms recycling infrastructure investments and public awareness campaigns are being implemented to meet the Government's commitment to reduce plastic pollution and promote a circular economy?**

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) According to a study approximately 400 million tonnes of plastics are produced each year globally, from which only 9% of the plastics are recycled, whilst the remaining plastic waste is either incinerated (19%), disposed of in regulated landfills (50%), or released/dumped into the environment (22%). Pakistan generates approximately 3.3 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, from which only 27 to 30 percent is recycled, whilst the remaining ends up in unmanaged landfills or is burnt in open pits; amplifying the burden on the environment and public health.

The Federal Government has made Single-use Plastics (Prohibition) Regulations 2023. Under the said regulations which extend to ICT, producers, importers and beverage manufacturers shall formulate a plan for single-use plastic waste collection system based on extended producers' responsibility (EPR). Waste collection efficiency remains between 50 to 80 percent across major cities. Challenges include inefficient local administration in managing waste, non-existence of structured and large-scale recycling or repurpose programs/initiatives, weak implementation of policies and regulations, and a lack of incentivization for formal waste reduction. There remains an utmost need to formalize informal waste collection and environmentally sound management for adopting and shifting towards a circular economy.

Pak-EPA directs producers, importers, distributors, suppliers or beverage manufacturers to take measures to incentivize responsible consumer behavior in order to reduce litter from products/Items covered by the regulations ibid and inform consumers about the availability of re-usable alternatives and waste management options for single-use plastics & the impact of littering and other inappropriate waste disposal of single-use plastics.

(b) Yes, single use plastics including shopping bags, food packaging, and waste bottles constitute a majority of litter nationwide and untreated burning of plastic waste releases toxic emissions linked to respiratory illnesses.

(c) Under Single-use Plastics (Prohibition) Regulations 2023, the manufacture, import, distribution, sale, supply, stocking, purchase, trade or use of single-use plastic Items is prohibited in ICT. Joint inspection teams of Pak-EPA and ICT administration visit markets in different areas of ICT; they issue warnings and impose fines on violators of the regulations ibid.

CHALLENGES FACED BY FREELANCERS AND SOFTWARE EXPORTERS’

21.* Ms. Shaista Pervaiz:

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

a) **the year-wise value of Pakistan's IT and IT enabled services exports during the last five years;**
b) **the measures being taken to address the challenges faced by freelancers, software exporters and technology startups including payment gateways international transactions, taxation and internet reliability;**
c) **the targets set by the Government for IT exports during the next five years and the strategy devised for their achievements; and**
d) **the progress already made towards establishing the special technology zones, data and digital infrastructure to support growth of the IT sector in the country?**

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja): (a) Historical ICT exports data is as under:

S No.	Financial Year	ICT Remittances (US$)-Millions
1	2020-2021	2,108
2	2021-22	2,619
3	2022-23	2,596
4	2023-24	3,223
5	2024-25	3,812

ICT export remittances surged 20.6%, reaching US$ 4.6 billion (4,600 million) during FY 2025-26 (Jul–June), compared to US$ 3.8 billion (3,814 million) achieved during the corresponding period last year (FY 2024-25).

ICT exports are consistently the highest within the Services Sector of Pakistan’s economy and are generating the largest trade surplus for the country within the Services Sector.

(b) Pakistan Software Export Board maintains close contact with the State Bank of Pakistan to ensure maximum facilitation for the IT industry. In this context, several interactive sessions and meetings were held with representation from PSEB, SBP, Banks and the ICT Industry. These aforementioned efforts have resulted in the following:

i. Banks have designated specific branches with specialized expertise in foreign exchange regulations.
ii. Banks have established dedicated desks to support IT exporters and address operational or regulatory issues in a timely manner.
iii. Proceed Realization Form for the IT industry was updated by SBP. PRC is provided by the banks to demonstrate that a client has provided services abroad and has successfully repatriated the foreign exchange earnings into Pakistan through formal banking channels.
iv. The Digital Service Providers List has been revised and expanded. This revision allows Pakistani ICT companies to make international payments to a wider range of approved overseas digital service providers.
v. A maximum turnaround time of one working day has been introduced for processing inward export receipts and outward remittances from Exporters' Special Foreign Currency Accounts (ESFCAs).
vi. IT companies and freelancers are no longer be required to submit Form "R" for every individual export transaction. Instead, they will provide a one-time declaration, specifying the nature of services being offered overseas, at the time of opening of new account and, in the case of existing customers, as and when required.
vii. The threshold level for obtaining Form "R" has been increased to above US$ 25,000 (or equivalent in other currencies), providing convenience to the beneficiaries.
viii. Documentation requirements for outward remittances from ESFCAs for acquiring services from abroad have been standardized by SBP to promote clarity and consistency across banks.
ix. Roshan Digital Accounts framework has been expanded to allow foreign nationals, companies, and institutional investors to open RDAs and can thus

invest in high-yield government securities and Naya Pakistan Certificates. These competitive returns encourage global Pakistani IT exporters to remit earnings back to Pakistan instead of holding them abroad.

x. IT exporters can maintain 50% of export remittances in foreign currency in Exporter special Foreign Currency Accounts in local banks. Debit card is issues by banks which can be used by IT exporters worldwide to conduct transactions.

On Taxation Front, the Government has ensured relief to the IT sector as under:

Salient Steps taken in Budget	Impact & Benefit
Extension of 0.25% FTR Regime for FY 2029	Extended through Tax Year 2029. Provides 3 years of policy stability, making Pakistan a globally competitive destination for outsourcing and FDI.
90% Reduction in Advance Tax on Foreign Card Payments (from 5% to 0.5%)	Significantly reduces the cost of tech sector for making overseas payments and procuring services from overseas entities
Restoration of Tax Pass-Through Treatment for VC Funds (Clause 57(2))	Funds distributing 90% of income are tax-exempt at the fund level. This measure helps improve capital availability for startups by increasing investor confidence and help attract foreign investment into the tech sector.
Continuation of Section 65F Technology Tax Credit	The tax credit is in line with the government policy to support growth of tech eco system in Pakistan and boost exports by providing 100% tax credit to startups.
Income Tax Reduction for Salaried Individuals	Increases take-home pay for IT professionals without increasing company payroll costs. Crucial for retaining talent during the AI disruption era.

Furthermore, to strengthen regional access and operational efficiency, new PSEB offices have been established in Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to directly support local IT companies and freelancers. Operational support is further enhanced through MARKAZ—a 24/7 helpdesk that resolves critical industry matters, including PSEB registration, visa facilitation, and foreign remittance NOCs. To deliver seamless end-to-end services, PSEB maintains close coordination with key regulatory bodies, such as SECP, SBP, FBR, PTA, EOBI, the Labor Department, and commercial banks, while fully digitizing the registration and renewal process, complete with downloadable, QR-coded certificates for instant online verification. PSEB actively conducts industry engagement sessions to foster collaboration, gather actionable insights, and reinforce strategic partnerships across the ecosystem. These open dialogues serve to address pressing industry challenges and utilize collective wisdom to determine optimal way forward on related matters.

(c) The Government has set target of achieving **US$ 25.1 billion in ICT exports by 2030**, comprising US$ 15.3 billion from Information Technology and IT-enabled Services (IT & ITeS) and US$ 9.8 billion from the telecommunications sector.

To achieve these targets, the Government has adopted a comprehensive strategy aimed at strengthening Pakistan's digital economy, enhancing the competitiveness of the ICT sector, and expanding the country's footprint in international markets. The key elements of the strategy are as follows:

i. **Human Capital Development:** Implementation of large-scale capacity-building initiatives to develop a highly skilled workforce in emerging technologies through specialized training programs, international certifications, bootcamps, apprenticeships, and industry-academia collaboration to meet domestic and global market requirements.

ii. **ICT Infrastructure Development:** Development of state-of-the-art IT infrastructure, including Information Technology Parks, Software Technology Parks, Special Technology Zones, and digital innovation facilities to provide a conducive environment for technology companies, startups, and entrepreneurs.

iii. **International Marketing and Export ProMotion:** ProMotion of Pakistan's ICT industry in international markets through participation in global ICT exhibitions, trade delegations, business-to-business (B2B) matchmaking activities, branding initiatives, and investor outreach programs to enhance export opportunities and attract foreign investment.

iv. **Industry Facilitation and Business Enablement:** Provision of end-to-end facilitation to IT companies and freelancers through streamlined registration processes, policy support, investor facilitation, and continuous engagement with industry stakeholders to improve the ease of doing business.

v. **Quality Enhancement and International Compliance:** Support for international quality certifications, compliance with global standards, and adoption of best international practices to enhance the competitiveness and credibility of Pakistani IT companies in international markets.

vi. **ProMotion of the Freelance Economy:** Facilitation of freelancers through dedicated support mechanisms, digital platforms, awareness initiatives, and capacity-building programs to increase foreign exchange earnings from freelance services.

vii. **Policy and Ecosystem Development:** Formulation and implementation of enabling policies and close coordination with relevant public and private sector stakeholders to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and sustainable growth of the ICT sector.

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT), through the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) and its allied organizations, is implementing multiple initiatives to facilitate the growth of the ICT industry. PSEB maintains continuous engagement with industry stakeholders and is executing projects relating to infrastructure development, international marketing and branding, workforce development, international certifications, and business facilitation to ensure sustained growth in Pakistan's ICT exports and achievement of the Government's export targets.

(d) The Government is actively strengthening Pakistan's ICT ecosystem through the establishment of Special Technology Zones, Software Technology Parks (STPs), IT Parks, co-working spaces, and other digital infrastructure to support the sustained growth of the Information Technology (IT) sector. The Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), under the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT), is implementing a number of initiatives in this regard. The progress made is as follows:

i. **Software Technology Parks (STPs):** PSEB currently manages more than 50 Software Technology Parks (STPs) across Pakistan, facilitating over 350 IT and

IT-enabled Services (ITeS) companies. These STPs cover approximately 1.9 million square feet and provide employment to more than 18,000 IT professionals, including 21% female professionals. The STPs contribute over US$ 245 million annually to the national economy and have been established in both major and secondary cities, including Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Swat, Quetta, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Gujrat, Jamshoro, Nawabshah, Gahkuch, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur, and Khuzdar. Operating under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models, these facilities provide state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure with round-the-clock operational support.

ii. **Prime Minister National Technology Parks (PMNTPs):** Under the PMNTPs, PSEB has established more than 80 Centres across the country with a combined capacity of approximately 6,000 freelancers. Currently, around 4,600 freelancers are utilizing these facilities. The program aims to establish 250 National Technology Parks nationwide to promote freelancing, digital entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities, particularly in underserved areas.

iii. **Islamabad IT Park:** A state-of-the-art IT Park in Islamabad is under construction with a covered area of approximately 720,000 square feet. The facility will provide a modern technology ecosystem for startups, SMEs, and leading IT companies. Upon completion, expected in 2026, the Park is projected to create around 7,500 employment opportunities and generate approximately US$ 60 million in annual IT exports.

iv. **Karachi IT Park:** Development of another flagship IT Park in Karachi is underway. The project will accommodate more than 220 ICT companies, create approximately 13,400 jobs, and contribute an estimated US$ 90 million annually in IT exports while significantly strengthening Pakistan's ICT ecosystem.

v. **Women Technology Park:** PSEB has established the First Women Technology Park at the Women University Bagh, Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The facility has been equipped with modern ICT infrastructure and has been operationalized.

vi. **Expansion to Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir:** PSEB is further expanding digital infrastructure by establishing additional Software Technology Parks in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) through strategic partnerships with the Special Communications Organization (SCO), the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, and other relevant stakeholders.

These initiatives are significantly enhancing Pakistan's digital infrastructure, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting technology-based businesses, generating employment opportunities, expanding regional access to ICT facilities, and creating an enabling environment for sustainable growth of the IT sector and IT exports.

PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

22.* Ms. Shahida Begum:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan presently lacks a comprehensive and update national inventory Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), microplastics and other emerging environmental contaminants;

b) whether the existing inventories of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) do not adequately cover recently identified substances and sources;

c) whether the Government has established any routine monitoring programme for the detection of (PFAS) microplastics and other emerging contaminants in drinking water, surface water, groundwater, soil, food products, seafood, agricultural produce and ambient air; if so, provide details and findings thereof;

d) whether Pakistan processes adequate laboratory technical and regulatory capacity for the identification, testing, monitoring and risk assessment of (PFAS) and other chemicals recently listed under the Stockholm Convention;

e) **if not, what measures are being undertaken alongwith timelines and budgetary allocations to establish such capacity; and**
f) **whether it is a fact that substantial proportion of (PFAS) containing products and materials are imported into Pakistan, if yes, what steps has the Government taken or proposes to take to identify, regulate, restrict, label, monitor?**

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) Pakistan formulated its first National Implementation Plan (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention in 2009 and subsequently updated it in 2020. The NIP serves as the country's comprehensive inventory and strategic framework for the sound management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). It identifies the sources, quantities, and distribution of POPs in Pakistan, including pesticides, industrial chemicals, and unintentionally produced POPs, while outlining national priorities and actions for their environmentally sound management.

Following the implementation of the initial NIP, approximately 786 tons of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) contained in transformers were identified and safely disposed of through a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-funded project, representing a significant milestone in Pakistan's efforts to eliminate POPs.

Building on these achievements, the Ministry is currently developing a national inventory of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), beginning with the textile sector, which accounts for an estimated 80% of PFAS use in Pakistan. The inventory will subsequently be expanded to cover all other relevant sectors, with completion expected within the next one and a half years.

(b) As noted above, Pakistan has developed its NIP under the Stockholm Convention. Parties of the convention are required to periodically update their NIPs to reflect new obligations, including the listing of additional POPs adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP).

During the recent meetings of the Conference of the Parties, several additional chemicals have been listed under the Convention, including Medium-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (MCCPs), Chlorpyrifos, and Long-Chain

Perfluorocarboxylic Acids (LC-PFCAs). The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) is cognizant of these new obligations and has initiated the process of incorporating these newly listed POPs into Pakistan's National Implementation Plan and seeking an exemption for production/use in cases where the use/production of the listed POPs can't be banned immediately.

To support this process, the Ministry has approached the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is currently engaging with it to secure financial assistance for updating the National Implementation Plan and facilitating its effective implementation.

(c) The Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has implemented multiple phases of a United Nations-funded project on the monitoring of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Pakistan. During the first phase (2012–2015), perfluorinated compounds were monitored in surface water samples collected from selected sites across the country. In the subsequent phase (2016–2019), the scope of the project was expanded to include the analysis of PFAS in surface water, drinking water, and sediment, providing a more comprehensive assessment of PFAS occurrence in the aquatic environment. The project report is available on the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) website at https://pcrwr.gov.pk.

(d) At present, there is one functional laboratory accredited by the Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that is specifically equipped to analyze Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In addition, there are 28 accredited environmental laboratories across the country engaged in the monitoring and analysis of chemicals, distributed as follows:

- Punjab EPA – 18 laboratories
- Balochistan EPA – 1 laboratory
- Sindh EPA – 3 laboratories
- Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) EPA – 5 laboratories
- Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) EPA – 1 laboratory

While these laboratories possess general analytical capabilities, most require technical upgradation, including advanced instrumentation and enhanced analytical capacity, to undertake comprehensive and accurate analysis of POPs. As these laboratories fall under the administrative jurisdiction of the respective provincial governments, their upgradation is primarily the responsibility of the provincial authorities.

With regard to institutional capacity, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) currently has one permanent technical position—Deputy Director (Chemicals)—responsible for the regulation and assessment of the transboundary movement of chemicals, pesticides, and hazardous wastes under the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions. To further strengthen its technical capacity, the Ministry is in the process of engaging three additional technical experts under a Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) project.

(e) The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) provides policy oversight and coordination on matters relating to chemicals and waste management. The implementation measures, including the establishment and strengthening of institutional and technical capacity, fall within the mandate of the Provincial Governments following the devolution of the mandate of environment. Accordingly, the Provincial Governments may undertake the necessary measures for capacity enhancement, including the allocation of resources and development of implementation timelines.

(f) Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are used in a wide range of industrial and consumer products, including textiles, firefighting foams, food-contact materials, non-stick cookware, electronics, and cosmetics. A significant proportion of PFAS-containing products and materials are imported into Pakistan.

i. **Import Control:** The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) implements the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure for chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention. The import of listed POPs is subject to the prior consent of the National Focal Point.

ii. **Phased Transition:** Given the size and economic importance of Pakistan's textile sector, the immediate phase-out of PFAS is not feasible. Pakistan will adopt a gradual transition to safer alternatives in accordance with the provisions and timelines of the Stockholm Convention.

iii. **Industrial Compliance:** Major industries, particularly export-oriented manufacturers, are already complying with national environmental regulations and international sustainability standards to maintain access to global markets and support green trade.

EMPLOYEE RELATED EXPENSES OF PAKISTAN BAIT-UL-MAL

23.* Ms. Sehar Kamran:

Will the Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety be pleased to state:

a) details of total budgetary allocation of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal for the FY 2025-26 alongwith breakdown of expenditure including Employee Related Expenses (ERE) and allocations for various welfare programmes; and

b) measures already taken or being taken by the Government during the last two years to ensure financial sustainability of the organization in view of the high proportion of (ERE) in its overall budget?

Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety: (Syed Imran Ahmed Shah) (a) The details of total budgetary allocation of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal under demand No.85 for the FY 2025-26 is as under:

Rs. Million

Sr. No.	Heads	Budget Demand by PBM	Budget Allocation	Less Allocation/ Shortfall
1	Grants	13,283.101	10,000.000	3,283.101
2	Employees Related Expenses (ERE)	4,821.435	3,776.614	1,044.821
3	Operating Expenses	452.601	425.554	27.047
Total		**18,557.137**	**14,202.168**	**4,354.969**

Breakdown of Actual expenditures including Employees Related Expenses (ERE) and various welfare programmes of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal for the FY 2025-26 is as under:

Sr. No.	Heads	Actual Expenditures Rs. Million
1	Grants (welfare programmes/schemes)	9,168.080
I	Individual Financial Assistance (IFA)	4,661.845
II	Cochlear Implant	1,889.430
III	Schools For Rehab. Child Labour (SsRCL)	637.138
IV	Women Empowerment Centres (WECs)	464.374
V	Pakistan Sweet Homes (PSHs)	1,128.379
VI	Pakistan Old Homes	9.769
VII	Shelter Homes (SHs)	247.452
VIII	Khana Sab Kay Leay (KSKL)	71.888
IX	CSW/NGOs	33.136
X	OWSP	24.669
2	Employee Related Expenses (ERE)	4,729.034
I	Pay of Officers	771.098
II	Pay of Official	877.598
III	Regular Allowances	2,696.708
IV	Other Allowances	383.631
3	Operating Expenses	275.265
Total		**14,172.379**

(b) Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal has been consistently taken measures to ensure the sustainability of its operations despite of limited budgetary resources. It is submitted that the budget amounting to Rs.18,557.537 million was demanded by Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal for the FY 2025-26. Whereas an amount of Rs.14,202.168 million has been allocated by Finance Division under Demand No.85. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal demanded an ERE budget of Rs.4,821.435 million (25% proportion of budget) against which Finance Division has allocated budget Rs.3,776.614 million, resulting in a shortfall of Rs.1,044.821 million. Despite the significant funding gap, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal has continued to manage salary obligations and essential administrative functions through efficient budget management and strict expenditure controls.

STEPS TAKEN FOR INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT

24.* Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan:

Will the Minister In-charge of the Special Investment Facilitation Council Division be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Government for industrial growth and foreign investment to ensure sustainable economic growth in the country?

Minister In-charge of the Special Investment Facilitation Council Division:

a) It is submitted that the Government of Pakistan, under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister and through the platform of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), is undertaking a comprehensive and multi-pronged strategy to catalyze industrial growth, attract foreign investment, and ensure sustainable economic development. The SIFC serves as the government's single-window, "whole-of-government" approach designed to streamline investment processes and create a business-friendly ecosystem.

Steps for Industrial Growth and Foreign Investment:

i. **Institutional Strengthening and Policy Framework**:
A whole-of-government approach has been institutionalized through SIFC to ensure fast-track decision-making, policy continuity, and effective coordination among Federal and Provincial stakeholders.

ii. **Sectoral Investment Initiatives:**
Development and operationalization of SEZs (e.g., Rashakai, Dhabeji, M3 Allama Iqbal, BQIP Karachi) under the SEZ Act are being accelerated, offering fiscal incentives, tax exemptions, and world-class infrastructure to attract domestic and foreign investment. A comprehensive roadmap for SEZs and regulatory reforms has been assigned to SIFC.

iii. **Automotive Sector and Import-Export Policy Reforms:**
The Government, on the recommendation of SIFC and as incorporated in the draft Auto Policy 2026-31, has approved a pilot project to establish an

Import-Refurbishment-Export model for used vehicles and auto parts. The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved amendments to the Import Policy Order (IPO) 2022 and Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) 2021 to allow temporary import of used vehicles for refurbishment and subsequent re-export within a prescribed timeframe. This initiative is aimed at boosting exports, integrating Pakistan into the global automotive value chain, and generating employment.

iv. **Investment Facilitation and Ease of Doing Business:**
Dedicated facilitation mechanisms providing end-to-end support to investors, including project identification, approvals, execution monitoring, and aftercare services through the SIFC Secretariat. Simplification of regulatory procedures through one-window operations, digitization of processes, and reduction in approvals timeline to improve the investment climate.

b) Contribution to Sustainable Economic Growth:

These integrated and strategic initiatives are contributing towards sustainable economic growth through the following mechanisms:

i. Enhanced Industrial Productivity and Value Addition: By modernizing industry, upgrading technology, and developing SEZs, the measures are increasing domestic productivity and value addition.
ii. Increased Foreign Direct Investment Inflows: A stable, transparent, and investor-friendly environment, coupled with attractive incentives, is attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).
iii. ProMotion of Exports and Improved Balance of Payments: Initiatives like the IRE model and export-oriented policies are designed to diversify exports, reduce the trade deficit, and improve the balance of payments.
iv. Generation of Employment Opportunities: Investment in industrial sectors, SEZs, and the automotive refurbishment industry is creating substantial employment opportunities across the country.
v. Strengthened Macroeconomic Stability and Investor Confidence: Macroeconomic stabilization measures, policy consistency, and legal

protection of investments are fostering investor confidence, leading to long-term, sustainable economic growth.

The SIFC remains resolute in its commitment to creating a stable, transparent, and responsive economic environment. The goal is to position Pakistan as a competitive global investment hub and ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth for the country.

DETAILS OF POTENTIAL FLOOD SITUATION IN KP

25.* Mr. Dawar Khan Kundi:

Will the Minister In-Charge of the Prime Minister's Office be pleased to state:

a) whether the Government has devised any special plan, through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), to deal with the recent rains; and

b) the details of potential flood situation in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa?

Minister In-Charge of the Prime Minister's Office: (a)

i) Under the National Disaster Management Framework of Pakistan, disaster management is a devolved subject. District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs)/ District Administrations and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) act as the first and second-tier responders, respectively. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) primarily functions as the federal coordinating and policy-formulating body.

ii) In preparation for the Monsoon Season 2026, NDMA (Operations Wing) has issued the National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP) and the Monsoon Contingency Plan 2026, outlining preparedness and response measures. Similarly, all PDMAs and DDMAs have issued their respective contingency plans, based on local risk assessments, to ensure a coordinated and effective response to monsoon-related emergencies.

In addition; NDMA ensures the implementation of the following pre-operational preparedness measures in anticipation of Monsoon 2026:-

i) Preparatory Activities (Completed)

(1) Post Monsoon Report 2025 highlighting lessons learnt.

(2) Annual Review 2025 outlined all activities conducted by NDMA in 2025.

(3) NDMP 2026-30 was issued.

(4) NDRP 2026 was issued on 1 January 2025.

(5) Global Best Practices for Disaster Mitigation & Management - 2026.

(6) 4th National Disaster Management Coordination Forum (NDMCF) conducted.

(7) 2nd National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Actions conducted.

(8) Restoration of GLOF - II Project (EWS) in GB and KP.

(9) 4 x CISE & 4 x National SimExs were organized with all national and international stakeholders.

(10) Pre-Monsoon Coordination Conferences attended with Pakistan Army & FFC.

(11) Formulation of Seasonal Contingency Plans for DEW-1 January-February-March (JFM) & DEW-2 (AMJ).

(12) Recoupment of Relief Logistics - NDMA Warehouses.

(13) Conference on Sectoral Clusterisation of NGOs/ INGOs in Pakistan.

(14) Establishment of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Models (DRIM) & Response Logistic Yards at NDMA.

(15) Seminar on Building Back Better, Sustainable Pathways for Post-Monsoon 2025.

(16) Infrastructure Audit Program 2026 was launched.

(17) Humanitarian Conference with UN Organization, development partners, NGOs & INGOs Conference.

(18) Pre-Monsoon National Coordination Conference was organized with all stakeholders 13 May 2026.

(19) DEW - 3 from July to September (DEW - 3) hazards monsoon 2026.

(20) Monsoon Contingency Plan - 2026 issued on 5 June 2026

(21) Misc Monsoon Guidelines - 2026.

(22) Army Pre-Flood Coordination Conference - 2026.

(23) Humanitarian Coordination Conference - 2026.

(24) Stock taking NGOs/ INGOs for preparation of Monsoon - 2026.

(25) Donors Conference at EAD.

(26) Dissemination of Alerts (Electronic, Print, app & social media).

(27) Daily Monsoon Sitreps/ Coordination Conference - 2026.

(28) SAR, Evacuation, Initial Relief to Affected Population, Camp Setting, Rehab.

(29) Ongoing/ Planned Activities

(30) SimEx and CISE (Monsoon - 2026) planned on 30 June 2026.

(31) Private Sector conference for preparation for Monsoon - 2026.

(32) National Coordination Forum on Anticipatory Action (AA).

(33) Provincial Media Coordination Conference - June 2026.

(34) Development of Infra Resilience 360° App.

(35) Post Monsoon Report - 2026.

ii) Ongoing/ Planned Activities

(1) DEW - 3 from July to September hazards monsoon 2026.

(2) SimEx (Monsoon - 2026).

(3) CISE (Monsoon - 2026).

(4) Consultative Workshop on Gender & Social Inclusion with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) & United Nation Women.

(5) Logistics Conference on Emergency Procurement - 2026.

(6) NDMCF V - 2026.

(7) Misc Monsoon Guidelines - 2026.

(8) Private Sector conference for preparation for Monsoon - 2026.

(9) Army Pre-Flood Coordination Conference - 2026.
(10) National Coordination Forum on Anticipatory Action (AA).
(11) Provincial Media Coordination Conference - June 2026.
(12) Development of Infra Resilience 360° App.
(13) Dissemination of Alerts (Electronic, Print, app & social media).
(14) Daily Monsoon Sitreps/ Coordination Conference - 2026.
(15) SAR, Evacuation, Initial Relief to Affected Population, Camp Setting, Rehab.
(16) Post Monsoon Report - 2026.

(b) Details of Potential Flood Situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province is attached as Annex-A.

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

<u>CLIMATE RESILIENCE AUDIT OF NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE</u>

26.* Syeda Shehla Raza:

Will the Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination be pleased to state:

a) whether Ministry has got conducted or commissioned any climate resilience audit of national infrastructure such as Dam, Highways also the Urban drainage system; and

b) what measures have been taken by Government as based on the findings?

Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (Senator Musadik Masood Malik): (a) The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination has not conducted or commissioned any climate resilience audit of national infrastructure, including dams, highways, or urban drainage systems. However, National Disaster Management Authority, being its mandate has got approved a Concept Program, the National Infrastructure Audit Program (NIAP) – 2026**,** to systematically assess, prioritize, and strengthen high-risk public infrastructure through audits, retrofitting, maintenance, or replacement. The programme is implemented under a national accountability framework, with

NDMA serving as the coordinating authority, while provincial governments and infrastructure-owning departments are responsible for execution.

(b) The measures are being taken under the Program mentioned above. A National Seminar was held on 7 January 2026 endorsed a phased implementation plan (2026–2028), standardized audit methodologies, risk-based prioritization, and a centralized digital reporting system. The National Infrastructure Audit Program (NIAP)-2026 is attached at Annex-I**.** The Program is currently under operation in phased approach, by taking the concerned provincial governments on-board.

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

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BUDGETS IMPACT ON POVERTY REDUCTION

27. Syeda Shehla Raza:

Will the Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety be pleased to state what measures will be taken to ensure the budget's impact on poverty reduction and job creation?

Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (Syed Imran Ahmad Shah):

(a) BENAZIR INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAMME (BISP)

It is apprised that Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) operates through budgetary allocations released directly by the Finance Division of Pakistan. Therefore, BISP can only provide financial data and programme allocations; however, impact of budget on poverty reduction may be directed to the relevant statistical authorities and research institutions. The main objective of BISP's core initiative i.e. Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) / Benazir Kafaalat Programme, is to provide cash assistance for consumption smoothing of eligible households by offsetting the adverse impacts of inflation, particularly the food inflation and other economic and natural shocks. Although, UCT/Kafaalat programme cannot be categorized as a poverty alleviation programme, however, it indirectly contributes to income stability, resilience, and long term socio-economic improvement, supporting broader poverty reduction efforts.

Moreover, with respect to job creation, BISP under its Complementary Initiatives has supported interventions that directly enhance employability and stimulate micro-enterprise formation among beneficiaries. The Skills Training Voucher pilot completed vocational training for beneficiaries and provides graduation bonuses and certification linked to placement support through NAVTTC and BISP Undergraduate Scholarship Program expanded higher-education access for students, improving youth employability; and asset-building, graduation and livelihood supports help households start small businesses and diversify income sources. However, any further scaling of these measures in the upcoming Federal Budget will depend on budgetary allocations and policy direction from the Finance Division, Government of Pakistan.

PAKISTAN BAIT-UL-MAL (PBM)

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) is a corporate body established in 1992 through an Act of Parliament, functioning under the administrative control of M/o Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety.

PBM, through its pro-poor programs, deals in developing Human Development in the society which directly contributes towards the welfare and wellbeing of general public. In this regard, following programs are executed:

1. **PBM Sweet Homes (PSHs):**

   The “PBM Sweet Homes” a premier project of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal provides orphan children with a secure and education-focused environment through the provision of free boarding, food, clothing, and education up to intermediate level. With widespread coverage, dedicated staff, using a holistic approach, the program has positively impacted the lives of underprivileged children.

Presently, the project comprises of 46 PBM Sweet Homes across the country, accommodating approximately 4,266 orphan children. Province/Region wise detail of PSHs is as under:

Province/Region wise details of Pakistan Sweet Homes (PSHs)			
Sr. No.	**Province/Regions**	**No. of PSHs**	**Enrolled Orphans**
1.	Punjab-I	08	682
2.	South Punjab	05	500
3.	Sindh	07	697
4.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	08	784
5.	Balochistan	04	378
6.	ICT/AJK	11	971
7.	Gilgit Baltistan	03	254
Total		**46**	**4,266**

2. **PBM Shelter Homes:**

PBM Shelter Home program was started in July, 2020 from Islamabad. In each Shelter Home, deserving / needy people are provided free meal and shelter. The target groups are people faraway from homes, unemployed, laborers, daily wagers, poor and transit passengers, attendants of the patients, students or any other deserving individuals. In each Shelter Home, free of cost dinner is provided to upto (400) people and night stay plus breakfast to upto (100) people on daily basis. Currently, (16) Shelter Homes are functional in the country, as under:

Province/Region	Numbers
ICT	04
AJK	01
Punjab	01
South Punjab	02
Sindh	07
Gilgit-Baltistan	01

Number of beneficiaries served from PBM Shelter Homes is as under:

Free night stay plus breakfast provided = 1,798,867

Free dinner served = 9,611,277

Total = 11,410,137

3. **Khana Sab Key Liye (Food):**

Khana Sab Key Liye (KSKL) program was started in March, 2021 where packed food is provided to the deserving people near to their workplaces. Principle of first come first serve is observed. From each KSKL food vehicle upto (1000) beneficiaries are provided free meal, (500 lunch and 500 dinner) on the designated routes. The programme is operated on the basis of Public-Private Partnership. Currently, (17) KSKL food vehicles are functional in the country as under:

Province/Region	Numbers
ICT	03
AJK	01
Punjab-I	02
South Punjab	03
Sindh	03
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	03
GB	01
Balochistan	01

So far, **9,717,565 meals** have been served through the KSKL food vehicles.

4. **ORPHANS & WIDOWS SUPPORT PROGRAM (OWSP):**

The Orphans & Widows Support Program (OWSP) is a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) intervention, launched in Year 2020, aimed at supporting the education of orphans while living with their mothers or guardians, with particular focus on girls' education. For the pilot phase 100 families from each Province/Region of the country are enrolled. Programme also focus to provide financial support to PSH passed out children to continue their education.

The benefit cost is Rs. 8000/- and Rs. 16,000/- per month for families having one and two or more school-going children, with at least one girl, respectively. Presently, approx 939 families having 1,456 children are enrolled in the project.

Province	Families	Children		
		Male	Female	Total
Balochistan	107	68	136	204
Gilgit-Baltistan	93	100	159	259
ICT & AJK	110	76	100	176
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	285	243	102	345
Punjab-I	151	126	75	201
Sindh	86	24	107	131
South Punjab	107	16	124	140
Total	**939**	**653**	**803**	**1456**

Rs.146,292,000/- have been disbursed among enrolled beneficiaries in phase manner since its inception.

5. **<u>Individual Financial Assistance (IFA) - General:</u>**

PBM has allocated budget for the current financial year 2025-26 amounting Rs 403,633,600/- to address the most vulnerable groups of the society for their sudden, immediate nature financial needs as a shock therapy.

During 2025-26, PBM has supported 4780 deserving individuals through disbursement of 93,635,000/- under IFA-General Programme, ensuring timely relief to alleviate their financial burdens.

PBM has the policy to provide relief to the deserving beneficiaries up to Rs 60,000/- two times in entire life span. The potential individuals having capacity to grow through starting their small scale business to become self reliant are also benefitted by provision of Rs 40,000 to Rs 60,0000/-, so that they could make earning through fruit carts, small beauty parlors in home, garments business, fast food stalls etc.

6. **<u>Individual Financial Assistance (IFA) - Education:</u>**

PBM has allocated Rs 403.633,600/- during the year 2025-26 to accommodate the poor and deserving students, so that they could complete their education and become a productive part of the society.

During the current financial year 6142 students studying in Government Universities were granted educational stipends amounting Rs 227,248,180/-

This programme supports for the education of children from economically disadvantaged families by covering tuition fees, examination costs, and other educational expenses.

PBM provides annual financial assistance up to PKR 150,000/- per student to support poor and deserving individuals in pursuing their education.

7. **Special Friends Project (SFP):**

Special Friends Project (SFP) is a comprehensive initiative designed to provide support to persons with disabilities. The program aims to empower individuals with disabilities to lead independent and dignified lives.

PBM provides financial assistance of Rs.30,000/- for single disable person and Rs.60,000/- for families with multiple disabled persons.

PBM has allocated Rs 403.633, 600/- during the year 2025-26 to accommodate the persons with other abilities (special friends) ,so that they could get their basic level needs.

During the current financial year PBM has accommodated 5955 special friends by releasing 194,450,000/-

Way Forward: the measures to be taken for reduction of poverty and job creation

PBM is in the planning and decision taking mode to enhance the Individual financial assistance up to Rs 200,000/ on case to case basis for those poor young people who have the capacity, potential and will to become self reliant through a small scale entrepreneurship people.

IFA Education stipend is also awarded to the girls studying in the nursing field so that they could earn their livelihood by serving in the countries like Canada, Australia, Europe America and gulf countries.

8. **Individual Financial Assistance (IFA)-Medical:**

PBM is executing an Individual Financial Assistance (IFA) Medical schemes wherein, poor/deserving people suffering from fatal diseases like Cancer, Heart disease, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, Vital Organ Surgeries, Kidney are provided financial assistance up to Rs. 1.5 million per patient for treatment through government hospitals. The individual having monthly income equal to or less than Rs. 74,000/- is eligible to get financial assistance from IFA (Medical). To ensure the budget's impact on poverty reduction, the government is focusing on inclusive economic policies, digital social safety nets for poor patients.

Disbursement of funds for last three (03) F.Ys under IFA-Medical is as under:

Year	Medical		Cochlear Implant	
	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed
2022-23	8345	1,417,509,656	41	41,000,000
2023-24	8731	1,695,621,510	752	814,650,000
2024-25	18,305	4,121,780,532	902	1,932,150,000
Total	**35381**	**7,234,911,698**	**1695**	**2,787,800,000**

9. **<u>School For Rehabilitation Of Child Labour(SRCL):</u>**

The PBM is undertaking targeted measures to ensure that budgetary allocations effectively contribute to poverty reduction and job creation, particularly by addressing the root causes of child labour and promoting human capital development.

In this regard, PBM is implementing the project titled School for Rehabilitation of Child Labour (SRCL) across the country. The initiative focuses on the elimination of child labour by providing free primary education to children engaged in hazardous occupations such as brick kilns, carpet weaving, mining, tannery, construction, glass bangle industry, domestic work, begging, agriculture, and street-based activities.

At present, 160 SRCLs are operational nationwide (Lahore Region–46, Multan Region–20, Sindh–38, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa–24, Balochistan–14, ICT–13, and Gilgit-Baltistan–5), catering to 19,042 enrolled students during the academic year 2024–25. These schools provide free uniform, shoes, textbooks, stationery, and a stipend of Rs.100/- per day on attendance basis, thereby incentivizing school attendance and reducing the economic burden on families.

The Government has further strengthened its commitment through international obligations, including signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1994 under the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), and ratifying ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in 2001.

These measures ensure effective utilization of budgetary resources by:

- Eradicating child labour and facilitating access to formal education;
- Reducing poverty at the household level through financial support and social protection;
- Enhancing future employability of children through education and skill development pathways;
- Promoting long-term economic productivity and job creation by developing a skilled and educated workforce.

PBM, under the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, operates at the grassroots level to directly engage vulnerable communities, ensuring that the benefits of public spending translate into sustainable socio-economic uplift and improved livelihood opportunities across the country.

The annual budget allocated for one School for Rehabilitation of Child Labour (SRCL) is Rs.4.9 million.

Detail of schools along with enrolled students (academic year 2024-25) is as given below:

Province/Region	**Boys**	**Girls**	**Total Student Enrolled**
Lahore Region	2743	2743	5486
Multan Region	1240	1127	2367
Sindh	2378	2086	4464
KP	1951	914	2865
Balochistan	882	798	1680
ICT	806	795	1601
GB	350	229	579
Total	**10350**	**8692**	**19042**

10. **Women Empowerment Centres(WECS):**

The Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), has undertaken comprehensive measures to ensure that budgetary allocations effectively contribute to poverty reduction and job creation, particularly targeting the most vulnerable segments of society.

In this regard, PBM has established 165 Women Empowerment Centers (WECs) across the country, including Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, operating at the district level since 1995. These centers provide free vocational training to widows, orphans, and underprivileged women in market-relevant skills such as dress designing, embroidery, computer applications, beautician services, cooking, and fabric painting.

Approximately 25,000 trainees benefit annually, equipping them with employable skills that directly enhance their income-generating capacity So far, Pakistan Bait ul Mal has 165 WECs, 37 are in Punjab, 18 in South Punjab, 34 in Sindh, 30 in KPK, 23 in Balochistan, 17 in ICT/AJK and 6 in Gilgit Baltistan.

To further support participation, trainees are provided a stipend of Rs. 100 per day on an attendance basis through transparent systems including Biometric Verification System (BVS) and Electronic Payment System (EPS) via UBL Omni and Jazz Cash.

Upon successful completion of training, participants are awarded Certificates of Proficiency accredited by the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), thereby improving their employability in the formal and informal job markets.

Since inception, a total of 366,504 trainees has successfully passed-out from WECs across all provinces and regions, reflecting the scale and sustained impact of the initiative.

These measures ensure that budgetary resources are utilized effectively by:

- Promoting skill development and self-employment opportunities;
- Enhancing economic mobility of disadvantaged women;
- Supporting grassroots-level job creation; and
- Ensuring equitable access to vocational training across all regions.

The initiative has yielded positive outcomes, as a significant number of graduates are now earning sustainable livelihoods, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation and socio-economic development of their families and communities.

The annual budget allocated for one Women Empowerment Center (WEC) is Rs.4.9 million. The Province/Region wise detail of passed out trainees (w.e.f 1995 to 2025) are as under:

DETAIL OF PASSED OUT TRAINEES (W.E.F 1995 TO 2025)	
Province / Region	**Total Passed out**
Punjab	75,587
South Punjab	37,115
Sindh	79,945
KPK	75,361
Balochistan	44,142
ICT & AJK	42,093
Gilgit Baltistan	12,261
Total	**366,504**

11. TRUST FOR VOLUNTRY ORGANIZATION (TVO)

Trust for Voluntary Organizations (TVO) is a private entity established under the Special Development Fund (SDF) Agreement between the Government of Pakistan and the Government of the United States of America. TVO operates in accordance with its Charter and By-Laws and does not receive any budgetary support from the Federal or Provincial Governments. It utilizes (i) its own investment income and (ii) donor contributions to carry out its mandate.

With reference to the subject matter, it is stated that Trust for Voluntary Organizations (TVO) adopts a community-centered development approach, supporting projects that contribute to the collective betterment of communities by reducing socioeconomic vulnerabilities, improving access to basic services, and strengthening local capacities. Its grant financing primarily targets community-driven initiatives implemented through partner organizations to ensure inclusive and widespread impact, while also supporting projects that enhance income generation by building the skills and capacities of groups, particularly women and youth. Through this integrated approach—focusing on both community development and livelihood enhancement—WO contributes to sustainable poverty reduction and job creation, ensuring that public investments translate into tangible socio-economic improvements for marginalized populations.

DETAILS OF THE REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS DECISION OF CABINET

1. Syeda Shehla Raza:

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

a) what measures are being taken by the Cabinet Division to ensure transparency into the functioning of the Federal Cabinet and its affiliated bodies;

b) details of the report on the implementation status of decision taken in the Cabinet meeting over the part (a) above; and

c) what mechanism put in place for monitoring performance of various ministries and divisions under the oversight of the Cabinet Division?

Minister In-charge of the Cabinet Division: (a) Cabinet Division provides secretariat support to the Federal Cabinet which includes scrutiny of summaries for Cabinet, issuance of agenda for Cabinet meetings, recording of minutes and decisions of the Cabinet meetings and issuance of decisions to the relevant Ministries/Divisions as required under rule 20(13) of the Rules of Business, 1973. Further the Cabinet Division maintains the record of each case as per the requirements of rule 24(6) of the Rules ibid.

(b) Details of Cabinet Meetings and Cabinet Decisions held during the tenure of the present government (from 4th March, 2024 to date) are given below:

Years	Cabinet Meetings	Implemented Cabinet Decisions	Under Process Cabinet Decisions	Total Cabinet Decisions
2024-26	67	2173	375	2548

(c) The Cabinet Division monitors the implementation of Cabinet decisions by Ministries and Divisions to ensure that Cabinet decisions are expeditiously implemented. However, the Cabinet Division does not have the mandate to monitor the overall performance of Ministries and Divisions.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF WIDOWS OF TEHSIL BALAKOT

2. Ms. Aliya Kamran:

Will the Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety be pleased to stated:

a) the names and addresses of widows of tehsil Balakot included in Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) after fresh survey conducted by BISP; and

b) the details of criteria fixed for selection thereof?

Minister for poverty Alleviation and Social Safety: (Syed Imran Ahmad Shah) (a) The number of widow beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in tehsil Balakot is 1,638. Moreover, the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) Wing has established robust data-sharing protocols and constituted a dedicated Data Sharing Committee to oversee compliance. To date, the NSER Wing has shared data with over 100 federal and provincial entities, as well as development partners including INGOs and NGOs with the Data Sharing Committee's approval. This mechanism ensures adherence to data-sharing protocols, prevents breaches, and minimizes duplication of efforts. Therefore, the data sharing request may please be forwarded in the name of Director General (NSER), BISP through proper channel, on the prescribed “Data Request Form” attached as Annex-I for the approval from Data Sharing Committee. Data can be shared through preselected mechanisms to ensure security and confidentiality.

(b) The eligibility criteria of cash assistance under Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) and Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) can only be ever-married women including divorced/widow women, with valid CNICs having PMT score of <

32 are eligible. For households with persons with disabilities, the cut-off score is < 37. Beneficiaries of UCT & CCT programmes are identified through scientific mode of National Socio-Economic (NSER) survey based on Proxy Means Test (PMT) that determines the welfare status of the household on a scale between 0-100. Eligibility thresholds (PMT cut-off scores) are determined according to available fiscal space and approved by BISP Board. All families falling within the approved PMT cut-off are provided cash assistance.

However, under the approved policy, transgender individuals registered with NADRA are eligible to receive UCT benefits without any PMT-based restriction.

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

PLAN OF ONLINE EDUCATION AND DIGITAL CURRICULUM

3. Ms. Shahida Rehmani:

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

a) **whether the Government has stated any plan to promote online education, digital curriculum and virtual class rooms;**
b) **whether the facilities of tablets or digital libraries have been provided to male and female students under these plans;**
c) **whether the Ministry has entered into a partnership with any educational institution or app; and**
d) **if not, what strategy is being adopted by the Ministry for the proMotion of digital education?**

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja): (a) The Government, through the Ministry of IT & Telecom, has taken concrete steps to promote online education, digital skills, and virtual classrooms through initiatives such as DigiSkills.pk Program, the Center of Excellence for Gaming and Animation (CEGA) and the Danish Pods initiative, whose brief is as follows:

DigiSkills.pk Training Program:

DigiSkills.pk is Pakistan's largest free online digital skills training program to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques needed to access local and international online job markets. It aims to expand the country's freelance workforce, increase freelancers' working hours and earnings, improve household income and financial inclusion, develop experts in specialized skills, and contribute to the growth of Pakistan's IT exports.

The program has imparted 5.51 million trainings to date and has contributed significantly to the growth of Pakistan's freelancing ecosystem and digital economy.

Center of Excellence for Gaming and Animation (CEGA):

CEGA is another Ignite's flagship initiative launched to nurture Pakistan's growing talent pool in the gaming and animation industries through state-of-the-art training, hands-on mentorship, and world-class infrastructure. Two dedicated centers have been established in Lahore and Karachi with a target to provide 10,000 trainings through both physical and online model for upskilling and catering the nationwide demand ensuring practical exposure through in-person workshops and studio-based sessions. The program has imparted more than 1,600 trainees to date across three batches under the initiative starting November 2025.

Danish Pods:

Danish Pods is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) and Ignite – National Technology Fund, aligned with the Prime Minister's Vision for Digital Pakistan. Launched as a pilot project in Islamabad, the initiative reflects the Government's commitment to leveraging technology for inclusive development by ensuring equitable access to education, digital skills, and socio-economic opportunities.

As part of the pilot, Danish Pods have been established at F-9 Park and Saidpur Village, Islamabad, with five computers installed at each location. The British Council Digital Library has been integrated into the Pod computers, providing learners with access to e-books, academic and research resources, and digital learning tools that support skill development and lifelong learning. Similar e-learning resources will also be integrated into these Pods in the future.

In addition, the Government is also promoting digital learning through the development of INDUS (Integrated Network for Digital Upskilling & Success) by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) under the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT). INDUS is being developed as a comprehensive national digital workforce platform comprising multiple integrated modules to connect students, professionals, academia, industry, and government. One of its key modules is a Learning Management System (LMS), which will serve as the central platform for delivering online training programmes, digital courses, certifications, webinars, mentorship sessions, and other virtual learning opportunities. Going forward, digital skills training initiatives implemented by MoITT and PSEB will be delivered through this LMS, enabling learners across Pakistan to access high-quality, industry-relevant training remotely while promoting digital upskilling and enhancing workforce readiness.

(b) Yes. Virtual University Pakistan (VUP) centers available in major cities across Pakistan offer the trainees digital infrastructure at these centers who do not have access to laptops or computers. Under CEGA trainings, high-end computers are available for onsite participants, while GPU resources are provided to both onsite and online participants.

Under the Danish Pods initiative, five computers have been installed at each of the two locations i.e F-10 Park and Saidpur Village. The British Council Digital Library has also been integrated into the Pod computers, providing access to e-books, academic and research resources, educational materials, and digital learning tools and further digital learning resources are being added to the e-library.

Furthermore, the INDUS platform includes a Learning Management System (LMS) module that will function as a digital learning repository by providing students across Pakistan, including both male and female learners, with remote access to online courses, certifications, webinars, mentorship sessions, and other virtual learning resources.

(c) Yes. Ignite, through DigiSkills.pk Program has partnered with Virtual University of Pakistan for providing nationwide trainings and also further collaboration with Schools, colleges and universities nationwide for participation in this program. Similarly, the INDUS platform being administered by PSEB is being designed to collaborate with stakeholders across academia, industry, and government. In this regard, partnerships and integrations with Higher Education Commission (HEC)-recognized universities, the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), and other relevant government entities are envisaged to facilitate e-learning, support verification of credentials, strengthen digital identity mechanisms, and enhance access to digital skills training, certifications, internships, and employment opportunities through a unified digital ecosystem.

(d) The Ministry of IT & Telecom, through Ignite – National Technology Fund, is adopting a multi-pronged strategy for the proMotion of digital education across Pakistan, which includes:

- Nationwide Free Digital Skills Training: Through the DigiSkills.pk Program, offering free online courses in freelancing, digital marketing, e-commerce, AI, data analytics, and other high-demand digital skills, delivered via a dedicated Learning Management System (LMS) accessible across the country.
- Sector-Specific Specialized Training: Through initiatives like the Center of Excellence for Gaming and Animation (CEGA), providing focused, industry-relevant training in emerging fields such as game development and 3D animation combining both online and onsite learning modes.
- Digital Infrastructure Support: Facilitating access to digital learning resources through initiatives such as Danish Pods, where computers have been placed to support digital literacy among students.

- Women and Youth-Focused Inclusion: Prioritizing participation of women, unemployed youth, and underserved communities to promote financial inclusion and equitable access to digital education opportunities.
- Outreach and Awareness Campaigns: Road shows, print media, and social media marketing are conducted by our partners to create awareness and promote digital education among target communities across Pakistan, ensuring wider visibility and participation in these programs.

Through its Learning Management System (LMS), INDUS will serve as a centralized platform for delivering online training programmes, digital courses, certifications, webinars, mentorship sessions, and other virtual learning opportunities. The platform aims to expand access to quality, industry-relevant training, enhance digital skills, strengthen academia-industry collaboration, and improve workforce readiness across Pakistan.

INITIATED PROJECT FOR THE PROVISION OF INTERNET AND IT LABS

4. Ms. Shahida Rehmani:

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

a) whether the Ministry has initiated any project for the provision of internet, Information Technology (I.T) labs and smart boards in educational institutions of Pakistan;

b) if so, the names of those educational institutions to whom these facilities have been provided;

c) whether the Ministry has also commenced "a pilot project" in any educational institution; and

d) if not, what measures are being proposed to strengthen the foundation of I.T education?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja): (a) Ignite–National Technology Fund, under the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, implemented a pilot project titled "Digital Skills Training & Support Program for Southern Balochistan" under which three state-of-the-art IT labs were established in selected educational institutions of Southern Balochistan. The project focused on strengthening ICT infrastructure and digital skills training.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT), through the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), has initiated projects aimed at strengthening advanced digital and information technology education infrastructure in higher educational institutions. Under the National Semiconductor Human Resource Development Program (NSHRDP), Semiconductor Education & Research Clusters (SERCs) are being established to enhance Pakistan's semiconductor ecosystem through quality education, research, and industry collaboration.

As part of this initiative, selected universities will establish state-of-the-art Semiconductor Design Laboratories equipped with industry-standard Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools and advanced design infrastructure to facilitate hands-on learning, research, and innovation. The program is focused on developing specialized human capital in emerging technologies and does not specifically provide for the installation of smart boards or general internet connectivity infrastructure in educational institutions. The list of schools regarding the provision of internet connectivity is at Annex-I.

The National Telecom Corporation (NTC) has deployed Internet at 426 FDE Schools/Colleges as per their requirement. The list is at Annex-II._The Shenzhen-Inspired ICT Education Roadmap Project, initiated by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) aims to develop a comprehensive framework for ICT education and skills development in Pakistan by drawing lessons from the globally recognized Shenzhen technology ecosystem. The project focuses on aligning Pakistan's ICT education pipeline with export-oriented industry needs and international standards. The details of the project are placed at Annex-III.

(b) The following educational institutions benefited under the pilot project:
University of Gwadar
University of Turbat
Balochistan University of Engineering and Technology, Khuzdar

Moreover, the SERC initiative envisages the establishment of three regional clusters (North, Centre, and South) comprising selected leading universities. The process of selection and operationalization of participating institutions is underway in accordance with the approved implementation framework. The laboratories will be established at participating universities under the SERC program.

(c) Yes. Ignite–National Technology Fund, under the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, implemented the "Digital Skills Training & Support Program for Southern Balochistan" as a pilot project. Under the project, three state-of-the-art IT labs were established and market-oriented digital skills training was delivered through a blended model comprising online and lab-based learning. Additionally, the Semiconductor Education & Research Clusters initiative is being implemented in a phased manner through selected universities, which will serve as centres of excellence for semiconductor education, research, and innovation.

(d) The Ministry is undertaking various measures to strengthen the foundation of I.T. education, including:

• Establishment of Semiconductor Education & Research Clusters (SERCs) across the country.

• Development of state-of-the-art Semiconductor Design Laboratories equipped with advanced EDA tools and design infrastructure.

• Introduction of standardized undergraduate and postgraduate semiconductor curricula.

• Capacity building of faculty Members and researchers through specialized training programs.

• ProMotion of academia-industry collaboration to align education with emerging technological and market requirements.

• Encouraging applied research, innovation, and commercialization of indigenous technologies to produce a highly skilled workforce for future digital and semiconductor industries. These initiatives are expected to produce approximately 2,200 skilled semiconductor engineers by 2029 and contribute towards developing a sustainable technology ecosystem in Pakistan.

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

Mr. Speaker: The House is adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, 18th August, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

(The House was adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, 18th August, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.)