(33rd Session)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

"QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES"

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

Friday, the 21st May, 2021

98. ***Ms. Fauzia Behram:**
(Deferred during 29th Session)

Will the Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to check and put ban on the various so called celebrations like Valentine Day and Black Friday in the country?

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony (Mr. Noor-ul-Haq Qadri): The celebration of Valentine Day is already banned on the directions of the honourable Islamabad High Court in the Writ Petition No. 541/2017 titled "Mr. Abdul Waheed vs Federation of Pakistan" and in this regard instructions (Annex-I) has already been issued by PEMRA to all the Broadcasts Media and Distribution Services.

2. However, the issue of Black Friday was referred to the Council of Islamic Ideology for its opinion. The Council recommended (Annex-II) that the term "Black Friday" may be replaced with "Blessed Friday".

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

81. ***Syed Hussain Tariq:**
(Deferred during 31st Session)

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state:

(a) *whether Government has assessed its policies which compelled to import huge quantity of wheat during the year 2020 and this trend continued during the years 2020 and 2021;*

(b) *if so, whether Government has assessed or intends to assess the reasons, which compelled the Government to import wheat during the said periods; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof; and*

(c) *what corrective measures or the steps are being taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient for making increase in the national production of wheat?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Syed Fakhar Imam): (a) During 2020, Pakistan produced more wheat, (25.25 MMT) as compared to previous year's production (24.48 MMT), however, it was less than the target (27 MMT) and total consumption (27.47 MMT). Due to relatively low production, minimum carry forward stocks and non-existent strategic reserves, the Federal Government have to import wheat on behalf of Provincial Government Wheat import increased supply of wheat and wheat flour and helped to stabilize the market. For 2021, a number of measures have been taken to enhance wheat production and to avert the situation faced during 2020.

(b) Primary reasons for import of wheat during 2020, include, *inter alia*, the following:

- Low production as compared to the annual target due to erratic weather.
- Less carry forward stocks.
- No strategic reserves.
- Low MSP in comparison to international price.
- Hoarding/smuggling.

(c) Government has taken following corrective measures to boost up domestic wheat production and for self-sufficiency:

- Enhancement of MSP from Rs. 1,400 to Rs. 1,800/- 40 KG for wheat crop 2021.
- Availability of certified seed.

- Timely availability of agricultural inputs.
- Awareness campaign through Kissan gatherings.
- Prime Minister Emergency Program for Enhancement of Wheat – development of high yielding, weather and disease resistant varieties.

As a result very healthy wheat crop is expected during 2021.

24. ***Mr. Ali Gohar Khan:**

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state what steps Government has taken or being taken to reduce the prices of medicines; if so, the details thereof?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: The following steps have been taken to reduce prices of medicines:-

(i) Reduction in MRP of Remdesivir 100mg Inj.

(a) In October, 2020, MRP of Remdesivir 100mg injection (to treat Covid-l9 patients) was reduced from Rs. 10,873/1's to Rs. 9,244/1's and

(b) In December, 2020, MRP of the same drug was further reduced from Rs. 9,244/1's to Rs. 5,680/1's.

(ii) Reduction in MRPs of drugs.

Under the provisions of the Drug Pricing Policy-2018, MRPs of 562 drugs have been reduced and notified after approval by the Federal Government.

(iii) Reduction in MRPs of drugs on generic basis.

In January, 2020, MRPs of 89 drugs have been reduced on genetic basis *vide* SRO 09(I)/2020 dated January 3, 2020.

(iv) Public notice in newspaper:

DRAP has published public notice of reduced prices in national newspapers for information of public. Toll free number and email address have been given in public notice to lodge complaints, if any pharmaceutical company or retailer sells any drug at price more than notified prices.

(v) Encouragement of production of generics

(a) Manufacturing of generic drugs is being encouraged and facilitated, as by and large the generic products are cheaper than the branded drugs. Priority and all facilitations are being given to the manufacturers of generic drugs and to make their investment fruitful in the shortest possible time. For that purpose, meetings of the various boards are being held frequently.

(b) Priority is also being given to grant registration to new licenses/ new sections to increase production of drugs which increase competition in the market which in turn results in the reduction of prices of drugs.

(v) Coordination with provincial health authorities to monitor prices in the market.

Under Section 6 of the Drugs Act, 1976, the storage and sale of drugs in the market is regulated by the Provincial Governments, therefore, DRAP has advised the Provincial Health Authorities to take action under the law against the companies who increase prices of drugs more than approved prices.

(vi) Regulation imposed:

Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, with the approval of Federal Cabinet notified a Drug Pricing Policy-2018 which provides as transparent mechanism for fixation, decrease & increase in MRPs of drugs.

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

Will the Minister for National Health Service, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in our country there is an increasing resistance to even broad spectrum antibiotics;

(b) if so, its causes thereof; and

(c) what measures are being adopted by the Government to address anti-microbial resistance at present?

Minister for National Health Service, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Pakistan is amongst largest consumer of antibiotics. Resultantly, there is an increasing resistance to even broad spectrum antibiotics.

(b) The problem could not be fully controlled due to the following reasons:

- Self-medication in more than 51% of population.
- A large number of quacks who prescribe antibiotics.
- Availability of over-the-counter antibiotics.
- Inappropriate prescription of antibiotics.

(c) Measures adopted by the Government to address Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR):

- The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Government of Pakistan (GoP) has included Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) containment as priority agenda for health security and has been included in the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS).

- GoP has fully endorsed the Global Action Plan for AMR adopted *vide* Resolution WHA68.7 during the 68th WHA and support the goal of Global Action Plan to ensure continuity of successful treatment and prevention of infectious diseases with effective and safe medicines that are quality-assured, used in a responsible way, and accessible to all who need them.

- National AMR Strategic Framework has been developed in Pakistan with "One Health" approach. This framework has been developed through a consultative process and is in line with the five strategic objectives of the WHO Global Action Plan for AMR.

- In compliance to WHA resolutions, the Ministry of NHSR&C has developed and endorsed the National Action Plan for AMR in Pakistan. This process ensured national ownership as well as the commitment of all relevant stakeholders.

- The primary objective of the National Action Plan (NAP) developed through collaborative efforts of concerned stakeholders is to ensure that current anti-microbials remain effective as long as Possible, minimize the cost associated with their indiscriminate use and comitment of relevant stakeholders. The NAP is in line with the objectives of Global Action Plan including minimizing the utilization of antibiotics.

- The NIH as the Focal Point for AMR Global Anti-microbial Surveillance System (GLASS) is expanding the network of GLASS reporting sites in the country and sharing the data on WHO GLASS portal for last 4 years.

- The Ministry of NHSRC has developed a National Action Plan for XDR Typhoid in response to XDR Typhoid outbreak in Sindh. Technical assistance is being provided to the Sindh health department for XDR typhoid response.

- A point prevalence survey on AMR Consumption has been conducted and the Ministry intends to roll out the survey to include all major tertiary care hospitals across the country.

- The Ministry of NHSRC is collaborating with other stakeholders, organizations and professional societies to undertake various initiatives like setting integrated AMR surveillance, antibiotic stewardship program, anti-microbial consumption and utilization surveillance, developing different guidelines on AMR and capacity enhancement of AMR related laboratory diagnostics.

- National Reference Labs for AMR, in both human health and animal/ livestock sectors, have been established with the assistance of Fleming Fund.

- A PC-1 on AMR has also been approved and its implementation is under way.

Awareness raising activities:

Since 2017, Antibiotic Awareness Week is being observed for raising awareness about Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR). The following activities have been carried out during 2019-2020 in this context:

- National Institute of Health (NIH) in collaboration with WHO launched nation-wide campaign during world antibiotic awareness week.

- NIH in collaboration with WHO distributed size banners, caps and flyers in provincial spread AMR awareness in masses throughout Pakistan.

- NIH arranged a poster competition to create awareness amongst the young children.

- AMR awareness walk was organized by the NIH in collaboration with WHO with the aim to raise awareness about the threat of antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic prescribing.

- Seminars on prevention and control of Anti-microbial Resistance were arranged.

- Radio programme regarding AMR awareness

- Awareness walks regarding AMR

- Lecture session in COMSATS University Islamabad

- Posters have been translated in Urdu language and available on NIH website https://www.nih.org.pk/antimicrobial-resistance/antimicrobial-resistance-awareness-material/

26. ***Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the factual position of the Railway after coming in power of the incumbent Government;

(b) the details of annual deficit of Railways; and

(c) the details of the total deficit occurred so far?

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan Swati): (a) In 2018, 60=120 trains were running that have been curtailed to 42=84 owing to corona crisis and non-profitable running of trains.

- KCR/ Karachi Circular Railways have been restored partially which was closed since 1999.
- 15 sets of passenger trains have been offered for outsourcing for better commercial exploitation.
- ITI train connecting Turkey-Pakistan is in the process of operationalization of trade route for container traffic and conventional freight traffic between South Asia and Europe.
- A joint Appeal letter to various International Finance Corporations (IFC) was signed between heads of Afghanistan- Pakistan and Uzbekistan in December-2020 to construct a railway line in Afghanistan. It will provide connectivity between Pakistan and Central Asia.
- Real time information regarding tracking of passenger trains have been introduced.

(b) The detail of the deficit in the financial years after coming in power of the incumbent Government from 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 is as below:

(Rs. In million)

Financial Year	Deficit
2018-2019	32,769.120
2019-2020	50,152.455

(c) The details of the total deficit occurred so far after coming in power of the incumbent Government is as below:

(Rs. In million)

Financial Year	Deficit
2018-2019	32,769.120
2019-2020	50,152.455
2020-2021 (upto March Provisional)	36,284.673
Total Deficit	**119,206.248**

27. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1467 apartments are being constructed by the Government at Kashmir Avenue, G-13, Islamabad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is mentioned expressly in their letter regarding reduction to be made in the prices in their allotments under the Prime Minister Programme;

(c) if so, the prices being reduced in each category alongwith the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for not announcing the said reduction in the prices so far; and

(e) the time by which the announcement will be made in this regard?

Minister for Housing and Works (Chaudhary Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, tentative schedule of payment was issued to apartment allottees with the note that “relief in construction Sector under Prime Minister Package will be passed on to the allottee accordingly”.

(c) The FGE Housing Authority is charging only the actual cost of construction to the allottees of Kashmir Avenue, G-13, Islamabad. Concession in the form of cost of land would however, be:

i. Type Flat A, amount Rs. 8,597,707/- per flat.
ii. Type Flat B, amount Rs. 8,622,094/- per flat.

(d) Announced in the payment schedule.

(e) Announced in the payment schedule.

28. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the present Government to establish and promote new industries in the country;

(b) if yes, what benefits will be accrued therefrom?

Minister for Industries and Production (Makhdoom Khusro Bukhtiar): (a) The Industries and Production Division is currently developing "National Industrial Policy (NIP)", keeping into view the policy objective of developing a way forward for achieving the target of sustainable growth trajectory with enhancing national industrial baseline. The preliminary level outline and Situation Analysis Report on prospects and challenges of industrial sector, has already been developed. This Division is engaging with the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-Pakistan for soliciting technical assistance to develop the first draft of NIP with mainstreaming of the global best practices. The policy manuscript shall be presented before the Cabinet, once the stakeholder's consultations are finalized.

The Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) constitute more than 90% of the Pakistan's manufacturing sector. In order to promote sustainable national industrial development and SMES-led growth, the Industries and Production Division has also developed "Draft National SMEs Policy-2020". The draft SMEs Policy focuses on four key domains including Macro Policy and Regulatory Environment, Supply side challenges, Institutional Mechanism and Demand side challenges.

Further to it, the Industries and Production Division has developed "National Electric Vehicles (EV) Policy. The EV Policy serves as the country's premier policy regime on promotion of green automobiles and climate change mitigation for transportation sector. This Division has further developed the Mobile Manufacturing Policy, in order to promote the wireless telecommunication in national context of Pakistan, with a view to tap the investment potential in the arena of Industrial Revolution 4.0.

The Industries and Production Division is also working to revise the "Automotive Development Policy (2016-2021)" to boost up growth and modernization of automobile sector.

(b) It is estimated that that above highlighted policy actions will help the Federal Government to achieve the target of sustainable growth trajectory through national industrial development. These steps will also enhance the share of industry in national Gross Domestic Productivity (GDP).

29. ***Ms. Nasiba Channa:**

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state the location-wise details of total number of the Government houses/ flats constructed by the present Government for the servants till to date?

Minister for Housing and Works (Chaudhary Tariq Bashir Cheema): During the present Government no Government house/flat have been constructed for the Government Servants, since Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on 14-03-1995 has imposed a ban on new construction of Government owned residential accommodations and decided that the rental ceiling will be paid to the Federal Government Servants along-with their salaries to encourage them to build houses through bank finance. However, the Cabinet Decision has partially been implemented by imposing ban on construction of new Government owned residential accommodations, whereas monetization of hiring has not been carried out.

30. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) *the details of amount to be received by the Railways from other departments on account of dues; and* *(b) the steps being taken by the Government to collect the same amount in due course of time?*

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan Swati): (a) The details of amount to be received by Railways from other departments on account of receivables is Rs. 9891.685 Millions (upto March 2021):

(1)	Federal Departments	Rs.1,172.180 (Million)
(2)	Provincial Departments	Rs. 2,444.220 (Million;
(3)	Autonomous and Private Bodies	Rs. 6,275.285 (Million)
	Gross Total	**Rs. 9891.685 (Million)**

(b) (1) **Federal Departments**

Departments	**Amount (Millions)**
Defence	950.160
National Highway Authority	55.487
AGPR	7.236
Pakistan Post Office	37.558
Public Works Department	18.700
State Bank of Pakistan	38.228
Post Master General (Freight)	64.811
Total	**1,172.180**

(2) **Provincial Departments**

Department	**Punjab**	**Sindh**	**Balochistan**	**KPK**	**Total (Millions)**
Food	351.737	5.081	23.702	378.652	759.172
Provincial Highways	1297.105	196.223	-	-	1493.328
Irrigation	2.547	0.761	-	5.496	8.804
Police	21.604	-	0.003	-	21.607
Town Municipal Authorities	85.968	16.728	0.126	58.487	161.309
Total	**1758.961**	**218.793**	**23.831**	**442.635**	**2,444.220**

(3) **Autonomous and Private Bodies**

Departments	Amount (Millions)
PSO	2,071.64
WAPDA	532.797
Oil Companies (Shell Shevron)	825.628
Public Private Partnership (Business Exp, Shalimar Exp, Night Coach, Bolan Exp)	2,457.05
Others	388.170
Total	6,275.285

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

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of prevalence of HIV/AIDs infection in high risk areas of the country; and

(b) indicating also the steps taken by National AIDs Control Programme (NACP) in order to control the same, since 2019, when a large outbreak of HIV/AIDs was observed in Ratodero?

Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination: (a) The present status of prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection in high-risk areas of the county:

- The prevalence of HIV/AIDS was calculated in Integrated Biological & Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS) round 5 conducted in 2016. The results are reflected in 4th Pakistan AIDS Strategy 2021-2025. The new Integrated Biological & Behavioral Surveillance has been planned in new grant 2021-2023 to get updated results after the National Census. The high-risk cities for People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) are Karachi in Sindh, Faisalabad in Punjab, Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kaich in Balochistan. The high-risk cities for Men who have Sex with Men (MSMs) are Karachi in Sindh, Lahore in Punjab, Haripur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Quetta in Balochistan. The high-risk cities for Transg,enders (TGs) are Karachi in Sindh, Multan in Punjab, Haripur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Quetta in Balochistan. The high-risk cities for Female Sex. Workers (FSWs) are Karachi in Sindh, Lahore in Punjab, Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Quetta in Balochistan.

(b) Steps taken by National AIDS Control Program in order to control the same, since, 2019, when a large outbreak of HIV/AIDS was observed in Ratodero:

- The National AIDS Control Program has established 49 HIV treatment centers in the country consisting of Physician, Nurse/ Paramedic, Counselors, Case Managers and Data Entry Operator, which are providing the following services.
    - Registration of People Living with HIV
    - HIV Testing of People Living with HIV
    - Treatment of People Living with HIV
    - Counselling of People Living with HIV
    - Lost to follow up tracking
    - Viral load testing
- Out of these 49 centers, the program has focused on Sindh after the outbreak in Ratodero and established new Treatment centers in Ratodero, Nawabshah, Larkana (Paeeds), Mirpur Khas, and Sehwin Sharif to expedite HIV care since 2019.
- The National AIDS Control Program has also established 17 Community Based Organizations -in Punjab and Sindh Province, consisting of Site Managers, LHVs/Paramedics, Counselors, Data Entry Operators, Out Reach Workers, Logistics/Admin/Finance Officers and support staff, which are providing the following services in office and field for key populations (Men having Sex with Men, Transgenders and Female Sex Workers).
    - Registration
    - Testing
    - Diagnosing and treatment of Sexually Transmitted infections (STIs).

- o Counseling
- o Distribution of condoms & lubricants
- o Linkage of HIV positive patients to treatment centers

32. ***Mr. Ali Gohar Khan:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state the quantum of services provided by the Government to general public and the mechanism evolved for immediate redressal of complaints of public?

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan Swati): Pakistan Railways is providing cheap, safe and reliable transportation services in the length and breadth of Pakistan comprising of Air-Conditioned sleepers, Sitter and Parlour upper class services. It also provides economy class services. At an average Pakistan Railways transport around 59M passengers' through its trains per annum. Pakistan Railways is operating 19=38, Mail/Express, 13=26 Intercity and 7-14 Passenger Trains over the system.

Additionally, the following services are provided:

(a) Online Reservation Facility.

(b) Passenger Insurance Services.

(c) High Speed Wi-Fi Internet Connection during Journey and at major stations.

(d) Provision of paramedical and first aid facility.

(e) Different Concessions to public.

Pakistan Railway receives millions of service related complaints annually. The scope of these complaints may vary from emergency assistance to customers giving random improvement suggestions to Railways. Since Pakistan Railways is an extensive organization, with a network of 11,811 Kms, it receives complaints regarding a variety of subjects, and spans various regions throughout the country.

Service organizations have various touch points with customers. Therefore, there exist multiple complaint systems. Pakistan Railways receives complaints from both online and offline sources.

Complaints to Minister	Both online and offline (Through Email and Letter)
Complaints forwarded to Chairman	Both online and offline (Through Email and Letter)
Complaints to CEO (Lahore Headquarters) Complaints to Chief	
Commercial Manager (CCM) Chief Marketing Manager (CMM)	
Complaints through Website/Mobile application of Pakistan Railways	Handled by the IT wing, redirected to various departments
Complaints Registered at Divisional Level	Offline source/ or through Calls
Complaints registered at Prime Minister Citizen Portal	Online source (mobile application/ E-form at Mohtasib.gov.pk)
Complaint registers available at Railway Stations.	
Complaint registers available with conductor guards of trains.	
Complaint registers available at level crossing gates.	

The Pakistan Railways has established mechanism for resolution of complaints at the Divisional level, Head Quarter level and the level of the Ministry of Railway.

33. ***Ms. Shamim Ara Panhwar:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains plying from Mirpur Khas to Karachi on daily basis; and

(b) the number of trains which have been made dysfunctional during the tenure of incumbent Government?

Minister for Railways (Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan Swati): (a) At present one train Mehran Express 149-Up/150-Down is plying between Karachi - Hyderabad – Mirpur Khas.

(b) Two (2) pair of trains were made operational by the present government. However, the following trains had to be stopped temporarily due to spread of COVID-19 on 25th March, 2020.

Detail of suspended trains is as under:-

S.N.	TRAIN NAME	TRAIN NO.	RUNNING BETWEEN
1.	Shah Latif Express	151-UP/152-DN	Dhabeji-Hyderabad Mirpur Khas
2.	Saman Sarkar Express	155-UP/156-DN	Hyderabad–Mirpur Khas- Hyderabad

34. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel:**

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that prices of plots, which are being allotted to* bonafied *employees of Government in Bhara Kahu, Green Enclave, Islamabad has been increased; if so, the justification thereof;*

(b) *the bench-mark, upon which new rate/price is being set/fixed;*

(c) *whether it is also a fact that due to inordinate delay to execute the project its cost has been increased and now FGEHA shifting the burden of its inefficiencies to allottees;*

(d) *if so, the reasons to transfer such burden to employees;*

(e) *whether it is further a fact that the amount of registration which was deposited by each employee at the time of registration could not include in overall deposit of an employee; if so, the reasons thereof; and*

(f) *what corrective measure, are being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Housing and Works (Chaudhary Tariq Bashir Cheema): (a) Yes, due to the construction agreement signed between FGEHA and M/S Green Tree (Pvt.) Ltd. on revised estimates /BOQs with the approval of Executive Committee in its 158th meeting held on 18-03-2019, the rates of plots are revised and being charged from allottees.

(b) The bench-mark is fixed in accordance with the actual cost of Construction Agreement approved by the Executive Committee.

(c) The Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan on a newspaper report that land was purchased on high price, took *Suo-Moto* notice in June, 2009. Thus, no further action was taken during the pendency of the said case. The case was disposed of on 27-02-2013 with the order that "no escalation in the project cost on any ground will be allowed". Thereafter, Construction agreement was signed between FGEHA and M/s Green Tree (Pvt.) Ltd. for development work on revised estimates approved by the Executive Committee in 2019. Resultantly, as per Supreme Court's decision and as per decision of Executive Committee, the price of plots was finalized accordingly.

(d) The reply is same as narrated at Para-C.

(e) The registration fee deposited by the allottees will be included in the final payment as per practice in vogue.

(f) The scheme is now in the development phase and work is in progress at site. All the corrective measures are being taken in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and Executive Committee/ Board of FGE Housing Authority. In this respect, the following Corrective measures have been taken by FGEHA at present:

i. The issue of access road has been resolved.
ii. The Bridge construction work is underway.
iii. The development work has been started.
iv. Unsuitable land for development has been exchanged.

35. ***Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din:**

Will the Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony be pleased to state the number of registered companies for printing the Holy Quran in the country at present?

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony (Mr. Noor ul- Haq Qadri): Due to 18th amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan, the said subject has been devolved to the Provinces. The Federal Government is now restricted only for ICT. As information given by the Auqaf Directorate ICT, there is no company registered in the area of ICT. However, as per information given by the provincial government in other reference, the province wise breakup is as under:

S.#	Province	No. of Registered companies
1.	Punjab	117
2.	Sindh	138
3.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	02
4.	Balochistan	No such companies exist in Balochistan

36. ***Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel:**

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has taken notice that Health Card, which was even provided by the Federal Government or Provincial Governments has not been entertained in letter and spirit by public and private sector hospital; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what steps are being taken by the a policy maker institution, i.e. *PMDC and other regulatory authorities in this regard?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Sehat Sahulat Program, a social health protection initiative by Federal and participating Provincial / Regional Governments, is working to provide financial protection to poor and marginalized families against extra-ordinary health care expenditure. Through this program free of cost "Sehat Insaf Cards" are provided to enrolled families to access cashless quality indoor health care services from any empaneled hospital, private or public, across Pakistan with dignity and respect.

As per the design of the program only those hospitals are empaneled in Sehat Sahulat Program who fulfill below mentioned criteria.

a. Willing to join Sehat Sahulat Program and provide hospitalization services to beneficiaries on pre-negotiated package rates.

b. Has required number of staff, physicians and systems to provide quality health care services to patients and manage the patient work load.

c. Do have necessary financial autonomy to provide cash- less hospitalization services to families, submit treatment claims and receive re-imbursements from insurance company on services delivered.

d. Has achieved minimum empanelment criteria set forth by Sehat Sahulat Program for possible empanelment of health care facility.

e. Willing to provide space in hospital for the installation / setup of Sehat Sahulat Program counter for patient management.

f. Has registration Iwith local health care commissions, if applicable.

g. Has physicians who are registered with Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC).

h. Has National Tax Number (NTN) number.

i. Program require beds in the area in which hospital is physically situated.

(b) Decision of empaneling a health care facility lies with the "Sehat Sahulat Program and its hired insurance company based on criteria mentioned above.

Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) only has its jurisdiction in registering the medical doctors while local health care commissions (HCC), if functional, assures that health facility fulfill all requirement to provide services.

Therefore, keeping in view, the scope of work, PMC or HCC or any other institute play no role in empanelment of hospitals in Sehat Sahulat Program.

ISLAMABAD:
The 20th May, 2021

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary.

PCPPI—3573(2021) NA—20-5-2021—500.