

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Saturday, the 19th October, 2024

@210. ***Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli:**

(Deferred during 9th Session.)

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

- (a) *the number of factories preparing the soyabean oil in the country at present; and*
- (b) *the procedure adopted to check the standard of such factories?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) It is stated that ghee/cooking oil sector is a privately-owned sector having their own association named Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA). As per information received from PVMA, ghee/cooking oil sector is mainly dependent on import of Palm oil/olein and soft oils (Canola, Soybean, sunflower, mustard etc). More than 85% production is based on imports of these raw materials. Furthermore, PVMA informed that they have following three regions in which total 147 manufacturers are registered with PVMA:

North Zone	Islamabad, KP, AJK units	46 No of Units
Central Zone	Punjab Units	51 No of Units
South Zone	Sindh, Baluchistan units	50 No of Units

(b) Being in private sector Ministry of Industries and Production do not regulate this sector therefore this part of question does not pertain to Ministry of Industries and Production.

54. ***Ms. Shahida Rehmani:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of passengers who travels on Pakistan Railways annually;*
- (b) *the details of the total amount of revenue of Pakistan Railways through selling of its tickets during the year 2023-24;*
- (c) *total amount of the revenue of Pakistan Railways generated through other means during the aforesaid period alongwith details thereof?*

Minister for Railways: (a) The details of passengers who travelled on Pakistan Railways are as follows:

Sr.No	Years	Passengers Carried(in millions)
1	2023-24	41.91
2	2022-23	35.40
3	2021-22	35.68

(b) Total passenger earning in Fiscal year 2023-24 was Rs. 47.712 billion which has exceeded the budgetary target by a margin of Rs. 8.712 billion. Besides, there is an increase of earnings by Rs. 13.799 billion as compared to the earnings of the previous financial year *i.e.* 2022-23.

(c) The revenue generated through other means in fiscal year 2023-24 was Rs. 39.803 billion which includes freight, military traffic, property and land, scrap and others. Details are as follows:

*Amount in PKR billions

Description	2023-24	2022-23	Variation
Freight	27.793	17.930	9.863
Military	1.335	1.046	0.289
Property and Land	4.302	2.631	1.672
Sale of Scarp	1.452	3.649	-2.197
Others	4.921	4.550	0.371
Total	39.803	29.805	9.998

55. *Mr. Nasim Ali Shah:

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of differential transportation expenditure/cost of goods by train or road;*
- (b) *comparison analysis of said expenditure with other countries;*
- (c) *the reasons to place ML-I on second priority in the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects; and*
- (d) *the details of under process projects to lay down new Railway tracks through CPEC and details of other resources/projects?*

Minister for Railways: (a) The transportation of goods through Railways is always economical for bulk cargo and long distance hauls providing economy of scale, whereas transportation of goods for a shorter distance and small cargo, the road has the advantage over the Railways due to its door step loading and delivery options. The main advantages of Rail Transportation over road include the following:

1. 4X fuel efficient
2. 3x reduced transportation cost
3. 75% Greener Environment

(b) Rail freight pricing in Pakistan and globally differs significantly due to various factors, including infrastructure, government

policies, operational efficiency, and market dynamics. Here are some key points highlighting these differences:

1. Many Countries of the world have separated and dedicated freight corridors, bulk haulage regulations and large transport capacities.
2. The rail infrastructure in Pakistan is over aged and needs matching financial support from the Government to upgrade its infrastructure. Countries with modernized rail systems, like the United States, China, and many European nations, benefit from higher efficiency, faster speeds, and better logistics, reducing overall cost of operations.

(c) Up-gradation of ML-I is a strategic project of CPEC and has always been the first priority for the Railways. Ministry of Railways is actively engaged with Chinese counterpart to finalize the next steps for an early execution of the project.

(d) Following are the under-process projects to establish new railway tracks through other resource projects:

1. Thar Rail Connectivity Project (TRCP) (1,14 Km)
2. Construction of Dedicated. Freight Corridor (50 Km) between Karachi and Pipri
3. Minlink Express from Nokundi to Panjgur (675 Km) Rail Link Kohat-Thal-Kharlachi (192 Km)

56. ***Jam Abdul Karim Bijar:**

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.27 replied on 09-08-2024 and state:

- (a) *the dates of appointment and removal of President of PN&MC;*
- (b) *the specific tasks assigned to him and whether these tasks were communicated in writing;*

- (c) *if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons thereof;*
- (d) *whether his term of office was sufficient to complete such tasks;*
- (e) *the criteria used to evaluate the performance of the removed President;*
- (f) *the person or body responsible for assessing the performance; and*
- (g) *what steps are being taken by the Government to identify and rectify any inconsistencies if found?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) The dates of appointment and removal of Mr. Jawad Amin Khan, Ex-President, Pakistan Nursing & Midwifery Council are 25th July, 2023 and 3rd November, 2023 respectively.

(b) The President, Pakistan Nursing & Midwifery Council, being head of the Council was responsible to perform the functions including but not limited to accomplish the tasks provided in Section 26 of the PNC Act, 1973 (amended in 2023) which include framing of rules and regulations etc. which were not performed. The primary task as mentioned was not required to be given in writing rather it is self-performing.

(c) It is the primary responsibility of the Council in whole and its President in particular to make the regulations in view of the provisions made under the Act but the then President failed in performing his statutory duties bestowed upon him.

(d) Yes, but no regulations were framed whereas the incumbent President has framed the regulations within three months.

(e) The President, being head of the organization failed to act as per his mandatory role/duty as mentioned above and accordingly based on his un-satisfactory performance, the appointing authority i.e. the Prime Minister in terms of Section 8 of the PNC Act, 1973, removed him from his office.

(f) The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, having administrative control of the Council and PN&MC Secretariat can comment on performance for the information of the appointing authority

(g) The Prime Minister has constituted a Committee to look into the governance structure of the Nursing Council focusing on loopholes and suggesting corrective measures.

57. ***Ms. Sharmila Sahiba Faruqi Hashaam:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that outbreak of dengue fever, polio, hepatitis-C and the rising concerns over health care infrastructure were reported recently during the year 2024;*
- (b) if so, what immediate and long term steps have been taken by the Ministry to improve disease surveillance, enhance; and*
- (c) public health care facilities and also what further steps are being taken to ensure timely response to such health crises?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) **Dengue:**

- In comparison to previous year (2023), there is a decrease in dengue cases in Islamabad/country in 2024.
- Last year till September 2023, 1030 cases were reported from ICT, however during this year 825 cases have been reported until 26th September 2024.
- Furthermore, there were 21,665 dengue cases reported from all over Pakistan in 2023 while this year only 9754 cases have been reported to date.

Polio:

- It is a fact that Pakistan is currently facing Polio outbreak and this year, human Polio cases have been reported from

16 districts, with paralysis/ infection in 24 children. Additionally, in 51 districts, Poliovirus has been detected only in environmental samples collected from sewage water.

- The province-wise breakup of human Polio cases includes 15 cases in Balochistan, 05 in Sindh, 02 in KP, and 01 each in Punjab and Islamabad.

Hepatitis C:

- Pakistan has the second-highest burden of chronic Hepatitis C globally. The country has committed to eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030 in alignment with global targets. However, substantial progress is still required in prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance to meet this goal.

(b) Dengue:

- On the directives of Honourable Prime Minister a comprehensive dengue eradication program has been launched in Islamabad.
- 500 new sanitary patrols have been hired by DHO office for surveillance of dengue larvae while 11 entomologists are leading dengue surveillance in Islamabad.
- An approximated 30,000 larvicidal and preventive activities have been conducted with 10,529 positive larvae identified.
- A pilot project of M/o NHSRC with UNICEF by using drones for bio larvicide has also been launched to reduce the burden of dengue infection in ICT.
- Coordination and supervisory meetings are being conducted on daily basis for an effective disease control.

Polio: To enhance Poliovirus surveillance system to an eradication level, several steps have been taken, including:

- Rapid response teams have been deployed in affected districts for case detection and detailed investigations.

- Additional environmental surveillance sites have been established to monitor Poliovirus presence in the environment (sewage water) making total number of sites to 127.
- Polio laboratory at NIH has been expanded.
- Surveillance for Primary Immunodeficiency Disorders has also been initiated.
- Eradication Task Team has been established for gap identification in Poliovirus surveillance and to address them.
- District-specific improvement plans to enhance surveillance have been developed and being implemented.
- Community-based surveillance has been enhanced by mobilizing local religious leaders, community influencers, and health volunteers to raise awareness on reporting Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases.
- Besides regular internal surveillance reviews, external reviews of the surveillance system are also conducted with support from international partners, to identify and address any gaps.

Hepatitis C:

The Ministry has initiated the Prime Minister's Programme for the Elimination of Hepatitis C in Pakistan as a comprehensive response to the outbreak. The program was approved by the ECNEC on 29th June, 2024 at a cost of Rs. 67.3 Billion, with Federal component of Rs. 35 Billion. This program involves universal screening, testing, and treatment for Hepatitis C.

- The government aims to screen 69 million people for IICV and provide confirmatory PCR testing for 5.15 million people between 2024-2025.

(c) **Dengue:**

- The District Health Office-ICT has published dengue advisory.
- Patients are undergoing Rapid Diagnostic Testing for dengue fever.
- Lady Health Workers (LHWs) and Sanitary Patrollers are frequently conducting indoor and outdoor anti-dengue surveillance and larvae hotspots identification activities.
- LHWs are also conducting awareness sessions in the community for prevention and control of the disease.
- A total of 149 beds have been allocated for critical dengue patients in Federal Hospitals.
- PIMS hospital has been further directed by M/o NHR&C to prepare Isolation Hospital and Infections Treatment Center (IHITC) as a backup support in case further dengue cases require hospitalization.

Polio: To address Polio outbreak and stop transmission of Poliovirus, the government is making comprehensive efforts and has devised a National Emergency Action Plan and roadmap for a duration of one year (July 2024 to June 2025), which is currently under implementation.

Hepatitis C: The Mo NHR&C has initiated several measures to enhance the capacity and efficiency of public health facilities in Federal and Federating areas, including:

- Upgrading existing facilities.
- Expanding access to healthcare in underserved areas.
- Training healthcare professionals and healthcare workers.
- Implementing electronic medical records to improve data management and patient care.

58. ***Syed Rafiullah:**

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.23 replied on 09-08-2024 and to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Section 10 of the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council Act 1973 stipulated that officers and supportive staff in the Council shall be appointed on a contract basis;*
- (b) if so, how did the Council or its President assumed such authority to make regular appointments in contravention of Act;*
- (c) if so, are such actions of the Council and its President tantamount to breach of privilege of the Parliament;*
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the PN&MC allegedly created their rules to justify regular appointments;*
- (e) if so, how subordinate regulations exceed the authority of an Act;*
- (f) if so, whether the Government has sought a report on these irregularities under Section 25(2) of the PN&MC Act;*
- (g) if so, the details thereof; if not, does this inaction imply complicity in the alleged irregularities; and*
- (h) what corrective and punitive measures are being taken by the Government to address aforesaid issues?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Yes, as per Section 10 of the PNC Act, 1973 (amended in 2023), the council shall appoint a professional and administrative staff on contract **as it may deem fit** and necessary for carrying out the purpose of the Act.

(b) No regular initial appointment has been made by the Council or its President. However, after amendment in the Act in 2023, all the

previous employees are being protected and the law shall always apply prospectively.

(c) No regular appointment on initial recruitment basis has been made by the council or its president, hence there is no question of breach of privilege of the honorable Parliament.

(d) As stated above no regular appointment on initial recruitment basis has been made in PN&MC. Furthermore, the Council has formulated its Employees Service Regulations in light of the powers conferred in terms of Section 26 of the PNC Act, 1973 (amended in 2023) prescribing the terms and conditions of service and powers and duties of the officers and supporting staff of the Council to run the council effectively.

(e) Pakistan Nursing & Midwifery Council Employees Service Regulations, 2024 have been made in pursuance of powers conferred under Section 26 of the PNC Act, 1973 (amended in 2023).

(f) PN&MC submits report to the M/O NHR&C as and when such information/reports called.

Annual report of all the organizations, bodies and departments under the Federal Government are published in Annual Yearbook. The activities and achievement of the PN&MC are also included in the Yearbook.

(g) As stated at Sr. No. (f) above

(h) All the process and actions taken are strictly in accordance with the Act and regulations. The Ministry believes in transparency and merit. Even otherwise, as per section 24(2) of the PNC Act, 1973, the parliament has granted immunity for things done in good faith which provides that “No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Government, the Council or any Committee thereof, or any officer or staff of the Government or Council for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act”

59. ***Ms. Aniq Mehdi:**

Will the Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that in 1952 the Government of Pakistan allotted agricultural land in Hafizabad district as subsistence allowance to the migrants of 1947 from Jammu and Kashmir and in 1983 under the decision of the Cabinet a permanent ownership scheme was launched for the temporary allotment of migrants and in this regard, the migrants deposited the land price as per unit in the Government treasury; and*
- (b) *whether the Evacuee Trust Property Board Gujranwala has not yet given the ownership rights but has advertised in the daily Dunya News in May to auction this allotted land even though earlier, in 2007, the Federal Cabinet had directed the ETP Department to stop the cancellation of allotment of the said land as well as expelling refugees?*

Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony (Chaudhary Salik Hussain): (a) It is correct that the Government of Pakistan allotted ET land to J&K Refugees throughout the country including Gujranwala / Hafizabad as subsistence allowance and proprietary rights were given to such J & K Refugees who fulfill the criteria / terms & conditions as laid down in ETP Board circular letter No. 7354 dated 19.07.1977.

Consequently, as per Cabinet decision dated 04.12.1983, 216 mutations certificate / allotment letters were issued involving 1276-Acres ET Land at Districts Gujranwala / Hafizabad.

(b) No, ETPB given the ownership rights to those affectees of J & K, who fulfilled the requisite criteria.

Chairman, ETPB constituted a committee to;

- Examine all the pending 759 cases of J & K temporary allottees in respect of Evacuee Trust Land situated in seven different districts of Punjab and NWFP.
- Formulate recommendations regarding eligibility in these cases for issuance of Mutation Certificates.

Accordingly, an advertisement notice was published in Daily “**Jang**” dated 17.09.2006 regarding;

- Schedule for providing an opportunity of hearing and production of documents to every temporary allottee or his legal heirs at the concerned district headquarters.

The Committee visited all the concerned district headquarters for this purpose and heard the temporary allottees or their legal heirs in case of death of original / temporary allottees.

The Committee declared all 759 cases not fit for issuance of Mutation Certificate on the following grounds:

- (a) The temporary allottees were not alive.
- (b) The applications were submitted after due date i.e. 31.03.1977.
- (c) The temporary allottees failed to establish their physical possession over the land.
- (d) Lack of Nationality proof.
- (e) Attested copies of Perchi Taqseem allotment not available.
- (f) Amount @ Rs. 8/- as per P.I.U not deposited.

As per above recommendations of Committee the Chairman, ETPB rejected all pending claims of J & K Refugees. However, it is not true that in 2007 the Federal Government has directed ETPB to stop the cancellation of allotment of said land as well as expelling Refugees.

60. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

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

- (a) *whether the Ministry or any department under its administrative control has records of buildings which were either fully constructed or were under construction for any Federal department but were devolved in provinces as a result of the 18th Constitutional Amendment or otherwise and such building were spent on their construction;*

- (b) *if so, the record of all such buildings that were either handed over to another institution and details of buildings that are still abandoned;*
- (c) *if such records do not exist with the Ministry the reasons thereof;*
- (d) *if such a record exists with the Ministry, why has no policy been made to bring such buildings into use; and*
- (e) *what corrective measures are being taken by the Government in this regard?*

Minister for Housing and Works (Main Riaz Hussain Pirzada):

(a) There are no such buildings handed over to provincial government, as a result of devolution after 18th constitutional amendment.

- (b) N.A
- (c) N.A
- (d) NA
- (e) NA

61. ***Ms. Mussarat Rafique Mahesar:**

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

- (a) *what is the Government plan for Utility Stores in the country;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that these stores are being privatized; and*
- (c) *the detail plan for the employees of Utility Stores Corporation?*

Minister for Industries and Production (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) Restructuring of the Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan is underway to make it more viable/ self-sustainable in terms of business and its day-to-day operations.

(b) The Federal Cabinet approved during its meeting held on 27th August 2024 that "USC shall be privatized or wound-up and an alternate arrangement shall be explored which may include cash transfer to the underprivileged recipients". The process for hiring of Financial Advisor is underway for this purpose through privatization commission. However, new proposal is being worked out for Cabinet for continuation of targeted subsidy to the beneficiaries of BISP registered under PMT-40 to make it more transparent.

(c) There is no plan to close/wind up the operations of the Utility Store Corporation. However, restructuring of the Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan is underway to make it more viable/ self-sustainable in terms of business and its day-to-day operations. Even during the restructuring, the rights of the employees will be properly safe guarded. Detail of USC employees is as under:

a. Regular	-	5362
b. Contract	-	3400
c. <u>Daily Wagers</u>	-	<u>2973</u>
<u>Total:</u>	-	<u>11,735</u>

62. ***Ms. Nikhat Shakeel Khan:**

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to refer to the Starred Question No.10 replied on 09-08-2024 and to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that despite the Islamabad High Court order suspending the operation of the impugned letter dated 24-8-2023 how was the concerned individual absorbed into the PN&MC;*
- (b) *whether this absorption is aligned with the High Court order or does it violate the courts directives;*
- (c) *how many hearings have been conducted after the court's order and when is the next scheduled hearing of the case in the High Court;*

- (d) *what is the Ministry's official stance on the case and the High Court; and*
- (e) *what corrective measures are being taken by the Government to address this situation and ensure compliance with the High Court?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) It is a fact that Islamabad High Court vide order dated 11.09.2023 (**Annex-I**) passed in W.P.No.2720/2023 has suspended the impugned letter of M/o NHR&C dated 24th August, 2023 (**Annex-II**) whereby on the directions of the Senate Standing Committee, the petitioner i.e. Ms. Yasmin Azad was repatriated to her parent department. However, in the said order of the court there was no bar on absorption of the petitioner in PN&MC.

(b) The absorption of Ms. Yasmin Azad is not violative of any court order.

(c) No regular hearings have been conducted after the court order. The next hearing of the case in the High Court is scheduled on 27.11.2024.

(d) The Ministry shall take up the matter strictly as per law and facts and has prayed the court to dispose of the case on merit.

(e) All the process and actions taken are strictly in accordance with the Act and regulations. As and when the case is finalized by the court, the Ministry will ensure compliance as per law.

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

63. ***Syed Amin Ul Haque:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the railway trains are under the management of Pakistan Railways;*
- (b) *if so, the steps taken for provision of facilities in the same, timely arrival system at their destination and redressal of passenger complaints;*

- (c) *what actions have been/being taken against sellers of substandard food items at Railway Stations for the betterment of stations; and*
- (d) *how inconvenience caused to passengers due to delay in trains is remedied alongwith the details of last three years in this regard?*

Minister for Railways: (a) Yes, all train operations are managed by Pakistan Railways (PR).

(b) Pakistan Railways has made special arrangements to facilitate passengers at stations and in trains en-route:

Facilities by PR in Major Trains and Railways Stations:

- i. Provision of state-of-the-art dining cars.
- ii. Mobile charging sockets are provided in coaches.
- iii. Provision of water dispensers in coaches to provide clean drinking water to passengers.
- iv. TVM (Ticket Vending Machines) have been installed for purchasing tickets.
- v. Information counters to guide and facilitate passengers.
- vi. Digital display boards for arrival and departure of trains.
- vii. Provision of wheel chairs and ramps for disabled people.

Improvement in train punctuality:

- i. Speed restrictions are being removed through special maintenance of track.
- ii. Signaling system is being improved through computerised interlocking and installation of solar system.
- iii. Locomotive failures are being removed through timely maintenance.

- iv. New passenger coaches are being inducted.
- v. Maintenance of power vans has been streamlined for better efficiency.

Redressal of passenger complaints:

- i. A state-of-the-art call center has been established under RABTA (Railway Automated Booking and Travelling Assistance).
- ii. Passengers can also lodge their complaints on Pakistan Railways' website.
- iii. Complaint registers are also provided at stations and in trains so that the passengers can lodge their complaints.

(c) If a contractor is found selling substandard products, they are fined and issued a warning. Upon receiving three fines, the contractor's agreement with Pakistan Railways is terminated.

- (d)i. In case of late running of trains, passengers are informed in advance through SMS alerts.
- ii. Passengers are granted full refund, if a train starts more than six hours late from the originating station.
- iii. Passengers are also provided with complimentary meals in the event of emergencies.
- iv. In case of disruptions, passengers are transported either by alternative railways path or by road service arranged by PR.
- v. The detail of refund given to passengers over last three years due to late start of trains from originating station is as under:

Year	Total Refund (in million)
2023	33
2022	269
2021	78
Total	380

64. ***Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto:**

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

- (a) what are the key challenges being faced in health emergency services in Pakistan including issues related to infrastructure, resources availability, coordination and training and how can these challenges be effectively addressed;*
- (b) what steps can be taken to enhance emergency infrastructure, improve resource management streamline coordination and communication standardize the quality of care, invest in training and preparedness strengthen data management and increase public awareness; and*
- (c) what role can stakeholder play in engagement, technology and continuous reform, improving the overall effectiveness of health emergency services in Pakistan?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) **The key challenges in managing health emergencies in Pakistan include:**

- (i) There is insufficient funding allocated to effectively respond to health emergencies in Pakistan.
- (ii) Weak linkages with One Health stakeholders.
- (iii) Limited coordination at inter-provincial and district level.
- (iv) Difficulties in reaching affected areas due to damaged infrastructure and disrupted communication channels.
- (v) Shortages in human resources, trained personnel, and inadequacies in deploying standard operating procedures (SOPs), guidelines, and surge capacities.
- (vi) Regular updates from development partner organizations (e.g., WHO, UN partners, GIZ) regarding "Who, What, Where, When" are often missing.

(b) Steps to address these challenges:

- (a) Allocate specific funds for emergency responses by the government and through development partners in Pakistan.
- (b) Build capacities to conduct rapid need assessments and establish sustainable coordination mechanisms down to the district level to ensure resilient health systems and high-quality services.
- (c) Enhance inter-coordination among all relevant stakeholders for a more unified response.
- (d) Provide adequate training and ensure a well-equipped human resource pool to manage emergencies.
- (e) Establish a dedicated emergency response committee within the Ministry of NHR&C to manage health emergencies.
- (f) Develop infrastructure from Basic Health Units (BHUs) to Tehsil Headquarters (THQs) that can withstand climate-related emergencies.
- (g) Appoint staff specifically for emergency operations and conduct quarterly training on emergency management, including weekly field exercises.
- (h) Upgrade Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) services and improve Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) measures. Enhance infection prevention, control activities, and overall response efforts.
- (i) Upgrade digital networks for more efficient disease surveillance and facilitate telemedicine to improve emergency responses.
- (b) As given at Para-b above.
- (c)
 - Stakeholders, including federal and provincial governments, political entities, joint partners, and bilateral organizations, in

coordination with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, can provide technical assistance to conduct rapid needs assessments during health emergencies.

- Stakeholders can review past emergency responses to identify gaps and challenges. They can assist in providing funds, developing infrastructure, launching awareness campaigns, training staff, and supplying essential medical services and commodities.
- Improved mutual engagement between stakeholders at both provincial and federal levels can enhance information management, health operations, and logistics for more coordinated and efficient emergency responses.
- The health emergency response can be aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, which focuses on Universal Health Coverage, to link emergency preparedness with pandemic response and secure financial support.
- The SDG Taskforce can serve as a platform for political advocacy, planning, and mobilizing financial resources to support emergency health responses effectively.

65. ***Mr. Zubair Khan Wazir:**

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

- (a) *the Gomal Zam Dam and its production capacity, actual production during the last three years, the land irrigated and other salient features;*
- (b) *numbers of employees alongwith their domiciles details;*
- (c) *whether it was not the commitment of the Government that the locals would be appointed in the Gomal Zam Dam; if so, the details thereof;*
- (d) *details of benefits provided to the people of South Waziristan by the production of electricity from Gomal Zam Dam?*

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik):

(a)

- Installed hydropower generation capacity of Gomal Zam Dam is 17.4 MW.
- Powerhouse of Gomal Zam Dam has produced 125,344,384 kWh during last three years.
- The canal system is designed to irrigate 191,139, acres of land. Command Area is being developed by Irrigation Department, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhawa, as per information provided by them 133,700 acres have been developed and being irrigated.
- Detailed salient features of Gomal Zam Dam are attached at **Annex-A**,

(b)

- Presently, 232 employees are working on Gomal Zam Dam and list of their domicile is annexed herewith at **Annex-B**.

(c)

- There is no such commitment by Government that locals would be appointed in Gomal Zam Dam. However, out of total 232 employees of Gomal Zam Dam, 137 employees (138 reported by WAPDA) belong to South Waziristan Tribal District/SWA.

(d)

- It is appraised that stand alone tariff for Gomal Zam is Rs.24.42/unit whereas electricity is supplied to National Grid on basket rate of WAPDA at Rs.3.84/unit, this benefit is also extended to the people of South Waziristan.

(Annexures have been Placed in the National Assembly Library)

66. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state the total number of railways bogies and freight coaches manufactured in the country during the last three years?

Minister for Railways: During the last 3 years Pakistan Railways has assembled 92 freight wagons in Mughalpura Workshops. Another 508 freight wagons will be assembled at Mughalpura Workshops and Pakistan Locomotives Factory, Risalpur in next one year.

Similarly, 184 new passenger coaches will be assembled at Pakistan Railways Carriage Factory, Islamabad in next 3 years. In this regard, raw material, for assembling of 64 passenger Coaches has been received.

67. ***Mr. Muhammad Jawed Hanif Khan:**

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

(a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistan was very close to eradication of Polio as there was only one case of Polio was reported in 2021; and*

(b) *if so, what went wrong and why we are still grappling with this problem?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Although Pakistan reported only one Polio case in 2021, the Poliovirus continued to be detected in sewage water, particularly in South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, throughout the year, indicating ongoing transmission of the virus. In total, the Poliovirus was detected in sewage water from 24 districts that year.

(b) Several factors have contributed to the continuous transmission of the Poliovirus in the country, including:

- Access and security challenges, fake finger marking, and suboptimal quality of Polio vaccination campaigns, coupled with low routine immunization coverage, led to a Polio

outbreak in South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2022, resulting in 20 Polio cases.

- In 2023, Poliovirus originating from Afghanistan reinfected various districts in Pakistan, and the extensive movement of high-risk populations between provinces and districts further facilitated the spread of the virus, re-establishing Poliovirus transmission in several districts, including core reservoirs. Key challenges included security issues and community boycotts in South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Quetta Division leading to staggered Polio vaccination campaigns and unvaccinated areas, insufficient quality of Polio vaccination campaigns in core reservoirs, community resistance, and low routine immunization coverage. Consequently, six Polio cases were reported in 2023, and 22 Polio cases have been reported so far in 2024.

68. ***Syeda Shehla Raza:**

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

- the total sanctioned posts of doctors in the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad at present;*
- the total number of doctors working on such sanctioned posts on permanent and temporary basis separately at present; and*
- the time by which the Government will fill the vacant posts in PIMS?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) The total sanctioned posts of doctors in the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad at present is 811.

(b) The total number of doctors working on such sanctioned posts on permanent and temporary basis are as follows:

Permanent	Temporary , (deputation basis)
397	34

(c) 229 posts of doctors pertaining to direct quota have been advertised by FPSC and recruitment is under process. As FPSC takes time in recruitment process, therefore, same posts of doctors have been advertised for recruitment on contract basis for a period of one year as stopgap arrangement. Furthermore, 151 posts of doctors pertaining to promotion quota are being filled gradually through relevant promotion Committees i.e. Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC), Departmental Selection Board (DSB) and Central Selection Board (CSB) as and when meeting is scheduled by the relevant forum.

69. ***Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro:**

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state what is the Government criteria for providing safe drinking water to citizens across the country?

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik):

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, Government of Pakistan with the prior approval of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Council established the **National Standards for Drinking Water Quality** in exercise of the powers conferred under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 vide SRO No. 1063(1)/2010) dated 18-10-2010, published on November 26, 2010 (copy enclosed).

These standards define 35 parameters primarily divided into three major parameters *i.e.*

- (a) Bacterial (comprising further 03 sub-parameters)
- (b) Physical (comprising 07 sub-parameters)
- (c) Chemical (having 25 sub-parameters)

The standard values fixed in the above parameters/subparameters for Pakistan are meant for the water utilities/service providers to ensure provision of safe drinking water in their respective jurisdiction within the country.

(Annexure has been Placed in the National Assembly Library)

70. ***Ms. Mussarat Rafique Mahesar:**

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that there is an increase find in dengue fever cases in the Islamabad/country;*
- (b) *if so, the measures being taken to address the situation?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a)

- Considering the previous year's data with the current year, there is a significant decrease in dengue cases in Islamabad/country than previous year.
- Last year till **September 2023**, there were **1030 cases** reported from ICT, however **during this year 604 cases** have been reported until **23rd September 2024**.
- Furthermore, there were **21665 cases** reported **all over Pakistan in year 2023** while **this year only 9754 cases** have been reported to date.

(b)

- On the directives of Honourable Prime Minister a comprehensive dengue eradication program has been launched observing the standards being pursued in Punjab Province by mutual coordination of CDA and M/o NHSRC.
- Federal hospitals both private and public have been sensitized and they are fully prepared to respond to any surge of dengue cases. Currently, **a total of 149 beds** have been allocated for critical dengue patients in CDA and Federal Hospitals. PIMS hospital has further been directed by M/o NHR&C to prepare Isolation Hospital and Infections Treatment Center (IHITC) as a backup support in case further dengue cases require hospitalization.

- **500 new sanitary patrols** have been hired by DHO office for surveillance of dengue larvae. Moreover, out of these **120 sanitary patrols and three vehicles** have been deputed to CDA for active dengue surveillance.
- Currently there are **11 entomologists** leading dengue surveillance in ICT and CDA.
- An approximated **30,000 larvicidal and preventive** activities have been conducted with **10,529 positive larvae identified**. Mechanical larvicide is being daily performed to control the dengue mosquito.
- A pilot project of M/o NHSRC with UNICEF for using drones for bio larvicide has also been launched for mitigating the burden of dengue infection in ICT.
- Several coordination and supervisory meetings are being conducted on a daily basis by the Ministry.
- M/o NHSRC has disseminated dengue advisories in April 2024 among all Provincial health departments and ensured daily dengue surveillance, data monitoring and assessment through Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) softwares.
- A well-coordinated mechanism has been active among District Health Office, Capital Development Authority and Capital Administration for an effective disease surveillance and dengue larva eradication.
- Within the current year, M/o NHSRC has enhanced use of technology and surveillance to prevent dengue outbreaks all over the Federal Capital.

71. ***Ms. Shagufta Jumani:**

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

(a) what are the main challenges facing food security in Pakistan; and

(b) what strategies are being implemented to address these challenges and ensure a stable food supply for the growing population?

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) Pakistan is a food surplus country. Pakistan is producing 31.4 million tons of wheat, 10 million tons of rice, 9.5 million tons of corn, 8.32 million tons of potato. 0.45 million tons of rapeseed, 0.35 million tons of millet and 65.7 million tons of milk annually.

Pakistan enjoys respectable position globally in the production of many crops like: 2nd largest in buffalo population, 3rd largest in goats population, 4th largest in milk production, 5th largest in cotton production, 5th largest in sugarcane production, 5th largest in mango production, 8th largest in wheat production, 9th largest in chickpea production, 9th largest in beef production, 11th largest in milled rice; 13th largest in sheep population and 19th largest maize producing country in the world.

The above-mentioned facts prove that Pakistan has sufficient food availability and its production not only fulfills the country's requirement but also exports its surplus to earn foreign exchange. Pakistan regularly exports rice, potato, corn, mango, citrus and dates while occasionally exports wheat and sugar.

However, Pakistan is deficient in edible oil, Pulses and tea production, and depends on the imports for meeting the demands of ever-increasing population. Due to these imported products Pakistan falls in the net food importing countries in value terms.

The physical food accessibility and availability even in far flung and hard areas of Pakistan is also good. The economic access of major portion of population is the issue as the purchasing power of poor people is low to purchase safe and nutritious food.

Overall the food stability is also at satisfactory level as Pakistan is maintaining the growth in producing major food products over last 5 decades. Over the last 70 years population of Pakistan has increased 07 times from 1951 to 2021 but during the same period of time wheat production has increased 10 times. Rice by 24 times. Maize by 15 times and sugarcane by nearly 7 times which shows food stability overtime, The undernourishment and stunting is majorly due to the food utilization

issues, The major issues in food utilization are food losses/wastage, inefficient food distribution systems, food behavior of masses of Pakistan and bad quality of water.

Overall 16.8 percent of Pakistan is under nourished (Prevalence of under-nourishment-POU) while 15.3 percent are food deficient on basis of Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES): Overall 17.7 percent children of age under 5 years are wasted (Low Weight for Height), 42.2 percent are stunted (Low Height for Age), 29 percent are under weight (Low Weight for Age) while 51 percent are anemic, 39 percent children are Iron deficient, 52 percent are vitamin A deficient, 19 percent are zinc deficient and 63 Percent are vitamin D deficient. Overall 43 percent pregnant women are anemic, 45 percent of women of reproductive age are iron deficient, 27.3 percent of women of reproductive age are Vitamin A deficient, 22.1 percent of mothers are zinc and 80 percent of mothers are vitamin D deficient. This shows the serious situation food insecurity in children and women in Pakistan.

(b) Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) in Pakistan has implemented various steps to ensure a better food supply for the growing population of the country.

- The detail of steps regarding food security is at **Annex-A**.
- The detail of steps regarding food stability is at **Annex-B**.

(Annexures have been Placed in the National Assembly Library)

72. ***Mr. Mohammad Ilyas Choudhary:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated cost of ML-I Project and the time by which it will be completed; and*
- (b) the names of project under construction in this regard?*

Minister for Railways: (a) The estimated cost of ML-I Project as per Re-Modified PC-I is USD 6.678 Billion which has been approved by CDWP on 22-05-2024 and ECNEC on 09-07-2024. Furthermore, the

project is planned to be executed in eight years after commencement of work in two phases.

(b) The following sub-projects initiated by MoR till date:-

1. Preliminary Design/ Drawings for Upgradation/ Rehabilitation of mainline (ML-I) and establishment of Dryport near Havelian under the china Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and hiring of design/ drawings vetting consultants.
2. Up-gradation of Pakistan Railways existing Main Line-I(ML-I) and establishment of Dryport near Havelian phase-I (CPEC)(not yet started)
3. China Pakistan Economic Corridor support project (CPECSP) at Ministry of Railways.

73. ***Mr. Muhammad Ali Sarfraz:**

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

- (a) *how many doctors who were registered by Pakistan Medical Council (PMC) have not been registered by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) yet; and*
- (b) *what steps have been taken by the Ministry and PMDC for the recognition of research papers and publications of those doctors who were registered by PMC?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Medical / dental students and practitioners are granted registrations in accordance with the prevailing law. The Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) granted registrations to medical / dental students and practitioners as per its law i.e PMC Act, 2020. Pursuant to the PM&DC (Pakistan Medical & Dental Council) Act, 2022, the PM&DC has been reconstituted and registrations to the medical / dental students and practitioners are being granted, in accordance with the PM&DC Act, 2022. However the registration requirements laid down in both the statutes are identical.

Moreover, section 51 (8) of the PM&DC Act, 2022, provides as under:

“All registrations, recognitions etc., granted by the dissolved Pakistan Medical Commission under the repealed Act shall be deemed to be registrations, recognitions granted by the Council subject to not being in conflict with this Act and the provisions of this Act or the same being within the power of the Council to recognize and register pursuant to this Act.”

As per the record available on the PM&DC online portals for registrations, no student or practitioner has been declined registration, if necessary codal formalities under the law, have been fulfilled.

The detail of registration applications received, processed and issued is as under:

Name of Entity	Duration	No. of Registration
PMC	10 th November 2021 - 15 th June 2023	139738
PM&DC	15 th January 2023 to till date	172785

(b) PM&DC Act, 2022, has defined Journals Recognition Criteria. A Journals Committee has been constituted consisting of lead academicians and experts in medical/dental research across the country for the recognition, evaluation, and assessment of medical journals. The Committee holds quarterly meetings to review the journals that have applied to the PM&DC for recognition. The Committee assesses / evaluates each Journal based on Journals Recognition Criteria and recommends its recognition/de-recognition, accordingly. Only those articles are considered to be recognized that are published in PM&DC recognized journals. Currently, an updated list of 92 recognized journals is available on the PM&DC website. Till date, the Journal Committee has conducted training workshops in Lahore and Islamabad for the improvements in quality and standard of journals evaluation and accreditation.

74. ***Syed Mustafa Kamal:**

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

- (a) the details regarding dissolution of Pakistan PWD;*
- (b) the time by which decision will be implemented;*
- (c) the details of buildings and land of PWD;*
- (d) to whom the ownership of buildings and land of PWD will be handed over?*

Minister for Housing and Works (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada):

(a) The details are given below:-

- (i) The Prime Minister on 27-05-2024 directed M/o Housing and Works to Prepare a concrete plan for winding-up of Pak.PWD. The proposal was submitted on 05-06-2024.
- (ii) A high-level Committee was constituted on 05-06-2024 by the Prime Minister with the mandate to furnish a transition plan leading to winding-up of Pak. PWD. The Committee held meeting on 14-06-2024, 24-6-2024, 03-7-2024 and 19-7-2024 and submitted its recommendations.
- (iii) Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on 10-7-2024 approved, in principle, the winding up of Pak PWD.
- (iv) Prime Minister chaired 3 review meetings on 19-6-2024, 23-7-2024 and 25-8-2024.
- (v) Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on 27-8-2024 approved transfer of maintenance enquiries alongwith staff and PSDP projects from Pak PWD.
- (vi) A notification and a Memorandum was issued on 06-9-2024:-
 - (i) For transfer of projects (**Annex-I**).
 - (ii) For transfer of maintenance enquiries (**Annex-II**).

(b) The timelines for implementation are as under:

(i) For transfer of project-cut-off date is 15-9-2024 (**Annex-I**).

(ii) For transfer of maintenance enquiries-cut off date is 30-9-2024 (**Annex-II**).

(c) Detail may be seen at (**Annex-A**).

(d) As per Rules of Business, 1973 Ministry of Housing and Works shall remain custodian of the Federal land and Buildings. However, specific approval of Cabinet for an alternate department for taking over the assets of Pak PWD is not conveyed as yet.

(Annexures have been Placed in the National Assembly Library)

75. ***Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb:**

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

(a) *what is the disease to which vaccines are being prepared in the National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad, at present; and*

(b) *the details of total value of the said vaccines sold out during the last five years and to whom alongwith the quantity thereof?*

Minister for National Health Services' Regulations and Coordination: (a) Biological Production Division (BPD) of NIH has the mandate to manufacture vaccine. At present, BPD is manufacturing following vaccines to meet the country demand:

Sr.#	Name of Vaccines
1	Allergen Extracts Vaccine
2	Typhoid Vaccine
3	Typhoid Cholera Vaccine
4	Anti-Snake Venom
5.	Anti Rabies Serum
6.	Cell Culture Rabies Vaccine

(b) The detail of total value of the said vaccines sold out during the last five years is at (Annex-I) and to whom sold out along-with quantity is attached at (Annex-II).

(Annexures have been Placed in the National Assembly Library)

76. ***Syed Hafeezuddin:**

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

(a) what is procedure adopted for determining the price of imported wheat; and

(b) whether per 40 kg price has been fixed for wheat and whether it has been implemented in full detail?

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) In 2023-24 a total of 3.59 MMT of wheat was imported all by the private sector. As the wheat was imported by the private sector, Federal Government has no role for defining any procedure on the price of imported wheat. Private sector imported wheat through negotiations with exporters.

(b) Rs.3900/40 kg was announced by the Federal Government to procure the wheat. At Federal level PASSCO has the mandate to procure 1.80 MMT of wheat from all over the Pakistan. During wheat procurement drive 2023-24 PASSCO has procured 1.78 MMT of wheat and the price paid to the farmers was Rs. 3900/40kg.

77. ***Ms. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi:**

Will the Minister for Maritime Affairs be pleased to state what percentage of the operational control of Gwadar Port does Pakistan hold, as compared to China or other stakeholders?

Minister for Maritime Affairs (Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh): Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) was established as an organization, after promulgation of the GPA Ordinance No. LXXVII of 2002 (amended 2021) with the mandate of Planning, Construction, Operations, Management and Maintenance of Gwadar Deep Water Port at & allied

facilities etc. After the signing of Concession Agreement with the Chinese port operator now the GPA is Regulator, Facilitator and custodian of Concession Agreement (Signed with China Overseas Ports Holding Company Limited (COPHCL) 2013) & the Free Zone Agreements with COPHCL (2015).

COPHCL, the Concession Holder has further assigned its responsibilities / obligations to three port operating companies, namely:

- (a) Terminal Operating Company
- (b) Marine Services Company
- (c) Free Zone Company.

These companies have been incorporated with the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

The Terminal and Marine Services Companies earn revenues through tolls, dues, rates, charges and tariffs from vessels. The Free Zone Company earn income from rentals, sales of real estate, development charges maintenance charges, utility charges etc. The three operating companies will pay following percentages from their gross revenues to COPHCL and GPA:

Company	COPHC	GPA
Terminal Operating Company	91%	9%
Marine Services Company	91%	9%
Free Zone Company	85%	15%

78. ***Mr. Mohammad Ilyas Choudhary:**

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state the total quantity of wheat reservoirs available in the country at present?

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Rana Tanveer Hussain): Quantity of Wheat Stocks in the country as on 17-10-2024.

Sector	Quantity MMT
Public	7,142,706
Private	1,241,562
Total	8,032,179

It is pertinent to mention here that these wheat stocks are derived from the portal of M/o NFS&R, in which data is provided by provincial food departments for public and private sector, the **daily wheat monitor report attached**. Wheat stocks hold by the farmers for self-consumption and stocks hold by small traders is not included in this figure.

(Annexures have been Place in the National Assembly Library)

79. ***Mr. Umair Khan Niazi:**

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of Pakistan Railways under which its land is leased out;*
- (b) the total area of Railways land that has been leased out; and*
- (c) the details of total quantum of revenue generated from leased out land during the financial year 2022-23?*

Minister for Railways: (a) Pakistan Railways is leasing out its land according to “Pakistan Railway Property & Land Rules-2023”, which were approved by Federal Cabinet and were circulated vide S.R.O No.768 (1)2023 dated 22nd June, 2023.

(b) Pakistan Railways has leased 14,042 acres of land as per policy. Out of this, 10,747 acres land is leased out to private individuals through open competition for agriculture, commercial, stacking purposes and 3,295 acres land is leased out to different government departments.

(c) Pakistan Railways has generated revenue of Rs. 3,323 million in financial year 2022-23.

80. ***Ms. Sharmila Sahiba Faruqui Hashaam:**

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) has requested for Rs.950 million for the new water project;*
- (b) *what steps are being taken to ensure efficient allocation and use of these funds to address the water need of the affected regions effectively; and*
- (c) *what is the Ministry plan to monitor and evaluate the progress and impact of this project to ensure its long term sustainability and success?*

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik):

(a), (b) and (c) It is apprised that neither such demand has been received from any of the Water and Sanitation Authorities (WASA) nor any such project is currently being sponsored by the Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of Pakistan.

81. ***Mr. Hameed Hussain:**

Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state how much funds have been utilized/released for the development of Upper/Lower Kurram, under different heads by Pak PWD?

Minister for Housing and Works (Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada):

The details are given below:-

Heaqd/Grant	Year	Release	Expenditure
		(Rs. In Million)	
PSDP	2023-24	401.600	397.582
SAP	2023-24	404.000	399.412
Total		805.600	796.994

82. ***Syed Rafiullah:**

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

- (a) *the total amount of funds collected under the Supreme Court and Prime Minister Fund for the construction of Diamer and Bhasha Dams till date;*
- (b) *whether these funds are currently deposited or invested; if so, what are the details and nature of such investments;*
- (c) *the details of contributors to this fund and how much have they donated; and*
- (d) *what measures are in place to ensure that the funds collected and invested provide the best value for money?*

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik):

(a)

- As per the Supreme Court of Pakistan's website, the total amount collected in the Dam Fund is Rs. 18,648,926,264 as of 03.10.2023 (**Annex-A**).

(b)

- According to the Supreme Court of Pakistan's official website, the status of deposited/invested funds is categorized as follows:

Domestic	Rs. 9,560,728,444
Overseas	Rs. 1,908,967,110
Profit on Investment	Rs. 7,179,230,709
Total	Rs. 18,648,926,264

(c) Same as Sr. (b) above.

(d)

- The bank account titled “The Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand Dams Fund” is managed by the State Bank of Pakistan, while the dam fund itself is jointly managed, maintained, and invested by the State Bank of Pakistan and the National Bank of Pakistan.
- So far, no expenditure has been made from this account. A foolproof criterion will be followed to ensure the best value for money when the funds are utilized.
- Supreme Court of Pakistan *vide* their court order dated 17.10,2024 regarding hearing dated 9.10.2024 has decided that the amount in the aforementioned bank account to be transferred to the Public Account of the Federation **(detailed decision is at Annex-B)**

(Annexures have been Placed in the National Assembly Library)

ISLAMABAD:
The 18th October, 2024.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary General.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”**For Saturday, the 19th October, 2024**

50. **Syed Waseem Hussain:**
(Deferred during 9th Session)

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the details of the total funds utilized under the Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) in Karachi and Hyderabad, during the last three years?

Minister for Industries and Production (Rana Tanveer Hussain): Strata Owned Enterprises under Ministry of Industries and Production Division are governed by the State Owned Enterprises (Governance & Operations) Act, 2023 and the State Owned Enterprises (Ownership & Management) Policy 2023. Prior to the promulgation of the SOE Act 2023, SOEs were governed by the Companies Act 2017. Under the legal framework referred to above, there is no legal provision vide which expenditures could be incurred on Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) in case of SOEs. As such neither any funds were allocated nor utilized during the last 3 years in Karachi and Hyderabad.

18. **Mr. Junaid Akbar:**

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

- (a) *whether Isolation Hospital and Infections Treatment Centre (IHITC-PIMS) are the state of the art, built of 250 beds Infections Disease Hospital which as inaugurated by former Prime Minister (COVID-19 Pandemic) located in Chak Shahzad, Islamabad;*

- (b) *whether it is a fact that the service extension and salaries issues of IHITC's employees have not been resolved since January, 2024, as a result, the employees are unable to meet their daily travel expenses, due to non-extension of their services and current economic crises; if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (c) *what will be the future status/job security of the employees currently working in IHITC (hired by M/O NHR&C through an open advertisement in December, 2020)?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Isolation Hospital and Infections Treatment Centre (IHITC) is a state-of-the-art 250 bedded hospital which was constructed on the land of National Institute of Health (NIH), Chak Shahzad, Islamabad by NDMA and FWO, with the help of donation of USD 4.0 million by Peoples Republic of China for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. It was inaugurated by former Prime Minister on 26.03.2020 and handed over to Ministry of NHR&C on 09.07.2020.

(b) The employees of IHITC were hired initially for a period of three months w.e.f. 01.01.2021 extended periodically upto 31.12.2023 As far as further extension is concerned, this Ministry vide O.M. dated 11.09.2024 has requested Establishment Division to tender their advice whether extension be granted to 36 IHITC employees for one (01) year w.e.f. 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024 or allow them payment of salaries for a period till they have rendered their services or otherwise. The reply is still awaited.

(c) Status of IHITC employees will be decided as per advice of Establishment Division.

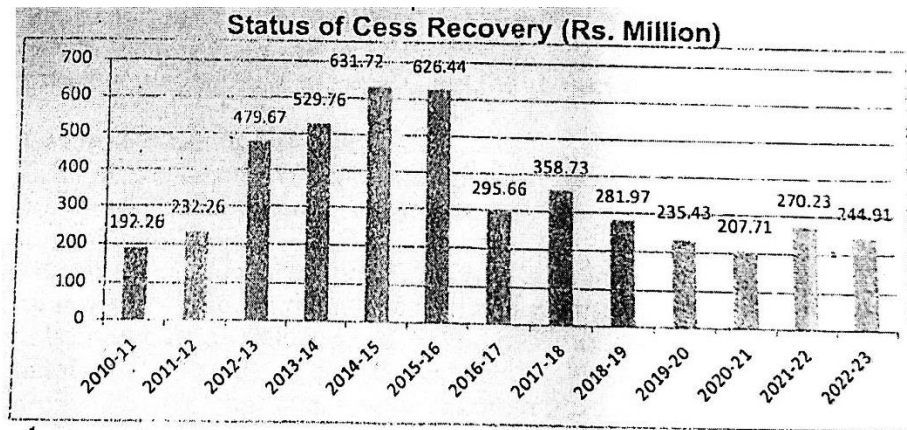
19. **Mr. Umair Khan Niazi:**

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

- (a) *how much money was spent on cotton research from 2014 to 2024 and the details of production growth results achieved so far due to aforesaid research; and*

(b) *how much money was spent on seed cotton from 2014 to 2024?*

Minister for National Food Security and Research (Rana Tanveer Hussain): (a) The cotton research at federal level is taken over by the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) established under Cotton Cess Act 1923. The research network of PCCC exists in four provinces of Pakistan. Moreover, the organization supports the Provincial Agriculture Departments for cotton development programs. This organization has no direct financial support from the government. However, the textile industry is bound to pay cotton cess at the rate of Rs. 50 per bale of cotton consumed in the country. Accordingly, textile industry was likely to pay Rs.750 million for the average consumption of 15 million bales annually. Unfortunately, several textile mills have gone into litigations against this cess and not paying the cess since 2016. Despite the decision by the honorable courts in favor of PCCC, the industry is not cooperating for paying the cess. Resultantly, the outstanding dues with the textile industry surpassed to Rs.3 billion. Accordingly, the PCCC (federal cotton research organization) is facing acute financial crisis and just disbursing 30% salaries & pension to its employees over the past few years. The research work on cotton is badly suffering due to meagre financial resources and non-payment of cess by the textile mills. From 2014-24 overall budget of Rs. 4.76 billion was spent out of which Rs. 3.8 billion was spent on establishment related expenditures and Rs. 0.97 billion operation/ research related expenditures.



Budget Expenditure (2014-2024)

Years	Total Budget	Establishment	Operational
2014-2015	431,805,634	341,793,708	90,011,926
2015-2016	451,130,345	375,860,286	75,270,059
2016-2017	496,425,925	401,356,578	95,069,347
2017-2018	598,640,928	479,488,494	119,152,434
2018-2019	521,617,766	421,835,367	99,782,399
2019-2020	447,181,803	367,510,420	79,671,383
2020-2021	525,585,257	442,879,934	82,705,323
2021-2022	494,865,838	405,175,965	89,689,873
2022-2023	471,046,000	277,893,000	193,153,000
2023-2024	323,662,000	276,413,539	47,248,461

During the last 10 years, the following two PSDP projects were funded by the federal government:

Project Title	Total Project Cost (Rs. Million)	Total Fund Released (Rs. Million)	Status
Cotton Productivity Enhancement Eco-Friendly Pink bollworm Management and Capacity Building in Punjab under PM Emergency Program (2019-2022)	Rs.592.729	Rs. 226.407 (released) Rs. 98.989 (expenditure)	The major share of project cost of around Rs.400 million was for the purchase of PB Ropes in collaboration with Agri Extension Deptt Punjab which could not be initiated due to unavailability of quality PB Ropes in the country.
Better Cotton Initiative for Sustainable Cotton Production (2017-2024)	Rs. 300	Rs. 218.120 (released) Rs. 208.517 (expenditure)	Project ended by March 2024.

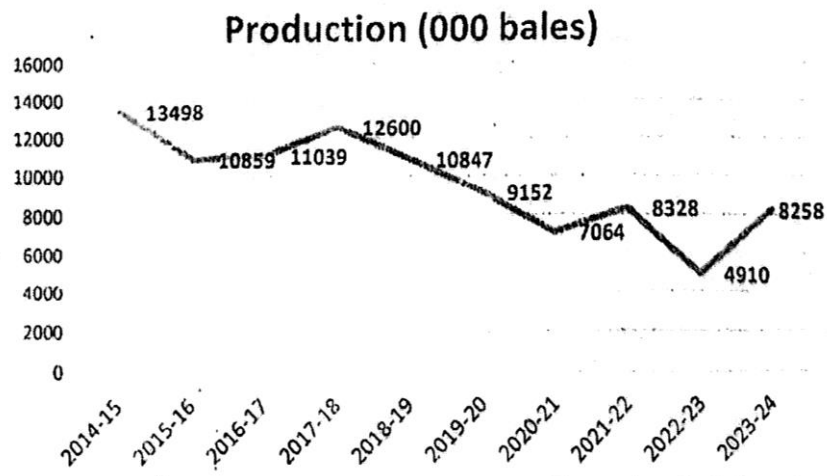
It is important to mention that both these projects were for cotton development programs and not for cotton research improvements. During the current financial year, the PCCC has also submitted a project "Cotton Productivity Enhancement" for Rs. 710 million to the Ministry of National

Food Security & Research for funding through PSDP to meet the cotton research expenses of the PCCC but the project could not be funded.

Cotton Production Growth

Current challenges to cotton production are multifaceted including low profitability, price shocks, exploitation by the middlemen, low research funding etc.

The cotton production in the last decade is facing climatic shocks through heat waves, irregular rainfall pattern and pest & diseases outbreaks. The cotton production reduced to 5 million bales in 2022-23 from 13.6 million bales in 2011-12. Thus slipping down Pakistan's place of cotton production at global level from 4th to 6th in 2022-23.



(b) No separate funds are allocated for seed cotton specifically. The funds mentioned in part (a) above are used for overall cotton research

20. Mr. Riaz Ul Haq:

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that ongoing 32 Dams are being sponsored during the year 2024-25;*

(b) *if so, the detail thereof alongwith the value and capacity;*

(c) *the present status of Shivok Dam, Akhori Dam, Chiniot Dam and Merange Dam; and*

(d) *the time by which construction work on them will be started alongwith the cost to be incurred?*

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik):

(a) The Federal Government is sponsoring thirty-two (32) dam projects during the year 2024-25, through the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP). Construction of these small, medium, and large dams are at various stages of development across the country, with a total cost of Rs. 1,056.985 billion. Upon completion, these projects will provide a cumulative storage capacity of approximately 8,429,288 acre-feet, bringing 436,934 acres of new land under irrigation. Details are at **Annex-A**.

(b) The present status of Shyok Dam, Akhori Dam, Chiniot Dam and Murunj Dam are as under:

Sr. No	Name of Project	Storage capacity (MAF)	Present status/Remarks
		Installed capacity (MW)	
1.	Shyok Dam	5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study completed in June, 2020. • Detailed Engineering Design of the project will be carried out upon availability of financing (about Rs 2.2 billion)
		640	
2.	Akhori Dam	7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study of the project was completed by WAPDA in 2006 • The study was shared by WAPDA with provinces on 19.10.2006 being the stakeholders • In response Punjab province conveyed it's no objection (NOC) on 14.05.2007 whereas Balochistan Province furnished its conditional NOC subject to provision of 12% Royalty on generation of hydropower from the project on the basis of its 12% share in the water. NOC/consent from Government of KP and Government of Sindh was not provided and same stands pending thus far.
		600	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WAPDA requested Government of Sindh & Government of KP several times since 2007 to allocate time slot for presentation but response is awaited.
3.	Chiniot Dam	0.85 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study of the project was started in February 2016 and completed in June 2019. Consultants for Detailed Engineering Design, preparation of tender documents and PC-I of the project were mobilized on 20.06.2022. Consultants have submitted Inception Report, Technical Memorandums and Draft Project Planning Report and are now preparing Detailed Engineering Design Report and PC-I. Detailed Engineering Design is expected to be completed by December 2024 subject to timely release of funds
4.	Murunj Dam	0.4 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC-I amounting to Rs 172,962.67 million was prepared and submitted to Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) by WAPDA. The MoWR has requested WAPDA on 27.09.2024 to approach Government of the Punjab for financing of the project being main beneficiary of the project. The matter for financing is being taken up with the Government of the Punjab by WAPDA.

(d) Shyok Dam:

- The Project will proceed for construction subject to availability of financing (about US\$ 3.9 billion) and conducting Detail Engineering Design

Akhori Dam:

- PC-II for Detailed Engineering Design is pending for consensus among Provinces. Upon issuance of NOC from KP and Sindh provinces, the PC II for detailed engineering design of the project will be prepared

Chiniot Dam:

- The project will proceed for construction subject to completion of Detail Engineering Design, and availability of financing (about USD 518 million).

Murunj Dam:

- The Project will proceed for construction subject to arrangement of financing (Rs. 172,962.67 million) either from Government of the Punjab or from any other source

(Annexures have been placed in the National Assembly Library)

21. Mr. Riaz ul Haq:

Will the Minister for Water Resources be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which telemetry system would be installed and the name of country from whom this system would be bought; and
- (b) what kind of technique would be used for this purpose?

Minister for Water Resources (Mr. Musadik Masood Malik):

(a) • Contract for installation of Telemetry System on 27 key sites has been signed on July 31, 2024 and is scheduled to be completed in 30 months i.e. January, 2027. Thereafter, one-year Defect Liability Period i.e. January, 2028.

- Key parts of equipment to be deployed for Telemetry System shall be imported from Germany, Switzerland, France, China, & USA and include some locally fabricated structures and mechanisms.

(b) • The Telemetry System will electronically acquire in real time upstream / downstream water levels, and gate openings using Radar Type Water Level Sensors and Optical Encoder Type Gate position sensors. Water Discharges will be calculated by the Central Server at IRSA Headquarters.

22. Mr. Muhammad Jawed Hanif Khan:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that lifesaving drugs are not available in the market and are allegedly being sold in black market on higher prices;*
- (b) what steps are being taken by the Government to mitigate sufferings of the people; and*
- (c) how Government intends avoid such situation in future?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) It is not a fact that life-saving drugs are not available in the market. However, sometimes being a global phenomenon which involves supply chain disruption, quality defects, cost escalation, regulatory actions, discontinuation, quota allocation, etc. may cause any/ some drugs to become temporarily unavailable. It is also not a fact that the life-saving drugs are being sold on high prices in the black market. DRAP through National task force which comprises of all provincial drug inspectors take coercive actions against any violator whosoever sells the drugs at a price higher than the Maximum retail price fixed by the Federal Government.

(d) In case any drug becomes temporarily unavailable due to the factors mentioned above in response to part (a) of the question, a Committee on Availability of Life Saving Drugs (CALSD) constituted vide Office Order No. F.No.9-1/2018-CEO-DRAP) dated January 6, 2021 has been entrusted to deal with the issue on consistent and regular basis. After investigating each case, the efforts are made to resolve the issue. In the recent past, the committee has resolved one hundred and twelve (112) cases of shortage of medicines.

This is a standardized procedure that is adopted for each complaint from the market. Further to improve the availability, DRAP has taken following measures:

- (i) DRAP has issued SRO 134(i)/2021 dated 2nd February, 2021 to facilitate the hospitals/ institutes to import those medicines

which are not registered or not available for their patients, these applications are being processed on fast track basis.

(ii) DRAP has been expeditiously processing the registration applications of those medicines which are reported short in the market. Recently, Heparin and Insulin preparations were given priority authorizations for market.

(c) DRAP has revised the existing system to proactively approach to avoid shortage of any drug in the market. Recently, new SOPs / guidelines have been approved by the DRAP Authority. Moreover, CALSU, DRAP has issued directions to Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Association (PPMA), Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association (PCDA) and Pharma Bureau for digitalization of supply chain of therapeutic goods with modern business intelligence tools between the manufacturers /Marketing Authorization Holders & their Distributors which helps in early predictions of shortage, information about stockpiling (if any) and generating automatic reports with suggestions for shortage prevention proactively.

23. Syeda Shehla Raza:

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

(a) *the number of persons presently working in the Ministry alongwith its attached departments, corporation, subordinate offices and institutions;*

(b) *if so, details of the irrespective grade and province-wise break-up thereof?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) The number of persons presently working in the Ministry alongwith its attached departments, corporation, subordinate offices and institutions is placed at Annex-I

(b) Grade and province wise details may also be seen at **Annex-I**

(Annexure has been placed in the National Assembly Library)

24. Ms. Aliya Kamran:

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to refer to the Un-Starred Question No.9 replied on 09-08-2024 and to state:

- (a) the names of the employees who submitted complaints about misuse of official accommodations of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) alongwith dates of the said complaints;*
- (b) the details of the blood relatives which the employees of PIMS residing in the colony are allowed to keep with them in their official residences; and*
- (c) the action taken by the Administration of PIMS after evaluations of complaints of the employees?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Following employees / complainants submitted complaints against allottees of accommodation No. B-5/5 and allottee of C-4/7, PIMS Colony regarding misuse of official accommodations along-with dates of complaints:

- I. Mr. Waqas Ahmed, Attendant, date of application is 14.03.2024 against allottee of B-5/5, PIMS Colony.
- II. Mr. Yasir Ali Sabir, Security Guard, date of application is 14.03.2024 against allottee of B-5/5, PIMS Colony.
- III. An anonymous complaint is submitted, dated 23-08-2024 against allottee of C-4/7.

(b) PIMS has conveyed that they are unable to monitor the blood relatives of residents in view of maintaining their privacy who are allotted Government Accommodation in PIMS Colony. However, family of employees as, defined in AAR-2002 is allowed to live with allottee.

Rule-2(f) of Accommodation Allocation Rules, 2002 defines “family” means spouse, legitimate children and step children of a Government servant residing with him and wholly dependent upon him

and includes his parents, real unmarried sisters and minor brothers, if residing with him and dependent upon him.

Moreover, in case, matter of subletting is reported, PIMS Administration takes action regarding subletting/ unauthorized occupation as per AAR-2002.

(c) PIMS administration has informed that an inquiry committee was constituted on the basis of complaint but allegation of anonymous complainant could not be proved as reported by committee that lady residing in C-4/7 is a second wife of allottee.

Furthermore, allottee of B-5/5 PIMS Colony was served with explanation to clarify his position regarding subletting but he replied that he has not subletted his flat except some guests came from his native town who stayed with him for few days and they have gone back.

25. Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli:

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that in service and retired Government employees are facing severe difficulties for re-imburement of their medical bills get attested from Federal Government Polyclinic and PIMS, Islamabad, and their bills are delayed and kept pending for months by authorities/officer concerned;*
- (b) *if so, the reasons for delaying tactics and what action is being taken against the officers/officials concerned; and*
- (c) *what steps are being taken by the Government to make the process of re-imburement easier, prompt and transparent?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) As per reports from PIMS and Polyclinic, there are no pending medical re-imburement bills of retired/serving Government employees for verification in both hospitals at present. Hospitals have made separate sections and committees for the scrutiny and verification of medical re-imburement bills for facilitation of employees and Medical bills are dealt by the Authorized Medical Attendant under Medical Attendance Rules, 1990.

(b) Usually, no delay occurs in verification of medical reimbursement bills, while delay only happens when the medical reimbursement bills are not submitted as per medical reimbursement Policy/rules and same deficient bills are returned back to the concerned to address the discrepancy and shortcomings.

(c) The Prime Minister has been pleased to constitute a committee under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary, Establishment Division to provide Medical facility to Federal Government Employees through insurance.

ISLAMABAD:
The 18th October, 2024.

TAHIR HUSSAIN,
Secretary General.