

1. Composition of the Committee:

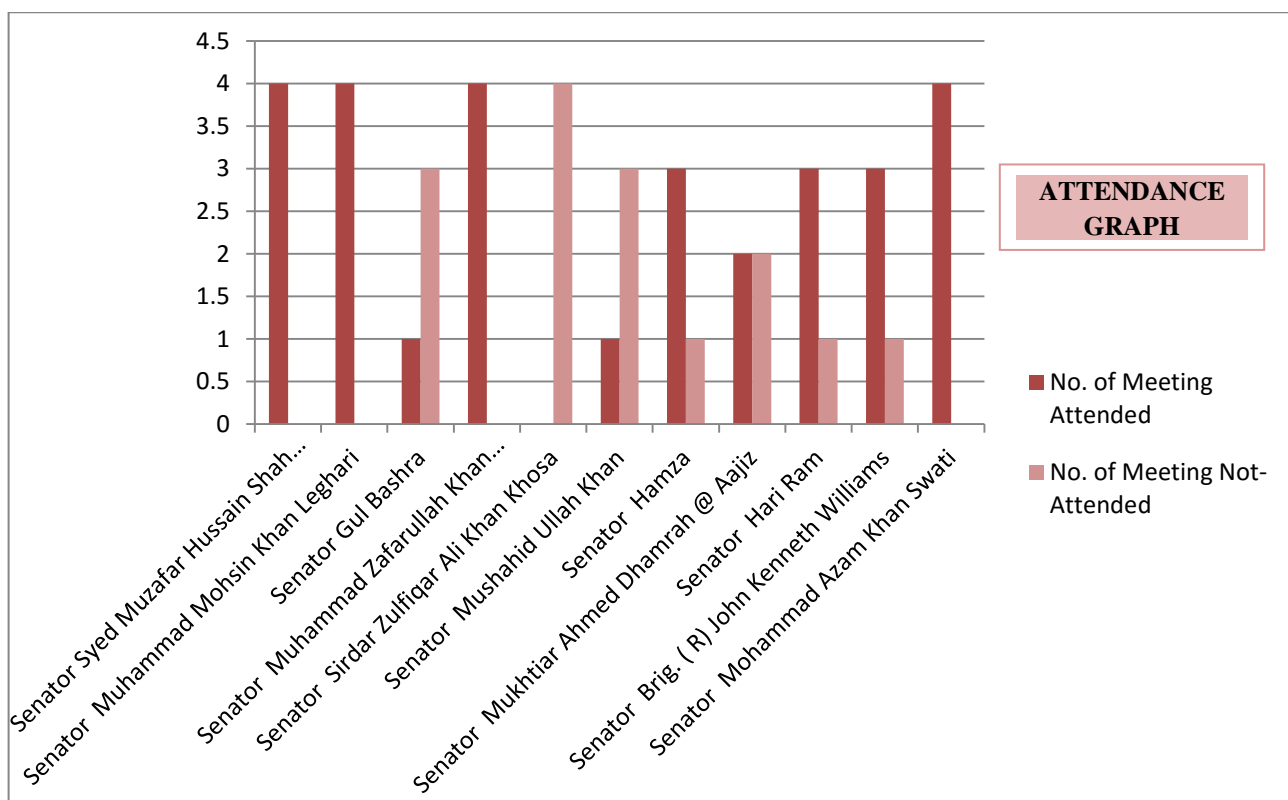
1	Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah	Chairman	
2	Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari	Member	
3	Senator Gul Bashra	Member	
4	Senator Muhammad Zafarullah Khan Dhandla	Member	
5	Senator Sirdar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa	Member	
6	Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan	Member	
7	Senator Hamza	Member	
8	Senator Mukhtiar Ahmed Dhamrah @ Aajiz	Member	
9	Senator Hari Ram	Member	
10	Senator Brig. (R) John Kenneth Williams	Member	
11	Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati	Member	
12	Mr. Hafeezullah Sheikh, J.S., Senate Secretariat	Secretary Committee	

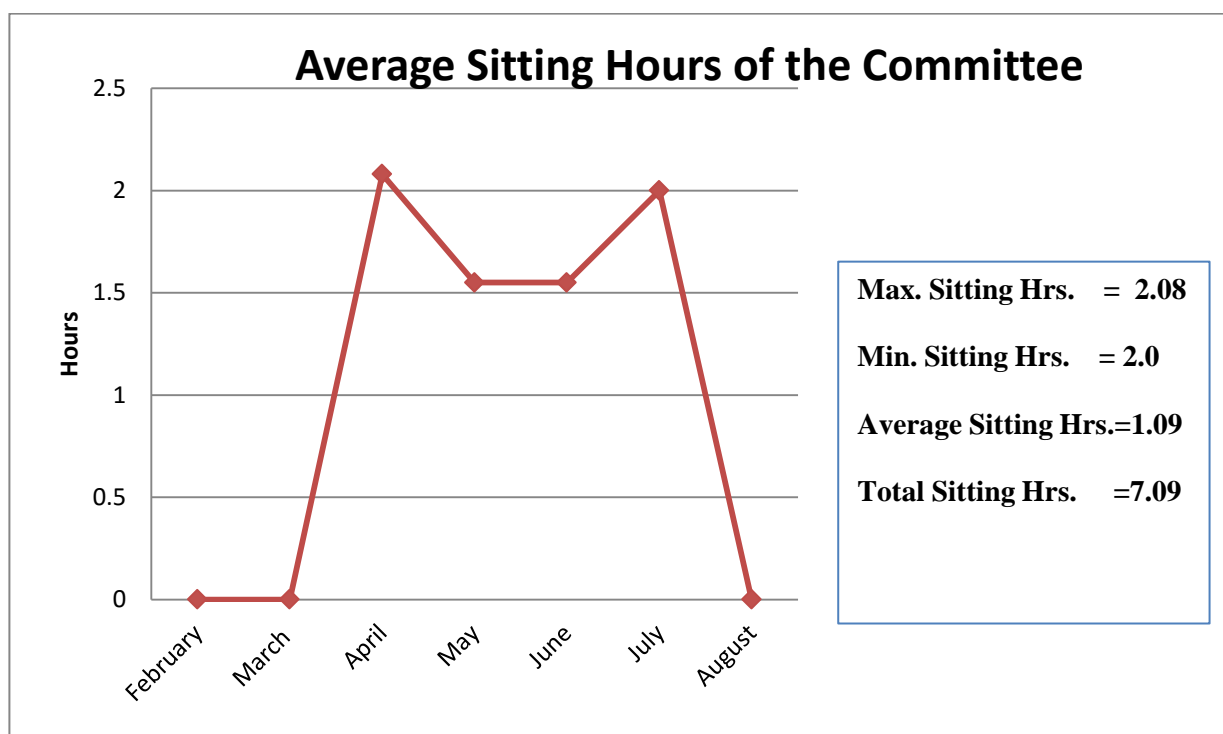
2. Sittings of the Committee:

<u>February</u> <u>2017</u> <u>(No Sitting)</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2017</u> <u>(No Sitting)</u>	<u>April</u> <u>2017</u> <u>(01 Sitting)</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2017</u> <u>(01 Sitting)</u>	<u>June</u> <u>2017</u> <u>(01 Sitting)</u>	<u>July</u> <u>2017</u> <u>(01 Sitting)</u>	<u>August</u> <u>2017</u> <u>(No Sitting)</u>
Nil	Nil	1) 11-04-2017	1) 17-05-2017	1) 06-06-2017	1) 18-07-2017	Nil
Total number of meetings held during the period = 04						

3. Attendance of the Chairman/Members in (04) meetings held during the period:

Sl. No.	Name of the Member	Number of Meetings Attended	Number of Meetings Not-Attended	Number of Meetings in which Leave was sought
1.	Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah (Chairman)	04	00	-
2.	Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari	04	00	-
3.	Senator Gul Bashra	01	03	-
4.	Senator Muhammad Zafarullah Khan Dhandla	04	00	-
5.	Senator Sirdar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa	00	04	-
6.	Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan	01	03	-
7.	Senator Hamza	03	01	-
8.	Senator Mukhtiar Ahmed Dhamrah @ Aajiz	02	02	-
9.	Senator Hari Ram	03	01	-
10.	Senator Brig. (R) John Kenneth Williams	03	01	-
11.	Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati	04	00	-



4. **Sitting hours of the Committee:**5. **Visits of the Committee during the Period:**

Sl. No.	Place of Visit	Purpose of Visit [Public Hearing/ Study/ Progress]	Dates of Visit
No visit was conducted by the Committee during the period.			

6. **Matters referred by the House or the Chairman (including pending issues):**

Sl. No.	Referred Matters	Referred Date
1.	Supplementary Question asked by Senators Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel and Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo during discussion on Starred Question No.130 asked by Senator Lt. Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi in the Senate sitting and referred the same to the Standing Committee on NFS&R for report on the issue of movement/restriction of fertilizer (Urea) in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.	25.08.2017

7. Public Petitions Referred and Disposed:

Sl. No.	Number/ Subject of Public Petition	Date of Referral	Status of Petition	
			Disposed	Pending/ under Consideration
No Public Petition was referred to the Committee during the period.				

8. Agenda Items of the Meetings:**1) Meeting held on 11.04.2017:**

- i. Confirmation of the minutes of last meeting of the Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research held on 13.02.2017 and latest position of the 1400 acres land of PARC and progress report in the case pending before the Supreme Court of Pakistan.
- ii. Briefing by the Director General, FIA on the FIR pertaining to the corruption in the two projects of Olive cultivation carried out by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) alongwith the progress so far made and investigations conducted by the FIA and findings thereof against the officers allegedly involved.
- iii. Disbursement of agricultural credits by the ZaraiTaraqiaiti Bank Ltd. and scheduled banks for the Kharif, 2017 with district wise breakup.
- iv. PASSCO to brief the Committee and submit upto-date progress report in relation to the arrangements made for procurement of 1000 MT wheat as announced by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Also details of the centers for procurement of wheat alongwith the issuance of Bardana in the provinces of Punjab and Sindh.
- v. Detailed briefing on the mobile wheat seminars as arranged/ conducted by PARC. Also reasons for failure to inform and not taking into confidence the Chairman and other members of the Senate Committee while fixing the dates and scheduling the programme of such seminars all over Pakistan as advised in the meeting with particular reference to the seminar from Hyderabad to Umerkot. Whether Chairman PARC fixed responsibility on any officer for failure to comply the directions of the Committee.
- vi. Ministry of National Food Security & Research to brief the Committee about the proposals made in the budget for the years 2017-18 in food & agriculture related sectors.
- vii. Further briefing on Chilli Drying Plant, Kunri and way forward how to keep it functional in future.

2) Meeting held on 17.05.2017:

- i. Confirmation of the minutes of last meeting of the Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research held on 11.04.2017 and latest position of the 1400 acres land of PARC and progress report in the case pending before the Supreme Court of Pakistan.
- ii. Ministry of National Food Security & Research to brief the Committee and submit report about the proposals made in the budget for the year 2017-18 in relation to food & agriculture sectors.
- iii. Progress report in relation to the procurement of wheat by PASSCO with district and tehsil wise breakup of centres in Punjab and Sindh provinces. Also briefing by Chief Secretary Sindh and Managing Director, PASSCO on the issue of procurement of wheat from Sindh by PASSCO with particular reference to the difficulties being faced by PASSCO in disposal of surplus wheat in Sindh province.
- iv. The Chairman PARC to brief the Committee and submit report on the progress made on following issues/ matters as raised in the last meeting of the Committee and actions taken thereon:-
 - i) Letter of PARC dated 15.12.2016 written in reference to the letter of Secretary of the Committee dated 11.11.2016.
 - ii) Issue of appointments, deputations and absorptions in the PARC made during the last three years.
 - iii) Mobile wheat seminars conducted by PARC.
- v. Disbursement of agricultural credits by the Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd. and scheduled banks for the Kharif, 2017 with district wise breakup.

3) Meeting held on 06.06.2017:

- i. Confirmation of the minutes of last meeting of the Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research held on 17.05.2017 and Latest position of the 1400 acres land of PARC and progress report in the case pending before the Supreme Court of Pakistan.
- ii. Agricultural credits advanced by the Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd., (ZTBL) and scheduled Banks during Kharif 2017 in Punjab & Sindh with District wise breakup.
- iii. The Chairman PARC to submit an inquiry report in relation to the letter dated 15.12.2016 of Superintendent PARC written in response to the letter of the Secretary Committee dated 11.11.2016, the language of which was considered as highly objectionable.
- iv. Further consideration on matter of appointments, deputations and absorptions in the PARC made during the last three years. The PARC also to provide complete details of NTS results record in relation to these appointments.
- v. The prices of DAP fertilizers in Punjab and clearing of pending subsidies of claims of fertilizers companies.
- vi. The position of cotton crop in Punjab and Sindh for the year 2017.
- vii. Managing Director, PASSCO to furnish the comments and brief the Committee on the letter of Secretary Food, Government of Sindh dated 18.05.2017 regarding the procurement of wheat by PASSCO from province of Sindh, crop 2017.
- viii. Briefing and district-wise details of agricultural research being conducting by Federal Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA.

4) **Meeting held on 18-07-2017:**

- i. Confirmation of the minutes of last meeting of the Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research held on 6.6.2017 and Latest position of the 1400 acres land of PARC and progress report in the case pending before the Supreme Court of Pakistan.
- ii. Presentation and consideration of the report of Sub-Committee constituted by the Chairman Standing Committee on NFS&R.
- iii. Further consideration on the matter of appointments, deputations and absorptions in the PARC made during the last three years. The PARC also provide complete details of NTS results record in relation to these appointments.
- iv. Further briefing and discussion on the prices of DAP fertilizers in Punjab and clearing of pending subsidies of claims of fertilizers companies.
- v. Agricultural credits advanced by the ZaraiTaraqiaiti Bank Ltd., (ZTBL) and scheduled Banks during Kharif 2017 in Punjab & Sindh with District wise breakup.
- vi. The position of cotton crop in Punjab and Sindh for the 2017.
- vii. Further discussion and progress report by the Managing Director, PASSCO on the matter in respect of procurement of wheat from province of Sindh and Punjab. Also, report by the MD, PASSCO the meeting held with the Chief Secretary, Sindh in relation to the procurement of wheat form Sindh province.

9. **Important Recommendations of the Committee:**

1) **Meeting held on 11-04-2017:**

- i. After the detailed briefing by the Additional Director General, FIA Mr. Ahmad Latif, the Chairman and the members of the Committee expressed their satisfaction on the progress of the case and also appreciated the efforts and steps being taken by the FIA in resolving the case. The Chairman further advised the FIA to update the Committee on the progress of the case on regular basis.
- ii. After the briefing by Managing Director, PASSCO and detailed discussion, the hon'able Chairman of the Committee Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah said that, to address all the issues as raised by the Managing Director during the briefing particularly with reference to Sindh province which include procurement of wheat from certain districts as well as non availability of state land for stock of wheat and also difficulties in lifting of such stock, it is necessary to invite the Chief Secretary, Sindh alongwith all concerned in the next meeting of the Committee for resolution of all issues in the best interest of the growers of wheat in Sindh province. The issue of selection and allocation of various centers would also be taken up in the meeting, he further added.
- iii. The matter of Chilli Drying Plant, Kunnri was also discussed in the meeting and Chairman of the Committee after briefing, directed the Project Director to submit the report regarding the process of registration of Company under Act and on other related matters on regular basis.

2) **Meeting held on 17-05-2017:**

- i. The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberations on the matter pertaining to the procurement of wheat and difficulties being faced by the PASSCO particularly in the Sindh province advised the Chief Secretary, Sindh to furnish the comprehensive updated report into the matter to the Committee immediately.
- ii. Issue the minutes of the meeting held on 05.04.2017 between Managing Director, PASSCO and Chief Secretary, Sindh and other concerned officers of Government of Sindh without further delay and copy of such minutes may also be sent to Secretary of the Senate Committee on National Food Security & Research.
- iii. The Secretary Food , Government of Sindh also advised to communicate the displeasure of entire Committee for non furnishing of report and failure to attend the meeting of the Committee and further advised to ensure his presence in the meeting as and when it required. Non compliance would lead to the action initiated a motion for breach of privilege of Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research under the Rules of the Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.
- iv. The Committee in relation to the appointments, deputation and absorptions made in the PARC/NARC during the last three years, advised the Chairman PARC to furnish the report on the following points and also brief the Committee in the next meeting:-
 - a. Complete details of appointments, deputation and absorption made in the PARC by clearly mention those which were made in violation of Rules and Regulations.
 - b. Procedure adopted while making appointments, deputations and absorptions alongwith the names of appointing authority as well as details of the Selection Committees.
 - c. Actions taken in compliance with the decision/directions of Supreme Court of Pakistan in relation to the illegal appointments and absorptions.
 - d. A complete list of vacant posts in PARC/NARC alongwith the prescribed quota set by the Federal Government.
 - e. Details of those employees who were appointed on a particular projects alongwith the status of the projects and if completed what is the fate of those employees who were appointed.
- v. In view of the inappropriate replies and failing to resolve the administrative issues of the PARC as well as undermining the authority of Parliamentary Committees, the Committee endorsed the viewpoint of Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati to recommend the Ministry to reconsider the appointment of Dr. YousufZafar as Chairman PARC.

3) Meeting held on 06-06-2017:

- i. During the deliberations of the Standing Committee on agriculture credit, the Committee unanimously felt that taking into consideration the present cost of basic inputs and the inflation which is rampant at present, the Committee was therefore unanimously of the view that in order to equip the small farmers who own atleast 12 and half acre of the land, should atleast be given a minimum credit facility of Rs.250,000/- enabling them to purchase the minimum inputs required for major crops. This may also be communicated to the Finance Committees of the Senate and the National Assembly, the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Pakistan.

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- ii. On the question of interest rate on agriculture loans, the Committee unanimously of the view that in order to avail the facility of agriculture credit, it is essential that the interest rate should be atleast at par with those which are presently available to the industrial sector and the interest rate at 9.9% as announced in the budget seems to be on higher side and the small farmer may not be able to avail the facility on this interest rate, the committee therefore recommends that interest rate for agriculture credit for small farmers should be at par with the industrial sector.
 - iii. The Committee also places on record the sense of appreciation for government of Punjab for initiating interest free scheme on agriculture loans for small farmers.
 - iv. The Committee while going through the inquiry report felt that the report is incomplete and lacks reasoning and other details, the Committee therefore requested the Minister for National Food Security & Research to look into it personally and brief the outcome of the inquiry in the next meeting.
 - v. The Chairman, PARC is directed to submit a copy of MOU signed between PARC and NTS and also the inquires conducted by them in relation to appointment made in last three years. Also whether the same are made in accordance with the rules or otherwise, if so detail of the inquiry reports should be submitted to the Secretary of the Committee within a week.

4) Meeting held on 18-07-2017:

- i) The Committee while showing its displeasure on delay of resolving the issue of 1400 acres of land leased out to the PARC by CDA and also non implementation of the recommendations of the Committee into the said matter, advised the Chairman CDA to take up this issue with the Cabinet Division and make efforts to get early decision on the summary moved by the CDA and submit report in the next meeting. The Committee also directed the Chairman PARC to request the Registrar Supreme Court for early fixation of the case pending before the apex court into the matter.
The Chairman Committee also seek assistance from the Minister, NFS&R for the resolution of said matter in light of the recommendations of the Committee as early as possible.
- ii) The Committee after having discussion on the report of the Sub-Committee constituted under the Convenership of Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari asked the Chairman PARC to tender apology alongwith the Officer Incharge, afresh in writing and also in future the schedule of wheat seminar may be issued in consultation with the members of the Committee. Moreover, a directory of the prominent wheat growers of the wheat producing areas of Sindh and Punjab provinces may be compiled which may contain all the details of the each grower. All these growers may also be invited in the mobile wheat seminars, whenever takes place.
- iii) The agenda item in relation to the appointments, deputations and absorptions in the PARC was differed till next meeting with the directions that Chairman PARC and Secretary Committee to sit together and ensure the availability of all relevant documents before the Committee in next meeting.
- iv) After having briefing from the concerned officer of the Textile Ministry on the upto-date position of the cotton crop in Punjab and Sindh as well as attack of Army-worm and Pink Bollworm, the Committee advised the officer to submit an updated report before the next meeting of the Committee.
- v) After the detailed briefing by the Managing Director, PASSCO on the various issues pertaining to the Sindh province in relation to the procurement of wheat and its disposed as well as delay in taking decision of availability of stat land by the Sindh Government

to PASSCO in some districts, the Committee decided to hold meeting in the office of Chief Secretary Sindh at Karachi in order to resolve this very important issue, after ascertaining the availability of hon'able Federal Minister and Chief Secretary, Sindh.

- vi) The Committee while appreciating the decision of the ZTBL in relation to the constitution of Zonal Committees and including the names of progressive farmers of respective zones as members of Committee. However, the various members of the Senate Committee have observed that in most of the meetings the progressive farmers have not been invited in such meetings, therefore the Committee advised the President, ZTBL to issue directions to all the Zonal Chiefs to hold meetings atleast once in every quarter and also ensure the presence of progressive farmers of respective zone in the meetings. A follow up report in this regard may be submitted to the Secretary of the Committee on National Food Security & Research on regular basis.

10. Sub-Committee Meetings:

Sl. No.	Details of Sub-Committee / Meetings held during the period	
1.	Date of Formation of the Sub-Committee with Composition:	<p><u>19.05.2017</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari, Convener 2. Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, Member 3. Senator Mukhtiar Ahmed Dhamrah @ Aajiz, Member
2.	TORs /Agenda of the Sub-Committee:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The reasons why wheat seminars were not held in the wheat growing districts particularly Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Sanghar wherein the wheat growers of these districts would interact with wheat scientists and wheat scholars according to instructions of Committee. ii. Who was responsible to formulate the programe of wheat seminars and the dates for the same without consulting the members of the Committee and informing and inviting them and the refusal to reschedule the dates of the seminars as the Senate session was also scheduled to meet on the same dates and the Chairman of the Committee had also made such request also. iii. What are the details and justification of the expenditure incurred on the seminar and whether the same were approved by the competent authority. iv. Whether a breach of privilege of the Committee has been committed by intentionally fixing the dates for such seminars clashing with the Senate session and the refusal to reschedule such dates on the request of the Chairman of the Committee and whether such actions amounted to violating the directions of the Committee.
3.	Dates of Meetings held:	14-06-2017

4.	Attendance of the Members:	i. Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari, Convener ii. Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, Member
5.	Important Recommendations made by the Sub-Committee:	a) The name of the mobile/traveling wheat seminar should be modified keeping in view the nature of its activities and theme. b) On the conclusion of the seminar a summary containing the details of all events should be prepared and a copy each to all members and Chairmen of Standing Committees on National Food Security & Research of Senate and National Assembly may be sent for their perusal and information. c) Sufficient numbers of copies may also be dispatched to the Libraries of Senate and National Assembly for reference and record. d) An executive summary of mobile/traveling seminar may also be provided to the print media and arrangements may be made to get published in Urdu, English and regional languages newspapers in order to keep informed and updated the agricultural related community
6.	Date of completion of tenure of the Sub-Committee:	2 nd August, 2017
7.	Date of Submission of report to the Standing Committee:	18-07-2017
8.	Report of the Sub-Committee, if presented, in the House as Special Report of the main Committee (if so, the date of presentation.	Nil

11. Recommendations of the Committee requiring statement by the Minister in the House under rule 265(A) of the RPCBS, 2012:

Sl. No.	Name of the Report	Recommendations	Reported Date
		Nil	

12. Reports tabled in the House:

Sl. No.	Reported Matters	Reported Date
1.	As per the directions of the Chairman Senate that Committee should on monthly basis present progress report in the house into the 1400 acres NARC/PARC land issue. Accordingly the progress report for the month of April, 2017 was reported and presented in the house.	17.04.2017
2.	As per the directions of the Chairman Senate that Committee should on monthly basis present progress report in the house into the 1400 acres NARC/PARC land issue. Accordingly the progress report for the month of June, 2017 was reported and presented in the house.	7.06.2017
3.	As per the directions of the Chairman Senate that Committee should on monthly basis present progress report in the house into the 1400 acres NARC/PARC land issue. Accordingly the progress report for the month of August, 2017 was reported and presented in the House.	24.08.2017

13. Reports adopted by the House:

Sl. No.	Adopted Matters	Adopted Date
	No report was adopted by the House during the period.	