



## SENATE OF PAKISTAN

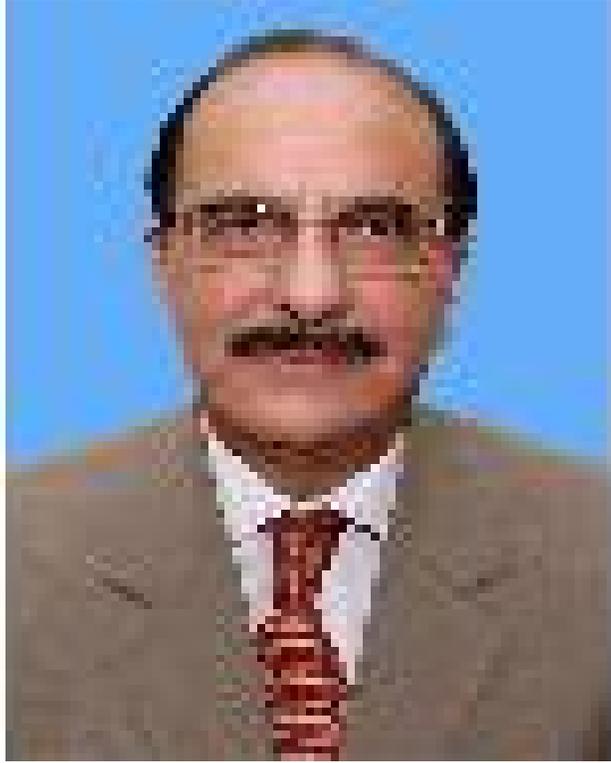


### **REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE**

**FOR THE PERIOD FROM  
JUNE 2012 TO NOVEMBER 2014**

Presented by  
**SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA**  
Chairman

**Ghulam Murtaza**  
Joint Secretary/Secretary Committee



*SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA*  
The Honourable Chairman,  
**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION  
BORADCASTING AND NATIONAL HERITAGE**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
•Preface.....	4-5
•Executive Summary.....	6-10
•Composition of the Committee.....	11
•Profiles of the Senators & Secretary Committee.....	13-26
•Pictorial View .....	27-33
•Minutes of the Meetings.....	34-138

## **PREFACE**

It gives me immense pleasure to present the 1<sup>st</sup> Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage for the period from June, 2012 to November, 2014.

I had honour of being the Chairman of Senate Standing Committee is a unique and novel experience, due to the vast, enriched and diverse ambit of the Committee. The broad spectrum of the purview of the Committee can be assessed by the fact that multifarious scope of the jurisdiction of the Committee ranges from sophisticated technical issues of the Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV), Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), Press Information Department (PID), M/S MIDAS Pvt. Ltd , ABC (Audit Bureau of Circulation), All Pakistan Newspaper (APNS), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), United Producer Association (UPA) etc.

However, I feel proud that the Committee tackled all these issues superbly, due to the expertise and diligence of my worthy colleagues whose dedication and un wavered commitment brought about several achievements to the credit of the committee., it frequently engaged in conducting meetings to perform its oversight role effectively, in order to ensure the transparency and the fairness in the relevant division as well as the attached department(s), if any legislative is needed and proposed for that., as the representative of the peoples, the Committee targeted to facilitate the peoples and protects their interests. In order to perform its core function of the oversight, the Committee adapted the mechanism, which consisted of identifying the malfunction/negligence/ flaws/ misconduct/ discrepancy or deviation from any prescribed rules, probe it; suggest recommendations and follow up / pursue the implementation status. The Committee Members several times in different cases, which were closely related to the sensitive issues, visited the sites in order to know the ground realities and also cross checked the deviated statements of few officers. The Committee more focused on the structural changes, resultantly which have paid dividends to the peoples. The Committee's efforts and the decisions were within the defined framework/mandate.

I appreciate my fellow members of the Committee for their active participation and contributions, which helped me to perform this role as the Chairman effectively. I attribute the achievements accomplished by the Committee to them, because without their diligence and cooperation it would not have been possible. It would be injustice for not acknowledging the cooperation and commitment of the government official of relevant Ministries/ Divisions. The

---

Committee is determined to keep on playing its active role, by making recommendations to facilitate the Government, to resolve the issues of the public at large in the Country.

We look forward to the continued cooperation of the Senate Secretariat which, under the dynamic leadership of Secretary of Mr. Amjad Parvez, has always been at the beck and call of all members of the Senate, particularly the Senate Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage .We would look forward to suggestions from our members on what may be needed to improve further this report, since it would be a regular feature of our work.

I am also indebted to the Secretary Committee Ghulam Murtaza and his staff for continuously perusing the implementation status through corresponding with the relevant entities; and my personal staff for their diligence, commitment, research, valuable and sincere efforts for facilitation of the Committee to attain its goals.

(SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA)  
Chairman Standing Committee

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standing Committees are the backbone of parliamentary system in the democratic dispensation Parliaments, around the world, function through the Standing Committee, which are deemed the eyes and ears of the parliament, eyes riveted on the officialdom to oversee the executive to implement the policies enshrined by the Government. Ears committed and devoted to listen to the voice of the masses and convey to the Government of the day. These committees on one hand hold the officialdom and Government of the day, accountable and put in valuable suggestions in formulation of the policies by the Government. Furthermore, Parliaments without effective role of Standing Committees cannot discharge their basic obligations of legislation. In short, the whole parliamentary façade rests upon the pillars of the Standing Committees.

The Senate Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting according to Schedule 1, Rule 3(1) deals with matters and issues pertaining to several institutions under the administrative control of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

The Committee, under the vigilant Chairmanship of Honourable Senator Mr. Kamil Ali Agha endeavored very hard to perform all the aforementioned functions of the Committee i-e parliamentary oversight and the accountability of the officialdom, conveying the sentiments of the public to the Government and legislation on the issues referred by the House. In depth, perusal of the proceedings of the Committee will reveal that despite the vast scope of the work, the Committee did not spare any important issue unattended.

During the proceedings of the meetings, the Committee observed that despite significance changes in the working environment as well as the dynamics of the society, the affairs of the public entities are being run by following obsolete conventional techniques, which consequently maintain the status quo. The Committee in that scenario focused to perform effectively its oversight role, in order to get rid of status quo and avoid the misuse of the excessive power, which ultimately leads to corruption. The Committee observed that there is a dire need to evolve a fool proof system to eradicate violation and negligence of the rules, which ultimately leads to detriment of the interests of the people. It is necessary

to bring about core structural changes to insulate the system from corruption and to establish the rule of law. The Committee therefore, emphasized on restructuring of the public sector institutions to synchronise them with the needs of the day and to make them more effective and responsive to general public.

The Committee held several meetings during the period from June, 2012 to November, 2014, and took up the issues pertaining to the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation , Press Information Department, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, some of which are highlighted below:-

### **Highlights/Recommendation on different issues taken up by the Standing Committee**

- There should be fully transparency in awarding the advertisement to the news papers at federal as well as at provincial level and no advertisement should be given to the dummy newspapers.
- Advertisement should not be used for political purposes.
- Government should take up the matter with the channels who are insulting the politicians with very disgraceful manners.
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting should give clear cut policy line to all the stakeholders including PEMRA, cable operators and private TV channels etc
- The PEMRA should implement its existing laws to control the alleged affairs.
- The PEMRA should also revisit the policy of issuance of CD Channels to the cable operators.
- The PEMRA should make equivalent laws for broadcasting of Indian programs at Pakistani channels as is the case with showing Pakistani programs on Indian channels.
- Ministry of Information should give status of industry to the drama business and provide all necessary assistance / support as is being given to other industries.
- Complete transparency should be observed in the distribution of advertisement and no pressure should be taken from any quarter.

- The committee expressed its grave concerns in the tragic incident of the attack as the residency of the Quaid-e-Azam at Ziarat and therefore, advised federal, as well as provinces Government to take necessary action to avoid such incidents in future.
- The title of the advertisement like Polio etc. should also be clearly mentioned on the web.
- Steps should be taken for the determination of rates of newspapers publishing from various cities.
- There should be clear definition of newspapers of falling in category A and B as present definition is very old, and accordingly the formula for giving advertisement may be revisited.
- Detail of all type of outstanding amount against each channel of PEMRA may be prescribed to the Committee. Legislation framework and the active monitoring mechanism regarding foreign contents should be revisited for rationalization.
- Through competent lawyers the cases pending in the Supreme Court and Sindh High Court may be persuaded on priority basis.
- Services of cable TV operators may be improved through digitalization.
- Public awareness campaign about the digitalization of cable TV may be launched.
- Detailed information of the recruitment process including the advertisement(s) published for the appointments, the interview committee (s) and number of the appointments in each sitting along with the offered pay packages, adopted for the appointments in PBC during last two years may be provided.
- All the issues pertaining to the appointments/ regularization must be resolved according to law and the complete report may be furnished in this regard.

- All necessary steps may be taken for the preservation of the National Heritage/historical buildings in the country including Qila Bala Hissar, Peshawar, residence of Corps Commander, Lahore, and all other holy places of Buddhism in all over the country, which may be helpful for the development of the tourism industry.
- The steps for the enhancement as well as the standardization of the publications may be taken by adopting the scientific methods.
- Sufficient funds may be allocated for the preservation of the national heritage/ archeological sites & monuments.
- The construction work of Pakistan Park at Mazar-e-Quaid may be completed on priority basis.
- The eligible employees may be promoted on the all the posts on merit and according to seniority cum fitness basis.
- The Standing Committee would visit all PTV Centers across the country to oversee/ monitor the affairs/ discrepancies/ issues of these centers and also to hear the problems of the employees at these centers.
- PTV Peshawar center may be issued grant on the priority basis for the procurement of required equipment.
- An exclusive briefing may be conducted for the regional/ noncommercial operation of PTV and its financial implications on the cost of PTV.
- PTV should produce dramas itself rather than purchasing from the private producers and only the dramas of “A” category may be purchased from the private production houses.
- Government should financially support PTV for continuation of regional/ non-commercial operations.
- The packages of the actors performing in PTV may be revised as per existing market packages.

- Fortnightly report on the action taken by PEMRA against TV channels will be sent to the Committee.
- PEMRA should remain more vigilant on the violation of TV channels in this regard.
- The Legal Wing of PEMRA should be more activated to pursue the cases in the courts and vacation of stay orders issued by the courts. The legal counsels of the PEMRA should inform the courts about the sensitivity of the issue.
- The code of conduct for TV channels may be finalized immediately.
- The revised code of the conduct for the TV channels may be issued immediately along with all the possible steps may be taken to ensure its implementation and compliance report in this regard may be furnished/ submitted.
- Public service messages regarding the rehabilitation of IDPs, in the favour of ongoing army operation (Zarb-e-Aazb) against the terrorism may be telecasted on every TV channels.
- The process of imposing penalty / fine to the TV channels involved in the violation of the foreign content policy may be expedited.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION,  
BROADCASTING AND NATIONAL HERITAGE  
(COMPOSITION)**

1	Kamil Ali Agha	Chairman
2	Syed Zafar Ali Shah	Member
3	Almas Parveen	Member
4	Shirala Mallick	Member
5	Farah Aqil	Member
6	Advocate Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai	Member
7	Saeed Ghani	Member
8	Malik Najmul Hassan	Member
9	Farhatullah Babar	Member
10	Rubina Khalid	Member
11	Dr. Abdul Qayoom Soomro	Member
12	Senator Adnan Khan	Member
13	Mir Israr Ullah Khan Zehri	Member

---

## **PROFILE OF THE SENATORS**

# Kamil Ali Agha



Name	Kamil Ali Agha
Tenure	March 2012 to March 2018
Province	Punjab
Party	Pakistan Muslim League (PML)
Seat Description	General
Designation	Senator
Oath Taking Date	12-03-2012

## Personal Information

Father's Name Agha Ahmed Ali Khan

## Contact Detail

Home Number 042-37147922  
Mobile Number 0300 & 0321-9445119  
Fax Number 042-37147924  
Gender Male  
Local Address G-204, Parliament House Islamabad.  
Permanent Address 10, Humanyoun Street-1, Bilal Gunj, Lahore.

## Political Career

Committee (s)

Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage (**Chairperson Committee**)

Cabinet Secretariat

Communications

Railways

## Additional Information

Other Information

A seasoned politician and Central Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League from Punjab, Senator Agha, who holds a B.A & LLB degree, has served at many prominent positions during his career. He was elected as Counselor in 1979; Chairman of Health and Sanitation Department, Lahore, in 1979; Councilor in 1983; Deputy Leader of House, Lahore Corporation, in 1983; Councilor in 1990; Deputy Mayor, Lahore, in 1990; Member, National Assembly, in 1997; Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, 1999; Senator in 2003; Chairman of Standing Committee on Communications and Railways, 2004-2009; First Chief Whip in the Senate from January 2004. In addition, Senator Agha has remained Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs from April 2006; Opposition Leader in Senate of Pakistan, April 2008 to March 2009; Member of Provincial Working Committee, PML, Punjab; Member of Central Working Committee, PML, Punjab; Additional General Secretary, Pakistan Muslim League, Punjab; Secretary Information, Pakistan Muslim League, Punjab and Chief Editor of "Muslim League News", a fortnightly magazine. He has also served as Chief Coordinator to Chief Minister Secretariat, Punjab, and as Advisor to the Government of Punjab. Having 21 years experience in criminal law as a prominent lawyer, Senator Agha also writes articles in national newspapers.

## Syed Zafar Ali Shah



Name	Syed Zafar Ali Shah
Tenure	March 2009 to March 2015
Province	Punjab
Party	Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)
Seat Description	General
Designation	Senator

### Personal Information

#### Contact Detail

Office Number	051-9252443 , 2607786
Home Number	051-9252443 , 2607786
Mobile Number	0333-5202949,0321-5874849
Email	syed.zafar.alishah@senate.gov.pk
Gender	Male
Local Address	H.No.3, St-41-B, G-7/4,7th Avenue Islamabad.
Permanent Address	H.No.3, St-41-B, G-7/4,7th Avenue Islamabad.

### Political Career

#### Committee (s)

National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (**Chairperson Committee**)  
Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage  
Law and Justice  
Housing and Works

# Almas Parveen



Name	Almas Parveen
Tenure	March 2009 to March 2015
Province	Sindh
Party	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP-P)
Seat Description	Women
Designation	Senator

## Personal Information

### Contact Detail

Home Number	021-2533878
Mobile Number	0333-2238715
Email	almas.parveen@senate.gov.pk
Gender	Female
Local Address	E-211, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address	H.No.2431, Gulistan Baloch House, Shah Baig Line, Moosa Chaudhry Road, Lyari, Karachi.

## Political Career

### Committee (s)

Functional Committee on Government Assurances  
National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination  
Science and Technology  
Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage

# Shirala Mallick



Name	Shirala Mallick
Tenure	March 2009 to March 2015
Province	Sindh
Party	Mutahidda Qaumi Movement (MQM)
Seat Description	Women
Designation	Senator

## Personal Information

### Contact Detail

Office Number	92-51-9223954
Home Number	021-5350172
Mobile Number	0321-9218079, 0321-2226165
Fax Number	021-4556879, 4552442
Email	shirala.mallick@senate.gov.pk shirala_mallick@yahoo.com
Gender	Female
Local Address	A-202, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address	H.No.100/1, 6th Street, Khaayaban-e-Rahat, Phase-VI, DHA, Karachi.

## Political Career

### Committee (s)

Information Technology and Telecommunication  
Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage  
Housing and Works  
Planning Development and Reform

## Academic Career

Qualification	B.A
---------------	-----

## Additional Information

### Other Information

Beautician (Proprietor & Beautician : 1985-1995)  
Administrator (Proprietor & Administrator : 2002 to date)  
Sports and Relief Clinic  
Member Women Parliamentary Caucus

# Farah Aqil



Name	Farah Aqil
Tenure	March 2009 to March 2015
Province	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Party	Awami National Party (ANP)
Seat Description	Women
Designation	Senator

## Personal Information

### Contact Detail

Home Number	:091-5270182, 5274304
Mobile Number	0301-8593029
Email	farah.aqil@senate.gov.pk
Gender	Female
Local Address	E-402, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address	Greens Hotel, Saddar Road, Peshawar Cantt.

## Political Career

### Committee (s)

Inter-Provincial Coordination (**Chairperson Committee**)  
National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination  
Science and Technology  
Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage

## Academic Career

Qualification M.A (Psychology)

## Additional Information

### Other Information

MPA (ANP) 2002-2001  
APWA Peshawar a.sec.2006-2008  
Legislative Watch Group (Aurat Foundation) Member 2005-2008  
Hamdard Shoora Group warden (Ladies wing) pf civil defense

## Advocate Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai



Name	Advocate Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai
Tenure	March 2012 to March 2018
Province	Balochistan
Party	Awami National Party (ANP)
Seat Description	General
Designation	Senator
Oath Taking Date	12-03-2012

### Personal Information

Father's Name	Ghulam Sarwar Khan Pir Ali Zai
---------------	--------------------------------

### Contact Detail

Home Number	081-2843116
Fax Number	081-2843116
Gender	Male
Local Address	109-J, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address	H.No.A-1, Sahib Banglows, Tufail Road, Quetta Cantt.

### Political Career

Committee (s)

Communications (**Chairperson Committee**)  
Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage  
Law and Justice  
Defence Production

# Saeed Ghani



Name	Saeed Ghani
Tenure	March 2012 to March 2018
Province	Sindh
Party	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP-P)
Seat Description	General
Designation	Senator
Oath Taking Date	12-03-2012

## Personal Information

Father's Name	Usman Ghani
---------------	-------------

### Contact Detail

Home Number	021-35394499
Mobile Number	0300-9228120
Fax Number	021-35889900
Gender	Male
Local Address	H-202, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.
Permanent Address	H.No Z-235, Ghanesar Goth, Karachi.

## Political Career

### Committee (s)

Functional Committee on Government Assurances (**Chairperson Committee**)  
Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage  
Industries and Production  
Planning Development and Reform

# Malik Najmul Hassan



Name	Malik Najmul Hassan
Tenure	March 2012 to March 2018
Province	FATA
Party	Independent (IND)
Seat Description	General
Designation	Senator
Oath Taking Date	12-03-2012

## Personal Information

Father's Name                      Malik Jamal Hassan

### Contact Detail

Home Number                      0925-650101

Mobile Number                    0333-9613125

Gender                                Male

Local Address                      011-JParliament Lodges, Islamabad.

Permanent Address                Qaum Bar Mohammad Khel, Tapa Khoidad KHel, Village Tarangi, Orakzai Agency.

## Political Career

Committee (s)

### Railways

Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage

National Food Security and Research

Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development

# Farhatullah Babar



Name	Farhatullah Babar
Tenure	March 2012 to March 2018
Province	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Party	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP-P)
Seat Description	Technocrats Including Ulema
Designation	Senator
Oath Taking Date	12-03-2012

## Personal Information

Father's Name	Kramatullah Khan
---------------	------------------

### Contact Detail

Office Number	051-2655589
Home Number	051-2655589
Mobile Number	0300-8552543
Fax Number	051-9204974
Gender	Male
Local Address	H.No.24-A, St-52, F-7/4, Islamabad.
Permanent Address	H.No 24-A, St.No.52, F-7/4, Islamabad.

## Political Career

Committee (s)

Defence

Foreign Affairs

Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage

Functional Committee on Human Rights

# Rubina Khalid



Name	Rubina Khalid
Tenure	March 2012 to March 2018
Province	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Party	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP-P)
Seat Description	Women
Designation	Senator
Oath Taking Date	12-03-2012

## Personal Information

Contact Detail	
Office Number	051-9252135
Home Number	091-5276995
Mobile Number	0300-5263325
Gender	Female
Local Address	H.No.45-A, St-38, F-10/4, Islamabad.
Permanent Address	53-Shami Road, Peshawar.

## Political Career

Committee (s)

Cabinet Secretariat  
Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage  
Defence Production  
Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan

# Dr. Abdul Qayoom Soomro



Name	Dr. Abdul Qayoom Soomro
Tenure	March 2009 to March 2015
Province	Sindh
Party	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP-P)
Seat Description	General
Designation	Senator
Oath Taking Date	12-05-2014
In Vice Of	Syed Faisal Raza Abidi

## Personal Information

### Contact Detail

Gender	Male
Marital Status	
Permanent Address	Village Mazarjo Tehsil Khanpur, District Shikarpur.

## Political Career

### Committee (s)

#### Defence

Information Technology and Telecommunication  
Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage  
Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development

# Adnan Khan

<b>Name</b>	Adnan Khan
<b>Tenure</b>	March 2009 to March 2015
<b>Province</b>	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
<b>Party</b>	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarian (PPP-P)
<b>Seat Description</b>	Technocrats Including Ulema
<b>Designation</b>	Senator



## PERSONAL INFORMATION

### Contact Detail

<b>Office Number</b>	051-2291491, 2212934
<b>Home Number</b>	051-2291491, 2212934
<b>Mobile Number</b>	0300-5010786
<b>Email</b>	adnan.khan@senate.gov.pk
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Local Address</b>	H.No.23, Main Sumbal Road, F-10/2, Islamabad.
<b>Permanent Address</b>	H.No.497, St-9, F-10/2, Islamabad.

## POLITICAL CAREER

### COMMITTEE (S)

#### Committee (s)

Science and Technology  
Commerce and Textile Industry  
Industries and Production

## ACADEMIC CAREER

<b>Qualification</b>	Masters in Business Administration (M.B.A)
----------------------	--

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Other Information

Business Chief Executive to date  
Private Marketing Consultation Marketing Consultant 1989 to date

## Mir Israrullah Khan Zehri



<b>Name</b>	Mir Israrullah Khan Zehri
<b>Tenure</b>	March 2012 to March 2018
<b>Province</b>	Balochistan
<b>Party</b>	Balochistan National Party Awami (BNP-A)
<b>Seat Description</b>	General
<b>Designation</b>	Senator

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Father's Name** Sardar Doda Khan

### Contact Detail

**Office Number** 051-9210088

**Mobile Number** 0300, 0312, 0321, 0333 & 0345-9785500

**Gender** Male

**Local Address** E-302, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad.

**Permanent Address** Banglow No.55, St-7, DHA Phase-V, Khayaban-e-Badban, Karachi.

### POLITICAL CAREER

### COMMITTEE (S)

#### Committee (s)

Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage\_  
Interior and Narcotics Control  
Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas  
Defence Production

### ACADEMIC CAREER

#### Qualification

Graduation

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Other Information

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research.(2008)

## Ghulam Murtaza



**Designation / Post:** Joint Secretary

**Gender:** Male

**Home Phone:** 9258863

**Office Phone:** 9212636

**Mobile Phone:** 03335137037

- Experience/ Courses:**
- Obtained Training Certificate in Human Resource Management in 2008, National Institute of Management (NIM), Karachi.
  - Got many trainings/courses from various institutions. Attended 8<sup>th</sup> Senior Management Course at NIPA, Lahore.
  - Served in almost all branches of the Senate in various capacities. Attended international seminars / conferences along-with Parliamentary delegations. Served as Secretary of Standing/Functional Committees on Labour and Manpower, Religious Affairs, Zakat & Usher, Population Welfare, Sports & Tourism, Less Development Areas, etc.
  - Presently serving as Secretary Committees of the Standing Committees on Communications, Railways, Information and Broadcastings & National Heritage, Communication and Postal Services and Functional Committee on Human Rights.

---

**Meetings of the Senate Standing Committee on Information,  
Broadcasting & National Heritage  
(Pictorial View)**



**SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JULY 17, 2012.**



**SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AFTER BEING ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE , AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 07, 2012.**



**SENATOR FARHATULLAH BABAR, PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JULY 18, 2012.**



**SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON AUGUST 10, 2012.**



**SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2012.**



**SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2012.**



**SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 04, 2012.**



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON DECEMBER 03, 2012.***



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON DECEMBER 17, 2012.***



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2013.***



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 05, 2013.***



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 25, 2013.***



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON APRIL 5, 2013.***



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JULY 08, 2013.***



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON AUGUST 28, 2013.***



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON SEPTEMBER 09, 2013.***



***SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CONVENER SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT (CABINET DIVISION AND CAPITAL ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT), PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 01, 2013.***



*SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CONVENER SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT (CABINET DIVISION AND CAPITAL ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT), PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 25, 2013.*



*SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 25, 2014.*



*SENATOR KAMIL ALI AGHA, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PTV HEADQUARTER, ISLAMABAD ON MARCH 27, 2014.*

---

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
(June 2012-November 2014)**

Subject: MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION & BROADCASTING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2012 AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

Meetings of the Senate Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting were held on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 at 11.00 a.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 was presided over by Senator Kamil Ali Agha whereas Senator Farhatullah Babar chaired the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2012, under Rule 175 (3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.

The agendas before the Committee were as under:-

**17<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**

- i) **Briefing on the functions and performance of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**

**18<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**

- i) **Briefing on the functions and performance of PTV & PID.**

The meeting started with the recitation from Holy Quran by Senator Syed Zafar Ali Shah. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the participants to the meeting. He particularly congratulated the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting on his promotion and elevation to the post of Secretary Information & Broadcasting. He then requested him to initiate formal briefing as per agenda.

The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting informed the participants that it was his privilege to appear before the honourable Committee and gave a detailed briefing/presentation on the functions and performance of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The salient features of the presentation are listed as under:-

- Organizational structure of the Ministry.
- The mandate, mission statement.
- Media laws.
- Main functions.
- Scope of operations.
- Challenges & roadmap for future.

Secretary further informed that Ministry of Information & Broadcasting drives its main policy from Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan which defines the scope and limits of freedom of expression subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law. The mandate of the Ministry according to the Rules of Business 1973 is, to formulate policy relating to publicity on national matters, administration of media laws, provision of facilities for development of media

and assessment of newspapers circulation, central media list and release of advertisements and administration of matters related to PTV, PBC, SRBC, PEMRA, PID & APP. Building a positive image of Pakistan and promoting Pakistan's role as a responsible member of the international community, is the mission of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. He further gave briefing on the functions of Ministry's various departments i.e. Internal and External Publicity wing, Cyber Wing, ABC, Information Service Academy, Press Registrar and EMR Wing. The Secretary stated that IP Wing deals with policy matters pertaining to print and electronic media and coordinates, monitors publicity of government initiatives within Pakistan, whereas, the EP Wing of the Ministry is responsible for projecting Pakistan's true image abroad through Ministry's officers posted in various Press Sections of Pakistan Missions abroad. The EP Wing also keep close liaison and interact with international/overseas news organizations, he added.

Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee however expressed his concern over non projection of positive image of Pakistan and its culture and failure to highlight and project the policies and activities of Federal Government in a best possible manner internationally by press sections of Pakistan in various Pakistan Missions abroad. He impressed upon the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to post competent officers and train them in a way that they should be able to project a better image of Pakistan world wide. The Secretary assured the Chairman and the Committee members of making all out efforts in projecting and promoting Pakistan's image and culture more effectively. While continuing his briefing he informed the Committee that Cyber Wing of the Ministry promotes E-government on fast track and project and promote government policies through web based media campaigns by using social media applications. The Secretary further added that Electronic Media Relations (EMR) is a newly created Wing of the Ministry with the purpose of recognizing the growing importance of electronic media in the country. The Press Registrar's office was created in 2002 and responsible for the registration of publications and issue NOCs to determine titles of any publication.

The Secretary, Information & Broadcasting further informed the Committee about various media laws which include press, newspapers, news agencies, books registration ordinance 2002, PEMRA ordinance 2002, PEMRA Rules, 2002, APP Corporation Ordinance 2002, Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance 2002 and defamation/ libel Law 2002.

Chairman Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha and Senator Syed Zafar Ali Shah asked the Secretary about the working, functions and mandate of the Press Council of Pakistan and providing copy of the Ordinance. Senator Syed Zafar Ali Shah particularly inquired about the number of defamation cases filed in the Courts of Law. The Secretary while replying to the query informed that Press Council of Pakistan does not work under the Ministry, but PEMRA deals with some matters related to PCP partially. He assured the Chairman of providing copy of the PCP Ordinance. However, the Information regarding the numbers of defamation cases so far filed in the Courts of Law were not available with him and will be placed before the Committee as soon as possible.

Senator Farhatullah Babar informed the Committee that Press Council of Pakistan is a high powered independent body, but unfortunately handicapped due to its composition. He

however welcomed the recent appointment of the Chairman Press Council of Pakistan and hoped that the Council will now perform its most critical functions in a better way and address issues relating to the media/press complaints. He further suggested that this Committee should hold a separate meeting with Press Council of Pakistan to discuss in detail the matters as well as functions related to Press Council of Pakistan and recommend some fruitful suggestions. The Chairman and other members of the Committee supported the idea of Senator Farhatullah Babar and further suggested that Pakistan Broadcasting Association (PBA) and PEMRA may also be called alongwith PCP in the meeting.

While discussing the issue of assessment of newspapers circulation, central media list and release of advertisement to the print media, the Chairman of the Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha observed that it was not transparent and the advertisements were being issued only to the favourite newspapers, magazines/periodicals. He further observed that an exaggerated number of the magazines/periodicals are given to the Ministry for seeking advertisements, whereas in actual fact, the number is quite less. In this regard he directed the Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to inform the Committee about the mechanism adopted for the release of advertisements and further advised him that a procedure be streamlined with a transparent mechanism on the basis of merit-based policy to be adopted so that the deserving newspapers and magazines could get a lion's share on merit. He further said that due to this defective policy of the Ministry, the genuine journalists were being deprived of their inherent right.

The Chairman of the Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha also raised the role of media persons in creating awareness amongst the masses on the issues which have direct impact on their lives. He said that media has always played an important role in the socio-economic development of the country and in this regard print and electronic media have to play greater roles in transforming the societies through objective and authentic information. He urged the Secretary Information & Broadcasting to take necessary measures to solve the problems being faced by the media-men, particularly delay in release of salaries, besides addressing real concerns of genuine journalists.

Senator Farhatullah Babar endorsed the views of Chairman Committee and further suggested that special briefing for this august Committee be arranged at an appropriate time to address the genuine concerns and protection of working journalists against the professional hazards, besides issues of releasing of advertisements and the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) certification. He also congratulated the Hon'ble Chairman on his election as Chairman of the Committee and expressed hope that under his able guidance, the Committee will advance the cause of developing free and responsible media in the country. He also congratulated the new Secretary, Information & Broadcasting on his promotion. While speaking on mandate and mission statement of the Ministry, Senator Babar suggested that both the mission statement as well as the mandate of the Ministry be suitably amended in light of 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment (Article 19-A) which guarantees the rights of the citizen to information on the role of the Ministry to help develop a free media in the country and in this regard Rules of Business 1973 can be amended for this purpose, if needed. Senator Farhatullah Babar further added that

the role of the Ministry in helping develop free media also calling for the adoption of the freedom of information law. He informed the Committee that as per the media reports, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has already finalized a draft legislation in consultation with all stakeholders. To further assist the Information Ministry in finalizing the bill on freedom of information, he proposed that a Sub-Committee be constituted under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 enabling the Ministry for tabling the bill in the Parliament House at an early date.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee also expressed his concern on the delay of presenting the bill in the Parliament by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and endorsed the proposal of Senator Farhatullah Babar for setting up a Sub-Committee and with a unanimous decision of the Committee, constituted a three member Sub-Committee comprising of following members:

- |    |                                     |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Senator Farhatullah Babar           | Convener |
| 2. | Senator Syed Zafar Ali Shah         | Member   |
| 3. | Senator Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai | Member   |

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Sub-Committee will be "To take up with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting the matter of the proposed freedom of information bill already drawn up by the Ministry in consultation with relevant stakeholders and finalize the same for tabling in the Parliament at an early date". The Secretary Information & Broadcasting was also directed to furnish the draft copy of the bill to the members of Sub-Committee so that the formal meetings of the Sub-Committee be convened accordingly. The Sub-Committee will submit its report within 60 days of the issuance of notification before the Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting.

Senator Farha Aqil took up the issue of "Breaking News" appearing regularly on TV channels without proper verification. She also pointed out unauthentic news statement given by an anchor person of a private TV channel about her leadership in his TV show and quoted as saying it as incorrect and baseless information. Senator Farha Aqil stressed the need for providing authentic news and information to the people and urged the media to verify the news before telecasting it as a "Breaking News".

Senator Saeed Ghani fully endorsed the views of Senator Farha Aqil and said that some TV channels exaggerate the importance of such stories and telecast important stories projecting as "Breaking News". At times when there is nothing special to telecast, some TV channels telecast the general events or stories as "Breaking News" just to grab the attention of the viewers. This strategy may work for a short run but at the same time it becomes the main cause of a sudden rise in the law & order situation, particularly in Karachi. In this regard he pointed out that main source of TV channels to such telecasts are either based on information given by ambulance drivers or lower hospital staff or fake SMSs on cellular phones.

Unfortunately, the TV channels just to be first in line, telecast such news stories, immediately as a “Breaking News” without necessary verification and authenticity.

The Secretary, Information & broadcasting agreed with the view points of Senators Farha Aqil and Saeed Ghani and informed the Committee that PEMRA was responsible to observe such unauthentic news stories and to take necessary action under PEMRA Ordinance accordingly.

The Chairman of the Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha said that the TV channels should not misinterpret the gravity of news stories and confuse the viewers. He emphasized on the electronic media to act professionally and concentrate on conveying informative news and telecast only the significant stories as “Breaking News”. He further suggested that Pakistan Electronic Media Regularity Authority (PEMRA) should play a more proactive role to ensure proper monitoring of the TV channels on the contents and authenticity of such news, he further observed that the Ministry’s role was very much important in this regard and advised the Secretary to look into it seriously and formulate guidelines for PEMRA to control such unauthentic and baseless news items appearing regularly on TV channels as “Breaking News” as well as “News Alerts”.

In the end Chairman of the Committee thanked all the officers of the Ministry for attending the meeting and assured them on his behalf and on behalf of the Committee for all out support to the Ministry to overcome the issues concerning its performance and resolving their genuine problems.

### **MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2012**

At the outset, Secretary of the Committee informed the participants that he was just received a message from PS to Chairman on SC on Information & Broadcasting that he is not feeling well and unable to attend today’s meeting. Accordingly Secretary of the Committee requested the hon’ble members of the Committee to choose one of its members present to act as Chairman for today’s scheduled sitting in accordance with the Rule 175(3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012. Thereafter the members present in the meeting unanimously chose Senator Farhatullah Babar to act as the Chairman for the scheduled meeting and requested him for taking over the chair for convening the proceedings.

The meeting started with the recitation from Holy Quran by Secretary Information & Broadcasting. Thereafter, in his opening remarks Senator Farhatullah Babar thanked the members of the Committee for reposing trust in him to preside the today’s meeting and also thanked Ministry’s officers/officials for attending the meeting for briefing on the functions and performance of PTV and PID. He then requested the members of the Committee to postpone today’s meeting till the time the Chairman of the Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha gets well and fully recovered from his illness. The hon’ble members present in the meeting agreed with the Senator Farhatullah Babar and the meeting was postponed accordingly.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION & BROADCASTING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2012 AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ISLAMABAD

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. in Committee Room No.04, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i) Briefing on the functions and performance of PTV & PID.
- ii) Comprehensive briefing on the news items published in various newspapers regarding the conflict between the Government of Punjab and M/S MIDAS Pvt. Ltd.

The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Saeeda Iqbal. Thereafter Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the participants to the meeting and requested for brief introduction of the participants. He then asked the Ministry to initiate briefing as per agenda items.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO (I)**

Managing Director, PTV Mr. Yousuf Baig Mirza gave a briefing on the functions and performance of the Pakistan Television (PTV). He informed the Committee that PTV had started its transmission in Black & White in 1964 from Lahore with one channel. At present PTV has seven channels which include PTV (Home), PTV (News), PTV (Global), PTV (Sports), PTV (National), PTV (Bolan) and AJK-TV and work is also underway to launch a new English Content Channel with the name of PTV-World. He further informed that PTV has the Headquarter and News Centre at Islamabad alongwith Karach, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta and Multan as the Regional Centres Nationwide. The PTV cover its transmission through Terrestrial Reach via 89% (PTV Home) and 78% (PTV News) of total population. PTV is also being watched via cable and satellite network in almost 54 countries of the world. While describing the issues and concerns of the organization, PTV MD Mr. Yousuf Baig Mirza informed that although PTV is a self sustaining organization meeting all its operational requirements through generation of its own revenues. However PTV currently facing difficulty in maintaining its financial position mainly because of its non-viable centres/channels like Multan, Quetta and Peshawar as well as Regional Channels which occur heavy financial implications on PTV. PTV Home and PTV Sports are the only viable channels and bearing the burden of other non-viable projects. Giving the details PTV, MD informed that PTV's model was based on the BBC style by establishing a smaller units/centers in all provinces. Initially it was considered as a better and suitable model for Pakistan but due to the introduction of satellite & cable network in the country the existing model has not remained desirable. However, being the National Broadcaster, PTV has to keep these non viable centres in operation by maintaining the up linking and other related facilities for its transmission. 500 to 600 employees are working in each centre which are

actually the financial burden on the organization. Currently 5425 employees are working in the PTV as against the total mentioned strength of 6407 employees. To overcome these issues PTV MD informed that PTV administration is taking best possible efforts and looking into different modules and developing strategy to address such pressing issues. As a part of such strategy PTV is holding talks with KPK Government with regard to launching of "Abbasin Channel". In this regard PTV has requested the provincial authorities to use the existing infrastructure of PTV network and facilities rather than to be operated separately to ensure reduction in the financial burden on the viable projects. The MD, PTV further observed that one of the renowned private channel in Pashto language is broadcasting its transmission not in accordance with the Rules and reportedly being sponsored by other sources and working on their own agenda. He however did not mention the name of any channel nor the sponsor. No further discussion was however took place on this issue.

**The Chairman of the Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha expressed his displeasure over the present financial position of the organization and directed the authorities to take necessary measures with a viable marketing strategy to improve its performance as well as financial position.**

MD, PTV while continuing the briefing informed the Committee that presently there are 100 boosters operational in different areas of country and 35 more are in pipeline and will be operational in 6 to 8 months time. Although these boosters are financially not feasible but as per policy of the PTV to provide the viewing facility to every citizen and in far flung areas of Pakistan, PTV is continuing its transmission through these projects. He further informed that with the addition of 35 more boosters (total 135) 94% of population will be able to view the PTV telecast. PTV, however, recently proposed the Ministry of Information and Planning Commission to stop directing PTV to install any further booster as by the year 2015 PTV has to convert the present analog system into the digital system to meet the international standards as well as to compete the private electronic media. Senator Pervaiz Rashid asked the MD as to how much cost was incurred on each new booster. The MD replied that it depends upon the area and size of booster to be covered, however it ranges from Rs.10 million to 15 million. Explaining the financial position of the PTV since 2006 till date, MD informed the Committee that in 2006-07 PTV sustained a loss of Rs.18 crores and in 2007-08 loss was calculated at Rs.27 crores while in 2008-09 a heavy loss of Rs.91 crores was witnessed. In 2009-2010 the loss was reduced to Rs.7 crores, however in the year 2010-11 PTV earned the profit of Rs.21 crores due to better marketing policy and steps taken by the present management. The calculated figure till May, 2012 shows a profit of Rs.14 crores as mentioned by MD. The Chairman of the Committee held the view that it is not understandable why PTV sustained a huge loss in previous years as PTV fee is being charged through electricity bills from every citizen. PTV, MD explained that huge loss occurred due to the non viable projects as mentioned earlier. Being a National Broadcaster, PTV is duty bound to provide its services to far flung areas of Pakistan irrespective of the fact that these are viable or non viable. The amount which is being spent on the non viable projects in terms of maintenance and human resource is the main cause of financial loss.

Senators Pervaiz Rashid & Saeeda Iqbal however did not agree with the MD and were of the view that by keeping the small grade employees in these non viable projects for maintenance and operational purposes, is not the only reason for the loss, PTV is sustaining loss actually due to the hiring of people from private sectors at top level on huge financial packages. Both the Hon'ble Senators asked the MD to provide the details of such appointments which have been made in the recent years alongwith salary package offered. MD, PTV explained that to cater with the existing private channels, PTV needs services of more experienced, professional and technically sound people from the open market as PTV currently lacks in such expertise. The most of the appointments have been made in marketing and sports promotion wings, he further added.

The Chairman of the Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha impressed upon the PTV MD that if, hiring of new people is so much essential to compete with the private channels then PTV must give preference to appoint young talented persons for which the universities of Pakistan are the best nurseries rather to hire big names on a very high salary packages who always ready to switch over their services to other channels any time. Senator Rubina Khalid also suggested that apart from the universities, training academies in media field like one is situated in Sector H-8 area of Islamabad are also the other options for hiring experienced and talented people. **The Committee asked the PTV, MD to provide all details of such appointments with full particulars including salary package made during the last four years.**

Senator Farhatullah Babar while commenting on the PTV issues, said that the programme content and marketing are the two main basic issues for any TV channel to survive and broadcast the telecast successfully. If these two issues are addressed firmly by the management of PTV, the organization will be able to perform well and known as financially viable unit. He lauded the services of MD, PTV and appreciated the efforts taking by him in improving the performance of national organization. He expressed his satisfaction over the PTV's progressing performance on programme content as it is now being watched as more liberal, democratic and forward looking but at the same time also expressed his concern over the financial figures of PTV for the previous years as presented by MD. Though, as record shows, that its improving and also a reasonable profit is expected during current financial year, but to make the PTV a more viable unit, MD PTV may apprise this Committee about the measures taken so far for improving the performance of the organization on the marketing side for the last 2 to 3 years. He further asked the MD to explain if any difficulty was faced by PTV in this regard, so that this Committee may assist and help PTV to overcome such problems, if needed. **Senator Farhatullah Babar further said that as far as installation of boosters are concerned every thing can not be measured in terms of Dollars or Rupees, these cannot be known as non viable units as in terms of National integrity & solidarity and in improvement of peace and security particularly in the areas like FATA and other areas where war against terrorism is being fought,** these boosters are very essential and important to keep the people of these areas updated and well informed. He further suggested that appropriate measures be taken to improve the financial position of PTV and in this regard he proposed that a strategy be evolved to make PTV as a profitable and revenue generating unit. Hon'ble Senator Kamil Ali

Agha also inquired from the MD about the steps being taken in Balochistan in addition to FATA and tribal areas for keeping the people up-date on the national and international issues.

Referring the marketing policy of the PTV, Senator Rubina Khalid suggested that marketing of programme content needs to be improved. She particularly referred to the launching of PTV (National) channel which has established to promote regional culture and programmes throughout the country but unfortunately PTV failed to achieve the objectives mainly because of marketing failure and non-availability of programme contents. She urged the MD PTV to focus and concentrate more on programmes in regional languages rather than to show marriages, cooking or make up programmes.

Similar views were also expressed by Senators Saeeda Iqbal & Saeed Ghani and they added that PTV should telecast more regional programmes particularly in the areas where cable network is not available and only the PTV broadcast are available and shown through various boosters. Senator Saeed Ghani was surprised over the statement by MD PTV that Regional Channels are non viable. He particularly gave the example of Sindh Province where 6 to 7 Sindhi private channels are successfully telecasting their broadcast whereas the PTV which has the better network facilities and more reachable area to cover sustaining loss.

Responding the queries of Hon'ble Committee members, MD PTV informed that in June 2010 the advertisement revenue was Rs.1.63 billion and due to our improved marketing strategy and hiring of professionals and more relevant people, the revenue further increased to Rs.2.3 billion in the year 2012 respectively. He further informed that management of PTV working on various proposals to generate the revenue and trying its best to improve the financial position of the organization as well as performance and programme content. Replacement of existing model/system of some PTV channels is also under consideration which will put a positive impact on the performance of PTV.

**Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha said that the PTV was a National Institution therefore necessary measures may be taken to improve its performance and evolve strategy for achieving viable marketing to ensure improvement in financial position. Chairman Kamil Ali Agha also pointed out the non availability of coverage in various countries including Middle East where transmission of PTV is not shown. He directed the M/o Information & Broadcasting to ensure the coverage of PTV channels through their officers posted in various countries particularly in the countries where large number of Pakistanis are living. He in this regard directed the Secretary Information to submit the report within 15 days.**

**Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee also expressed deep resentment on the non presence of Minister for Information and held the view that convening of the meetings of Standing Committees is a part of Constitution and it should not be taken as burden. The Hon'ble Minister who is also a seasoned politician unfortunately did not bother to attend any of the meetings so far being held. Keeping in view the sense of the Committee he directed that Ministry may communicate the displeasure of entire Committee on this account and**

Secretary Information and Broadcasting was advised to note the view points and ensure the attendance of Minister in future meetings.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid proposed that an independent Board of Directors may be constituted by the Parliament for smooth functioning of the affairs of the Corporation as well as with the responsibilities to appoint CEO/ MD to ensure provision of equal treatment to all political parties and transparent coverage of political issues. Hon'ble Chairman Senator Kamil Ali Agha inquired about the present Board of Directors of PTV from MD. The MD provided following composition in this regard:-

1. Secretary Information	Ex-Officio Chairman
2. Managing Director, PTV	Member
3. Additional Secretary (Admn) M/o Foreign Affairs	Member
4. Director General (ISPR)	Member
5. Director General (PBC)	Member
6. Vice Chancellor (AIOU)	Member
7. One Member from Private Sector	Member

**Hon'ble Chairman Committee agrees with the proposal of Senator Pervaiz Rashid and recommended the Government to constitute an independent Board of Directors for PTV through Parliament of Pakistan.**

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.II**

Hon'ble Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman of the Committee requested the Ministry to initiate briefing on the functions and performance of Press Information Department (PID). The Press Information Officer of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting gave a detailed presentation to the Committee on the functions and performance of Press Information Department (PID). The salient features of the presentation given by PIO are listed as under:-

- a) Media Coverage
- b) Media Coordination
- c) Media Interaction
- d) Media Facilitation

- e) Feedback Service
- f) Research and Reference
- g) Release of Public Sector Advertisement.
- h) Maintenance of Central Media List

The PIO further informed the Committee that PID is an attached department of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. It arranges projection of all official activities of the Federal Government through their officers who are posted in Federal Ministries/ Divisions and Government Organizations and accords full coverage to official activities in both print and electronic media for information and awareness of general public. PID keeps close liaison and extends full support to electronic and print media in order to yield best possible results in the form of news stories and editorial contents. A full fledged Research and Reference Cell equipped with all required facilities has also been established for the benefit of media, educational institutions and for Government organizations. The PIO further added that Issuance of Rebuttals and Clarifications regarding baseless stories/news, is also the responsibility of PID. Press Information Officer also informed that it is included in the functions of PID to release public sector advertisements to the newspapers through a transparent and systematic procedure and also maintains a list of all publications and their circulation which determines rate of advertisement.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha inquired the PIO about the difference in public sector advertisements and Central Media List (CML), PIO informed that Central Media List is a list of registered newspapers which are eligible and entitled for issuance of public sector advertisements. Currently there are a total of 748 newspapers on the CML. He further described that advertisement policy was approved by the Cabinet Division and 75% adds are given to those preferred and listed newspapers for which the respective Ministry asked for while 25% adds are issued by the PID at its own and in this regard regional newspapers on the CML are given the preference.

Secretary Information & Broadcasting while replying the queries of Senators Kamil Ali Agha & Senator Syed Zafar Ali Shah on the issue of release of advertisements in a transparent manner, informed that as per Rules of Business 1973, No.6 (i), release of advertisement and its placement is the responsibility of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting through its attached department PID, but unfortunately most of the Ministries/ Divisions and other Government organizations in violation of Rules, not releasing the advertisements in accordance with above mentioned Rule and Government policy. The PID had written various letters to all departments but all in vain. **He therefore sought the help of the Committee to**

**recommend the Federal Government to take action against such Government departments to end favoritism and dominance of any particular newspaper or news channel. This will help the Ministry to promote, protect and safeguard the interests of every newspaper and ensure the transparent disbursement of Government advertisements on equitable basis.**

**Chairman, Senator Kamil Ali Agha & other Committee members noted with great concern that although under the Rules, the Ministry is empowered to take action against such departments but only writing letters is not the appropriate action and does not serve the purpose. It seems that this is being done with connivance of the people working in the Ministry of Information & PID.**

Responding to it, Secretary Information informed that recently the Ministry through Minister of Information has initiated a summary to the Prime Minister for his approval to initiate action against all those who are violating the Rules. He further informed that audit department has all the details of such violations made by each Ministry. Hon'ble Chairman Kamil Ali Agha asked the Secretary to call the detail report from the audit department mentioning each violation and submit in the next meeting of the Committee alongwith well versed officer of the Ministry who may reply the queries, if any, of the Committee members.

Senator Syed Zafar Ali Shah observed that advertisements particularly issued while making appointments in the Government departments or calling for tenders does not seem transparent and published only in the dummy newspapers just to get the desired results. He further asked the Secretary Information whether any policy was in vogue in this regard? Secretary while explaining the procedure informed that as per Rules, it is mandatory for the Government departments to get published the advertisements at least in 3 newspapers including one National level newspaper. He further informed that, no such complaint has been received in the Ministry in this regard. He however assured that he will re-check and submit the report in next meeting.

**Chairman Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha asked the Secretary to furnish the details of the advertisements released during last three years. Hon'ble Chairman also directed the Ministry to provide the detail of the advertisements released through advertisement agencies alongwith criteria for awarding these to respective advertisement agencies for the last 3 years.** The Committee inquired from the Secretary whether PID gives amount in advance to any advertisement agency? and also how many cases are pending in the Courts of Law on account of advertisement issue. Secretary Information informed that no advance amount has ever been paid to any advertisement agency and also not a single litigation or case is filed or pending in any Court of Law.

**(Conflict b/w M/S MIDAS Pvt. (Ltd) and Govt. of Punjab)**

Secretary Information & Broadcasting informed the Committee that the matter between the Government of Punjab and M/S MIDAS Pvt (Ltd) is sub-judice and pending in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Moreover M/S MIDAS is an advertising agency and accredited with All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) therefore Ministry of Information has no control whatsoever on the respective agency and also unable to say any thing on behalf of the Government of Punjab.

The Hon'ble Chairman of the Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha got infuriated and expressed displeasure over the reply of the Secretary Information on this issue. **He said that the Committee was not taking any decision or recommend any action. Since the issue relates to the media and being highlighted daily in the newspapers. Therefore it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to update this Committee about the factual position. The Hon'ble Chairman advised the Secretary to brief the Committee about the factual position of the matter and submit a report preferable in the next meeting. The Committee also advised the Ministry to call the concerned officials of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) in the Committee meeting to discuss on this issue as well as brief the Committee about the procedure and criteria for registration of new advertisement agencies as raised by Senator Rubina Khalid during the meeting.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject:- MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 at Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) **Briefing on performance of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC).**
- (ii) **To discuss the issue of stoppage of broadcasting of Senate and National Assembly proceeding on Radio Pakistan.**
- (iii) **Briefing about the performance of PEMRA and formulation of guidelines for PEMRA to control unauthentic and baseless news items appearing regularly on different TV Channels as “breaking News”.**
- (iv) **Working//functions and mandate of the Press Council of Pakistan.**
- (v) **Measures being taken by the Information Ministry to solve the problems and genuine concerns being faced by the media men particularly in release of salaries to the working journalists.**

19<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 at 11:00 a.m

- (i) **Briefing by ABC (Audit Bureau of Circulation) about its working and performance.**
- (ii) **Briefing by APP (Associated Press of Pakistan) about its working and performance.**
- (iii) **Briefing by Information Service Academy about its working and performance.**
- (iv) **Mechanism adopted by the Ministry of Information for the release of Advertisements to different News Paper, Magazines, Periodicals and TV Channels in transparent manner.**
- (v) **The number of defamation cases file under defamation Act, 2002, in the Court of law so far and its out come.**

18<sup>th</sup> September, 2012,

The meeting started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Senator Najmul Hassan. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee welcomed all the participants of the meeting. After that he advised for briefing on agenda items.

Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Solangi, DG PBC gave the detailed briefing on the past history, present state of affairs and future planning of the PBC. He informed that it is the only news broadcasting network working in the country since the inception of the Pakistan in 1947, and even in this media era the importance and role of Radio Pakistan is very much important, as it has the biggest viewer-ships in about 96% area of the country including FATA and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Continuing his briefing he informed that its 63 broadcasting units are presenting programmes in different 23 local and 10 international languages round the clock, on various public service issues like Health, Education, Environment, Rights of women, minorities etc. He stated that the total daily broadcasting of its all units, situated in all over the country is about 940 hours and the daily duration of external broadcast is about 8 hours in 10 languages. He also gave detail about the various initiatives being taken for the improvement of PBC. He informed that with the establishment of high power transmitter the people of 124 countries will listen the broadcastings of PBC. He also gave detail of employment position in the PBC and also about the regularization of contract employees. He however informed that only the people of province of Balochistan have been given employment in PBC during the last 4 years.

After his briefing the members of the Committee raised many questions/ observations. Senator Pervaiz Rashid pointed out that although PBC is giving more coverage than PTV to the activities of the opposition, but still there is no complete balance in the news between government and opposition. He enquired about the details of contract given of a medium of PBC to Voice of America (VOA).

Senator Zafar Ali Shah also pointed out that it is the responsibility of state owned media to tell the people truth, and giving equal time to all the political parties. He also enquired about the terms and conditions of agreement signed with VOA and about the incidents of jamming of broadcastings of the PBC.

Senator Rubina Khalid also inquired about the steps taken by the government on the news regarding blocking of broadcastings of the Radio Pakistan, and also inquired about coverage being given to FATA.

Senator Farhatullah Babar appreciated the DG, PBC on the comprehensive briefing given by DG PBC. He however was of the view that in case of jamming of broadcastings of the PBC, the matter should had been brought in to the notice of proper forum.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee also appreciated the DG on the detailed briefing about the Corporation. He, however showed his concern on for not giving equal coverage to opposition, he therefore advised that this trend of part must be stopped and equal coverage may be given to all political parties. He also advised that detail of agreement signed with VOA may be submitted; he further recommended that similar agreements should be signed with other countries also through open auction for observing transparency. He also directed that proper protest may be lodged on the jamming of the broadcastings of the PBC to avoid such incidents in future. He advised to furnish the detail of coverage being provided to government and opposition on the news channel started by the PBC. He also inquired about restrictions (if any) by the PEMRA or any other Government agency which are creating hurdles.

Senator Farah Aqil informed that number of employees working on contract/ ad-hoc basis of PBC Peshawar station have not been regularized so far. The Committee advised that detail information of such employees and reasons for not regularizing of their services may be provided to the Standing Committee.

All the members of the Committee also expressed their concern on the information that Radio Pakistan has stopped the coverage of the Parliament proceedings. However, DG PBC informed that instead stopping, PBC is giving more coverage to the proceedings of the Parliament, and these are being covered with full detail in National as well as in Regional news bulletins. He however informed that a programme based on script of the proceedings of the Parliament with long narration having duration of 15 minutes, which was being aired at 10.00 PM has been stopped, as it was invoking very poor response of the listeners. The Committee advised that detail of this programme may be provided in the next meeting of the Committee for further decision in the matter.

Senator Farhatullah Babar inquired about the Quaid-e-Azam's speech made on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1947. The DG, PCB informed that voice of Quaid-i-Azam on this speech is not available on record, however script of the speech is available only.

On the request of the DG PBC, the Committee advised that necessary grant may be given to the PBC to meet all its financial requirements including giving of pay/pension to its employees and to meet the requirements of future planning.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar, Acting Chairman PEMRA briefed about the affairs of PEMRA. He informed that PEMRA, was established in 2002 as regulatory body which is issuing licenses

to the TV Channels and Radio stations. The PEMRA has also issued 89 Satellite TV licenses, 139 FM Radio licenses, and 32 licenses to various training academies and Police so far, and in addition PEMRA has also issued about 3000 cables licenses in all over the country, he added. He informed that new requests for obtaining licenses are only coming from rural areas. He further indicated that PEMRA is shifting Analog to digital system, for giving choiced channels only to the viewers.

Mr. Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for Information informed that according to new policy, licenses will only be issued through open auction and there is also a proposal under consideration that a cable service in public sector may also be operated for fair competition with the private cable operators.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha pointed out that there is no proper system of PEMRA to monitor the code of conduct of PEMRA, as some channels are using immoral language against the politicians and government functionaries. He also inquired about the action taken on the report of the Justice (Retd.) Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim on the issue.

Senator Farhatullah Babar pointed out that there is a serious disconnect between the channels and the Regulatory body. He further stated that presently there is not a policy on code of conduct, therefore in the light of the recommendations of the Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim Committee and taking into confidence all the stakeholders' government should formulate a comprehensive policy which should be discussed in a sub-committee of the standing committee for making final recommendations.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid inquired about the action taken by the PEMRA on the complaints of stopping of Broadcastings by force.

Chairman PEMRA responding the queries /observations of the members informed that a monitoring system is available in PEMRA, which is functioning round the clock. He informed that PEMRA has given punishment to some channels and cable operators on the violations of its code of conduct, however these channels and cable operators obtain stay orders from civil courts and resultantly there are lot of cases pending in the various courts against the decisions of the PEMRA.

However Mr.Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for Information admitted that presently PEMRA has no capacity to fully control all the channels and cables operators, as some

cable operators and owners of the TV Channels set the placement of channels and in some cases pressure groups of the local area do this job. He informed that as and when government gives direction to the media group owners to observe the code of conduct, the Journalists start protesting on the plea that it is interference in the freedom of expression. He further informed that people of media had also made a code of conduct at their own, but it was not meeting the requirements, therefore government requested Mr.Fakhur G. Ibrahim to help the government in this regard and a committee was constituted under his convener-ship. The Committee has given good recommendations, however legal shape could have not been given to these recommendations so far.

The Committee advised that all proposals/recommendations may be presented before the standing Committee for giving these recommendations to a final shape, thereafter the matter may be placed before Cabinet and in the Parliament through an Act.

Raja Shafqat Abbasi, Chairman Press council of Pakistan giving the briefing on the Press Council of Pakistan informed that it was established in 2002, and it is consisting on 18 prominent personalities of the media community. He informed that the main functions of the council is to enforce the ethical code of conduct. He stated that a code of conduct has been made unanimously, and any complaint by a stake holder can be discussed on the forum of the Press Council.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha pointed out that the introduction of the council is not commonly known, which is creating many questions on its existing. He therefore advised that it may be made more effective by furnishing suitable proposals to the committee so that it may become an affective institution

Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for Information also informed that although it is a very important body, but presently it is not playing its proper role, therefore it is dire need to make this council more effective.

“The Committee advised that for making it more useful proposals may be given to the Committee alongwith the recommendation of PEMRA on code of conduct.

**19<sup>th</sup> September, 2012**

The meeting started with recitation from Holy Quran by Senator Farhatullah Babar. At the outset, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee welcomed all the participants of the meeting. He then advised for briefing.

Mr. Nasir Jamal, DG International Publicity Wing of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting gave briefing on the functions and performance of Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC). He informed that Bureau was created in 1956 and the Headquarter of the ABC is situated at Islamabad, while there are also two regional offices at Karachi and Lahore. He informed that main functions of the ABC is to conducts audit of newspapers and periodicals. He stated that the certificate of the ABC entitles the newspaper for enlistment on central media list; fixation of public sector advertisement rates etc. He informed that ABC is controlling the circulation of newspaper/ Magazines through its various offices located at Islamabad, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Karachi, Hyderabad, Peshawar and Quetta. He also gave the province-wise detail of certified newspaper/ periodicals, which is as under:

	<u>Metropolitan</u>	<u>Regional</u>
1. Dailies	7500	3000
2. Weekly's	2000	700
3. Fortnightly	1500	300
4. Monthlies	1500	300
5. Quarterly	1500	300

He also gave information about the organizational structure, staffing position and of the budgetary position of the ABC.

After his briefing the members gave many suggestions/proposals for the improvement of the Bureau. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee pointed out that the present system of the audit is based on old patterns, which should be modernized by revisiting the Audit system of the news papers. He also advised that number of circulation of newspapers can also be judged by the amount of GST paid by the owners of Newspapers. He also showed his concern for maintaining secrecy on the circulation of the newspapers, as it is against the basic norms of the access to information law. He therefore suggested that information may be put on website for the information of all concerned, as there are no specific reasons for keeping this information secret.

Senator Farhatullah Babar also endorsing the views of the Chairman Standing Committee stated that keeping in view the existing ground realities the Audit procedure of the newspapers may be revisited, as the present procedure is faulty and the figures quoted by the ABC are not authentic. He pointed out that it is necessary because the number of circulation helps in getting higher rates, advertisement and prestige etc. He was of the view that there are no proper reasons for keeping the numbers of circulation secret; he therefore suggested that it may be opened for general public for maintaining transparency.

The Committee advised that Bureau should revisit its audit system by using all the modern techniques, ways and means for bringing complete transparency, besides the figures of the circulation may be opened for the information of all stakeholders.

### **APP**

Rao Tehsin Ali Khan, MD (APP), giving briefing on the objects, performance and initiatives of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) stated that it was established in 1961 through an Ordinance. He informed that it has about 155 correspondences in all over the Pakistan and have 21 bureau offices in various parts of the country. He indicated that APP has signed news agreements with 36 World News Agencies for the transfer of news. He also gave figures of releasing the news in various languages including English, Urdu, Phusto, and Arabic etc. He informed that mostly the focus of the news of APP remains on social, public service and political issues. He also informed the Committee that the APP also plays role for building of soft image of the country in the world, as it believes on healthy, responsible journalism and unbiased news. He also informed the Committee that APP has launched Video news services since 2007, which is covering all in and outside events and is providing detail of news items to local/international electronic media. He informed that APP is planning to make a media complex Islamabad to meet all the requirements of a fast growing news agency.

After his briefing, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee advised that due to present regional condition, there is need to do more work in Iran, China and Central Asian States, and also there is a vast capacity for the expansion of its network in the country too. The Agency can easily increase in its income through the expansion of its programmes in the country, which will also be a great service to the country. He inquired

whether APP is charging any cost on the transmitting of its news/ footages to other News Agencies and News Papers or otherwise.

Senator Farhatullah Babar inquired about the major impediments, creating problems in its development and also about other problems of the News Agency. He advised that since this Agency was came into being through an Ordinance, therefore keeping in view all ground realities and requirements there is a need for complete discussion on its all affairs in the Parliament. He also recommended that mostly newspapers publish news items released by the APP, therefore there should be a formula for taking some share of its products, as newspapers are also earning money through these news. MD, APP informed that at present Agency is sharing news without any cost, as there are no clear cut instructions of the government in this regard.

The committee advised that a complete plan covering all the issues and problems as pointed out in the meeting may be presented before the Standing Committee within 2 months for further line of action.

Mr.Muhammad Khalid Sarwar, DG information Academy informed that the Academy was established in 1986 to develop the skills of media managers of the Government of Pakistan. He informed that about 400 officers in 28 different batches have so far got training from the Academy, and it is also giving training to the officers who are being appointed as Press Attaches, for posting abroad. He informed that training modules of the Academy are based on current issues, journalism, mass communication, public relating and on Financial Rules.

Giving the detail of the issues and problems of the Academy, he informed that due to non-presence of proper campuses, non-availability of necessary academic staff, ban on recruitment and prescribed rate of insufficient remuneration to the visiting faculty the academy is facing some problems.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha advised that there is dire need to improve the service and quality of the Academy, which will help in improving the image of the country in the world.

Senator Farhatullah Babar pointed out that an amount of Rs.500/- is being paid to visiting faculty, which is very low, and disgraceful therefore it may be brought equal to other training Academies like NSSP, Police Academy and Foreign Service Academy etc. He suggested that till the final administrative approval of the Finance Division in this regard, Secretary Information through re-appropriation or from secret/ special fund may pay the

reasonable amount to the visiting faculty. He further recommended that training of the academy may be made in accordance the requirements of the modern needs, therefore the curriculum which is being taught since last 30 years may be amended accordingly.

The Committee advised that the detail of the correspondence made with the Ministry of Finance regarding the enhancement of remuneration to the visiting faculty may be provided for placing the matter with the concerned authorities, and in the meanwhile Ministry should give the reasonable amount to the visiting faculty from its special fund, which should not be less than Rs.5000/- as is being paid by other academies.

### **On Blasphemy Film**

As decided in the meeting of the Standing Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Senator Kamil Ali Agha started discussion on the issue of blasphemy film. He strongly condemned the film and informed that government has already launched a protest with US Government through diplomatic channel as well as also at the time of visit of Mr.Marc Grossman, special representative of US for Pakistan and Afghanistan Besides, the National Assembly of Pakistan has also passed condemnation resolution in this regard, however he suggested that the Committee should also extend its full displeasure on this act.

Senator Farah Aqil also strongly criticized on this blasphemic film and recommended of giving punishment to the people involved in this act. All the other members also strongly condemned the film and recommended that Pakistani Government should take the matter with top US officials to stop such type of incidents in future; as such incidents are destroying the world peace. On the request of the Committee, Senator Farhatullah Babar presented the following resolution before the Committee:

The showing of the anti-Islam film on the eve of 9/11 is a deliberate attempt at provoking the Muslims and an act of extremism and is condemned in the strongest possible terms.

Notes that extremism and militancy is not merely physical violence; it is also intolerance and religious provocation.

The committee expresses deep concern that the tendency of erosion of religious harmony across national boundaries and religious divides was increasing which trend seemed to corroborate the ominous theory of a clash of civilizations.

The Committee urges the government to formally call upon the United Nations to work out special plans for promoting religious and cultural harmony to prevent the complete destruction of fast eroding rationality without any exceptions or selectivity. Any exception or selectivity will shake faith in universal norms of the UN Charter.

The Committee also urges the government to raise the issue at the annual UN General Assembly session scheduled to begin later this month.

The Committee unanimously adopted the resolution and also recommended that the copy of this resolution may be sent to the President/ Prime Minister for raising the issue in the United Nations by the President at the time of his address to the UN General Assembly. The Committee also advised that the matter may also be discussed in the platform of OIC. The Committee further advised that the contents of the resolution may be presented in the next session of the Senate also.

The Committee decided that the left over agenda will be discussed in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject:- MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 at Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Mechanism adopted by the Ministry of Information for the release of Advertisements to different News papers, Magazines, Periodicals and TV Channels in transparent manner.
- (ii) The number of defamation cases file under defamation Act, 2002, in the Court of law so far and its outcome.
- (iii) The Affairs of M/s MIDAS specially with reference to the following:
  - (a) Detailed discussion on alleged misappropriation of M/s MIDAS (Pvt.) and response of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the stance of the Punjab Government.
  - (b) Detailed discussion on dormancy of DGPR, Punjab for a long period of 04 years. Audit Report of DGPR, Punjab 2008 to 2011.
  - (c) Detailed discussion on non-representation of MIDAS in the Inquiry Committee constituted by the Government of Punjab and detail of inquiry of Anti Corruption Department Punjab.
  - (d) Detailed discussion on dormancy and obliviousness on the part of Auditor General which could not trace such embezzlement for a long period of time and now on the direction of Inquiry Committee brought out embezzlement.
  - (e) Secretary Information Punjab to comment on the recommendations of APNS over this issue.

The meeting started with the recitation of verses of Holy Quran. At the outset, Senator Kamil Ali Agha welcomed the participants of the meeting. He then advised for briefing.

Mr. Muhammad Azam, PIO, Ministry of Information gave briefing on the various aspects of the PID for giving advertisement to the press. He stated that government is following

the policy since 1950, with minor changes from time to time. He stated that according to policy it is the responsibility of the PID to control the public sector advertisement, with full judicious and transparent disbursement of government advertisement to all on equitable basis on the prescribed rates for safeguard of the interests of the government concerned departments/organizations.

He also gave detail of the rates fixed for the metropolitan and regional newspapers. Giving further detail, he informed that a government sector department is required to route its advertisement through PID and according to their target area, region and language the advertisement is released. However 25% quota is fixed for regional newspapers however advertisement is given only to the newspapers, which are on the central media control list. He assured that advertisement is given according to the already budget allocation of the concerned departments and it is released through the APNS accredited against, which are selected through open competition. He informed that from 2009 to 2012 advertisement of amounting to Rs.7.25 billions have been given in the press.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee appreciating on the detailed briefing by the PID, inquired about the criteria of a newspaper for including in the central media list. He also advised that elections are coming very soon; therefore there should be no major change in the advertisement policy. He also directed that there should be fully transparency and no political involvement in the issuing of advertisement to the newspapers. He recommended that release of funds to the newspaper may be linked with the releasing of salaries and regularizing of services of the journalists and other newspapers workers. He also directed to stop the presenting of politicians of the country in a very disgraceful ways on electronic channels.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid pointed out that we should look into this system as there are chances of misuse of government funds through advertisement as often government tries to control the media. He suggested that Ministry should conduct a comparative study of other countries also in this regard. He informed that in some cases advertisements are being given to non-entitled newspapers without verification of their circulation. He enquired about the detail of agencies owned by some media Houses.

Senator Zafar Ali Shah enquired about the selection of journalists in the official delegations visiting abroad. Senator Rubina Khalid also expressed her concern for insulting the politicians on the TV channels. She, therefore, suggested that there should be some code of conduct in this regard.

Senator Farhatullah Babar also appreciated on the briefing given by the PID. He stated that it is an impartment issue and this system is being also implemented in the SAARC countries also, and all the successive governments in the country have been implementing the policy since 1950. He further stated that we can not devolve all the things in the country, therefore it must be remained centralized, however we should make a mechanism so that no one could use it for personal as well as political purposes. He recommended that there should be cogent reasons for giving advertisement to a newspaper, and there should be rationalism in the rates of the electronic and print media. He also recommended that all advertisements should be given to newspapers through PID and in case of violations by any one of the policy, payment of such advertisement should be stopped. He also suggested that there should be no role of APNS in the issuing of advertisements, as it is direct party in the case.

Giving the reply of the queries/observation of the media, the officials of Ministry of Information informed that names of news paper are included in the central media list after fulfilling criterion formalities, thereafter, it is enlisted for advertisement. Secretary Ministry of Information, however informed that some departments whose accounts are not maintained through the AGPR sent their advertisements direct to the media.

Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for information informed the Committee that there is no proposal under consideration of the government for major changes in the policy, however we have requested the Prime Minister for changing the policy of the departments, who are giving direct advertisement without PID. He informed in some cases outstanding amounts of various departments was pending, therefore the government has decided to settle these type of issues, as news papers owners had threatened for the black listing of such departments. He also informed that advertisement is given on the priority of advertisement is determined by the concerned departments, and according to policy of government advertisements is issued to small and local news papers, in addition to big newspapers. He assured that government will never use these advertisements for pre-pole rigging and all the advertisements

is being made within the limitations of the budgetary allocation of department and only an amount of Rs.12 million is kept on the secret fund of the Ministry, which is commonly used for the welfare of the journalists and their families.

1 After detailed discussion the Committee recommended that:

1. There should be fully transparency in awarding the advertisement to the news papers at federal as well as at provincial level and no advertisement should be given to the dummy newspapers.
2. Advertisement should not be used for political purposes.
3. Government should give advertisement at its own without involving APNS, as it is a direct party in this case.
4. There should be rationalism on the rates of the advertisement of electronic and print media.
5. Newspapers owners may be made bound for releasing of the salaries and regularizing of the services of the journalists.
6. A comparative study of regional countries may also be conducted including Turkey, China and India for making suitable changes in the policy.
7. In the light of the recommendations of Justice Fakhruddin G. Ibrahim Committee a code of conduct may be made for the electronic media.
8. Government should take up the matter with the channels who are insulting the politicians with very disgraceful manners.

Mr. Rasheed Ahmed, Secretary Information informed that there is no defamation case pending against the Ministry. The Committee however recommended that for bringing into discipline Government should take notice of individual defamation cases by referring to this to PEMRA.

---

Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary Ministry of Information, Government of Punjab informed that in different cases M/s MIDAS has committed fraud of millions of rupees. He also gave detail of these cases. He informed that on special audit a case has been registered against M/s MIDAS with Anti Corruption Department, Government of Punjab. Secretary Information, Government of Pakistan stated that according to rules action can only be taken on the audit reports after its presentation in the PAC of the concerned province or in the case of Federal Government in the National Assembly of Pakistan, but in this case PAC of the Punjab Assembly was not taken into board and similarly the stance of the APNS should have been taken before the registration of case against M/s MIDAS. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee showed his concern for not conducting Audit after 2008 of the office DGPR, Government of Punjab and for registration of corruption case in haste after litigation of M/s MIDAS with the Information Department, Government of Punjab.

The Committee therefore advised that to reach on an ultimate conclusion, the representative of APNS, Accounts office Government of Punjab and M/s MIDAS may also be invited in the next meeting of the Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject:- MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION & BROADCASTING.

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2012 in the Parliament House Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Briefing on the affairs of PTV with particular reference to sanctioned / actual strength of PTV officials and detail of appointments made in different grades during last 3 years along with details of revenue generated from all resources during last 5 years and its utilization.
- (ii) Briefing on PTV World and English Channel.
- (iii) Threats on militants to the APNS as reported in the Press and Government position on the protest of APNS regarding distribution of public sector advertisement.
- (iv) Briefing of the allegation of Pakistan Broadcasting Association (PBA) regarding blocking of broadcastings of six Pakistani entertainment channels by the cable operators on the direction of the PEMRA to stop the transparent election coverage.

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Zafar Ali Shah. After welcoming remarks Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting showing strong concern on the late submission of working paper and fax messages of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting regarding cancellation of meeting of the Standing Committee stated that this attitude of the Ministry is not acceptable, as we had informed the Ministry for holding the meeting of the Standing Committee well before time, therefore, the request for its cancellation at the last moment cannot be exceeded to.

Mr. Rasheed Ahmad Chaudhry Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting informed that Ministry was fully ready for meeting however, Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting personally wanted to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee, but he is out of country at the moment therefore, cancellation request was made to the Senate Secretariat.

On the statement of Secretary Information & Broadcasting, Senator Farhatullah Babar stated that the fax messages have been issued with the approval of the Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, as he personally intends to attend the meeting the Standing Committee. However, the stance of the Ministry on the issue of agenda and fixation of date in consultation with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is not acceptable, as if we follow this precedent, no meeting of any Standing Committee could be held. He stated that only we

have to inform the concerned Ministry in time for the meeting. All the Committee members endorsed the view point of Senator Farhatullah Babar.

Mr. Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry Secretary Information & Broadcasting informed the Committee, that there was no intention of Ministry / Federal Minister for Information to defy the orders of the Committee, however, due to some official engagements, it was happened so. He apologized and requested that the letter written in this regard may be taken as withdrawn. The Committee accepting apology, decided to hold meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012.

After that Senator Kamil Ali Agha showed his deep concern on the incident of Mr. Hamid Mir (anchor person of Geo News). He stated that it is against the freedom of press, as the political system cannot be run without free press and everyone should therefore, be given independence for expressing his opinion. All the Committee members endorsing this view point recommended that action may be taken on the increasing trend of attacks / threats to the working journalists. The Committee advised to furnish the detail of inquiry report of this incident and its publication in the media.

The Committee therefore, advised Ministry of Information & Broadcasting that in coordination with Ministry of Interior to provide detail on the following:

- Names of journalists attacked;
- Number of journalists killed;
- Number of journalists injured;
- Attack occurred in city / area / province;
- Whether FIR registered or not;
- Whether the culprits arrested or not;
- Whether an inquiry / investigation held;
- What are the findings of the inquiry?

The Committee also advised to inform about the stand of Government of Pakistan on the UN action plan of impunity to the working journalists. The Committee advised to furnish complete briefing for the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2012 AT ISLAMABAD.

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Briefing on the affairs of PTV with particular reference to sanctioned/actual strength of PTV officials and detail of appointments made in different grades during last 3 years alongwith details of revenue generated from all resources during last 5 years and its utilization.
- ii. Briefing on PTV World and English Channel.
- iii. Threats of militants to the APNS as reported in the Press and Government position on the protest of APNS regarding distribution of public sector advertisement.
- iv. Briefing of the allegation of Pakistan Broadcasting Association (PBA) regarding blocking of broadcastings of six Pakistani entertainment channels by the cable operators on the direction of the PEMRA to stop the transparent election coverage.

The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran. Thereafter, honourable Chairman welcomed all participants of the meeting.

#### **ITEM NO.1**

BRIEFING ON THE AFFAIRS OF PTV WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SANCTIONED/ACTUAL STRENGTH OF PTV OFFICIALS AND DETAIL OF APPOINTMENTS MADE IN DIFFERENT GRADES DURING LAST 3 YEARS ALONGWITH DETAILS OF REVENUE GENERATED FROM ALL RESOURCES DURING LAST 5 YEARS AND ITS UTILIZATION.

Mr. Yousuf Baig Mirza MD, PTV informed the Committee that a Board consisting Senior Officers conducts the Test/Interviews for appointment of candidates. During last three years, 940 staff members retired and 646 staff members have been engaged on daily wages/contract basis against the sanctioned vacant posts. Further, he informed that all the posts are filled according to the laid down procedure and SOP given by PTV Board of Directors. The PTV advertises its vacant posts and after receiving the applications, they are short listed. The short listed candidates are called for interview before the selection Board, consisting upon the

Senior Officers. The Written Tests are also taken where required as per the jobs demand. He informed that on recommendation of the Board, the Competent Authority i.e. MD PTV grants his approval for final appointment of the candidates. He also clarified that no recruitment has been made over and above the sanctioned posts.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Committee inquired about the criteria of engagement of professionals and anchors in PTV. The Managing Director informed that the Board of Directors, keeping in view the highly competitive market value and capability, recommends to hire a professional. In case of going beyond the special packages of PTV for hiring of a professional, PTV seeks the approval of BOD by putting a comprehensive working paper before the board. The Managing Director also informed that highly qualified and experienced Professionals/Anchors are available in the market getting very high salaries. The Committee consisting three Directors assess the CVs as well as their pay slips where they have been working and finally the Committee recommends hiring the professional/anchors. Most of the professionals are hired not through applications but through headhunting based upon their professional excellence.

The Chairman Committee pointed out that there are some short comings in the PTV channels. The Secretary Information and Broadcasting briefed that the PTV is a state owned organization and its shares profits are not by the anchors/professionals or the guests invited in various programs. On the other hand the private channels share the earned benefits with those individuals/professionals who participate in various high valued programmes.

The Chairman of the committee further inquired about the progress of primetime program and engagement of less professional persons in the program. In reply the Managing Director informed that PTV continuously struggles to hire well versed people and the process will continue in order to achieve the best results. He also informed that the prime time programs are independent and the guests as invited belong to different political parties for getting their independent views and observations on any issue. Chairman of the Committee shared his observations with the Committee members that whenever the prime time program is on air, it is frequently interrupted by news briefing/news conferences of Government VVIPs which does not create good impression about the PTV as a whole. Chairman directed to avoid such kind of interruptions in future. Senator Farhatullah Babar informed the Committee that the credibility of PTV badly shatters when an intervention during any program is made. He advised that care must be taken to avoid such interventions. Further he commended the overall efforts made by PTV management for quality improvement of its programs. Secretary Information and Broadcasting informed that he has personally requested the Minister for scheduling their press conferences after 5:00 pm. The Chairman Committee directed that impression of the viewers about PTV be improved by showing impartiality and transparency by the PTV management in its programs. The Managing Director stated that they are proactively trying to control the intervention in PTV programs as the same has very rightly pointed out by the Committee.

Senator Zafar Ali Shah pointed out that some of the private channels directly broadcast the interviews from abroad on their channels. Is there any mechanism available with PEMRA to regulate such broadcasts? The Acting Chairman PEMRA, Dr. Abdul Jabbar

informed that they regulate contents of any broadcast directly from foreign country by the Private Channel in Pakistan and they have the powers to write to those private channels if any program/interview is against those contents. However, some of the Private Channels which are foreign based can directly broadcast the interviews/programs into Pakistan without PEMRA interference.

Chairman Committee pointed out that some TV channel programs disrespect the political leaders in their shows. Secretary Information Broadcasting informed the committee that they cannot close those channels because of the policy. PEMRA can only issue notices, final show cause but cannot close those channels. Action as taken against them is mostly challenged in the courts. Chairman committee pointed out that in some of the shows/programs the courts have also been targeted. He suggested that PEMRA should strengthen their regulatory role to control such shows in future.

Chairman committee while pointing to broadcasting of Turkish dramas stated that these kinds of dramas must be banned. These dramas are against our social norms hence spread vulgarity. In reply to that the Acting Chairman PEMRA informed that there are standing orders from the court for not banning such dramas. Any action, if taken in the matter will become contempt of the court.

Senator Mrs. Saeeda Iqbal suggested that Starplus, Sony channels are closed but the starworld is still on air which telecasts more vulgar shows and dramas. She also pointed out that the shows disrespecting our political leaders may be banned instead of banning those channels. In reply, it was informed that stay orders for star world channel is given by the court. So they cannot close that channel. Thereafter Senator Zafar Ali Shah requested to produce the stay orders in next meeting of the Committee. Chairman Committee also asked to produce all the facts placed before the court for closing of such channels in the next meeting of the Committee. He also directed to keep a separate agenda item to be discussed by the Committee on the issue.

Chairman Committee pointed out that it has come to his knowledge that the bonuses granted to many officials working on daily wage basis have been recovered back from those officials. The Managing Director informed that some of the officials were granted bonuses but later on it was found that under the criteria those officials were not entitled for that grant and therefore those were retrieved back from the officials. Senator Mrs. Saeeda Iqbal stressed the need to punish those officials who had wrongly made this decision and she also pointed out that there is no provision in the government rules to retrieve back the grant once allowed to Government officials. Secretary Information and Broadcasting assured the Committee that no such action will be taken to retrieve back the amount from those officials and matter will be settled soon under intimation to the Committee.

Chairman Committee pointed out that some of the officials are working on adhoc basis since eight to ten years but their services are not regularized. The Secretary Information and Broadcasting informed that there is a case under process for some of the officials who are working on adhoc/contract basis for regularization. However, due to their bachelor degrees in third grade, their case is referred for relaxation to Prime Minister. On the request of Senator Mrs.

Saeeda Iqbal the committee unanimously recommended to consider regularization of the contract/adhoc officials working in PTV since long.

The Chairman Committee on the issue of TV licences raised the question about the PTV license fee charged through electricity bills. In case, if there are two or more connections provided in any house simultaneously, will they be charged twice or more times the TV charges?

The Managing Director replied that they charge TV licence fee from every house through electricity bills consuming not less than 100 units. He further clarified that in case of two or more electricity connections provided, the applicant must visit SDO, WAPDA office or Revenue office in order to make correction in his bill for not charging more than one time the TV licence charges. The Chairman Committee directed that PTV should advertise such information through electronic/print media for public awareness.

The Chairman Committee while showing his serious concern over the Indian film shows in Pakistan and telecast of Turkish TV dramas on different private channels directed to give a detailed briefing on the issue in the next meeting of the Committee. In this regard, The Managing Director PTV informed that due to introduction of Turkish Dramas the local producers can suffer a lot.

## **ITEM NO.2**

### **BRIEFING ON PTV WORLD AND ENGLISH CHANNEL.**

The Managing Director PTV informed that English channel is a hybrid model and we are trying to show classic dramas dubbed into English on that channel. He pointed out that some famous TV dramas like Jinnah to Quaid, Dhoop Kinaray, Tanhaiyan and also some foreign documentary programs have been identified for this purpose. An expenditure of rupees 30 crore have been incurred so far on purchase of equipments and the studio. He requested the committee to make a visit of the studio at their convenient. The channel is going to be launched in the first week of January, 2013. He informed that 225 personnel will be hired for the channel. All the expenditure on establishment of the English Channel will be met through PTV's own budget.

## **ITEM NO.3**

### **THREATS OF MILITANTS TO THE APNS AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS AND GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THE PROTEST OF APNS REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SECTOR ADVERTISEMENT.**

Secretary Information and Broadcasting informed that Ministry has received information regarding cases of threats very late from Ministry of Interior. The information could only be communicated concerning to Islamabad and KPK. In Islamabad since 1-1-2006, only 35 cases of life threats have been reported till date. Senator Farhatullah Babar expressed his grave concern over the deficient information/list of the cases provided to the committee. He pointed out the case of Wali Khan Baber in which 6 witnesses have been killed, has not been given any importance. The case has not been reported in detail. He also pointed out the Human Rights Report in which 88 journalists have been shown killed but the government list shows less than that. The committee should reject this list. He further stated that since 2006 to 2012, no impunity is given except in Daniel Pearl case. He asked the secretary as to how the impunity against the murder of journalists be stopped. He also requested for submission of correct list. Chairman committee also pointed out that the list is totally incomplete. All information pertaining to factual position and current status of each case may also be given so that clear picture of each case be clearly shown. He also directed to include information about the kidnapping for ransom cases concerning the journalists. Secretary Information assured the committee that they will coordinate with the Ministry of Interior and will provide further information as and when the same is received.

Chairman committee due to absence of Minister postponed the discussion on the advertisement policy till next meeting.

#### **ITEM NO. 4**

#### **BRIEFING OF THE ALLEGATION OF PAKISTAN BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION (PBA) REGARDING BLOCKING OF BROADCASTINGS OF SIX PAKISTANI ENTERTAINMENT CHANNELS BY THE CABLE OPERATORS ON THE DIRECTION OF THE PEMRA TO STOP THE TRANSPARENT ELECTION COVERAGE.**

Acting Chairman PEMRA informed that they have not instructed cable operators to close any channel in Karachi. The channels were closed down by the cable operators at their own and not by any orders from PEMRA. In this regard, he personally went to Karachi and for the purpose a 3 members committee was also constituted to resolve this issue. Senator Farhatullah Babar praised the action taken to resolve the issue but he said that if the cable operators intentionally on their own sweet will and choice block any channel then an action is required to be taken against them and a mechanism be adopted to stop such practices in future. Chairman PBA informed that they have issued show cause notices to those cable operators who have blocked the channels in Karachi at their own. Chairman committee ordered to review this mechanism with regard to the Cable Operators behavior and bring some suggestions in agenda of the next meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2013 AT ISLAMABAD.

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Detail of staff, studios, equipments of PTV Home for drama purpose.
- ii. Detail of production of PTV Home during last 2 years.
- iii. Detail of private production purchased by the PTV Home during last 2 years along with companies from whom the dramas were purchased.
- iv. Detail of composition of the Committee responsible for purchasing of private production.
- v. Action taken on the recommendations of the Standing Committee made regarding making code of conduct for the private channels in the light of recommendations of the Fakhur-ud-din G. Ibrahim Committee.
- vi. Briefing on foreign contents on Pakistani Channels.
- vii. Briefing on the affairs of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and response of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran. Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee welcomed all the participants of the meeting. At the outset the Members of the Committee expressed their deep concern that in spite of two Ministers of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, but no one is present in the meeting of the Standing Committee. The Committee therefore, decided to bring this situation in the notice of the Prime Minister in writing.

After that Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee with the consent of other members of the Committee decided to discuss the agenda item of foreign contents on Pakistani Channels, as the office bearers of United Producer Associations had to go back to Karachi / Lahore. He advised United Producer Associations for briefing on their point of view.

The President of the United Producer Associations and other office bearers of UPA stated that this issue was also discussed in the National Assembly Standing Committee; however, no action could be taken so far to improve the situation. Thanking the Standing Committee for listening their view point, they informed that day by day Pakistani programs are

being reduced on channels and foreign contents with Urdu dubbing are being showed especially in prime time from (7 to 11 p.m.), which is clear cut violation of PEMRA Rules.

Mr. Asif Raza Mir (a member of the United Producer Associations) further informed that every cable operator has been granted license for 4CD channels and on these CD channels mostly the Indian movies / dramas are being showed. He also informed that no tax is being collected from these Indian programs, while on the other hand, they are paying different types of taxes. He informed the Committee that no Pakistani program is being showed in India and similarly PTV is also not showing any Indian program on National channel. He further informed that Urdu-1 channel is not operating from any part of the world, but it has been also given landing rights in Pakistan. He indicated that this channel mostly shows foreign contents with Urdu dubbing and only 30 percent Pakistani programs are being showed on the channel, resultantly heavy loss is being given to Pakistani production and also to national exchequer. He stated that mostly these channels are showing used programs having nothing concern with Pakistani culture. He therefore, requested that this policy may be revisited and there should be a strict check and balance system to implement the existing PEMRA Rules besides, if there is need to make new rules / laws, these should be made immediately in the national interest. He also requested that the affairs of cable operators should be revisited in detail and PEMRA should enforce its code of conduct on showing foreign contents including Indian programs on CD channels also.

Mrs. Sameena Ahmad (an actor & Producer) also stated that there is need to implement rules / regulations to safe the Pakistani drama industry. Mr. Qavi Khan (a famous actor) also requested that this issue may be taken seriously and government should take immediate action in the national interest. Mrs. Laila Zuberi stated that the chances for development of Pakistani industry are being limited as almost every entertainment channels is showing foreign contents. Mr. Yasin Malik Vice Chairman United Producer Associations informed that due to broadcasting of foreign programs on Pakistani channels the unemployment ratio of the people of this industry has been increased tremendously, besides the foreign culture is also affecting the Pakistani society. He requested to look into all the issues of the Urdu-1 channel.

After listening the United Producer Associations s' view point, members of the Standing Committee raised questions queries and also gave many suggestions for improving the situation.

Senator Rubina Khalid advised that all concern should take necessary action in this regard, immediately as other industries related to drama business are also suffering badly, due to none local production. She recommended that the channels should also broadcast programs for children and also on health and education issues instead of showing foreign contents, especially Indian programs as Indian Government is not allowing any Pakistani program to show at their Channels. Senator Zafar Ali Shah also recommended that we should deal with Indian programs as in the case of Pakistani programs in India.

Mr. Rasheed Ahmad Ch. Chairman PEMRA stated that this issue was also discussed in the National Assembly Standing Committee. He indicated that most of the things can be changed according to existing PEMRA Laws. He admitted that some channels are violating PEMRA Rules. He informed that PEMRA is in contact with all the stakeholders for improving the situation. Mr. Agha Nadeem Secretary Information & Broadcasting also informed that these matters can easily be regulated according to existing sections of the PEMRA Rules.

Senator Parvez Rasheed informed that according to his information the landing rights can only be given to news channels, and not to the entertainment channels and therefore, Urdu-1 channel (which is only an entertainment channel) cannot be given landing rights. Director General PEMRA however, informed the Committee that the license of Urdu-1 is fraudulent as license for this channel was obtained in the name of a bogus company, because the said company does not exist in Dubai media. He informed that the matter in this regard is pending in Lahore High Court and also in Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Senator Farhatullah Babar suggested that after the statement of DG licensing there is need for a special investigation in the matter and disciplinary action should be taken against the concerned media group and also the officials of PEMRA involved in this bogus licensing. He advised that all channels should broadcast balanced programs and we should promote our local industry. He however, advised to improve the quality of local programs. He also pointed out that some PEMRA Laws are inadequate and the implementation is also not up to the mark, He therefore, recommended that there is a need to revisit these policies on permanent basis in consultation with all stakeholders, including representatives of civil society. He pointed out that, if there is need to improve the existing laws this target can be achieved through proper legislation. He also urged to check the 4CD licenses issued to the cable operators, as whether cable operators fulfill the required criteria for the grant of license as in the other cases. He further advised that council of complaint should play its due role.

Senator Saeed Ghani stressed upon the need to check the issue of 4CD channels granted to the cable operators, as what are they showing to the nation. He pointed out that there is a contradiction between the briefing submitted by PEMRA and in the statement of DG Licensing regarding issuance of licenses issued to Urdu-1 channel.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee stated that there is need to discuss this matter very seriously, as the Committee wants to know that who is behind this situation. He advised that this industry should be given due consideration as is being given to other industries. He admired the national services of all the actors of this industry specially Mr. Qavi Khan. He enquired about the basis of landing rights given to the Urdu-1 Channel. He advised that in making policy we should give preference to the national interest and the PEMRA should not implement the policy of cable operators. He further advised to revisit the policy of CD channels as mostly Indian films are being showed on these CD channels. He directed that the Chairman PEMRA should take serious notice of the contradiction between the statement of the DG Licensing and verbal briefing and to take action against the officials who are at fault. He also advised to revisit PEMRA Laws / code of conduct.

Senator Farah Aqil recommended that it may be given status of industry, she stated that there is dire need to implement the existing laws of PEMRA in letter and spirit, as some channels are showing un-Islamic and immoral programs therefore this policy should be discouraged.

After detailed discussion the Committee recommended that:-

- i) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting should give clear cut policy line on this issue to all the stakeholders including PEMRA, cable operators and private TV channels etc
- ii) The PEMRA should implement its existing laws to control these affairs.
- iii) The PEMRA should also revisit the policy of issuance of CD Channels to the cable operators.
- iv) The PEMRA should implement its policy regarding broadcasting of foreign contents on the TV channels and the time allowed for the broadcasting of foreign contents should be distributed over 24 hours broadcastings and not for prime time only (from 7 p.m. to 11p.m.)
- v) The PEMRA should make equivalent laws for broadcasting of Indian programs at Pakistani channels as is the case with showing Pakistani programs on Indian channels.
- vi) Ministry of Information should give status of industry to the drama business and provide all necessary assistance / support as is being given to other industries.
- vii) Inquiry report of contradiction between the briefing given to the Committee and statement of DG License PEMRA on the issuance of license to Urdu-1 should be submitted to the Committee and if it is found to be a bogus license it may be cancelled immediately.
- viii) The affairs of the cable operators may be looked into in detail.
- ix) The PEMRA should ensure observance of terms and conditions of agreement of TV Channels including CD Channels should broadcast 90% Pakistani programs and 10% foreign contents (including 6% Indian Programs)

On the affairs of PFUJ Mr. Parvez Shaukat Chairman of the Body stated that their problems are not being solved by the owners of TV channels / newspapers as most of the owners of newspapers / electronic channel are not paying salary to the journalists in time. He further informed that a number of journalists have been killed in the line of duty, but no compensation

has been paid to their families so far. He indicated and no security is being provided to the journalists especially at the time of coverage of bomb blasts or terrorists activities.

He briefed that due to non provision of compensation in time the families of the victim journalists are suffering badly. He requested that wage board award may be announced and implementation on the previous wage board award should also be ensured. He suggested that there is need for legislation for binding the owners of the media groups to implement the wage board award. He also requested that legal shape may be given to the insurance of journalists and the premium of this insurance should be paid by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Senator Zafar Ali Shah pointed out that all these matters relate with the owners of the newspapers / TV channels and they should be bound to pay the salary to the journalists in time. Senator Farhatullah Babar strongly showing his concern advised that Ministry of Information / PID should take action against the owners of the media groups, who are not paying salary / compensation to the victims. He also recommended that the charter framed by the UNO for the security of the journalists should be signed and implemented. Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee advised Mr. Parvez Shaukat to provide proper suggestions for improving prevailing situation.

The Committee however, recommended that the owners may not be paid the cost of advertisement, till the clearance of salary of the journalists in time. The Committee also recommended that proper legislation should be proposed by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for announcement of a new wage board award and its implementation. The Committee further recommended that Ministry of Information / PID should look into the proposal of paying amount of the premium for the insurance of the journalists. On a point raised by Senator Farhatullah Babar the Committee advised the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to give the implementation status on the previous recommendations of the Standing Committee, as these were made for the betterment of the common people.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Detail of staff, Studio, equipments of PTV Home for drama purposes.
- (ii) Detail of production of PTV Home during last 2 years.
- (iii) Detail of private production purchased by the PTV Home during last 2 years alongwith companies from whom the dramas were purchased.
- (iv) Detail of composition of the Committee responsible for purchasing of private production.
- (v) Implementation status on the recommendations of the Standing Committee made in its sitting held on 18th Feb, 2013 regarding broadcasting of foreign contents on Pakistani Channels and investigation report of licensing of Urdu-1 channel.

The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting welcoming the participants of the meeting advised Chairman, PEMRA to brief about the implementation status on the recommendations of the Standing Committee made in its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 regarding broadcasting of foreign contents on Pakistani channels and also on investigation report of licenses issued to Urdu-I channel.

Mr. Rashed Ahmed Ch., Chairman, PEMRA gave a briefing on the procedure of issuing of licenses to the electronic channels and cable operators etc. He also informed about the criteria for granting license for landing rights, on investigation mechanism for content relating violation and also on the affairs of Urdu-I channel. He informed the Committee that previously licenses for 89 satellite TV channels were issued on case to case basis, without open bidding, but presently there is ban on the issuance of licenses of satellite TV and in future licenses will be issued by open bidding. He indicated that licenses are issued for following seven categories initially through for a period of 15 years:

- (i) News & Current Affairs.
- (ii) Sports
- (iii) Regional Languages
- (iv) Health or Agriculture
- (v) Education
- (vi) Entertainment
- (vii) Specialized subjects/ non-commercial

He also apprised the Committee about the licenses fee for news, entertainment and sports channels etc. which is 50 lakh, 15 lakh and 10 lakh respectively.

Briefing on the affairs of Urdu-I channel, he informed that in the light of the directions of Standing Committee two inquiries were conducted, one by Ministry of Information and the other by PEMRA itself, and according to findings of both the inquiry reports the license of Urdu-I channel was issued after fulfillment of all requirements and formalities. DG, Licensing PEMRA (who previously had informed the Committee that license of Urdu-I was issued on bogus papers) also informed that the license to Urdu-I was issued in accordance with all relevant laws.

Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for Information, Secretary Information and Chairman PEMRA admitted that although license to Urdu-I was given after completion of all the formalities, however it is violating the PEMRA rules in the broadcasting of foreign contents, but due to capacity issues PEMRA cannot monitor the broadcasting of all the channels and cable operators. They also informed that some channels are broadcasting programmes against our culture, and as soon as PEMRA takes action against the channels the management of the channel/cable operators get stay orders from courts and same the case is with Urdu-I channel.

Mr. Rashid Khawaja, Chairman UPA stated that the association is against the Urdu dubbing of foreign language on Pakistani channels, especially that of entertainment programmes, as it is destroying local industry. He also informed that some channels are showing more foreign contents than the permission granted to them. Mr. Muhammad Qavi Khan (a renowned actor) also requested that instead of showing foreign programmes, local industry may be promoted. Ms. Samina Ahmed requested that instead of showing Urdu dubbing programmes on channels, Star Plus etc. may be allowed to operate in Pakistan.

After listening the official view point and the association of UPA, all the Members of the Standing Committee strongly showed great concern for not implementation on the recommendations of the Standing Committee. They also gave many suggestions/proposals for the protection of the local industry.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid stated that the landing rights can be given for current affairs/news, education, science subjects for education purpose and not for entertainment programmes. He further recommended that foreign contents may not be broadcast at prime time (from 07.00 PM to 11.00 PM) and during the broadcasting of foreign contents, no commercial advertisement may be shown.

Senator Saeed Ghani also recommended that to save local drama industry, the permission for urdu dubbing of foreign contents may not be allowed. He also demanded for the provision of inquiry report conducted in the case of urdu-I. Senator Zafar Ali Shah inquired about the difference of fee between news and entertainment channels. He recommended that the matter of granting permission of urdu dubbing may be looked thoroughly and in future no permission may be granted to any channel in this regard. He advised that keeping in view the problems of local industry, PEMRA should improve its capacity to check the broadcasting of electronic as well as CD channels. He pointed out that before giving landing rights to the urdu-I,

this channel was not operating from any part of the world and only it was a registered company in Dubai therefore PEMRA should look into it. He advised that responsibility may be fixed on some one for this wrong doing.

Senator Rubina Khalid also recommend that local drama industry may be given preference on foreign programmes, therefore urdu dubbing may not be allowed in the country. She recommended that Star Plus may be allowed to start its broadcasting in the country. Senator Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai pointed out that there is no mention in the rules about the showing of the foreign programmes in urdu dubbing on electronic channels. He therefore recommended that they may not be allowed to show foreign contents in urdu dubbing. He also recommended that channels should air their broadcasting according to terms and conditions of licenses issued to them.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee strongly criticized on the performance of PEMRA, as the authority has issued licenses without competition and channels have been given totally free hand to broadcast foreign contents, as well as in urdu dubbing specially during the prime time. He criticized that PEMRA remained totally failed to regulate the affairs of all channels and resultantly the local industry, which is paying heavy taxes to the national exchequer has been completely ruined. On the affairs of Urdu-I, he advised that strict action may be taken against this channel on the violation of PEMRA rules. He advised to fully act upon on the directions of Standing Committee in letter and spirit made in this regard. He directed that reasons for not implementation on the recommendations of the Sanding Committee may be communicated in the next meeting of the Standing Committee. He pointed out that DG(Licenses), PEMRA had clearly informed the Committee that the license issued to urdu-I was bogus, as the said channel does not exist in Dubai media city. However, now the Ministry has come within with another version that license to urdu-1 was issued after fulfillment of all requirements and that is in order. He therefore advised to provide the copies of all relevant documents regarding the issuance of license to Urdu-I, inquiry conducted in this regard. He forcefully advised the Ministry of Information to look into the permission granted to the channels for Urdu dubbing and the limit permitted to the channels for broadcasting of foreign contents. He was of the view that by the implementation on the recommendations / observations of the Standing Committee the grievances of local industry can be reduced.

On the queries/observations of the members of the Standing Committee, Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for information informed that government intends to give protection to local entertainment industry. He informed the Committee that presently channels are broadcasting foreign contents in urdu dubbing according to permission granted to them, resultantly in case government initiate action against channels, they go to the courts, and create embarrassing situation for government. He stated that this matter should also be discussed in the meeting of the Standing Committee on information & Broadcasting of National Assembly to reach on a consensus of both the houses, however Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee informed that this matter has already been discussed in the Standing Committee of National Assembly on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2013, and the Standing Committee of National Assembly has also given similar recommendations in this regard. He therefore advised that being a unanimous

decision of both the Standing Committees i.e. Senate and National Assembly, strict compliance may be ensured on these decisions/ recommendations.

On the affairs of PFUJ, Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for Information informed, that government cannot pay the amount of premium of insurance of journalists, as demanded by PFUJ, however their registration can be made in EOBI and WWF for the protection of their rights. He informed the Committee that government can pay Rs.5 lakhs as compensation in case of death of any journalist in the line of duty, and the media owners should also pay the amount of compensation from their pockets for the journalists, as they are earning profit of millions of rupees. He also informed that as and when any information regarding non-payment of salary to a journalist comes in the notice, the Ministry takes action against the concerned media owner for the early release of pay/ salary. He stated that government has already constituted wage board award and appointment of members will be made very shortly.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha advised to fulfill the demands of journalists on priority basis.

On the issue of PTV, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee pointed out that presently PTV is not making production from its own assets, and instead they are purchasing dramas from open market, resultantly the PTV's own production has been totally closed, in spite of the fact that PTV has sufficient staff and studios for this purpose. Mr. Yousaf Baig Mirza, MD PTV informed that presently PTV has eight channels and the programming of all the channels is being made from their own studios and due to over date of equipments and studios the utilization of assets is declining, therefore all the eight PTV channels are working beyond their capacity. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee stated that detail discussion in this regard will be held in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

1. *Detail of staff, Studio, equipments of PTV Home for drama purposes.*
2. *Detail of production of PTV Home during last 2 years.*
3. *Detail of private production purchased by the PTV Home during last 2 years alongwith companies from whom the dramas were purchased.*
4. *Briefing by the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation on the policy being formulated for the coverage of Election-2013.*
5. *Briefing by the PEMRA on the regulation of satellite channels for the Election-2013 coverage.*
6. *Implementation status on the recommendations of the Standing Committee regarding affairs of United Producer Association.*

The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Saeeda Iqbal. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting after welcoming the participants of the meeting advised MD, PTV for briefing.

Mr. Yousaf Baig Mirza, MD, PTV gave detailed briefing on the staff, studios, equipments and various aspects of the production of Dramas of PTV-II. He informed that PTV has no its own separate facilities, therefore the staff and studios of PTV are being used for dramas and for other general programmes. He informed that presently 8 channels of PTV network are using these facilities and PTV Home is presently going on air from 6 centers at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar and Quetta. Giving the detail of staffing position he informed that about 403 officials are working at different posts, and presently PTV Home has only two studios with engineering units and OB van. He gave detail of production of PTV Home for the year 2011/2012. He indicated that in-house production is being shifting from drama towards live special transmissions/ regional programmes.

Giving detail of present situation of drama business in PTV, he informed that good producers are leaving PTV because they prefer staying free lance, as it is more lucrative

and beneficiary for them, on the other hand PTV can not pay high remuneration to them, besides the cost of drama production is going very high and PTV cannot afford this high cost due to limited financial resources, therefore PTV is making less dramas from its own sources. He also informed about the purchase of dramas by the PTV Home from market alongwith detail of companies from home dramas were purchased along their costs. The Secretary, Ministry of information also informed the Committee that it is fact that the production of PTV dramas has been reduced.

After briefing by PTV officials, members of the Standing Committee raised many queries/questions on the present situation of drama industry in PTV. Senator Kamil Ali Agha pointed out that in the past the quality of PTV dramas were better, these were internationally recognized, therefore PTV should start its production again, which will not only increase in the revenue of the PTV, but as well as also provide employment opportunity to the people. He advised that PTV being a state owned body should function like an institute, by giving initial training to the people interested in drama business. He advised that PTV should establish its own academy for giving opportunity to new commers in this field and for this purpose, experts in the relevant field can be hired on good remuneration. He strongly criticized on the ratio between PTV's own productions and its purchased from market, he therefore advised that this ratio should be 60:50 as PTV can easily achieve this target because it has better financial/ manpower resources than the private producers. He also pointed out that some PTV dramas have been purchased from favourite companies on higher rates. He therefore strongly recommended that action should be taken against responsible in this regard. He advised that PTV should not ignore the needy and professional people. MD, PTV assured to act upon the proposals / recommendations of the Standing Committee and for submission of report in this regard as soon as possible.

On the issue of policy being formulated for the election coverage, DG Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) informed that PBC is the largest network of the country, which covers about 99% of area and broadcasts in 22 Pakistani languages and it is also broadcasting its transmission in 11 foreign languages to keep the up date to the world on various steps of the government, therefore all necessary arrangements have been made for updating the overseas Pakistanis and rest of the world about election process through its English and Urdu transmission.

Giving the detail of salient features of the policy regarding election coverage, he indicated that coverage will be comprehensive, impartial, balanced and without discrimination to any political party. He further informed that a special awareness campaign for the motivation of general public to participate in polling process will be launched and special steps will also be taken for women participation in the election process. He informed the Committee that to monitor of this process an election cell will be set up at PBC HQs for better coordination. He assured the Committee that equitable air time will be given to every political party for informing the common people about their manifestos and also assured that no sensational broadcasting will be aired.

The Standing Committee appreciated the DG, PBC for making a detailed plan for the election coverage. The Committee however advised that to achieve this goal, workers of PBC should perform their duties with full zeal and impartiality without discrimination to anyone. The Committee further advised to create awareness amongst the common people, about their participation in election process. The Committee also advised that 100% correct election results should be broadcast in time and the behaviour of PBC should not be biased to any one as it is an impartial organization.

The Committee also advised PEMRA to formulate comprehensive policy to monitor the coverage of private channels. The Committee advised to make a code of conduct as soon as possible in this regard.

The left over agenda will be discussed in the next meeting of the Sanding Committee. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

1. *Briefing by the PEMRA on the regulation of satellite channels for the Election-2013 coverage.*
2. *Latest position on framing of code of conduct for media.*
3. *Distribution of advertisements including details of advertisement made during last five years.*
4. *Detail briefing on Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).*
5. *Implementation status on the recommendations of the Standing Committee regarding affairs of United Producer Association.*

The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Saeed Ghani. After welcoming remarks Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee stated that during the last meeting of the Committee PEMRA was advised to inform the Committee about framing of the regulations for the coverage of election 2013. He advised Chairman PEMRA to brief the Committee in this regard.

Mr. Rashid Ahmed Ch, Chairman PEMRA informed that Election Commission of Pakistan has agreed on a code of conduct of media for the Election-2013, the main points of which are as under:

- (i) All media will properly inform the public about the political parties, campaign issues and voting process etc.
- (ii) Election coverage will be balanced, impartial and will not be biased to any political party.
- (iii) There will be freedom of expression.
- (iv) Media will perform its duty to respect every one and for promoting of tolerance.
- (v) There will be no censorship on election coverage.
- (vi) Media will not be penalized for broadcasting of contents on the basis of criticism on any party.
- (vii) Special programmes will be broadcast for the education of voters.

- (viii) Incomplete election results will not be broadcast and final results will be announced after these are announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and finally
- (ix) A Committee will be constituted under the supervision of ECP and will be comprises on the representative of various newspaper/ electronic media association.

After the briefing by Chairman PEMRA, Senator Kamil Ali Agha enquired that whether PEMRA its own had given any suggestions/ proposals to the ECP. In response, Chairman PEMRA informed that PEMRA had given proposals which are almost same. He pointed out that during Election-2008 some cable operators had violated the code of conduct framed by ECP, but no action was initiated against them. He therefore advised to take strict action now on any violation. He also advised to keep an eye on advertisement of political parties on both on electronic channels as well as on print media, so that the limits imposed by ECP could not be violated. He further recommended that a committee may be constituted in PEMRA for the monitoring and assessment of advertisement of political parties, and after the election and the report of the said committee may be provided to the Standing Committee. He strongly advised that there should be no harassment to any media person on the election coverage and for this purpose legal cover may be provided to the code of conduct by issuing an ordinance.

Senator Saeed Ghani also recommended that there is need to look into the advertisement of political parties in the print media too. On the issue of giving equal time to the political parties he recommended that time may be given to the political party according to its size and saying in the country. He urged that the election coverage should be impartial and without biased to any political party. He recommended that ECP should put periodical results also on its website and there should be no delay at all in the announcement of election results. He also proposed that arrangements should be made for the announcement of election results at each polling station for their authenticity, as this process takes too much time to reach to the Returning Officer (RO).

Senator Farhatullah Babar informed that guideline proposed by the ECP is general and is not specific. He was of the view that although we can not amend these proposals, however we should not endorse these recommendations, as in the present shape these are vague. He pointed out that the Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) had also prepared some proposals but ECP has not consulted the PCP too. He therefore recommended that PEMRA and Ministry of Information both should monitor the code of conduct made for media and in case of violation by

any group ECP should be informed immediately. He also advised that Ministry should workout plan to monitor the projection of each political party in the media, and if any channel broadcasts free advertisement of a political party or candidate, it should be debited in the account of concerned political party/ candidate.

After detailed discussion, the Committee unanimously advised that Ministry of Information and PEMRA should ensure that:

- (i) All the election coverage should be free impartial, without biased to any political party, and advertisement should remain within the limits proposed by the ECP for the political parties. Besides there should be no negative propaganda against any political party.
- (ii) Ministry of Information and PEMRA will prepare a comprehensive report on the coverage of whole election process and will give its report to the Committee, in due course of time besides in case of violation by any political party/ candidate and media group both will inform the ECP immediately.
- (iii) The Committee also noticed that the most of the questions asked by various Returning Officers from the candidates at the time of filling of the nomination papers were irrelevant; therefore the Returning Officers should had been only remain to the conditions mentioned in the Article-62 and 63 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

On the Freedom of Information Bill, the Committee advised that report in this regard may be submitted to the Committee within 15 days.

On the framing of code of conduct for media, the Committee advised to submit report in this regard immediately.

On the issue of broadcasting of foreign contents on Satellite Channels in Urdu dubbing the Committee advised for implementation on the recommendations of Standing Committees of the Senate as well as National Assembly and compliance report be submitted to the Committee.

The working paper regarding distribution policy of advertisement and detail of expenditure made on advertisement on print as well as electronic media during last 5 years was received late, therefore the Committee decided to discuss this agenda item in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

On the affairs of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Acting Director General, informed that APP is the successor of the Associated Press of India which after the independence was named APP as private entity but due to financial and administrative crunch, Government had taken its control in 1961. He informed the vision of APP is to commitment and to improve

the quality, increase quantity, maintaining accuracy and to ensure swift transmission of news services. He added that APP's main role is to report, gathering and disseminate news from within the country and abroad. It is also presenting national events, economic, financial and sports news reporting. He also gave detail of agreements with foreign news agencies and about number of news items published through APP in various languages. He however informed the Committee that some surplus employees are working in the APP against the sanctioned strength, but the Finance Division is not providing sufficient funds for these employees therefore APP is facing financial crisis.

After his briefing the Committee advised that the employees working on daily wages/ contract basis may be regularized but there should be no unnecessary appointments, which should be made only on need basis. The Committee also advised that a complete working paper regarding regularization of employees serving on contract basis and for taking of funds from Finance Division may be submitted. The Committee also advised that DSNG (which is presently fixed at Islamabad) should be in moving condition and number of DSNG's may be increased reasonably. The Committee also advised that APP should establish its own academy for the training of staff however in the meanwhile training to the staff of APP should be arranged through Information Services Academy.

-----

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Report/briefing on the distribution of official advertisement (through PID) For the electronic as well as print media as per commitment.
- (ii) Report/briefing regarding appointment of MD PTV on permanent basis.
- (iii) Report/briefing on bringing the services of PTV at par with international reputed news/entertainment channels.
- (iv) Report/briefing regarding postings / transfers at large in PTV during the tenure of caretaker government and up till now.
- (v) Report/briefing on the issuance of grant of FM Radio license by PEMRA for Balochistan University, Quetta.

The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Farhatullah Babar. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee and all other members of the Committee welcoming Mr.Pervaiz Rashid on assuming the charge of Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and also to Dr.Nazir Saeed on the assumption of the charge of the post of Secretary of the Ministry assured for fully cooperation with government in improving the performance of the Ministry.

While starting discussion on the agenda item regarding policy of the Government on distribution of advertisement through PID, Chairman Standing Committee informed that due to late receiving of working paper in the last meeting of the Standing Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, it was decided that discussion will be held in the next meeting, however again the working paper is very late and incomplete and no new information has been included in it. He was of the view that we should move forward, therefore we should leave the conventional briefing, because it will not help in improving the things. He informed that advertisement is being given on phone calls and also on the basis of contracts, without fulfillment of required criteria. He therefore advised that some fundamental changes may be brought in the existing policy for the observation of complete transparency in it. He further stated that at present advertisement is being given in huge to bogus and dummy news papers, therefore we should adopt progressive measures to formulate a comprehensive policy for giving the advertisement to the eligible papers only.

Mr.Pervaiz Rashid, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting endorsing the view point of Senator Kamil Ali Agha informed, that he has already directed all concerned to prepare new comprehensive policy in this regard. He assured that all steps will be initiated for the creation of awareness of the people in this regard, and also to stop the misuse of tax payers money. He informed that he has also advised the PID for the setting of webpage in this regard and all the information about the newspaper and advertisement will be placed on Web.

Senator Farhatullah Babar advised that clear cut objectives should be set to achieve the targets. He stated that although it is policy of the government to help the local as well as small newspapers, but there should be no corruption and pilferage in this regard. He therefore recommended that complete transparency may be observed, which presently does not exist in the distribution of advertisement. He also recommended that PID should establish a webpage, which may be maintained on daily basis, mentioning all the detail including name of newspapers, circulation and amount of advertisement etc, which can help to reduce the corruption and favoritism in the distribution of advertisement, especially to the regional newspapers. He asked the Ministry to give time line in this regard.

Mr. Imran Gardezi, PIO informed that the work for establishing a webpage has already been started, which will be completed within 15 days. He indicated that following information will be available on the webpage.

- i) Name of Newspaper
- ii) Size of Advertisement.
- iii) Amount of advertisement.
- iv) Name of the client.
- v) Contents of the advertisement.

He assured that all process in this regard will be completed within 3 months.

Senator Dr. Saeeda Iqbal and Senator Khalida Parveen also recommended that no advertisement may be given to the dummy and bogus newspapers. They were of the view that software in this regard should be prepared through a Government organization.

After detailed discussion on this agenda item the Committee unanimously recommended that:

- i) The process of establishment of webpage mentioning all information referred above may be completed at the earliest.
- ii) The software should be installed through Ministry of Information Technology or through any other reputed government organization.
- iii) More clarity should be brought in the distribution of advertisement.
- iv) Complete transparency should be observed in the distribution of advertisement and no pressure should be taken from any quarter.

- v) The things may be improved with political and administrative will.
- vi) In future, briefing should be materialized and factual, and it should not be in traditional and conventional ways.
- vii) PID will provide progress of work done in this regard within 15 days.
- viii) Government should avoid in giving unnecessary advertisement.

While starting discussion on the appointment of MD, PTV, Senator Kamil Ali Agha inquired about the present position in this regard.

Dr.Nazir Saeed, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed that on becoming the post of MD PTV vacant, Islamabad High Court has directed that till the appointment to the post of MD, PTV on permanent basis, senior most person from amongst the existing board of Directors may be appointed to the post of MD, TV for temporary arrangements and accordingly senior most Director has been appointed to the post of MD, PTV on acting charge basis. He indicated presently there are following 3 options before the government for making appointment on this post:

- i) Appointment of suitable person from existing Board of Directors.
- ii) Appointment through open advertisement.
- iii) Appointment on deputation basis from officers in BS-21-22 (equivalent to the post of MD, PTV).

Chairman, Standing Committee advised that preference may be given to the department officials to give chances of internal promotion. He pointed out that appointment in the Board of Directors is made on the basis of personal liking/ disliking and suitability is not being judged in the appointment. He advised that PTV should be now run with creative ways, as PTV is not only one media channel in the county. Senator Robina Khalid also stated that there should be suitable persons in the Corporation for this post, otherwise question can be raised about the existing of the department.

Senator Farhatullah Babar recommended that MD, PTV should have multiple expertise including marketing and finance etc. He suggested that formal appeal can be made against the Judgment of Islamabad High Court. He however, recommended that it is best option to appoint PTV own official as MD, PTV.

Senator Zafar Ali Shah stated that High Court has not forbidden Government to make appointment from amongst the officials of PTV. He inquired about the detail of amount paid to Ex-MD, PTV on account of 3% of the advertisements.

Dr.Nazir Saeed, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed that Ministry is already taking steps for the appointment to the post of MD, PTV, and we are also planning to make appeal against the judgment of the Islamabad High Court on the issue of 3% payment made to the Ex-MD, PTV, as payment of this amount was included in the pay package of the Ex-MD at the time of his appointment and was approved by the then Prime Minister.

Senator Saeed Ghani stated that there is need to prepare an evaluation report of the period of Ex-MD, PTV, that what was the position of revenue collection before and after the assumption of his charge as MD, PTV. He stated that agreement signed by the government with him should have been honoured.

Senator Farhatullah Babar and Senator Kamil Ali Agha were also of the view that, there is nothing wrong that if this payment was included in the agreement and also approved by the competent authority. They were of the view, that for increasing the revenue, special incentives can be given to suitable persons, while hiring from the open market.

After detailed discussion, the Committee recommended that summary for the appointment to the post of MD, PTV may be sent to the Prime Minister at the earliest. The Committee also advised that detail of agreement including the pay package of the Ex-MD, PTV and evaluation report of revenue before and after his assumption to the post of MD, PTV may be furnished to the Committee. The Committee also advised that the revenue generated during last 4 MDs, PTV may also be furnished to the Committee.

On the issue of posting / transfer of officials in the PTV, Chairman Standing Committee informed that in some cases one person was given charge of six posts, which created heartburning among others. He also inquired about the posting/ transfer made during the Caretaker Government and up till now.

Dr.Nazir Saeed, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting informed that in the light of the Judgment of Supreme Court of Pakistan, all posting transfers made during the Caretaker Government have been reversed, however some postings were made for improving the administrative issues of PTV.

The Committee advised that proper hearing may be given to every posting /transferee and in future postings/transfers should be made for the betterment of the Corporation, without pressure from any side. The Committee also advised that necessary steps may be taken for the proper training and for increasing the capacity building of the officials of the PTV and similarly steps may also be taken for the improvement of the performance of Anchor persons of the PTV.

On the on issue of FM Radio License to the Balochistan University Quetta, Chairman PEMRA informed, that license has been approved for the Balochistan University, and as soon as all the required formalities are fulfilled by the University, the formal license will be issued.

The Committee advised to complete all formalities in this regard immediately, as the license is for educational purpose.

All the members of the Committee expressed their concern over the non-implementation of PEMRA Laws over the satellite Channels. Senator Rubina Khalid pointed out that some TV Channels have ridiculed the women Parliamentarians in very shameful manners at the time of opening session of the National Assembly, but the PEMRA authorities remained silent. She also advised to check whether TV Channels are giving sufficient time for children programmes, entertainment programmes, sports activities and to public welfare messages etc. as per agreement. Senator Saeed Ghani and Senator Dr.Saeeda Iqbal stated that some private channels are insulting the office of the President.

Senator Farhatullah Babar was of the view that there should be no restriction on the broadcasting of political activities, however they should be advised to remain careful while discussion on legal matter. Senator Zafar Ali Shah pointed out that some anchor persons while discussion in the case of General Pervaiz Musharraf are misleading the people.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee stated that Committee has advised again and again for making a proper code of conduct for regulating the affairs of TV channels, but no action has been taken so far in this regard, in spite of the fact the report of the **Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim** Committee is already available with the Ministry as well as with the PEMRA.

The Committee therefore advised to prepare code of conduct immediately for the satellite Channels in the light of the report of the Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim committee, and to submit report in this regard to the Committee within 30 days.

The Committee however advised that in the meanwhile action may be taken against the TV Channels under the existing Laws, who are violating the PEMRA Laws, and are not giving sufficient time to the various segments of society as per agreement.

The Committee also advised to take action against the anchor persons who try to provoke the people deliberately against the state institutions. The Committee however advised that no restriction should be imposed on fair and free journalism.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- 1. To consider and finalize the draft “freedom of information law” as prepared by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and dully recommended by the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting.***

The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee welcomed all the participants of the Committee.

Senator Farhatullah Babar, who was convener of the Sub-Committee, gave a detailed background on the right of information bill. He informed that this bill was pending in the Ministry since last many years, but could not be introduced in the Parliament, therefore, the Standing Committee on Cabinet in its meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 constituted a Sub-Committee in this regard. The Sub-Committee held its several meetings and after detailed discussion with Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, NGOs and Ministry of Law & Justice the recommendations were finalized. He stated that the main purpose of the bill is to fulfill the requirements of the fair accountability of government departments therefore, if the bill is passed by the Parliament, it will be a great achievement of the Committee and as well as that the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. He informed the Committee that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee are in accordance with the provisions of Article 19-A of Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which give right to the every citizen of the country for being everything what he wants to know. He paid compliments to Senator Daud Khan Achakzai and Senator Syed Zafar Ali Shah, on their great contributions in preparing the bill.

Mr. Muhammad Azam Additional Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting informed that the final bill has been prepared after incorporating the recommendations of the Sub-Committee. He assured the Committee that after approval by the Standing Committee and the Cabinet, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting will present it into the Parliament as an official bill.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee offering his compliments to the Members of the Sub-Committee and as well as to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting stated that it was a serious issue and was a difficult task, however, the Sub-

Committee and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has achieved the target. He was of the view that there is need to take immediate steps, so that the bill could not be further delayed. He advised that the government and the Standing Committee should initiate the measures for the betterment of the common people.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha asked the members of the committee for giving suggestions for taking further steps in passing the bill. He advised that Federal Government should take leading role in passing the bill, as no Provincial Government has passed such bill so far. He hoped that after passing the bill in the Senate, the Provincial Governments can also follow this precedent.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting assured the committee that government will take all possible steps for passing the bill from the Parliament as soon as possible.

Senator Farhatullah Babar stated that in case after the approval of the Cabinet, the bill is presented in the Parliament, it will take too much time therefore, that all the Committee Members should signed the bill and under Rules 195 and 196 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, we may move the bill in the House. The Committee unanimously approved the proposal.

Senator Saeed Ghani pointed out that the Provincial Government of Balochistan had registered an FIR against the ARY Channel under the terrorist act on broadcasting a video relating to attack on the residency of Quaid-e-Azam at Ziarat. He further stated that the government of Balochistan had indicated that this FIR was registered on the directions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, but after a clarification by the Registrar Supreme Court of Pakistan, (that the court has not given any direction to the government of Balochistan) the FIR was withdrawn. He was therefore, of the view that as it is a serious matter, the Committee may therefore, discuss the issue in its next meeting to reach an ultimate conclusion. Senator Farhatullah Babar also stated that the Chief Minister of Balochistan has informed that the officials of Information Department had informed him that FIR has been registered on the directions of the Balochistan High Court. He therefore, recommended that there is need to know the truth about the registration of FIR against M/s ARY. Senator Rubina Khalid also advised that truth should come out before the members of the Standing Committee. She recommended that action may be taken against the real persons, who are behind the registration of serious FIR against ARY. Senator Pervaiz Rashid Minister for Information & Broadcasting also informed that Chief Minister Balochistan had informed to him that Provincial Authorities had indicated that case is being registered on the direction of the Supreme Court. However, the Registrar of the Supreme Court had denied this allegation. After discussion the Committee decided to take up the matter in the next meeting of the Standing Committee, so that the matter could be reached on a logical end.

Senator Rubina Khalid pointed out that the Standing Committee of the Senate as well as the Standing Committee of the National Assembly have given recommendations to the

---

Ministry / PEMRA for taking action on broadcasting of foreign contents on satellite channels however, it appears that no action has been taken so far in this regard, as in these days almost all the channels are broadcasting foreign contents. Senator Kamil Ali Agha showing his strong concern also stated that it is very alarming situation as PEMRA has not any action taken against any satellite channel on the broadcasting of foreign contents so far. The Committee decided to discuss this matter in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: - MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting were held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013, at Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda on 09-09-13 before the Committee was as under:-

1. Detailed Briefing on the case registered against M/m ARY by the provincial government of Balochistan under Anti-Terrorism Act.
2. Updating briefing On the recommendations of the Standing Committee made regarding broadcasting of foreign contents on Pakistani satellite channels.
3. Steps being taken for the appointment to the post of MD, PTV on of PTV during last four months. Detail of persons employed on contract basis in PTV.
4. Detail of agreement including pay package of ex four MDs PTV and evaluation report of revenue before and after their appointment to the post of MD, PTV.

The agenda on 10-09-13 before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Update briefing on the recommendations of the Standing Committee made regarding advertisement policy for print as well as electronic media.
- ii. Update status about regularization of the services of employees serving on contract basis in the APP.
- iii. Update status on the proposed code of conduct for satellite channels in the light of Fakhrunddin G. Ebrahim report.
- iv. Detail of action against satellite channels on the violation of existing laws of PEMRA.

The proceedings of the meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Senator Saeed Ghani. The honorable chairperson welcomed the participants of the committee. The chairman of the standing committee advised the Secretary Information Department of the Balochistan government to update the standing committee about case registered against M/s ARY by the provincial government of Balochistan under Anti-Terrorism Act.

Mr. Qamar Masood the information secretary Government of Balochistan briefed that Balochstan Government is facing multi facet terrorisms from many years, which have been intensified in last 5 years, by costing more than one thousand casualties and these terrorism

incidents are committed by the different groups including sectarian, ethnical and regional conflicts. He clarified that case against M/s ARY was not registered under the influence of any Superior Court. He told the committee that similar cases were also registered against seven newspapers on the breach of laws on publishing the critical and prohibited material/ contents. The contents of the M/s ARY`s program were violation of the fundamental rights of the peoples, and there was also pressure from Balochistan High Court for taking actions look into it. He informed that the case has however been withdrawn after the orders of the CM Balochistan.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee appreciated the CM Balochistan decision of withdrawal of the controversial case against M/s ARY, however at the same time, criticized Balochistan Government`s decision on the registration of the case against the M/s ARY. Furthermore, he also identified the contradictions between the statements of Secretary Information Government of Balochistan, as M/s ARY had just telecasted realities; therefore the channel did not come under any terrorist act. Furthermore, Senator Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini pointed out that the violation of the fundamental rights of the citizens were also observed during the incident of the demolition of Ziarit Regency and its aftermath photage/ coverage, but neither any case was registered against any print or electronic media, and nor any warning was issued.

Senator Farhatullah Babar showing grave concerns stated that there is need to identify the hidden hand behind the registration of the case. Senator Saeed Ghani also endorsed the concerns of Senator Farhatullah Babar.

Senator Farha Aqil told that the media houses as well as media peoples are threatened by the terrorists to force them to give coverage to these groups. She therefore, suggested to recommend the security authorities to take serious initiatives/ steps for their security. She also advised to take action on broadcasting of Anti-Islamic programs on TV channels. The Secretary Information, Government of Balochistan endorsed the Senator Farah Aqil s` statement regarding the risks and pressure faced by the media peoples. He told the standing committee that the government officials, as well as the media peoples are also facing the worst and dangerous conditions, which sometimes, cast those losses in terms of lives and property too.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha stressed on the importance of free and independent media. He further stated that supremacy of the law can protect our rights He pointed out that committee has idea about the limitations, pressure from different quarters and threats faced by officers and appreciated the efforts to maintain law and order situation.

Mr. Rashid Ahmed Chaudhary Chairman PEMRA answering the question asked by Senator Kamil Ali Agha about notices issued to M/s ARY, stated that PEMRA had issued three notices to M/s ARY on different occasions. He further told the committee that two notices were replied so far by M/s ARY, besides the supreme court of the Pakistan has also asked the PEMRA about the details of the actions taken against M/s ARY in this regard.

Senator Zafar Ali Shah recommended that as it has been admitted that wrongly lodged/ registered case against M/s ARY have been withdrawn, so further probe in this regard would be futile and the committee therefore should move forward by finishing the issue. He however, advised that the media houses however should avoid broadcasting unfair, unethical and extreme programs, which come against in normal code of conduct.

After detailed discussion the committee recommended that:-

- I. The committee expressed its grave concerns in the tragic incident of the attack as the residency of the Quaid-e-Azam at Ziarat and therefore, advised federal, as well as provinces Government to take necessary action to avoid such incidents in future.
- II. The registration of the case against M/S ARY is not acceptable, thus Government should not repeat such acts in future without any having substance proof against any media group.
- III. The provincial Government of Balochistan should provide the detail of cases registered against newspapers within 15 days.

The chairman PEMRA updating the committee, about broadcasting of foreign contents on Pakistani Satellite Channels informed that PEMRA has allowed only 10% foreign content on the Pakistani Channels.

Senator Saeed Ghani, while stating discussion in the broadcasting of foreign contents enquired about the details of the channels, violating the foreign contents policy and the actions taken by PEMRA against these channels in this regard. Senator Kamil Ali Agha chairman Standing Committee stated that the Committee had given recommendations so many times to keep an eye on the broadcasting of foreign contents on the satellite channels, and the Standing Committee of National Assembly had also given similar type of the recommendations, but instead of reducing the broadcasting in this regard, now almost all the channels are showing foreign contents round the clock, but the PEMRA authorities have closed eyes on this situation. All the other members showed great concerns on these states of affairs.

PEMRA Chairman informed that in case of any violation, PEMRA in first phase imposes the penalty of the fine, and in the next phase other penalties are imposed. He stated that channels usually obtain stay orders for restriction taking; resulting billions of the rupees are not being paid to PEMRA.

After discussion the committee recommended that within 10 days, PEMRA may provide the details of channels, who are violating PEMRA Rules, their terms of the licensing, privileges and subsequent obligations, the composition of the foreign contents in total contents/ telecast and the details of the fines imposed and received and also detail of pending cases in courts.

The committee also advised for legislation in this regard, to present comprehensive briefing about foreign contents in Pakistani Satellite channels, as the present briefing was not up to mark.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha showed displeasure on the report about non appointment to the post of MD PTV an appointment of the directors including their seniority list. He stated that on this unprofessional attitude, the issue can be referred to the Supreme Court. On the issue of appointment to the post of MD PTV, Dr Nazir Saeed, secretary Information and Broadcast informed, that for the appointment of the permanent MD PTV, Prime Minister has approved selection board, which will finalize its recommendations within 10 days. The committee advised to present the complete details of the directors, their appointment and seniority list within 10 days. In addition, as pointed out by Senator Zafar Ali Shah the detail of the 35 employees whose cases are pending since long may also be provided.

The chairman standing committee directed to present the complete details of the directors, their appointments and seniority list within 10 days. In addition, he also directed to present the details of the cases of 35 employees as pointed out by Senator Zafar Ali Shah.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha, the chairman of the standing committee pointed out PTV didn't deliberately participated in bid for exclusive rights of the cricket matches series between Pakistan & Sri Lanka and Pakistan & South Africa, which could enhance the revenue of the national channel and on the other hand, free hands have been given to a private channel and also one Indian channel. Secretary Information and Broadcast said that PTV owns the ICC terrestrial rights of cricket till 2016 so PTV therefore; it can earn the handsome revenue being sub- license of these matches.

The committee recommended that in the next meeting two ex MDs of the PTV may be called to brief the Committee regarding the merits and demerits of the view point of management of the PTV in this regard.

Mr. Imran Gardayzi PIO informed that according to the directions of the Standing Committee a web page for giving advertisement, mentioning all the relevant information has been developed. He informed that in a meeting the representatives of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) had recommended that 75 percent advertisement may be given on the recommendations of the client departments, and 25 percent may be distributed by PID to regional newspapers and according PID is following this criteria. He informed that web page is being developed with the cyber wing of the ministry, and as thus no extra amount will be spent in this regard. He however, informed that according to the directions of the Standing Committee necessary changes will be made in the web page. He indicated that there are 3 categories of advertisement i.e. metropolitan newspapers are in category A and the newspapers of other major cities are in category B and remaining are treated as regional newspapers and accordingly rates of each category are also different. He also indicated that internal data about category of the newspaper, rates of advertisement and amount of advertisement etc. will also be available on web. He informed that formulation of advertisement policy will be finalized after its ratifications of the Prime Minister.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee pointed out, that it was decided in the last meeting of the Standing Committee, that the process of advertisement will be centralized, as it was came into the notice that some departments give advertisement at their own and resultantly corruption scandals are sufficed, therefore, the intention of the Committee is to stop the corruption in awarding the advertisement to the newspapers. He stated that there should be clarity in the advertisement policy, and no unlimited powers may be given to the departments in determining the names of newspapers etc. He advised that there should be no injustice with any newspaper/category and summary in this regard be submitted to the Cabinet at the earliest for approval. Senator Saeeda Iqbal stated that there should be no deduction of advertisement for the regional newspapers, as it will be a great injustice with those papers. She recommended that steps be taken for the promotion of regional papers. Senator Farhatullah Babar stated that Committee had recommended for suitable amendments in the prevailing policy of the advertisement by developing a web page for maintaining complete transparency. He advised that for formulation of a comprehensive policy all the information of the newspapers should be monitoring through central media list and A, B, C, and there is also need to check the performance and functions of the A, B, C and central media list. He therefore, recommended that there should be professional input in maintaining the correct record of the publication of the newspapers for giving advertisement to the newspapers. He too, advised that all the proposals may be sent to the Cabinet for early approval as mentioning of all the relevant information on web will be a great achievement of the Standing Committee, and as well as of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Senator Farhatullah Babar further recommended that the advertisement policy should be implemented through proper legislation instead that of an executive order to avoid undue hurdles / pressure in implementation.

Mr. Nazir Saeed, Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting assured that as soon as the policy is formulated, after in consultation with all the stakeholders, the matter will be referred to the Cabinet Division for the approval of the Cabinet/ PM. He however, informed that on the issue of categories of newspapers some cases are pending in the courts.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid Minister for Information & Broadcasting also stated, that there is need to formulate a new advertisement policy as the present policy was introduced about 35 years ago. He informed the Committee that the rates of the advertisement of weekly magazines are more than the rates of monthly publications therefore; there is need for revisiting of these rates. He advised that the subject on which advertisement is being given should also be mentioned on the web page.

After detailed discussion, on this subject the Committee recommended that:-

- 1) The work for development of web page mentioning information about the newspaper and subtitled of advertisement should be completed within 2 weeks positively.
- 2) The advertisement policy should be centralized and the rates of the category A, B and regional papers may also be revisited in the light of the present requirements.

- 3) The names of the newspapers to which advertisement is being given should also be mentioned on web page.
- 4) The title of the advertisement like Polio etc. should also be clearly mentioned on the web.
- 5) The Names of the newspapers should be mentioned at the web according to category wise and no advertisement maybe given to dummy and not entitled newspapers.
- 6) Steps should be taken for the determination of rates of newspapers publishing from various cities.
- 7) After discussion with all the stakeholders, the rates of regional newspapers, category B and publishing from metropolitan cities may be fixed, as old rates were fixed a very long time ago.
8. There should be clear definition of newspapers of falling in category A and B as present definition is very old, and accordingly the formula for giving advertisement may be revisited.
9. There is need to check the A, B, C of newspapers, as the publication of some newspapers is very low but the figures are being shown in high numbers.
10. The detail of advertisement given to each category during last 6 months may be provided in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.
11. The category wise correct information of newspapers should be mentioned at web page. The progress report on the recommendations of the Standing Committee may be provided within 15 days.

On the issue of regularization of the employees in APP Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee stated that the Committee in its last meeting had advised for the regularization of the services of the employees serving on contract basis in APP. He enquired about the present status of these employees.

Mr. M. Khalid Sarwar MD APP informed that there were total 139 employees serving on contract basis in the APP however, the Sub-Committee of the Cabinet regularized the

cases of 59 officials, and cases of 80 employees were deferred due to different reasons including short of service as required under the rules. He however informed that some of the employees now fulfill the requisite length of service i.e. 9 months. Senator Pervaiz Rashid Minister for Information & Broadcasting informed that prima facie the appointments of these officials were made on political basis, as the sanctioned strength of the APP is about 900, while presently 1100 people are serving in this agency. He therefore, stated that there is need to check the need of these employees, and there are also budgetary problems in the regularization of the services of these employees.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting stated, that there is need to consider their cases on humanitarian grounds and the committee had already recommended in its last meeting of the Standing Committee that in future appointment should be made on need basis.

Senator Farhatullah Babar recommended that the services of employees who have completed the requisite length of service may be regularized. However, the cases of employees who have not completed requisite length of service may be deferred. Senator Zafar Ali Shah recommended that at this stage, it is right of these officials for confirmation and all formalities / requirements should be examined at the time of the appointment, therefore, the services of these employees may be regularized, besides some of them have post graduate degrees, and they are being paid very nominal amount. He further stated that their cases may be decided immediately, as in case of termination of their services after 4 to 5 years, the families of the officials will suffer badly. Senator Daud Khan Achakzai also recommended that all formalities should be observed at the time of appointment; therefore, their services may be regularized immediately.

After listening observations / queries of the Members of the Standing Committee, Senator Pervaiz Rashid Minister for Information & Broadcasting informed, that government is observing the performance of APP and after that the cases of provision of grant and regularization of the services of these employees will be considered. The Committee advised to consider their cases immediately on priority basis and submission of report in this regard to the Committee. The Committee however, advised that in future appointment should be made on merit through advertisement and also on need basis.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee starting discussion on the issue of cricket matches series between Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka, stated, that it is continuously coming in the media that PTV has not deliberately took part in the bidding process for the live telecasting of these matches. All the Members of the Committee also showed their grave concern on this issue.

Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting however, informed the Committee that PTV will broadcast the matches of ICC and the rights of worldwide broadcasting of these matches are with PTV, however, due to financial constraints PTV did not took part in broadcasting of matches on local basis. The members of the Committee were not satisfied with this information. The Committee therefore advised, that in the next meeting:-

1. The detail of revenue;

- i. In case of live transmission at its own.
- ii. In case of broadcasting of these matches being sub license. Above mentioned scenarios may be furnished in the next meeting of the standing committee.

2. Two Ex -MDs of PTV may also be advised to attend the next meeting to give their view point in this regard and also what was position during their tenures.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee pointed out the issues in PTV are not being handled in good manner as there is lot of favoritism and corruption in PTV. He advised that report may be submitted in the next meeting of the Standing Committee. He further pointed out that the services of people are being hired from the open market on heavy remuneration, and on the other hand the employees of the PTVC, own pay roll are sitting idle. He pointed out that such type of acts are earning bad names for PTV. Senator Pervaiz Rashid Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting assured to look into the affairs of the PTV, and for submission of report to the Standing Committee.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha enquired about the action taken on the directions of the Standing Committee made regarding Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim Committee, which was constituted for framing the code of conduct for satellite channels.

Mr. Muhammad Azam Additional Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting informed that the Ministry has contacted so many times to the Pakistan Broadcasters Association the input but association is not responding in this regard as according to the PBA, the Code of Conduct should be imposed by the channel itself and it should not be regulated through any regulatory body including PEMRA. He further informed that in fact PBA has not recognized the authority of PEMRA, so far and are not even implementing the terms and conditions of PEMRA, which are mentioned in the license of a channel.

Senator Farhatullah Babar enquired about, whether any action can be taken against channels on the violation of existing PEMRA laws. He was not agreed on the stance of the PBA that satellite TV channels may impose Code of Conduct at their own, and not by the PEMRA, as PBA is not only major stakeholder in this matter, but the people of Pakistan are major stakeholders in the broadcasting. He therefore, recommended that being the representatives of the peoples of Pakistan, Parliament should give its input in this regard. He pointed out that there were some reputable persons in the Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim Committee therefore; its recommendations may be made part of the regulations of the PEMRA through proper legislation. Senator Saeed Ghani stated that at the time of taking license of channel, the owners of channel except the terms and conditions of the PEMRA including the clauses of Code of Conduct of PEMRA, therefore, action may be taken against the channels on the violation of

existing PEMRA rules. He advised that in the light of recommendations of the report of, Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim, proposal of PBA, Javed Jabbar Commission and Commission set by Supreme Court of Pakistan, a comprehensive report on Code of Conduct may be sent to the Committee for further action.

Chaudary Rasheed Ahmed, Chairman PEMRA informed, that as and when PEMRA impose fine penalty against channels, they get stay order from the courts, resultantly a lot of cases are pending in various courts since 2008.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee enquired about the legal team of the PEMRA. He advised that the list of advocates of penal of PEMRA along with payments being made to them may be furnished to the Committee. He strongly directed that PEMRA should prepare its strong legal team for pursuing the cases in the courts. Senator Farhatullah Babar stated that it is right of any channel to move in to the court on any issue, however, PEMRA should also plead cases with good lawyers in the courts. He advised that detail of court cases pending in various courts may be furnished to the Committee.

After detailed discussion on this subject, the Committee advised that:-

- 1) PEMRA should furnish the detail of cases pending against PEMRA in various courts and detail of outstanding amount against channels maybe submitted to the Committee.
- 2) PEMRA should move application in the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding their cases pending in Sindh High Court since 2008 regarding revenue collection.
- 3) Progress on framing of Code of Conduct may be submitted within 15 days to the Standing Committee, however in the meanwhile action may be taken against the channels on the violation under the existing PEMRA rules.
- 4) The representatives of PBA may also be advised to attend the next meeting of the Standing Committee on the issue of code of conduct.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Update position of the appointment of MD PTV.
- ii. Detail of action on violation of seniority list of various posts in PTV.
- iii. Comparison of pay packages / incentives of last 4 MDs and that of present one.
- iv. Briefing on the appointment of Directors in PTV and also detail of action taken on violation of seniority list in this regard.
  - a. Briefing on the appointment and discontinuation of appointments on contract basis in the last six months.
  - b. Briefing on the appointment of Dr. Nauman Niaz (Anchor) as Head of Operations and Contents, his High handedness and procedure adopted for his appointment.
  - c. Present position of appointment cases of 35 officials in PTV as pointed out by Senator Zafar Ali Shah.
- v) Impacts in revenue in broadcasting of the cricket matches series between Pakistan, Sri Lanka and South Africa in both the situation i.e. through direct broadcasting and through Sub-Licensing of other channels.
- vi) Comparison of last series during last 2 MDs may also be indicated.
- vii) Details of utilization of PTVs own experts rather than hiring of professionals from open market on higher packages.
- viii) Details of achievements with specific reference to revenue generation during last 4 to 6 months.

The meeting started with recitation from the Holy Quran. All the Committee Members strongly showed their concern for the late submission of working paper. The Committee therefore, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting that in future working paper may be submitted in time for the perusal of the Members of the Standing Committee. Senator Parvaiz

Rashid Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting assured for compliance. Senator Farhatullah Babar however, recommended that in future in case of late receiving of working paper, the meeting of the Standing Committee may be postponed for that day.

**On the issue of appointment of MD PTV** on permanent basis, Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting informed that a summary for the constitution of promotion committee has already been approved by the Prime Minister. The promotion / selection committee has already held interviews of the existing directors of the PTV for appointment to the post of MD PTV. He further that in case of selection is not made from amongst the existing directors for the slot of MD PTV the post will be advertised for making appointment from open market and all preparations have been finalized in this regard. He assured that the decision in this regard will be taken within one or two days.

Senator Saeeda Iqbal recommended that all bylaws / rules / regulations of the PTV should be followed in the appointment of MD PTV. Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee advised that during this period, Secretary Information & Broadcasting being the Chairman of PTV should oversee the affairs of PTV in two manners, as in spite of clear directions of the Standing Committee given during the last meeting illegal practices are being again committed and all the affairs are not being discussed / reviewed in the board meeting.

**On the agenda item regarding violation of seniority list of various employees in the PTV**, Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting informed that 2 or 3 employees have raised objection on the seniority list, and after proper hearing their case will be decided on merit. He informed that some officials want posting at their own choices, which is not possible as posting / transfer is made on the basis of suitability. Senator Kamil Ali Agha stated that implementation on the seniority list should be made on merit and without any discrimination, as the Supreme Court of Pakistan has also given directions in this regard. Senator Farah Aqil informed that in PTV Peshawar Centre, the affairs of employees are not being dealt on merit, as only the officials which have link with trade unions have access with the directors and no attention is given to the remaining employees. She therefore, recommended that immediate steps may be taken for the remedy of their grievances.

Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting informed that some employees of the PTV Peshawar Centre had met with him regarding their grievances and he will try his best to solve the issues. Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee advised Secretary Information & Broadcasting and MD PTV for conducting a regular visit to all the PTV Centres in the country and for proper hearing of the problems of the employees, which can improve performance of the department. Senator Kamil Ali Agha pointed out that the issue of the seniority of 4 directors of the PTV is hanging since long therefore, it may be solved immediately. He further advised that appointment to the post of director news may be made immediately. Secretary Information & Broadcasting assured that action will be taken on all the directions of the Standing Committee made in last meeting and also that in the current meeting and the information will be provided to the Standing Committee within 7 days. Secretary Information &

Broadcasting further informed the Committee that the number of members of the board of governors is being increased and selection will be made from relevant field.

Senator Rubina Khalid recommended that the meetings of the promotion board may be held soon, and the work may be given to the relevant persons having rich experience in the relevant field. She also advised that promotion may be given on seniority come fitness basis, besides PTV should for capacity building and increase in the performance of the PTV proper training may be given to the employees of the PTV. The Standing Committee advised that the meeting of the promotion board may be held soon for giving promotion to the eligible officials according to the seniority list. The Committee also advised that detail of violation of seniority list may also be provided to the Committee and the minutes of the last meeting of the promotion board may be sent to the Committee within 10 days. The Committee further recommended the selection of directors may be made with the approval of board of governors and the decisions in the board of governors should be made with fully transparent manners and affairs of institution should not be run on adhoc basis. The Committee directed that all relevant information may be sent to the Standing Committee before the first week of November, 2013.

On not participating by the PTV in the bidding for cricket series between Pakistan, Sri Lanka and South Africa, the PTV officials informed that Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) floated invitation to Tender (ITT) unprecedentedly in piecemeal Global Rights for above mentioned series, against PPRA rules by giving only 21 days contrary of 30 days. It was also informed the Committee that it could be costly endeavor for the Pakistan Television Network (PTV), as it may incur the projected cost of USD 12.5 million while the projected revenue from these both series may be USD 3.5 million, which may result a heavy loss to the PTV. Furthermore, it was also informed that PTV is planning to participate for the bid of 5 years Global Rights, which may be floated in December 2013 by PCB and PTV would sub-license the coverage/ live broadcasting of these serious form Ten Sports and Geo so that as previously done.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha welcoming Mr. Yousaf Baig Mirza in the proceedings of the Committee meeting stated that during the tenure of Mr. Yousaf Baig Mirza PTV has achieved some good targets, and PTV also succeeded to get contracts for broadcasting of matches of cricket series at international, as well as local level. Besides during the tenure of Mr. Yousaf Baig Mirza PTV has earned a reasonable amount in shape of revenue in different fields, as about Rs.2.49 billions were received in advertisement during his tenure. He advised that PTV should take benefit from his expertise.

Mr.Yousaf Baig Mirza, the Ex-MD, PTV suggested that PTV should had been participated in that bid for the coverage/ telecast of these serious, as PTV has the highest viewer-

ship in the country. He also suggested that PTV management should approach PCB regarding any objection on its piecemeal bid policy.

Mr. Tamoor Azmat, the Ex-MD, PTV pointed out that in such scenarios top management decisions rely/depend on the input/feedback provided/given by marketing and other departments. He commented that due to the highest share of viewer-ship, the PTV Sports is currently the major player/stakeholder of Pakistani market, thus PCB should have addressed the objections of PTV regarding Piecemeal Global Rights and he suggested the Standing Committee to ask PCB regarding its stance for piecemeal bid. He recommended that PCB and PTV should give their view point on following:

- i. Why instead of the 5 year Global Rights, a piecemeal bid was sought and that too only global and not separately for the Pakistani territory?
- ii. Why did PCB give 21 days from the date of the release of the Invitation to Tender (ITT) until the final bid and why not standard 30 days as per the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules?
- iii. By dividing the bid winners and not jointly deciding upon the series, by giving one series each to the bidders, creating a cartel?
- iv. Was piecemeal Global Rights exercised to facilitate the Geo Network?
- v. Why bid was suspended to the next day, when Ten Sports had given the higher bid for the two Series?
- vi. How could a Director of Geo Network be interim Chairman of PCB?
- vii. Why didn't PCB refer to other stakeholder and directly give the coverage of the Peachtree model from October 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013?

Senator Kamil Ali Agha endorsing Mr. Youssif Baig Mirza and Mr. Tamoor Azmat point of views regarding participation in bid for telecast rights of upcoming cricket series Pakistan & South Africa and Pakistan & Sri Lanka, stated that PTV hasn't provided the revenue assessment methodology from the broadcasting of these upcoming cricket series, which influenced the PTV on management to quit/withdraw from the bidding. He indicated that despite the provision, PTV didn't raise its objectives/ observations with PCB, such negligence hampered the image of the organization. He recommended that the PCB officials should attend the next Standing Committee meeting and inform and elaborate PCB point of view regarding this issue.

The Committee recommended that PTV should raise objections on the tendering process on PCB. The PTV should have taken part in the bidding process at any cost. In the

next meeting, the officials of PCB may also be advised to attend the next meeting of the Standing Committee in this regard.

Director Accounts, PTV informed the Standing Committee about the financial performance of the PTV under the acting MD (Mr.Qazi Mustafe Kamal) during the time horizon/ period of 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 till 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 that Rs.4.02 billion of total income earned, out of which Rs.1.42 billion from advertisement income, while Rs.3.93 billion of total expenses incurred, which resulted the net profit of Rs.87 million. He further indicated/informed that due to the effective cost cutting strategy of the current management of PTV, the organization directly saved the amount of Rs.350 million.

The Committee appreciating the revenue generated and savings during the Acting MD, recommended that incentives may also be given on the good performance of the MDs appointed from amongst the departmental directors, like being paid in case of direct appointments. The Committee advised that in the next meeting, the detail of payment made on the purchase of dramas from open market during last six months along-with the detail of achievements during last six months may also be submitted.

**On the appointment of Dr.Nauman Niaz, as head of operations and contents in the PTV**, all the Committee members expressing their concerns stated that the services of officials should be hired through open advertisement after fulfilling all the required criteria, as the present appointment is against the existing appointment policy of the PTV. The Committee members also stated that he was appointed as an Anchor person, but he has been given too many powers including hiring the services of experts, therefore the Committee advised that he should perform the duty as an Anchor person only, and all other powers given to him may be withdrawn immediately. The Committee further advised that there is also need to check the legality of decisions made by him. It was also recommended that in future no extra powers may be given to the irrelevant persons and right person should be kept on right place. The Committee finally advised that strict disciplinary action may be taken in case of any violation of rules/law.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

The follow up meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting to examine/ analyze/ update the implementation on the recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 26th November, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

Regarding PEMERA

- i. Steps taken for the preparation of code of conduct for satellite channels in the light of report of Fakhruddin G. Ebrahim Committee and other Commissions, established for this purpose.
- ii. Detail of action taken under the existing PEMRA laws against the TV channels who are violating PEMRA laws regarding broadcasting of foreign contents and for not giving sufficient time to the various segments of the society as per agreement.
- iii. Steps being taken to stop the Anchor persons who are trying to provoke the people deliberately against the state institutions.
- iv. Detail of cases pending off and against PEMRA in various courts.
- v. Detail of amount outstanding against various channels.
- vi. Steps taken for the early hearing of pending cases in superior courts.
- vii. Update on TV Channels telecast on Mobile telephone.
- viii. Digitalization of cable.

Regarding PID

- i. Up-date position about the development of web-page for giving advertisements to the newspapers.
- ii. Steps taken for the fixing of rates/tariff category-wise including metropolitan/ regional newspapers.
- iii. Action taken to stop giving of advertisements to the dummy and non-entitled newspapers.
- iv. Steps taken for the checking of ABC of Newspapers.
- v. Detail of advertisement giving to each category during last six months.

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. After welcoming remarks, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee indicated that many programs are being broadcasted on TV channels in negation to our social and religious values, and enquired about the latest developments/progress/ compliance update on the recommendations of the Standing Committee. Senator Saeed Ghani pointed that the PEMRA rules and regulations are itself code of the conduct, because these are very comprehensively defined, he enquired about the efforts/ steps taken for its implementation.

Chaudary Rashid Ahmed, the Chairman PEMRA informed the Committee that in order to frame the unanimous code of conduct, all the stakeholders have been taken on board. He further informed that several meetings have been held with Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) in compliance with the recommendations made in the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 13. The PBA provided the draft of the code of conduct of 2009, which was an old version, resultantly the final draft of code of conduct for programs and advertisement for broadcast media distribution services couldn't have been finalized so far. In addition, the Supreme Court on the report of the media commission has to be part of the report. Answering the query asked by Senator Saeed Ghani, he informed the Committee that Supreme Court in its order has set aside the PEMRA Regulations 2012, which is amended version of PEMRA Rules 2002 and according to these rules, the TV Channels were fined against the violations of the provisions laid down in it. Dr. Nazir Saeed, the Secretary Information and Broadcasts assured that the initial draft is ready in this regard and after the verdict of SC and the input from PBA would be finalized very soon.

Senator Farhatullah Babar indicated that in previous meeting of the Standing Committee, the Chairman PEMRA had informed the Committee that PBA has declined the suggestions/directions of PEMRA regarding submission of their input with their stance that they will devise the code of conduct for themselves for TV channel rather than following PEMRA code of conduct. He therefore, suggested that PEMRA should implement its own code of conduct for the broadcast of TV Channel after communicating to PBA within 3 weeks, as it is PEMRA statutory responsibility, to frame/ design and to implement code of conduct. Senator Kamil Ali Agha pointed out that Supreme Court in its judgment has categorically authorized PEMRA to establish code of conduct after the appointment/ induction of a regular chairman of PEMRA, which has already been appointed. The Committee further advised that on the implementation of the proposed code of conduct of PEMRA, in case of any observation/ notice

by any Court/ Supreme Court, the court may be informed about the recommendation/ directions of the Standing Committee in this regard.

Mr. Parvez Rashid, Minister of Information and Broadcasts and Heritage assured the Committee that in the lights of the directions of the Standing committee the amended draft of PEMRA Code of Conduct would be sent to the PBA for implementation and also be advised to submit/furnish its reservations/ suggestions if any, within a week.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha, the Chairman Standing Committee indicated about the violations being committed by the TV Channels in broadcasting of foreign content. He pointed out that Committee will ensure that all legal formalities are fulfilled and sincere efforts are taken for the betterment of the common man. Senator Farha Aqil pointed out those violations are committed deliberately in order to promote certain/ specific proxy; which is damaging morality and ethical standards of our society. Senator Rubina Khalid endorsing Senator Kamil Ali Agha and Senator Farha Aqil commented that it is pathetic for the society that broadcasting of controversial irregular contents violates the rights of different segments of society, as these are neither informative, nor educational and children centric/targeted programs are being telecasted by TV Channels. Senator Shirala Malik endorsing the Committee members pointed out, that as an Islamic country, there is huge influence of Turkish program and its culture on the Pakistan society, however some contents of Turkish programs are against the moral values of our society and these programs are frequently telecasted on Pakistani TV channels with Urdu dubbing.

The Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Heritage informed that the composition of broadcasting of programs by TV channels according to PEMRA regulations is consisted of 90% locally produced contents, while 10% of foreign programs/ contents. He also requested that the Committee should recommend for the revisit/ review of foreign content policy, for proper legislative.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha indicated that according to the definition of Foreign Content, prescribed in the PEMRA Regulations, the foreign content with Urdu dubbing should not be broadcasted. Thus PEMRA after consultation with Law, Justice and Human Rights Division should review this definition.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha commented that the preference may be given on the establishment and strengthening of the institutions. He also suggested that the TV anchors should follow the code of conduct and avoid to demolish the ethical and societal values. Senator Rubina Khalid showing her concerns on the discussion of the controversial issues commented that such futile discussion may hamper/disturb the harmony among the various sects. The Committee showing concerns over certain programs, which trigger the clashes among the followers of different sects and humiliation of certain political figures.

On the agenda item pertaining cases against the PEMRA, the Committee was informed that an application has been filed in Supreme Court against the stay orders of the Sindh Court.

The Committee showing dissatisfaction over the performance of Legal Wing of PEMRA advised for the reorganization of the Legal Department.

On the agenda pertaining to TV programs being watched on Mobile Phones, the Committee was informed that some channels can be watched on mobile phones, which are being seen on cable TV, however due to some technical limitation its performance/ quality of telecast is not effective. The committee was also informed that after the availability of 3G spectrum/ technology, the coverage/ quality of the telecast of TV channels may be improved.

The Chairman PEMRA answering the query asked by Senator Kamil Ali Agha about the transmission of the illegal channels on internet, informed that some channels are web based therefore they are being telecasted on the internet, while out of 91 PEMRA licensed channels, 84 are on line and 7 licensed channels have been issued notices for immediately starting of live streaming. Furthermore, he also assured the Committee for overseeing the streaming/ broadcasting of illegal channels.

On the agenda item of digitalization of the cable TV, the Committee was informed that till 2015 the cable TV would be shifted from analogy to digitalization, therefore every cable TV operator during the renewal of license, is being asked for digitalization of the cable TV. The Secretary I&B informed the Committee that for DHT and Digitalization of the cable TV in the country, PC-I has been moved to P&D for approval on the priority base. He also informed that presently there are proposals from Japanese and Russian companies for the digitalization of cable TV.

Mr. Imran Gardazi, the PIO updating the Committee on development of web-page for giving advertisement to the newspapers informed the Committee that on the directions of Standing Committee the web-page has been developed. He also showed the specimen of the web-page to the Committee through briefing.

The Committee appreciated the efforts taken for the development of the web-page. However Senator Saeed Ghani suggested that regional papers may also be displayed on that web-page. Senator Kamil Ali Agha suggested for avoiding, to benefit certain newspapers by adopting pick and choose policy. Senator Farhat Ullah Babar pointed out that in the present framework objective of the development of web-page was of the identification of the newspapers category and detail of advertisement given. He also suggested for legislation after reviewing the four pillars i-e ABC, Central Media List, advertisement rates and advertisement policy. He also drew the attention of the Committee members toward the press release of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) which was published in 19<sup>th</sup> October, about non display of advertisement on web-page, which is violation of rules, the PID, therefore should take the issue.

The PIO commented that with mutual cooperation and shared responsibility all the issues will be dealt in a better way. He also informed about the positive move by the Secretary I&B for the rationalization of Central Media List. He assured for implementation of the aforementioned four pillars of advertisement policy. He further informed that in the light of Standing Committee recommendations, consultation with ABC for review of Central Media List are under process.

Mr. Tariq Mehmood, the Director ABC informed that there are no prescribed rules for regulations of ABC and steps are being taken for the it's framing/ devise. He also informed that the core function of ABC is to review the claims of newspapers. He further informed that fake records for claims are provided by many newspapers, which cannot be verified due to limited staff and non-existing of prescribed rules for ABC, therefore, the decisions regarding claims are taken on spot in order to avoid the discrepancies.

On answering the query asked by Senator Kamil Ali Agha regarding the code of conduct for print media, Mr. Imran Gardezi, PIO appreciating the Standing Committee efforts for the betterment of the institutes and society informed that for print media, there is already code of conduct any violation. He also assured that on the directions of Standing Committee more effective code of conduct for print media would be devised.

Answering to a query asked by Senator Saeed Ghani regarding the advertisement in regional/ provincial newspapers, he informed that the advertisements are made for addressing/attracting the target population and preferences is given to fulfill the client's requirements.

After detailed deliberations, the following recommendations were made by the Committee;

- I. PEMRA should implement the code of conduct for broadcasting of TV channels within a week.
- II. Details regarding name of channel and its agreement with PEMRA, composition of contents allowed being broadcast, nature/type of violation and action taken against violation committed in every 15 days may be provided till six months and also may be uploaded on the PEMRA website.
- III. Policy of broadcasting of foreign contents on the local channels may be reviewed.
- IV. Federal Government may also revisit media policy.
- V. Local as well foreign programs about education, children, and health may be ensured as per agreement.
- VI. Detail of all type of outstanding amount against each channel of PEMRA may be prescribed to the Committee.
- VII. Legislation framework and the active monitoring mechanism regarding foreign contents should be revisited for rationalization.
- VIII. The Legal department of PEMRA may be reorganized and the services of competent lawyers may be hired and a report in this regard may also be furnished to Committee.
- IX. Through competent lawyers the cases pending in the Supreme Court and Sindh High Court may be persuaded on priority basis.
- X. Services of cable TV operators may be improved through digitalization.
- XI. Public awareness campaign about the digitalization of cable TV may be launched.
- XII. After consideration of four pillars of advertisement policy regarding Central Media list, ABC Classification, Rates of Advertisement and Legislation of Advertisement, details may be uploaded on web page.
- XIII. ABC may formulate its rules and regulations within 30 days, and the same may be uploaded on web page and the issues regarding the newspaper's circulation and tariff may also be highlighted in it.
- XIV. Regional newspapers may be given due share in the advertisement.
- XV. There should be no injustice to any category/ paper.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTINGS

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcastings was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- i. Detail of the persons employed in PBC during last two years on permanent/ contract/ daily basis.
- ii. Report/ Briefing on the application filed by Ms. Rizwana Khan Ex-Urdu News Reader/ Music producer, PBC Headquarter, referred by the Honorable Chairman Senate Under Rule 166 of the “ Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate 2012” for inquiry.
- iii. Report on the application from Youth Forum, Skardu.
- iv. Detail briefing on the National Heritage’s Working and establishment.

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. After welcoming remarks, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee stated that for ensuring transparency in the recruitment / appointment process, it must be in accordance/ compliance of the prescribed formalities. However, he showed his disapproval over the information provided regarding the appointments made in PBC during last two years and therefore advised to provide the detailed information including the advertisement(s), the interview committee (s) , number of the candidates, who applied for these posts and number of the candidates, who appeared for the test and interview etc. Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Minister for Information & Broadcastings, Dr. Nazeer Saeed, Secretary Information and Broadcastings assured that the required information will be provided to the Committee, very shortly.

On the issue of the application filed by Ms. Rizwana Khan, an Ex-Urdu News Reader/ Music Producer, Ms. Samina Pervaiz, DG PBC informed the Committee that, the said employee was hired on the contract basis from 10-04-2010, later on, her contract was extended for three years, however due to her casual attitude towards official assignments, the contract was revoked on 30.06.13. She informed that a suite was allotted to her in PBA Hostel, Islamabad, but on the complaints regarding her allegedly immoral/ embarrassing attitude, the said suite was

vacated on 06-06-2013. She informed that a writ petition filed by her in IHC in this regard was also dismissed by the Court in favour of PBC.

Senator Farhatullah Babar pointed out, that the contract of the complainant was for a period of three years; however, the complainant has claimed that she was working for 2007. He also pointed out that according to “Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010”, it is mandatory to constitute/ establish a departmental inquiry committee to probe such complaints before referring to Ombudsman, however no inquiry was conducted in this case. Besides, he raised queries on the allotment of a suite to contractual employee, as it was not her entitlement but no any action was taken against this violation. Senator Rubina Khalid endorsing Senator Farhatullah Babar stated that it is terrible, that on allegations, she was charged of guilty, instead of any concrete proofs. Senator Kamil Ali Agha indicated that on the complaints of harassment of the aggrieved, a FIR was lodged against an officer of PBC, but no action was taken to address her grievances. Besides, the Members also showed their concerns over the forcefully displacement of the aggrieved from the allotted suite in PBC Hostel prior to her expiration of the contract. The committee therefore advised that a departmental inquiry committee may be constituted as per defined in the aforementioned Act and the case of the complainant may be reconsider as per the recommendations/ observations of the committee members.

The Committee was briefed about the profile of the application from Youth Forum, Skardu, which was about the reinstating/ regularization of two contractual employees of PBC at Skardu . DG PBC informed that for resolving the issue, the meeting was held between Station Director Skardu and both the employees. She also informed that presently, both the employees have been regularized/ reinstated.

The Committee advised that all the issues must be resolved according to law and the complete report may be furnished in this regard.

After the detailed deliberations, the following recommendations were made;

- I. Detailed information of the recruitment process including the advertisement(s) published for the appointments, the interview committee (s) and number of the appointments in each sitting along with the offered pay packages, adopted for the appointments in PBC during last two years may be provided.

- II. All the issues pertaining to the appointments/ regularization must be resolved according to law and the complete report may be furnished in this regard.
- III. All the discrepancies in Ms. Rizwana Khan`s issue should be removed/ settled.
- IV. A departmental inquiry may be conducted to address the grievances of Ms. Rizwana Khan as per defined in the protection women harassment Act 2010, to avoid any such incident in future.
- V. The experienced and humble broadcasters may be assigned to host/ broadcast the high profile occasions/ ceremonies.

Mr. Nazir Ahmed, Deputy Secretary National Heritage Wing informed that the wing was established in the wake of 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 2010, by converting from M/o National Heritage & integration in 2011, later on, it was merged with M/o of Information & Broadcastings. He also briefed about the profile, mission statement, functions, organogram, human resource, budgetary allocation, public sector programs, and issues of the said entity. Besides, he informed about the allies entities in ambit of the National Heritage Wing, and the detail of its human resources. He also highlighting the International Cooperation and Cultural Exchange Programs (CEPs) informed that out of 66, there are 5active, while the rests are in renewal and process phases. Furthermore, he briefed about the initiatives are being taking , which entails/ includes the construction of Pakistan Park at Mazar-e-Quaid, preservation of Sheikhupura fort, establishment of national film academy, incorporation of intangible cultural heritage in curriculum and the publications of various related subjects/ topics pertaining to archeology and Buddhism etc.

Senator Farhatullah Babar enquired about that the scope as well as potential of the wing in enormous, and also about the steps being taken to preserve the historical/ heritage sites, as due attention is not being given to the historical buildings in the country, besides no reasonable arrangements for the preservation of National Heritage have been made, resultantly due to poor condition of these buildings, the significant decrease in the number of tourists to these visiting sites has been observed, and the country is being deprived of from reasonable earnings through this source. Senator Rubina Khalid commented that the art and the heritage are the signs of the national identity, therefore steps must be taken for the promotion of the national identity, among international nations.

Mr. Nazir Ahmed informed that after the devolution of the power/ abolishing of the concurrent list, the historical sites/ building are the provincial subject/ items, therefore these are in the domains of the provinces. However, he informed that the steps are being taken to retrieve

back the sites/ monuments, listed in UNESCO World Heritage List as well as in Federal list. He further informed that for the building of a soft image in other countries of the world, a cell has been established which is working for the activation as well as extending, of the cultural exchange agreements with other countries. He also informed that the cultural peoples/ artists are being included in the delegations, for the visit of the cultural exchange programs. Secretary M/o Information & Broadcastings informed that after in consultation with the Law & Justice Department, the efforts are being done for the activation of the suspended international cultural agreements/ CEPs.

After the detailed deliberations, the following recommendations were made;

- I. All necessary steps may be taken for the preservation of the National Heritage/historical buildings in the country including Qila Bala Hissar, Peshawar, residence of Corps Commander, Lahore, and all other holy places of Buddhism in all over the country, which may be helpful for the development of the tourism industry.
- II. The steps for the enhancement as well as the standardization of the publications may be taken by adopting the scientific methods.
- III. Sufficient funds may be allocated for the preservation of the national heritage/ archeological sites & monuments.
- IV. The construction work of Pakistan Park at Mazar-e-Quaid may be completed on priority basis.
- V. Steps for the retaining of the handicrafts may be taken.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTINGS

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcastings was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at PTV Headquarter, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee would be as under:-

- a) Briefing on appointment of MD, PTV on permanent basis.
- b) Briefing and report regarding issues already discussed and decided by the Committee and what is the present status regarding implementations especially of 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2013.
- c) Detail of dramas purchased/produced by the PTV Home, detail of composition of Committee responsible for purchase of private production.
- d) Detail of postings/transfers and promotions during last six months.
- e) Detail of persons employed on contract or permanent basis or otherwise by PTV during last 8 months and report of discontinuation of appointment on contract basis.
- f) Detail of action on violation of seniority list of various posts in PTV including Directors.
- g) Appointment of junior most officer as GM, Karachi PTV by ignoring senior most officer stationed at Karachi.

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. After welcoming remarks, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee showed his reservations over the provided incomplete detail/ information regarding the appointment of MD PTV, and commented, that it may raise finger to the transparency/ fairness of the process, adopted for the appointment of MD PTV. Senator Farhatullah Babar endorsing Senator Kamil Ali Agha suggested to provide the required/ complete information about the appointment of the said post. However, the Committee welcomed newly appointed MD PTV and showed hope that new management would run the affairs of PTV in order. Dr Nazir Saeed, Secretary Information & Broadcastings assured that the required information would be provided very shortly.

Mr. Muhammad Malick, MD PTV briefing the Committee on the implementation status of the recommendations of the Standing Committee informed that;

- The eligible employees are being promoted on seniority cum fitness basis, and the seniority list is being followed in this regard, however few cases by the employees, have been filed in the courts regarding violation of the seniority list, but steps are being taken to entertain/settle/address their reservations.

- The management is working for the improvement of PTV, therefore all the appointment, transfer, promotion would be done on merit according to the prescribed rules.
- A Grievance Committee has been constituted to oversee as well as to resolve, the lingering issues of the employees and the junior officers have been advised to submit their grievances, if any.
- The services of a prominent chartered accounting firm is being hired for the forensic audit of the PTV's financial affairs of last three years, then after for five and ten years respectively.
- The degrees of the employees would be checked Higher Education commission (HEC) and the fake degree holders would be sacked/ terminated.
- The visits of the PTV centers locating across the country, are being carried out, in order to improve the present/ existing conditions.
- An exclusive training program in all disciplines including engineering, production, news reporting/ sub editing, nonlinear editing and graphics/ web have been designed. Furthermore, the designing of the specific courses with the collaboration of various universities is also under the process.

Senator Farah Aqil showing her concerns over the unavailability of the necessary equipment at PTV's Peshawar Centre stated that there are many multifarious issues are lingering in Peshawar center and she therefore advised to take immediate actions for improving/ correcting the affairs of the Center. Chairman Standing Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha appreciated on the initiatives being taken for making PTV, a profitable organization. He, however showing his concerns over the cases being filed against PTV regarding the seniority list stated that it could raise the questions on the fairness of this list. He enquired about the settlement of such discrepancies as well as dealing the pending cases against and to the PTV. He also enquired about the actions taken on irregularities/scams being reported/ highlighted.

MD PTV addressing the reservations raised by Senator Farah Aqil informed that due to its geo political importance, PTV's Peshawar center is an important one, therefore the targeted steps are being taken to remove all such discrepancies on the priority basis. Sectary Information & Broadcastings assured to issue/ release special grant to Peshawar center for the procurement of the required equipment. He assured that steps are also being taken for the restructuring and effectiveness of the Legal wing/ section of the PTV, for properly pursuing the stance of the PTV in courts. He also informed that all the cases filed by the employees of PTV, would be reviewed and detailed report would be furnished in this regard. Besides, he informed that in order to ensure transparency in the procurements, a center for the procurement, headed by DFO, would be constituted/ formulated. Sectary Information & Broadcastings informed that all the promotions in PTV would be done on merit and steps have been taken for settling the grievances of the employees.

Chairman Standing Committee Senator Kamil Ali Agha suggested that after the completion of the forensic audit of PTV, an audit may also be carried out/ conducted about comparison analysis of PTV`s expected/ projected income by participating in the piece meal deal of the broadcasting/ telecasting of Pak vs Sri Lanka & Pak vs South Africa cricket matches series, as there is need to conduct a comparative study that whether participation in the bidding was in the interest of PTV are otherwise.

.The Committee showed their serious concerns over the appointment of Dr. Noman Bashir as the Director Sports, and commented that despite provided records of the irregularities, allegedly have been committed by him, no fact finding inquiry has been conducted in this regard. Therefore, the Committee recommended that a fact finding committee may be constituted, which may probe the provided documentary proof/records against him and detailed report may be provided about the findings of the committee.

On the agenda item of the dramas purchased/ produced by the PTVC & PTV Home, the Committee was informed that total 9 programs of different episodes on different cost per episode according to the category wise were purchased from the private production houses since April 2013, out of which 4 are being televised and the rests have been completely televised. Syed Shakir Uzair, Director Programs further informed that total 36 & 11 programs have been produced by PTV Home & PTV- Bolan since April 2013 respectively. He also informed that a nine member committee responsible to purchase dramas from the private producers according to category of the dramas.

Senator Rubina Khalid urged, that PTV should telecast the programs for the children and other segments of the society. Besides, she suggested that PTV should produce programs for promoting of the national culture and to organize drama festivals in this regard. Senator Kamil Ali Agha advised that PTV should also enhance its drama production as in the past.

MD PTV informed that the steps for telecasting of the standardized children programs are being taken. He also informed that the proposal of the drama festivals is under consideration, and it would be organized very soon. He also informed that due to various factors including cash liquidity constraints along with the tariff, the contents cost and unavailability of more technical as well as creative staffs/ personnel/ employees, the private producers programs are more feasible/ suitable to earn revenue and to entertain the viewers. He answering the query asked by Senator Rubina Khalid regarding the tariff category of the programs with reference to cost per episode, informed that the categories are set by considering multiple factors including the rate of the return from the telecast of any program. MD PTV requested for recommending to provide financial support for the regional/ non-commercial operation of PTV, as it is increasing the cost of the corporation.

Senator Farhatullah Babar showing his concerns over the provided incomplete/ void information about the transfer and promotion, made in PTV since last few months suggested to provide the detailed information mentioning/ including the previous appointment date and department. He also suggested for randomly/ case to case wise review of every

promotion made in last six months in order to authenticate / validate the said promotion process. Sectary Information & Broadcastings assured for compliance.

After the detailed deliberations, following recommendations were made;

- I. MD PTV should call on the affected peoples and steps may be taken for addressing/ settling/ resolving their grievances.
- II. All the affairs may be executed according to law and on merit.
- III. The eligible employees may be promoted on the all the posts on merit and according to seniority cum fitness basis.
- IV. The Government should relax the ban on the appointments/ transfers for PTV, in order to fill the vacant posts of the different departments for improving the performance of the PTV.
- V. The Standing Committee would visit all PTV Centers across the country to oversee/ monitor the affairs/ discrepancies/ issues of these centers and also to hear the problems of the employees at these centers.
- VI. PTV Peshawar center may be issued grant on the priority basis for the procurement of required equipment.
- VII. An exclusive briefing may be conducted for the regional/ noncommercial operation of PTV and its financial implications on the cost of PTV.
- VIII. Promotions, made during last six month may be reviewed on case to case basis in order to address the grievances of the employees.
- IX. PTV should produce dramas itself rather than purchasing from the private producers and only the dramas of “A” category may be purchased from the private production houses.
- X. Performance of the regional channels may be improved.
- XI. Government should financially support PTV for continuation of regional/ non-commercial operations.
- XII. The packages of the actors performing in PTV may be revised as per existing market packages.

On the notice/ query raised by Senator Farhatullah Babar regarding the status of the legislation in the wake of unanimously passed Right to Information Bill in the Senate/ Upper House of the Parliament, Sectary Information & Broadcastings informed that the bill has been sent in the Cabinet Division and it would be discussed in the next meeting of the Cabinet. The Committee advised that the bill may be introduced as an official bill in the Parliament, and in case of any amendment, it can be done through Parliamentary Committees.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTINGS

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcastings was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee would be as under:-

- h) Update position regarding finalization of code of conduct by the PEMRA for the satellite channels.
- i) Detail of PEMRA against satellite TV Channel on the violation of PEMRA Rules with particular reference of broadcasting of the foreign contents.
- j) Detail of public service message/programs especially for women, children, education, health, environment etc.
- k) Update position on the case of Ms. Rizwana Khan, Ex-Urdu News Reader/ Music Producer of PBC.
- l) Detail of the employees serving in PTV & PBC/APP having fake degree (s), and the action against them.
- m) Briefing by DG, PBC about all posting /transfers made in the Department from the news and Current Affairs Channel to other Operations/ Services and reasons thereof.
- n) Reasons for removal of permanent experienced and qualified staff from PBC and new appointments/induction of un-experienced staff in PBC without applying of existing rules and regulations of the Department PBC has detached the transmission of four provinces from its main hook up, also detail about reducing the time duration of PBC's Transmission / Services.
- o) Detail about the financial corruption made in the Department at Large, and Worst attitude of the Higher Management with lower grade officers/officials, to make necessary arrangement to eradicate all kind of corruption from the department and drastic action may please be taken against the culprits/defaulters.

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. After welcoming remarks, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee giving short background on the agenda item regarding framing of code of conduct by PEMRA for Satellite TV Channels, stated that Committee in its several meetings had advised for the finalization of code of conduct after taking on board all the stakeholders. He enquired about the latest update on this issue.

Dr. Nazir Saeed, Secretary Information and Broadcastings informed, that Prime Minister had constituted a committee about 2 months ago, which has finalized its recommendations and are being presented to Prime Minister for his approval.

Chairman Standing Committee however expressed his strong concern on the slow progress of PEMRA in this regard. He was of the view that, if the code of conduct had been finalized, the latest crises of the media could be averted. Senator Farhatullah Babar was also of the same view. He stated that this issue is lingering on since last 10 years, on which several committees including Fakharuddin G. Ibrahim Committee had also given its recommendations, therefore this issue should have been settled much earlier.

Secretary Information however assured that recommendations of the report of the Committee (appointed by the Prime Minister) after taking all the stakeholders on board along with the recommendations of the committee will be implemented.

On the assurance of Secretary Information and Broadcasting the committee advised for taking all necessary steps as soon as possible, in this regard, as a lot of time has already been passed.

On the broadcasting of foreign contents on some Satellite TV channels, Chairman Standing Committee pointed out that detailed deliberation in this regard has already been done in the meeting of the Standing Committee, besides the Standing Committee on Information & Broadcastings of the National Assembly had also given similar recommendations, however, he indicated that channels are still broadcasting foreign contents beyond their authorization, but no cohesive actions have been taken by PEMRA on these violations. He therefore, inquired about the update position in this regard. Dr. Abdul Qayoom Soomro also enquired about the actions taken by PEMRA on the said violations

Mr. Muhammad Parvez Rathore, Acting Chairman PEMRA gave detail of penalties imposed by PEMRA on broadcasting of foreign contents beyond allowed limit. He however informed that when PEMRA takes punitive action against channels, they take stay order from courts, resultantly there are many cases against PEMRA are pending in the courts.

Senator Farhatullah Babar pointed out, that Committee had given recommendations in this regard so many times, however no remarkable execution by PEMRA on these violations has been observed and it has failed to implement its own terms and conditions. He stated that no court has barred PEMRA to take action against any channel, he therefore advised for the activation of PEMRA's legal wing. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee advised that Ministry/PEMRA should implement the recommendations of the

Standing Committee in letter and spirit. He advised that on the broadcasting of foreign contents strict action may be taken against channels, as these are against the social and religious values of the country. He advised that it should be a continuous process, and PEMRA should take action regularly rather than randomly basis on every violation being committed by the satellite channels. Senator Rubina Khalid was of the view that at the time of obtaining NOC, TV channels accept all terms and conditions of PEMRA, therefore PEMRA should use all means to implement duly accepted terms and conditions by the TV channels.

After detailed discussion the committee the advised that:

- i) Appointment of Chairman PEMRA should be made on permanent basis, instead of on ad-hoc/acting charges basis.
- ii) Fortnightly report on the action taken by PEMRA against TV channels will be sent to the Committee.
- iii) PEMRA should remain more vigilant on the violation of TV channels in this regard.
- iv) The Legal Wing of PEMRA should be more activated to pursue the cases in the courts and vacation of stay orders issued by the courts. The legal counsels of the PEMRA should inform the courts about the sensitivity of the issue.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha Chairman Standing Committee enquired about the implementation status on the recommendations of the Standing Committee regarding broadcasting of public service messages on the channels.

The PEMRA authorities informed that in spite of the directions of the PEMRA some TV channels are not broadcasting public service messages as per commitment. Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcastings informed that from 2010 to 2014 about 66 institutions have been directed for the broadcasting of public service messages, but the response is not so positive.

Senator Farhatullah Babar advised that TV channels should understand the nature of public service messages, as these should not be like advertisements, for the commercial purpose but the contents of these messages should be for improvement in the prevailing situation of the environment, health, education, traffic, terrorism etc for the betterment of the society. Senator Rubina Khalid advised that every channel should broadcast public service messages

according to terms and conditions mentioned in the license. She stated that there is need to sensitize these issues in the public, by raising the public awareness. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee pointed out that clear cut directions are mentioned in the licensing conditions regarding the broadcasting of public service messages, therefore he urged, that steps may be taken to ensure for the implementation of these conditions.

The Committee advised that:

- i) Every TV channel should be strictly advised for the broadcasting of public service messages and in case of any violation, the penalties may be imposed upon them.
- ii) Broadcasting of public service messages should be monitored through a committee.
- iii) The Contents of the public Service messages should be prepared through PID after consultation with all departments providing public services.

On the case of Miss Rizwana Khan, Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcastings assured, that this case will be decided on humanitarian grounds within a week. The Committee appreciating Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcastings for his approach to resolve the issue advised that it should be decided at the earliest, as the case was referred by the Office of the Chairman Senate.

On checking the degrees of the PTV Officials, MD, PTV informed that all the officials of the PTV have been advised to submit their copies of their degrees/ diplomas, in case of the fake degree submitted by any official, the disciplinary action will be taken as per law.

Senator Dr. Abdul Qayoom Soomro, pointed out that services of some employees (who were appointed during the tenure of the last Government) have been terminated and new employees are being appointed on the heavy packages. He also stated that PTV is not giving equal time to the opposition parties; therefore, PTV should review its policy in this regard. Senator Rubina Khalid recommended that PTV should give competitive packages to its own competent employees as it would motivate the employees in order to improve their performance. Senator Kamil Ali Agha emphasized that the services of no one should be terminated on political grounds.

The committee advised that:

- 1) Detail of employees, whose services have been terminated from the period since July, 2013 to date from PTV, PBC and APP may be submitted to the Committee.
- 2) Detail of new employees/ Anchors who have recently been given employment (in PTV) along-with their pay packages, education and experience etc. may be given to the Committee.

On the grant of FM Radio License to Balochistan University for educational purpose, the DG (P&D), Balochistan University informed that PEMRA had allowed NOC for 1000 watts license to the University in 2010, and the University had accordingly imported machinery, but now the PEMRA is limiting its frequency by allowing to broadcast the transmission of 50 watts.

The DG License PEMRA however informed that recently PEMRA has issued license to university, subject to depositing of requisite fee in the government ex-chequer and as soon as the university administration would deposit the fee the license will be granted.

Senator Daud Khan Achakzai, Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Senator Rubina Khalid, Senator Farhatullah Babar advised that as PEMRA had already granted NOC for 1000 Watts in 2010 and the University has imported transmitter accordingly, therefore University should be allowed for transmission and PEMRA authorities should assist the University for turning the transmitter up to 50 watts as per law. Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcastings assured for the assistance in this regard. PEMRA officials also assured that they will assist the tuning of the transmission up to 50 watts as soon as University deposit the fee, the license will be issued.

The Committee unanimously decided that the left over agenda will be discussed in the next meeting of the Standing Committee. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee would be as under:-

- 1) **Minutes/ decisions of the Committee chaired by the then Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the year 2004 regarding finalization of the Code of Conduct and terms & conditions for the issuance of licenses to the satellite channels.**
- 2) **Details of the employees, whose services have been terminated by the PTV administration during the period from May, 2013 to till date with reasons thereof.**
- 3) **Details of the employees/ anchorpersons, who have recently been given employment in PTV with package/ qualification/ experience etc on each case and reasons thereof.**
- 4) **Briefing by DG, PBC about all posting /transfers made in the Department from the news and Current Affairs Channel to other Operations/ Services and reasons thereof.**
- 5) **Reasons for removal of permanent experienced and qualified staff from PBC and new appointments/induction of un-experienced staff in PBC without applying of existing rules and regulations of the Department PBC has detached the transmission of four provinces from its main hook up, also detail about reducing the time duration of PBC Transmission / Services.**
- 6) **Detail about the financial corruption made in the Department at Large, and Worst attitude of the Higher Management with lower grade officers/officials, to make necessary arrangement to eradicate all kind of corruption from the department and drastic action may please be taken against the culprits/defaulters.**

**7) Action taken on the assurance given by Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in the case of Ms. Rizwana Khan**

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee welcomed all the participants. He showing his observations over the non-issuance of the code of conduct for the TV Channels stated that this gap is creating the ground for the violation and urged for immediate issuance as well as implementation of the approved/ proposed code of conduct in this regard. He enquired about the implementation status on the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

Mr. Muhammad Azam, Secretary M/o of Information & Broadcasting appreciated the Chair for highlighting the critical issues and efforts for their resolution. While updating about the implementation status on the recommendations of the Standing Committee, he briefed that;

- For the wider consensus, the meeting with the PBA has been scheduled, in which the PBA board would endorse the proposed/ revised code of conduct. Furthermore, the mechanism for its implementation is in the progress.
- On the violation of the foreign content policy by TV channels, the show cause notices have been issued to the channels, in the initial phase which may extend to the penalties/ fines, while on the frequent violations the FIR against them would be lodged and their licenses may be cancelled.
- As for the public service messages are concerned, the safer giving of charity campaign on PTV has been launched, however the concerned departments have been advised to initiate/ develop/formula the public service messages and the TV channels have been directed to telecast these messages in their prime time on the priority basis.
- The PTA Officials informed that the letter to Balochistan University has been written, in which it has been informed that after depositing the license fee , they would be allowed to commence the broadcastings . However, Senator Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai informed that the said fee has been deposited at that moment. PTA officials assured that the license will be issued immediately.

Senator Saeed Ghani pointed out that the representatives of PBA have also attended the meetings of the committee, which has passed the revised draft of the code of conduct, therefore further endorsement of PBA board is un necessary. Senator Kamil Ali Agha

seconding Senator Saeed Ghani stated that already the sufficient time have passed already, therefore, the code of the conduct may be implemented soon after the approval of the Prime Minister. Senator Farhatullah Babar endorsing their view point stated that in the last meeting of the Standing Committee, the Ex- Secretary M/o Information and Broadcasting informed, that all the quarters including PBA has principally accepted the revised draft of the code of the conduct and there are only small bottlenecks/ hindrances in its implementation. The Committee therefore unanimously advised that the revised draft of the code of the conduct may be implemented by the 15<sup>th</sup> July in letter and spirit, as no material difference has been noticed in existing and revised code of conduct, which has been developed after the wider consensus. Senator Farah Aqil showing her serious reservations over the unethical programs being telecasted by various TV channels, which are contradicting / clashing to our social, religious and moral values, emphasized, that stern actions on such violations may be taken. Chairman Standing Committee seconding Senator Farah Aqil suggested that foreign contents policy may be implemented in its true spirit and TV Channels may be issued show cause notices on every violation and may be heavily penalized to avoid such violations repeatedly/ frequently. Besides, he suggested that this process of imposing penalty / fine may be expedited. He also urged that no specific channel may be targeted/ discriminated and every channel should be treated fairly. Chairman Standing Committee insisted that public service messages including rehabilitation of IDPs, in the favour of ongoing army operation (Zarb-e-Aazb) against the terrorism must be telecasted on every TV channels free of cost.

Secretary M/o Information & Broadcasting assured, for the implementation/ issuance of the revised code of the conduct for the TV channels within recommended timeframe and compliance report in this regard will be furnished for the information of the Committee. He also assured that all the concerns raised by Senator Farah Aqil regarding the telecast of the unethical programs would be dealt in the said code of the conduct.

Chairman Standing Committee showing his serious reservations over the status/ non availability of the minutes of the meeting of the then PM (Chaudhry Shujat Hussain) indicated, that it was a special meeting held in PM House, in which mainly recommendations were given for the TV channels to avoid such programs/ contents which were against to our moral values, national security and religion too. The Committee showing its deep concerns on missing of such crucial record recommended to conduct a formal inquiry and the Committee may

be updated about its findings. Secretary M/o Information & Broadcasting assured for the compliance.

Secretary M/o Information & Broadcasting briefing about the employees, terminated from PTV in the tenure of the present management (May13-June14) informed that total eight regular employees of PTV, out of which six on submission of the fake degree and the rest on the breach/ violation of the discipline have been terminated. He further informed that in the lights of the Islamabad High Court's order, fourteen professionals have been terminated, who were recruited without following/ adhering/ through bypassing the competitive process. Besides, he apprised that twenty six contract/ daily wages employees from the PTV in the aforementioned tenure have been terminated in consequence of the violations of the departmental code of the conduct as well submission of the fake degrees.

While briefing about the anchorpersons/ employees have been hired in PTV during tenure of the present MD, Secretary M/o Information & Broadcasting informed that eight professionals have been recruited on different packages as per their professional ranking in the market. He further informed that thirteen employees of the lower grades have also been recruited on the daily wages during the same tenure.

Senator Saeed Ghani referring the IHC Judgment regarding the recruitment of the employees in PTV through competitive process raised query that whether newly hired employees were recruited through the said process. However, Secretary informed that the professionals were hired as per their professional/ market rating. Besides, he assures that the detail report in this regard would be furnished/ provided for the information of the Committee.

However, due to absence of MD PTV, the Committee decided to take up the matter in the next meeting of the Committee.

Senator Zafar Ali Shah showing his deep concerns over the transfers of the seniors as well as qualified programmers/ directors from current affairs to entertainment section along with hiring of the fresh university graduates as researchers on heavy stipend stated that these state of the affairs may hamper the effectiveness of the institute, which is involve/ engage in the opinion making. Chairman Standing Committee seconding Senator Zafar Ali Shah indicated that such decisions were made without following the departmental regulations including no approval from the PBC Board, which is illegal. He further indicated that previously PBC broadcasted programs in other local languages from different centers, located all over the Pakistan, which was showing

inter provincial harmony, however currently only/ mostly Islamabad penetrated programs are being broadcasted.

Ms. Samina Pervaiz, DG PBC addressing the observations raised by the members of the committee, informed that in order to make PBC as more current affair centric channel, which was the major objective of its establishment, the programmers transferred to entertainment section for which these were initially hired. She further informed that the newly hired employees hold the qualification of reporting; besides researchers are neither replaced with any qualified regular employees but for the association of these programmers/ broadcasters. She also apprised that various programs from the different centers including Quetta, Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar are being presented/ broadcasted through renowned broadcasters.

Chairman Standing Committee showing disapproval over the provided information suggested to provide the comprehensive report, which would/must entertain/answer the following queries;

1. *Detail of the rules on which the controllers/ programmers of current affairs were transferred to entertainment section/ segment.*
2. *Whether this decision hinder their promotions.*
3. *Whether management can take such decision bypassing/ sidestepping the approval of PBC Board.*
4. *Detail of the disciplinary actions, been taken against these broadcasters on any violation.*
5. *Detail of Terms of Reference (TOR) of the newly hired researchers.*
6. *Detail of the initiatives being taken for the restructuring of PBC, with particular reference to their pros and cons.*

While updating about the implementation status of the recommendations made by Standing Committee on Ms. Rizwana Khan's case, Secretary M/o Information and Broadcasting assured, that she would be soon reinstated, while the accommodation would be given to her as per availability of the room in the hostel, reserved for the officers on training in PBC. In addition, DG PBC informed that no room at present is vacant. She also indicated that, all the unauthorized occupants have been evacuated and applicant was also among them. However,

Minister for Information and Broadcasting advised DG PBC to brief the Committee in its next meeting about the number of the rooms in the said hostels, and rules and regulations for the entitlement etc.

Chairman Standing Committee emphasized that the issue must be resolved on the priority basis and provision of the accommodation may also be ensured to Ms. Rizwana Khan as per law and compliance report in this regard may be submitted.

After detailed discussion the committee made following recommendations:

- I. The code of conduct for TV channels may be finalized immediately.
- II. The revised code of the conduct for the TV channels may be issued immediately along with all the possible steps may be taken to ensure its implementation and compliance report in this regard may be furnished/ submitted.
- III. Public service messages regarding the rehabilitation of IDPs, in the favour of ongoing army operation (Zarb-e-Aazb) against the terrorism may be telecasted on every TV channels.
- IV. The process of imposing penalty / fine to the TV channels involved in the violation of the foreign content policy may be expedited.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTINGS

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee would be as under:-

*1) Present status of the Right to Information Bill, 2013 as passed by the House*

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee welcomed all the participants. He stated that after broad consultation with all the concerned stakeholders, the Right to Information Bill, 2013 was drafted and unanimously passed, however, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has now suggested the amendments. He stated that it could be better that these might be proposed earlier/ prior to presentation of the said bill in the House. Senator FarhatUllah Babar seconding Chairman Standing Committee stated that this activity may be time consuming.

However, Senator FarhatUllah Babar and Senator Zafar Ali Shah proposed the following amendments in the Right to Information Bill, 2013.

- Section (3) It shall come into force at once.
- Section (29) Sub-Section (3) The Information Commission shall comprise three Commissioners, who shall be appointed by the Government, in accordance with the following-
  - (a) one person who qualifies to be the judge of the High Court or Supreme Court or a retired civil servant of grade 21/22 to be nominated by the Federal Govt.
  - (b) one representative of civil society including media professionals, to be nominated by the Senate Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage.
  - (c) one representative of civil society including media professionals, to be nominated by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage.

- Sub-Section (6) No one over the age of sixty-five years may be appointed as Commissioner.
- Sub-Section (8) A Commissioner may be removed if there are serious complaints of allegations against him, which are materially inconsistent with the status of being a Commissioner. The complaint shall be lodged before a three- member Parliamentary Committee comprising one Senator nominated by the Chairman Senate and two MNAs nominated by the Speaker National Assembly. The Committee shall consider the complaint (s) and present its recommendations to the Federal Government within thirty (30) days. The Federal Government shall implement the recommendations of the Committee within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the recommendations.

Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage agreeing on the said amendments assured for incorporation in the said bill.

\*\*\*\*\*

Subject: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTINGS

A Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 in the Parliament House, Islamabad.

The agenda before the Committee would be as under:-

- a) Update of the status of the Right to Information Bill.
- b) Implementation / observance of the criteria laid down for giving advertisements to the regional / local newspapers.
- c) Update position of the advertisement policy of the PID for Print / Electronic Media.
- d) Implementation on the recommendations for the Standing Committee to display all the detail of advertisements on the websites.
- e) Update by PEMRA on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for private TV channels.
- f) Off airing and attacks on different TV channels in some parts of the country. (A case referred by the Hon'ble Speaker, the National Assembly.

The meeting started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. At the out set Senator Kamil Ali Agha, Chairman Standing Committee enquired about the implementation **status on the Right to Information Bill.**

Mr. Muhammad Azam, Secretary, Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage informed, that the said bill has been referred to the Cabinet, which will come under discussion in the next meeting of the Federal Cabinet. Senator Pervaiz Rashid also informed that Prime Minister has seen the Bill and appreciated the contents of the Bill. He also informed that Prime Minister has also appreciated the efforts of the Standing Committee on Information in this regard.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha indicated that it is too late, therefore, it should be implemented at once, as similar bill is already being implemented in the provinces of Punjab and KPK. Senator Farhatullah Babar was of the view that although the Minister for Information has assured for discussing the bill in the next Cabinet meeting, yet it is a fact that the Bill could not be discussed in the Cabinet meetings so far since 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, therefore the matter should be brought in to the notice of the Prime Minister by writing a letter by Chairman Standing Committee to the Prime Minister.

The Committee agreeing proposal also advised Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to finalize the issue at the earliest for discussing the Bill in the next meeting of the Cabinet.

**On the issue of code of conduct** for electronic media, Chairman Standing Committee pointed out, that it was decided in the last meeting of the Committee held in September, 2013 that PEMRA should implement code of conduct immediately, as there are lot of complaints against the Media Channels, besides the Supreme Judiciary has also given directions several time that the private channels should work under some laws, but there is no progress at all. Senator Farah Aqil Shah stated that there is no main difference in the bill prepared by the PBA and approved by the Committee; therefore it should be implemented immediately. Senator Faratullah Babar recommended that matter may be brought in to the notice of Prime Minister, as channels are violating the rules every day.

The Committee recommended that by fulfilling responsibilities and in the light of the directions of the court, immediate steps may be taken for the implementation of code of conduct, and in case there is no implementation on it, till the next meeting, the Committee will decide its next course of action.

**On the issue of blocking of broadcastings of some channels,** Federal Minister for Information informed that PEMRA has given directions to the Cable Operators to make separate bouquet for different types of broadcastings like each for news, sports, entertainment, and religious etc. and there is no official direction for placing any channel on back numbers.

Senator Farhatullah Basbar stated that it is a serious matter; therefore it is need to have a conclusive meeting of the Standing Committee on this issue. The Committee agreeing the proposal decided to hold an exclusive meeting on this subject.

While starting discussion on the agenda item on 2, 3 and 4, Chairman Standing Committee stated that Committee had given very clear instructions, for making a comprehensive advertisement policy, placing it on website and distribution of advertisement to the main and local media strictly on merit. He enquired about the implementation status.

Mr. Tahseen Rao, PIO informed, that at center level all the advertisement is being made place through the Ministry; however some corporations/ autonomous bodies are making advertisement at their own, as their accounts are not being maintained through AGPR. He also informed that at center all the advertisement is being brought on web on daily basis, however due to some technical problems the advertisement being given through regional offices will also be brought in to the network of the PID.

Senator Kamil Ali Agha, advised to provide the complete detail of departments, who are not cooperating with Ministry in this regard, and are giving direct advertisement. Senator Saeed Ghani enquired about the detail of 25% regional quota as whether this is being given to provinces on equal basis. He further enquired, whether AGPR is stopping the advertisement bill of the departments, who are not cooperating with the PID in spite of the clear cut directions of the Ministry. Senator Dr. Abdul Qayoom Soomro enquired about the detail of such violations. Senator Farhatullah Babar recommended that all detail of advertisement of regional newspapers should also be come on Web. He also pointed out that no rates have been fixed for the electronic media so far. He advised to give the reasons for giving more advertisements to some specific channels.

PIO informed, that the advertisement of the regional newspapers is being monitored through a system and the regional offices make advertisement at their own and payment of these advertisements is made through the budgets of the clients departments. He informed that there are separate rates for each category like news, entertainment, sports and religious etc. He assured that a comprehensive

tracking system will be established up to Jan, 2015 and all government advertisements will be aired during in the prime time.

Senator Saeed Ghani recommended that tracking system should be monitored through PEMRA and the system of rating should be implemented. The Committee advised that:

- 1) All the advertisement at center level should be come at web till the next meeting of the Standing Committee and as for as advertisement of Regional newspapers it should also be come at web on weekly basis.
- 2) The fool proof system of tracking should be established and the rating system of Smart TV of PTCL should also be brought into the net work.
- 3) To stop the in fight of media the PEMRA should evolve its own sampling base system and it should be improved gradually.
- 4) As the rating is a powerful tool, therefore to stop the monopoly of channels the rating system should be formulated through public sector.

After discussion on formal agenda items, Senator Farhatullah Babar pointed out, that some newspapers are not giving salary to their employees on regularly basis, therefore the Ministry should take steps for the releasing of their salaries and the payment of bills of such newspapers should be linked with the salaries. The Secretary Ministry of Information assured to take the matter with the owners of newspapers. The committee advised that the registration with EOBI of employees of newspapers should be made mandatory.

Senator Farah Aqil Shah pointed out, that some news channels are giving advertisement of fake Hakims and about superstitious, and in this way they are exploiting the common people, therefore there is need to take strict action against this type of advertisement. Secretary Ministry of Information and PEMRA authorities assured to take appropriate action in this regard.

Chairman Standing Committee pointed out, that it has come in to the notice that some cable operators are broadcasting Indian propaganda against the Pakistan. He advised detail of such channels may be provided to the Committee within 3 days positively, by taking stern action against the responsible TV Channels and cable operators.

Senator Forhatullah Babar advised that Ministry of Information should release Rs.200 million of funds reserved for the journalist who are being victimized by terrorist etc Secretary Ministry of Information should therefore take personal interest in this regard. He also advised that Pakistan National Council of Arts should give permission to the regional Artists for cultural activities.

\*\*\*\*\*