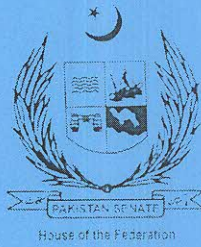


# SENATE OF PAKISTAN



**FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENTARY YEAR 2016-2017**

**REPORT NO. 06 OF 2017**

**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND**  
**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**ON**

**"THE PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY THE USE COMPANY IN**  
**EXECUTION OF ITS PROJECTS IN THE PROVINCES OF**  
**BALUCHISTAN, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA"**

**PRESENTED BY:**  
**SENATOR SHAHI SYED**



## SENATE SECRETARIAT

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ON "THE PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY THE USF COMPANY IN EXECUTION OF ITS PROJECTS IN THE PROVINCES OF BALOCHISTAN, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND FATA."

I, Senator Shahi Syed, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology & Telecommunications, have the honor to submit, on behalf of the Committee, this report on "the problems being faced by the USF Company in execution of their projects in the Provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA."

2. The composition of the Standing Committee is given as under:-

1. Senator Shahi Syed	Chairman
2. Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
3. Senator Mufti Abdul Sattar	Member
4. Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
5. Senator Najma Hameed	Member
6. Senator Gianchand	Member
7. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Member
8. Senator Saeed Ghani	Member
9. Senator Naseema Ehsan	Member
10. Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
11. Senator Osman Saifullah Khan	Member
12. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
13. Minister of State for I.T. & Telecom.	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Standing Committee in its meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, was briefed about the projects launched by USF in FATA and other less developed areas of the country during the last year. During the course of the meeting, the Minister of State for I.T. & Telecom stated that the USF as well as Mobile Phone Operators were facing grave difficulties in execution of their projects in various parts of the Provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA due to intervention by local influential people, for launching of projects/installation of mobile phone towers at their owned lands. In case of denial, the USF Company/Mobile Operators were being threatened. She also highlighted that various mobile phone towers have been blown by extremists in the Province of Balochistan. She further shared details of problems being faced by USF Company in areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA regions.

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4. The Standing Committee taking cognizance of the matter decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to look into the issue thoroughly in consultation with all stakeholders and report back to the Standing Committee.

5. The composition and ToRs of the Sub-Committee are given as under:-

**COMPOSITION:-**

1. Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Convener
2. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
3. Senator Shibli Faraz	Member

**Terms of Reference (ToRs):-**


“To report on the implementation status of the projects launched by the Universal Services Fund (USF) in the Provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA with particular reference to the problems/hindrances being faced by the USF in completion of its launched projects.”.

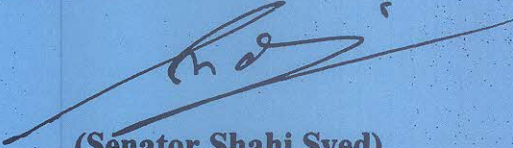
6. The Sub-Committee held its meetings on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2016, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 and on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, respectively and invited all the stakeholders to give their view point on the matter. The Sub-Committee finalized its report and presented the same before the Standing Committee during its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

7. The Standing Committee unanimously adopted the report of the Sub-Committee and decided to present the same before the House.

8. I am highly grateful to the Members of the Sub-Committee for playing their vital role in the proceedings of the Sub-Committee meetings and extensive efforts in finalizing the recommendations for resolving the issue.

9. The Report of the Sub-Committee is placed at Annexure-A.

  
(Asim Khan Goraya)  
Secretary Committee

  
(Senator Shahi Syed)  
Chairman Committee



**SENATE SECRETARIAT****REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS.**

I, Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi, Convener of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Information Technology & Telecommunication, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, have the honor, to present Report of the Sub-Committee which was constituted by the Standing Committee on I.T. & Telecom in its meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, under sub-rule(1) of Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.

2. The Composition & Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Sub-Committee are given as under:-

**Composition:**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi           | Convener |
| 2. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi | Member   |
| 3. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz             | Member   |

**Terms of Reference (ToRs):**

“To report on the implementation status of the projects launched by the Universal Services Fund (USF) in the Provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA with particular reference to the problems/hindrances being faced by the USF in completion of its launched projects.”.

**BACKDROP OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE:**

3. During the meeting of the Standing Committee on I.T & Telecom held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, under the Chairmanship of Senator Shahi Syed, the Minister of State for I.T. & Telecom while apprising the Committee about detail of projects launched by USF in FATA and other less developed areas of the Country during the last financial year, stated that the USF as well as Mobile Phone Operators are facing grave difficulties in execution of their projects in the various parts of Provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA in the shape of intervention by the local influential personalities for execution of USF projects at their owned lands, installation of mobile towers and in case of denial to do so the Mobile phone towers have been blown up at various locations in the Province of Balochistan and also denial of access to USF by the authorities of FATA in the various agencies of FATA for the purpose of conducting survey in order to execute their projects .



4. The MoS for I.T. & Telecom requested the Chair to play its vital role in redressal of grievances of the USF. The Committee, taking serious note of the issue constituted a Sub-Committee headed by Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi.

5. Accordingly, the first meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2016, at FATA Secretariat, Peshawar, which was attended by the following members of the Sub-Committee:

- |    |                                       |          |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi           | Convener |
| 2. | Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi | Member   |
| 3. | Senator Syed Shibli Faraz             | Member   |

Besides, representatives from the M/o Information Technology, Universal Services Fund, FATA Secretariat and Political Agents of various Agencies of FATA also attended the said meeting.

6. The agenda before the Sub-Committee was as under:-

- (i) "To monitor the implementation of projects launched by the Universal Services Fund (USF) in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA with particular reference to the problems / hindrances being faced by the USF in completion of the said projects.

7. The Sub-Committee was given detailed briefing by the CEO, Universal Services Fund regarding mandate, role and performance of the USF company i.e. provision and expansion of Information Communication Technology like Basic Telephony and Data services in the unserved and under-served areas of the country. The Sub-Committee observed that the USF was engaged in execution of its projects in the areas of Khyber, North Waziristan, South Waziristan and Orakzai Agencies for which clearance from XI Corps, Peshawar was already sought but unfortunately due to lack of support from FATA Secretariat, the survey for preparing feasibility reports of the projects could not be finalized due to which the process was getting delayed.

8. The Secretary, Law & Order, FATA was of the view that the projects might require allocation of funds and approval from the Planning & Development Department. However, the Sub-Committee observed that the projects of USF were fully funded by the Company itself, therefore, there was no need of funds and approval from the Planning & Development Department, whereas, the USF Company only requires facilitation and coordination from the local home department as well as concerned political agents without which the company is unable to carry out its surveys for execution of projects.



9. Since cooperation from the concerned authorities of FATA is of supreme importance, the Sub-Committee recommended the Secretary, Law & Order, FATA and Political Agents to extend their full cooperation to the USF Company.

10. Similarly, another meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, at Parliament House, Islamabad, which was attended by the following:-

- |    |  |                 |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi                | Convener        |
| 2. | Senator Syed Shibli Faraz                  | Member          |
| 3. | Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar          | Special Invitee |
| 4. | Senator Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel | Special Invitee |

Besides, the representatives of M/o I.T. & Telecom, Universal Services Fund, I.T. and Police Department, Govt. of Balochistan also attended the meeting.

11. The Agenda/TORs before the Sub-Committee was as under:-

- (i) "To monitor the implementation of projects launched by the Universal Services Fund (USF) in the Province of Balochistan, with particular reference to the problems / hindrances being faced by the USF in completion of the said projects."

12. At the outset, the Sub-Committee expressed its grave concern over the non-attendance of meeting of the Sub-Committee by I.G. F.C., I.G. of Police and Chief Secretary, Government of Balochistan. The members of the Sub-Committee were of the view that the meeting wouldn't be fruitful without participation of concerned dignitaries of the Government of Balochistan as the decision making authority rests with them. However, the Sub-Committee taking a lenient view decided to convey its displeasure to the concerned authorities with the direction to make it sure to attend the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

13. The CEO, USF Company felicitated the Sub-Committee for playing its vital role due to which USF was in a position to hold numerous meetings with the authorities of XI Corps and the FATA Secretariat wherein details of USF projects to be carried out in FATA as well as facilitation required to the company was shared. The CEO apprised the Sub-Committee that after formal permission from the XI Corps regarding conducting surveys in the areas of FATA was also under process which might take 6-8 weeks or by the end of December, 2016, the Company would be in a position to conduct its surveys.



14. The Sub-Committee also noticed that various USF projects in the areas of Province of Balochistan, i.e. Kalat, Panjgor, Gwadar, Musakhel, Zhob, Sherani, Ispan Tangai, Harnai, Murad Jamali, have either been stopped by law enforcement agencies or by the company itself. The major issues that persist are law & order situation, kidnapping of workers, snatching of vehicles and threats by local tribes and land acquisition issues due to interference from the influential personalities which hindered the progress.

15. The Sub-Committee observed that there was lack of proper coordination between the Federal and Provincial I.T. Department, Balochistan as well as USF Company at the time of execution of USF projects in the Province of Balochistan which resultantly cause delay in completion of projects.

16. The last meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, at Parliament House, Islamabad, which was attended by the following:-

- |    |  |                 |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi                | Convener        |
| 2. | Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar          | Special Invitee |
| 3. | Senator Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel | Special Invitee |

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Besides, the representatives of M/o I.T. & Telecom, Universal Services Fund, I.T. Addl. Chief Secretary, Balochistan and Addl. I.G. Police, Balochistan also attended the meeting.

17. The agenda before the Sub-Committee was as under:-

- (i) Follow up / Compliance report on the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee in its earlier meetings.
- (ii) "To monitor the implementation of projects launched by the Universal Services Fund (USF) in the Province of Balochistan, with particular reference to the problems / hindrances being faced by the USF in completion of the said projects.
- (iii) Finalization of the Report of the Sub-Committee.

18. The Secretary, Law and Order, FATA apprised the Sub-Committee about the progress made so far regarding issuance of NOC to the USF Company. The Sub-Committee was assured that the NOC from XI Corps Peshawar would be issued soon as all the codal formalities have been fulfilled and all the departments are in close coordination, as was directed by the Sub-Committee in its last meeting.



19. The Sub-Committee also noticed that the law and order situation in the Province of Balochistan with particular reference to the execution of USF projects has been inappropriate. The issues confronting to the USF is support by the Provincial law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order situation, acquiring of land and coordination level between the Provincial and Federal Government I.T. departments. Due to these reasons, several USF projects have been delayed and consequently the people of Balochistan are deprived from availing Information Communication Technology services in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

20. The Addl. Chief Secretary, Balochistan apprised the Sub-Committee that although there were some issues of law and order in the Province of Balochistan but his office will take every possible effort to ensure that the USF Company is facilitated and proper assistance is extended to the USF. He also assured the Sub-Committee that the M/o I.T and USF can approach his office at any time during the next week and he would arrange their meeting with the concerned quarters.

21. The Sub-Committee concluded that the role of Bureaucracy and Law Enforcement Agencies with regards to the USF projects in the Province of Balochistan is of utmost importance and without their proper support, the USF projects cannot be completed. After detailed deliberations, the Sub-Committee finalized its recommendations which are reproduced as under:-

#### **RECOMMEDATIONS:-**

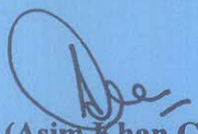
- (i) **The Sub-Committee recommends that FATA Secretariat, Peshawar, may extend its full support to the USF and make sure that all type of assistance and fool proof security is provided to the USF Company as well as Mobile Phone Operators in conducting their surveys for execution of their projects in all areas of FATA.**
- (ii) **The Sub-Committee recommends that the Government of Balochistan may extend its full cooperation and facilitation to the USF Company enabling it to complete its projects without any hesitation.**
- (iii) **The Sub-Committee recommends that the F.C. Balochistan as well as I.G. of Police, Balochistan may ensure fool proof security of the projects of the USF Company launched / to be launched in the Province of Balochistan.**

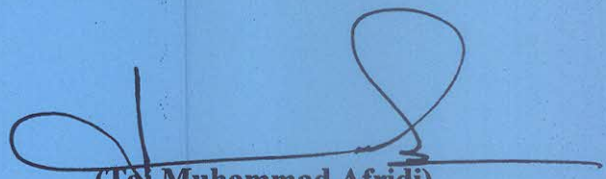


- (iv) The Sub-Committee recommends that the Federal M/o Information Technology & Telecom & the Universal Services Fund may ensure proper coordination with the Provincial I.T. Department prior launching of their projects in the Province of Balochistan.
- (v) The Sub-Committee cognizant of the issue of weak signals of Mobile Phone Companies in the various areas of Balochistan despite the fact that the Towers of almost each and every service provider were installed in the areas, and recommends that the PTA may conduct a fresh Quality of Service (QoS) survey in the entire Province of Balochistan.
- (vi) The Sub-Committee recommends to the Standing Committee that a periodical report from all the concerned authorities involved in execution and completion of USF projects in the Provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA may be sought.

22. The Sub-Committee felicitates and thanks Secretary, M/o I.T. & Telecom, CEO, Universal Services Fund, Secretary, Law and Order, FATA, Addl. Chief Secretary, Balochistan, Addl. I.G. of Police, Balochistan and all other participants of the meetings for their cooperation extended to the Sub-Committee.

23. As required under sub-rule (2) of Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, the Report of the Sub-Committee is presented to the Standing Committee on I.T. & Telecommunications.

  
(Asim Khan Goraya)  
J.S./Secretary Committee

  
(Taj Muhammad Afridi)  
Convener