

# **SENATE OF PAKISTAN HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION**

Report No. of 5 of 2017



REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY "THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ACCREDITATION  
COUNCIL BILL, 2016"

**PRESENTED BY  
SENATOR OSMAN SAIFULLAH KHAN  
CHAIRMAN**

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON "THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL BILL, 2016"

I, Senator Osman Saifullah Khan, Chairman Standing Committee on Science and Technology, have the honor to submit, on behalf of the Committee, this report on "The Pakistan National Accreditation Council Bill, 2016" referred by the House in its sitting held on 10-01-2017, to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.

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

1. Senator Osman Saifullah Khan	Chairman
2. Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	Member
3. Senator Mir Nematullah Zehri	Member
4. Senator Mir Israrullah Khan Zehri	Member
5. Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi	Member
6. Senator Aitzaz Ahsan	Member
7. Senator Professor Sajid Mir	Member
8. Senator Lt. Gen. (R) Abdul Qayyum	Member
9. Senator Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hassani	Member
10. Senator Muhammad Yousaf	Member
11. Senator Saleem Mandviwala	Member
12. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Member
13. Rana Tanveer Hussain Minister for Science and Technology	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee considered the said Bill in its meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017, which was attended by the following:-

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Senator Osman Saifullah Khan                                | Chairman          |
| 2. Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi                              | Member            |
| 3. Senator Professor Sajid Mir                                 | Member            |
| 4. Senator Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hassani              | Member            |
| 5. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh                          | Member            |
| 6. Rana Tanveer Hussain<br>Minister for Science and Technology | Ex-officio Member |

4. The Committee discussed the Bill in detail, and proposed that "The Pakistan National Accreditation Council Bill, 2016" may be passed by the Senate as passed by the National Assembly. The Bill, as passed by the National Assembly and introduced in the Senate, is placed at Annexure-A.

  
(HARIS REHMAN)  
Secretary Committee

  
(SENATOR OSMAN SAIFULLAH KHAN)  
Chairman Committee

Islamabad, the  
21<sup>st</sup> February, 2017

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

*to provide for establishment of the Pakistan National Accreditation Council*

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish the Pakistan National Accreditation Council for accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies enabling them to assure the quality of products, services and management system in accordance with the international and national standards for sustainable socio-economic development;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Pakistan National Accreditation Council Act, 2016.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.** —In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) **"Board"** means the Board of Governors constituted under section 7;

(b) **"Chairman"** means the Chairman of the Board;

(c) **"Conformity Assessment Body"** means a body that performs conformity assessment services which may form the object of accreditation;

(d) **"Council"** means Pakistan National Accreditation Council established under section 3;

(e) **"Director - General"** means the Director-General of the Council;

(f) **"Executive Committee"** means the Committee constituted under section 11;

(g) **"MLA"** means multilateral recognition arrangements;

(h) **"MRA"** means mutual recognition arrangements;

(i) **"prescribed"** means as prescribed by rules made under this Act; and

(j) **"rules"** means rules made under section 26.

3. **Establishment of the Council.**—(1) On the commencement of this Act, there shall stand established a Council to be known as Pakistan National Accreditation Council.

(2) The Council shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal, with powers, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire and hold property, and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

(3) The Headquarters of the Council shall be at Islamabad and it may, with the prior approval of the Federal Government, set up offices at other places as and when required.

**4. Functions of the Council.**—The Council shall,—

- (a) establish an internationally recognized accreditation system;
- (b) make policies, schemes, procedures and guidelines for provision of accreditation services in line with national and international standards;
- (c) provide training on accreditation standards to the Conformity Assessment Bodies and other stakeholders;
- (d) accredit the Conformity Assessment Bodies;
- (e) co-ordinate with National, Regional and International Organizations for effective implementation of Accreditation System; and
- (f) perform any other function related to the accreditation system.

**5. Management of the Council.**—The management of the Council shall comprise,—

- (a) Board of Governors;
- (b) Executive Committee; and
- (c) Director- General.

**6. Board of Governors.** —The general control and superintendence of the affairs of the Council shall vest in the Board.

**7. Composition of the Board of Governors.** — (1) The Board of Governors shall consist of following:-

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| a. Minister for Science and Technology.   | <i>Chairman</i>      |
| b. Secretary Science and Technology Division.   | <i>Vice-Chairman</i> |
| c. Secretary Commerce Division, or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary.   | <i>Member</i>        |
| d. Secretary Industries Division, or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary. | <i>Member</i>        |
| e. Secretary National Food Security and Research  | <i>Member</i>        |

Division, or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary.

- |    |   |               |
|----|---|---------------|
| f. | Secretary National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Division, or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary. | <i>Member</i> |
| g. | President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry or his nominee.  | <i>Member</i> |
| h. | Presidents Provincial Chamber of Commerce and Industry or their nominees.   | <i>Member</i> |
| i. | Director-General.   | <i>Member</i> |

(2) The Director-General shall also act as the Secretary of the Board.

**8. Functions and powers of the Board.**—The Board shall,—

- (a) review and approve annual and long term plans, policies and schemes of the Council;
- (b) approve the annual development and non-development budgets of the Council,
- (c) create, abolish or re-designate any post, or engage consultants or experts from time to time on such pay or remuneration, other allowances and terms and conditions, as it may deem necessary for efficient performance of the functions of the Council, and as may be prescribed; and
- (d) determine service fee for the services rendered or offered by the Council.

**9. Terms of office of members.**—(1) Save as hereinafter provided, a person, who becomes or is nominated to be, a member by virtue of his holding an office or appointment, shall cease to be a member as and when he ceases to hold that office or appointment.

(2) No act or proceeding of the Board shall be invalid on the ground only of the existence of a vacancy in the Board.

(3) The Federal Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette increase or decrease the number of members of the Board.

**10. Meetings of the Board.**—(1) Save as hereinafter provided, the Board shall regulate the procedure for its meetings.

(2) Meetings of the Board shall be called by its Chairman and in his absence by the Vice-Chairman on such dates, time and places as he may deem fit, provided that at least one meeting shall be held in a calendar year.

(3) At least ~~five~~ <sup>three</sup> members shall constitute quorum for a meeting of the Board.

(4) Each meeting of the Board shall be presided over by the Chairman and, in his absence, by the Vice-Chairman.

**11. Executive Committee of the Board.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Executive Committee shall take decisions on behalf of the Board subject to ratification by the Board at its meeting immediately following the meeting of the Executive Committee, unless otherwise authorized by the Board.

(2) The Executive Committee shall comprise the following members, namely:-

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| (a) Director-General   | Convener |
| (b) dealing officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary<br>of the Division controlling the subject matter of<br>Science and Technology | Member   |
| (c) Deputy Director General, Council   | Member   |

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act and rules made in this behalf and such general or special directions as may, from time to time, be given by the Board, the Executive Committee shall deal with any matter as authorized by the Board.

**12. Director General.**—(1) The Federal Government shall appoint a Director General of the Council, for a term of four years, extendable further for another term, on terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) The person having MS or MSc. degree in natural or physical sciences, or equivalent in engineering sciences from HEC recognized University, with at least fifteen years experience in management at top level position including five years experience in the field of accreditation, shall be eligible to be appointed as Director-General

**13. Powers and functions of the Director-General.**—(1) The Director-General, who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Council, shall work under the general policy guidelines of the Board and have such powers, functions and duties as may be conferred upon or vested in him under this Act. The Director-General shall,—

- (a) develop policies and business plans relating to the operations of the Council;
- (b) supervise the implementation of the policies and the procedures;
- (c) approve the award of accreditation and use of accreditation mark;
- (d) suspend, withdraw and or reduce scope of accreditation when an accredited Conformity Assessment Body has persistently failed to meet the requirements of accreditation or to abide by the rules for accreditation;
- (e) supervise the finances of the Council;
- (f) make contractual arrangements to undertake the functions of the Council;

- (g) Propose nomination of employees up-to BPS – 21 or equivalent, for foreign trainings, seminars, work-shops, symposia, meetings etc, for approval by the competent fora;
- (h) plan and take measures to enhance the scope of accreditation and acquire MRA or MLA status on such scope;
- (i) ensure participation in international obligatory meetings and trainings;
- (j) ensure the protection of all assets of the Council including intellectual property assets;
- (k) arrange for annual or any other report of the Council as may be desired by the Federal Government;
- (l) identify areas of strength and weakness and formulate remedial programs; and
- (m) subject to the provisions of clause (c) section 8, appoint such officers, consultants, experts, and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the Council on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) The Director-General may in general or specific delegate his powers to the committee or individuals as he may deem necessary.

**14. Funds of the Council.**—(1) The funds of the Council shall consist of,—

- (a) grants made by the Federal Government;
- (b) grants from national and international agencies;
- (c) funds generated through its own resources; and
- (d) the Funds which shall stand transferred to the Council under Clause (a) of section 24.

(2) The Council shall not accept any financial support that may affect the impartiality and objectiveness of the accreditation process.

**15. Budget and accounts.**—(1) The Council shall, by such date and in such form as may be prescribed, submit to the Government its budget, for each financial year for approval.

(2) The Director-General shall, submit annual budget and accounts of the Council, to the Board.

(3) The accounts of the Council shall be maintained in such form and procedure as may be determined by the Government.

(4) Internal audit of the accounts shall be conducted regularly once in a year or <sup>506 ne 3'</sup> as and when deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

(5) The audited accounts shall be finalized and laid before the Board as soon as possible, but not later than one year, after close of each financial year.

(6) The accounts of the Council shall be audited by the Auditor-General of Pakistan.

**16. Grant of accreditation.**—(1) The Council shall complete the assessment process of a Conformity Assessment Body and make a decision whether or not to grant accreditation within the prescribed time.

(2) The Council shall grant and renew accreditation to a Conformity Assessment Body on successful completion of assessment process and authorize the use of mark of the Council.

**17. Prohibition of improper use of marks.**—(1) No person shall in relation to any article, product, process or service or in any trademark or design, use the Council's mark to give that impression, except under a valid registration certificate issued by the Council or its authority.

(2) Subject to section 18, any person or a group who contravenes provision of sub-section (1) shall be liable for punishment by the court to the extent that any financial gain in respect of which the contravention is established shall be forfeited to the Council.

**18. Punishment for improper use of Council mark.**—(1) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sections 17 shall, in addition to the punishment specified under sub-section (2) of section 17, be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with a fine extending upto one million rupees, but shall not be less than one hundred thousand rupees, or with both.

(2) A Court convicting a person under this section may direct that any articles in respect of which the contravention was made shall be forfeited to the Government.

**19. Cognizance of offences by courts.**—No court inferior to that of a Magistrate of the First Class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

**20. Appeal.**—(1) Any person aggrieved by an order passed under section 17 and 18 may prefer an appeal to the Court of Sessions within thirty days of the date of the order.

(2) The appeal shall be presented in such form and manner and within such time and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed.

(3) The Court of Sessions shall, in dealing with appeals under this section, follow the procedure specified in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898).

**21. Submission of reports, etc.**—The Council shall submit to the Federal Government, at such time and at such intervals as the Federal Government may specify,—

(a) annual reports on the working of the Council;

- (b) such periodical reports and summaries as may be required by the Federal Government;
- (c) such periodical returns, accounts, statements and statistics as may be required by the Federal Government;
- (d) information and comments asked for by the Federal Government on any specific point;
- (e) copies of the documents required by the Federal government; and
- (f) original documents required by the Federal government for examination or any other purpose.

**22. Directives from the Federal Government.**—The Council shall follow and carry out all such directives and orders issued by the Federal Government in writing, as may be issued from time to time, as it may consider necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

**23. Employees of the Council to be public servants.**—The employees of the Council shall, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act, be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

**24. Savings.**— Upon the commencement of this Act, the National Accreditation Council established *vide* Ministry of Science and Technology's Notification No. 3(99)/97-S.O (T) NAC, dated the 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1998, shall stand dissolved and upon such dissolution,—

- (a) all assets, rights, powers, authorities, privileges and property, movable and immovable, cash and bank balance, reserve funds, investments and all other interests and rights in, liabilities and obligations of whatever kind of the Council subsisting immediately before its dissolution shall stand transferred to and vest in the Council;
- (b) all employees of the Council shall, notwithstanding anything contained in any law, any agreement, deed, document or other instrument, stand transferred to the Council in accordance with the present terms and conditions of the service applicable to them, and no officer or other employee whose services are so transferred shall be entitled to any compensation because of such transfer:

Provided that an irrevocable option shall be given to the employees of the Council to opt either to retain the status and terms and condition which they have as civil servants or to opt to the employment of the Council:

Provided further that those who opt to continue as civil servants shall continue as such in the manner prescribed;

- (c) all debts and obligations incurred or contracts entered into or rights acquired and all matters and things engaged to be done by, with or for the Council established under the resolution before its dissolution shall be deemed to have been incurred, entered into, acquired or engaged to be done by, with or for the Council;

- (d) all suits and other legal proceedings instituted by or against the Council established under the resolution, before its dissolution shall be deemed to be suits and proceedings by or against the Council and may be dealt with accordingly; and
- (e) all actions done by the Council before the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to be done under this Act.

**25. Act to override all other laws.** —The provisions of this Act shall override all other laws for the time being in force.

**26. Power to make rules.**—The Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

**27. Removal of difficulty.** —If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the Federal Government may make such order, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as it may appear it to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing such difficulty:

Provided that no such power shall be exercised after the expiry of two years from the commencement of this Act.

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**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
PAKISTAN NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (PNAC)**

The Ministry of Science & Technology established the National Accreditation Council (NAC), with the approval of the competent authority, vide Notification No. 3(99)/97-S.O(T), dated 05-03-1998, with the aim to establish an internationally recognized accreditation system, to accredit conformity assessment bodies including Laboratories, Certification Bodies and Inspection agencies etc. to address the non-tariff barriers to trade. Till now, PNAC has accredited 72 conformity assessment bodies and achieved International recognition. This institutional mechanism is also helping in complying with the TBT and SPS agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and improve the quality of product and services for socio economic development in general and for the enhancement of exports in particular.

2. The functions of PNAC include public service activities and require statutory cover. Therefore, to provide legal cover for the activities of the Council and also to fulfill the international requirements, it is essential to provide for the establishment of Pakistan National Accreditation Council, through an Act of Parliament.

**Rana Tanveer Hussain  
Minister for Science & Technology**

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Two consecutive meetings of the Senate Standing Committee on Science & Technology were held on 31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 at 10:30 am in Committee Room No.4, Parliament House, Islamabad, under the Chairmanship of Senator Osman Saifullah Khan.

2. The following Members of the Committee also attended the meeting:-

1. Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	Member
2. Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi	Member
3. Senator Professor Sajid Mir	Member
4. Senator Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hassani	Member
5. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Member
6. Minister for Science and Technology	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Agenda of the meetings was as under:

#### 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017

- i. Briefing by Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) on the quality of bottled water and package milk.
- ii. Briefing on coordination, if any, among PSQCA, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) and Capital Development Authority (CDA) to ensure that foolproof system is in place for quality control of water supplied to the residents of Islamabad.
- iii. Update on provision of Safe Drinking Water (PSDW) project of Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR).
- iv. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017

- i. Discussion on COMSATS University Islamabad Bill, 2017, as referred by the House on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, for consideration and report.
- ii. Discussion on Pakistan Council of Science and Technology Bill, 2016, as referred by the House on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, for consideration and report.
- iii. Discussion on Pakistan National Accreditation Council Bill, 2016, as referred by the House on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, for consideration and report.
- iv. Briefing by the Ministry of Science and Technology on steps/policy measures being taken for the popularizing of Science in Pakistan.
- v. Any other item with permission of the Chair.

4. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Chairman Standing Committee welcomed the Committee members and participants from the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST).

5. The Committee was briefed that as per its mission, PSQCA regularly conducts conformity assessment through testing, inspection, certification and implementation of technical

regulations. In the last two years, the Authority has seen major uplift – from two zones, north and south, it has been segregated into three zones with addition of central zone and further division into five zones is under process on the directions of Minister for Science and Technology – with a view to equipping it with capacity to discharge its mandated responsibilities effectively. At present PSQCA is responsible for specifying standards and enforcing them for 108 mandatory items, including bottled drinking water, packaged milk, banaspati ghee and cooking oil. On a query, it was informed that packaged milk came under regulations of PSQCA only very recently on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. It was further informed that standards for all these products are at par with regional and international standards however enforcement is a challenging task due to lack of capacity and other constraints. Senator Mian Ateeq Shaikh pointed out that there have been numerous media reports as well as admissions in the Supreme Court that non-food ingredients like urea, shampoo etc. are mixed into packaged milk to make it thick and frothy. The Minister for Science and Technology pointed out that PSQCA also takes action wherever standards are violated however enforcement is responsibility of provinces as Pure Food Act is a provincial subject. At the same time he said whatever is humanly possible is being done, from administrative capacity building to increase in fines and punishments and other measures. He informed that since packaged milk has come under PSQCA very recently, progress on enforcement of its standards would be visible in near future however there has been strong action against other violators. In 2016, 100 factories/units producing substandard bottled drinking water were seized as compared to 19 such seizures in 2015. Similarly, 15 factories/units producing substandard ghee were seized in 2016 compared to zero such seizures in previous years. Senator Azam Khan Swati averred that no factory/unit can deviate from set standards without connivance of corrupt elements within the PSQCA. He held that no meaningful progress can be made to check adulterated production without first taking strongest possible action against corrupt PSQCA officials and setting example. He pointed out that during his tenure as Minister for Science and Technology, Rs.980 million were recovered and inquired where that money is now. Secretary MoST informed that disciplinary actions have been taken against a number of officers/officials of PSQCA.

6. On a query by the Chairman Committee, it was informed that product testing is done from different labs for better results. The Chairman Committee directed that some random tests should also be done from abroad for cross checking. When informed about capacity issues of technically sound human resource and the delays being faced in creation of 72 new posts of scientists/engineers to overcome this constraint, the Chairman Committee noted that directions will be passed to Establishment Division to process creation of these posts on priority because quality control of food items is a very serious and urgent issue of national significance. Senator Azam Khan Swati asked for providing detailed academic background of PSQCA's technical staff in next meeting. On Senator Mian Ateeq Shaikh's query about standards of packaged milk, tea whitener and powder milk, the Committee, after deliberation, decided that MoST will present these standards before the Committee in the month of March, and the Committee will then decide how to go about scrutinizing them.

7. On agenda item about systems in place for ensuring quality of drinking water supplied to the residents to Islamabad, the Committee was informed that in the last testing, 70% of the

samples collected from different parts of Islamabad were found unfit for drinking. The Chairman Committee expressed displeasure at PCRWR's approach of doing water testing after 3-4 years and directed that water tests should be done after every three months. The Committee was informed that out of 37 water filtration plants in Islamabad, only 28 were functional but water quality of those 28 was also objectionable. The Committee directed CDA to present test results from 28 water filtration plants as well as accreditation of CDA's own water testing lab in the next Committee meeting.

8. On the issue of PSDW Project contract employees, Secretary MoST informed that the summary moved for age relaxation of contract employees for their regular appointments has not been approved by the Prime Minister. The contract employees approached Islamabad High Court which has now remanded the case to Sub Committee of the Cabinet on Contract Employees. After deliberations, it was decided that that matter would be taken up with Chairperson of the Cabinet Sub Committee on Contract Employees.

9. In the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017, while briefing the Committee about the COMSATS University Islamabad Bill 2017, it was informed that the Bill would not only upgrade COMSATS from the status of an institute to a university, paving way for better recognition and more funding, but also bring a balanced governance mechanism in the form of a bicameral system i.e. the Senate and Syndicate of the university. During the discussion, however, it transpired that after vetting from HEC and other stakeholders, some changes other than legal aspects were made in the draft Bill during its vetting in the Law Division. Minister for Science and Technology noted that it had come to his knowledge just there therefore he would want to probe into the matter in the next 10 days or so. The Chairman Committee decided to defer consideration of the Bill until next meeting.

10. At the start of discussion on PCST Bill 2016, Chairman Committee noted that a clear distinction between the role, functions and mandate of PCST and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) was not provided and it appeared as if the two institutions are parallel and overlapping. After deliberation, the Committee decided that MoST will present a detailed comparison of the two institutions, thereby highlighting the need for PCST and PSF separately, in the next Committee meeting, after which the Bill would be taken into consideration.

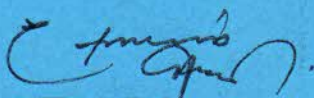
11. The Committee then discussed Pakistan National Accreditation Council Bill, 2016. It was informed that it is an obligatory requirement under ISO 17011 that PNAC be an autonomous legal entity, hence the Bill. Moreover, Supreme Court in its verdict has also passed directions to do legislation for PNAC. After deliberation, the Committee recommended that the Bill may be adopted by the Senate as passed by the National Assembly.

12. On the agenda item about popularization of science in the country, a presentation was made to the Committee by Mr. Mosharraf Zaidi of Alif Ailaan. Appreciating the steps taken in recent times by MoST for popularization of science and the keen interest Chairman Committee had taken in the matter, he underscored the need for increasing development budget for Science and Technology. He emphasized that old, obsolete practices of managing science and technology

in the country needed to be replaced with innovative ways of doing things; science fairs and other science promoting activities should also be held in small cities and towns; and synergies should be worked out among different institutions of the government so that there is no overlapping rather clarity and coordination. Minister for Science and Technology informed that ever since he took charge as Minister, special efforts were made for enhancing budget allocation. As a result, MoST's Research and Development budget has jumped 4.5 times from Rs.61 million to Rs.265 million while PSF's budget has tripled from Rs.37 million to Rs.117 million. He further informed that as he also holds the portfolio of Defence Production, he caused a meeting between the senior management of Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Defence Production and now the two ministries are undertaking a number of joint ventures, benefitting from expertise of each other in diverse fields and creating synergies. The Chairman Committee acknowledged the recent steps and pointed out that there is still vast room for improvement and a subject as critical as Science and Technology needed more focus, attention and thrust.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS / DIRECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE**

- i. MoST to present standards for packaged milk, tea whitener and powder milk before the Committee in the month of March. Detailed academic background of PSQCA's technical staff will also be presented before the Committee.
  - ii. Establishment Division should process creation of 72 new posts of scientists/engineers in PSQCA on priority.
  - iii. CDA to present test results from 28 water filtration plants as well as accreditation of CDA's own water testing lab.
  - iv. The Pakistan National Accreditation Council Bill, 2016, be passed in its present form, and as already passed by the National Assembly
13. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.



(Haris Rehman)  
DS/Secretary Committee



(Senator Osman Saifullah Khan)  
Chairman

Islamabad  
The 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017