

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT
OF THE
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
PRIVATIZATION AND STATISTICS

FOR THE PERIOD

From August, 2017 to November, 2017

Presented by

Senator Mohsin Aziz
Chairman, Committee

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Preface

I feel great pleasure to present the report of the Senate Standing Committee on Privatization and Statistics for the period from August, 2017 to November, 2017.

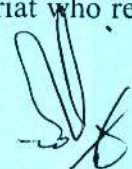
The Privatization Commission was constituted in 1991, as an integral part of the Finance Division. Thereafter, it was established as a corporate body under the provisions of Section 3(1) of the Privatization Commission Ordinance, 2000. The Privatization Commission was basically entrusted with the statutory mandate of implementing the Privatization Policy of the Federal Government. The Privatization Division coordinates and makes policy decisions while the Privatization Commission implements the said decisions. This has now been converted to a full fledged Ministry with a role to administer Privatization Commission's activities.

The Statistics Division and its attached department namely Pakistan Bureau of Statistic (PBS) conducts population & housing census in the country and collects, compiles and disseminates data on national accounts, price statistics, external trade, labour force, mining, manufacturing, agriculture, electricity generation, household income and expenditure, environment, education, transport, communication, tourism, demography, banking, stock exchange, capital market and other socio-economic indicators to provide reliable, fair and transparent data which serves as benchmark for all socio-economic development plans, administrative and political activities. Now the decision has been made as Ministry to provide timely, relevant, reliable, authentic and transparent statistics consistent with international principles and standards for effective decision making and monitoring.

During the period under report, three meetings were held in which issues of public and national importance were taken up by the Committee and recommendations were made accordingly. The proceedings of the Committee meetings and important recommendations are included in this report for the perusal and record.

I am thankful to the members of the Committee who participated in the Committee proceedings in a very effective manner. I am also grateful to the representatives of the relevant departments/organizations who have cooperated with the Committee.

I appreciate the contributions made by Ch. Salamat Ali, Secretary Committee, Malik Nudrat Ullah, Director (Staff) and other officers and staff of the Senate Secretariat who rendered valuable support to the Committee.



(Senator Mohsin Aziz)
Chairman

Agenda and Meetings of the Committee

First meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Privatization and Statistics was held on 29th August, 2017 in the old PIPS Hall, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

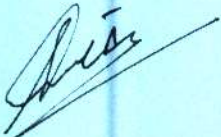
- (i) Briefing on the working, performance and role of Ministry of Statistics (Statistics Division).
- (ii) Briefing on the present status of Census 2017 along with statistical figures of Census and its comparison with previous Census.
- (iii) Briefing on the working, performance and role of Ministry of Privatization.
- (iv) Details of privatization which has been undertaken up to date and future plans of privatization.

Second meeting of the Committee was held on 18th October, 2017 in the Old PIPS Hall, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Briefing on the working, performance, role of Ministry of Privatization and its budgetary allocations.
- (ii) Details of Privatization which has been undertaken up-to-date (Last 4 years) and the future Privatization plan along with the details of approval from CCI.
- (iii) Discussion on progress of the provisional Census report and steps initiated from reassessment of 1-2% of the total 168,000 blocks.
- (iv) Date of final Census report, as its delay may cause problems and obstruction in the General Elections 2018.

Third meeting of the Committee was held on 7th November, 2017 in Conference Room of Statistics House, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, G-9/1, Islamabad. The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

- (i) Visit of the Committee to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics to physically monitor compilation process of census-2017.
- (ii) Discussion on the Technical Reports of Provincial Technical Committees on the Census-2017 as decided in the last meeting of the Committee held on 18-10-2017.
- (iii) Discussion on the Public Petition No.1992, forwarded by employees of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics to Chairman Senate pertaining to conversion of 1045 temporary posts of PBS (PC Wing) into permanent posts (from NIS to BO).



Proceedings and Achievements of the Committee

The Committee in its meeting held on 29th August, 2017 discussed the provisional results of the 6th population census and expressed reservations over the census results as most of the political parties had not accepted the results. The Consultant, PBS gave a detailed presentation on carrying out the Census-2017, and said that after the decision of the Supreme Court dated 7th December, 2016, and issuance of the directions by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) dated 16-12-2016, the census process started on 15th March 2017, and completed on 24th May, 2017. He said that 200,000 Army personnel were deployed on census duty out of which 44,000 were deployed for field operation along with civilian enumerators, while the remaining were used for provision of security, supply of census material and logistic support. Similarly, 120,000 civil staff was employed as Enumerators, Circle Supervisors and Charge Superintendents.

The Consultant, PBS further intimated that after completion of the Census operation, the filled-in census questionnaires were retrieved in the PBS Headquarters from all over the country under the security cover of Armed Forces. The data was compiled and the provisional census results were submitted before CCI for approval. The CCI approved the provisional census results in its meeting held on 25th August, 2017, and allowed to disseminate and release the figures.

According to the provisional census results the population of Pakistan came out to 207.77 million and average annual growth rate was observed as 2.40 over Census-1998-2017 against 2.69 observed during 1981-1998. The Consultant, PBS said that in Census 2017, there was a variation in provincial shares as compared to 1998 i.e. population of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was increased by 13.41 to 14.69 percent, Balochistan from 4.96 to 5.94 percent, FATA from 2.40 to 2.41 percent, Sindh from 23.00 to 23.05 percent, and Islamabad increased from 0.61 to 0.97 percent, however, share of Punjab was reduced from 55.63 to 52.95 percent.

In response to a query raised by the Committee, the Consultant, PBS informed that a sum of Rs.18.5 billion was sanctioned for the Census 2017, out of which Rs.17.26 billion was spent on the whole process whereas Rs.1.24 billion were surrendered. He further intimated that 10 enumerators died and nineteen enumerators were injured during census operation.

The Committee questioned whether there was any difference between the census records of PBS and held with the Army personnel. The Consultant replied that the information collected by the Army personnel and the PBS had the similar; however, the Army personnel were engaged in the census exercise to ensure that the process was transparent and acceptable to all the sectors. He further said that the holding of census under the supervision of Armed Forces was a pre-requisite to ensure credibility, transparency and security of the census process.

The Committee was of the view that a discrepancy existed in the census results of urban and rural population particularly margin of difference between the population of Karachi and Lahore. The Consultant said that the Government of Punjab had declared whole district of Lahore as urban area, while there were still major portions of the districts of Malir and West in Karachi classified as rural areas. He said that the PBS followed the notifications issued by the Provincial Governments / competent authorities where by any geographical area was declared as urban area.

The Committee enquired about the treatment of overseas Pakistanis, laborers residing at labour colonies, the peoples having two or more residences in the different parts of the country, disabled persons, transgender and Afghan Refugees in the Census. The Committee also observed that in most of the cases the enumerator counted the persons residing in the house from the servant or any other source without consulting any family member. The Consultant replied that the overseas Pakistanis had not been included in the census. He clarified that the results relating to transgender community and said that only those who identified themselves as 'transgender' were included in the category and no one was counted as transgender on their appearance. He said that Afghan Refugees and other Aliens living with common population were counted in the census.

While discussing the issuance of final Census Reports for the purpose of General Election, 2018, the Committee was intimated that PBS has proposed amendment in the General Statistics (Re-organization) Act, 2011 to authorized PBS to publish the provisional Summary Results of Census-2017 in order to enable Election Commission of Pakistan to complete delimitation exercise in the country on the basis of notified Provisional Census Results before holding of General Election, 2018. After approval of the said amendment, the Provisional Census Results of Census-2017 will be published which will meet the legal requirement for holding of General Election, 2018.

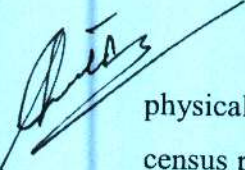
The Committee inquired about the issuance of final census results and conducting of post enumeration exercise to ensure the credibility of the census. The Consultant informed that the census results are provisional and the final census report would be compiled by the end of April, 2018. Regarding post enumeration exercise, he said that it was not an easy job and as per the standard practice, 5% of the total population needed to be reassessed. The Committee recommended that at least 1 – 2% of census blocks (1600-3200) should be considered as a post enumeration exercise and the final census report should be completed at the earliest and the blocks be opened on the identification and suggestions of the respective Provincial governments.

The Committee in its meeting held on 18th October, 2017, enquires about the privatization undertaken in the last 4 years and future plan. The Secretary, Privatization intimated

that the Cabinet Committee for Privatization and Privatization Commission Board recommend the entities by considering due financial aspects and transparency. The Chairman, Committee enquired about the shares of UBL and HBL sold on 6-7% discounted rate which was less than the original market price of the shares. The Minister informed the background of the matter in detail. Replying to a question, it was intimated that the total shares of UBL, HBL and ABL have been privatized and the Government has no share in these banks. The Committee directed that the detailed reasons may be communicated why 6-7% discount was given for selling the shares of UBL and HBL in bulk as the market price of the said shares were higher than the sale price.

The Chairman, Committee questioned why the profitable units have been disposed-off and the units in loss did not consider for privatization. The Minister, Privatization replied that the units sold in the past, have been giving higher profit after privatization. However, the desired results have not been obtained from the privatized banks due to their irresponsible behavior. The Chairman, Committee said that the banks are under the control of "Saiths" and the SBP has no proper control on these banks. The banks get deposits in billions and provide loans in millions. The Committee recommended that the parameters and regulations of private banks for providing loans should be defined and implemented properly.

Replying to a question the Minister, Privatization informed that the Sindh Government has never shown its willingness to take the responsibility for controlling and operating the PSM. However, the matter will be reconsidered. The Committee recommended that there should be a definite and comprehensive privatization policy of the Government to privatize the state owned entities. While briefing regarding future plan of privatization, it was informed that 37 entities have been short listed including SME Bank, Mari Petroleum, and Pakistan Steel Mill.



The Committee visited the Statistics House, PBS on 7th November, 2017 to physically monitor the compilation process of census-2017 and to ascertain the latest position of the census process. The Committee checked the arrangements made for the storage, safety and security of the census record and expressed its reservations over such arrangements. The Chief Consultant briefed the Committee on the compilation process of census 2017. The Committee raised questions over the authenticity of the provisional census results. Senator Nasreen Jalil inquired about the social indicator for the confirmation of household size, growth rate, block wise results, average ratio of voters, CNIC, and limitations. She asked whether the Afghan Refugees were included or separately enumerated in the population census of KP. She further asked whether the reservations pertaining to Sindh province has been conveyed to the Federal Government as the census results would have a deep impact on resource distribution among provinces under the NFC Award. The

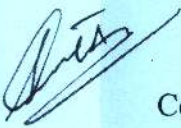
Chief Consultant intimated that the Afghan Refugees were included in the population of KP in the provisional census results.

Senator Sherry Rehman observed that there was no counterfoil or acknowledgement slip as part of the survey forms. She said in absence of proper check and balance, the census results were controversial and waste of public money. Due to non-availability of counterfoil, the Chairman, Committee declared it a serious fault. He further said that the Census Form was so complicated and it was not possible for an uneducated person or a servant to provide the requisite information as in most cases the forms have not been filled by any member of the family and this in fact is a very serious negligence. The Chief Consultant replied that the acknowledgment was not part of the plan designed by the technical committee.

The Committee suggested that the Government may constitute a parliamentary committee to monitor the census process for addressing the reservations about the census. Senator Hari Ram said that since a large number of Hindus living in Sindh kept migrating in different seasons, the results were not accurate. He further said that the census in Thar was conducted at a time when most of the occupants had migrated owing to draught in the area.

The Chairman, Committee inquired about the possibility of verification/confirmation of the census results by individuals. The Chief Consultant replied that the confirmation/verification will be possible after issuance of final results. Replying to another question regarding availability of provisional census results publically, he said there was no issue in making the provisional census results public but it requires permission from the Government.

While briefing the Committee regarding finalization of census results, the Chief Consultant informed that the CCI had given a deadline up to May, 2018 to complete the final census results, however, the PBS determined to complete the process by end of April, 2018. He further intimated that no area was left uncovered in the census as no region had boycotted or was exempted from the process. The Committee suggested that the compilation staff may be doubled to finalize the census results at the earliest.

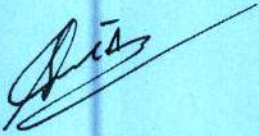


Regarding the Technical Reports of Provincial Technical Committees on the Census-2017, the Chief Consultant informed that the provincial governments had constituted technical committees to oversee and monitor the process of editing, coding, scanning and data processing at the PBS headquarters. He intimated that the technical committees of Punjab and KP showed their satisfaction over the steps taken by the PBS for smooth processing of the census data. However, the Sindh showed some reservations on the conduct of census in the province. He further

share their reports with the PBS. After receipt of the reports, the shortcomings identified therein will be addressed subsequently. The Committee directed the PBS to furnish the record of the correspondence with the provincial technical committees.

The Committee strongly recommended that although the processing of data is being done in two shifts basis, yet in order to expedite the process to get the final results in 2-3 months' time, the staff and hardware such as computers/scanners etc be increased immediately.

The Committee discussed the Public Petition No. 1992 which was submitted by the 1045 employees of PBS to the Chairman, Senate pertaining to conversion of 1045 temporary posts into permanent posts. The Chief Consultant informed the Committee that the concerned staff was recruited in the financial year 2007-08 for the purpose of census activities as well as all types of surveys, studies, and assignments of PBS. These posts were being continued on yearly basis. He further intimated that the Finance Division has accorded approval to the continuation of the posts for a period of 8 months w.e.f 1-7-2017 to 28-02-2018 which created an impression of dissatisfaction amongst the employees. He informed the Committee that the conversion of these posts on permanent footing is essential and in the public interest. Therefore, a proposal in this regard has already been forwarded to the Finance division for concurrence. The Committee directed the PBS to pursue the matter and submit report to the Committee accordingly.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Sis', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Important Recommendations of the Committee

1. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Council of Common Interest (CCI), should ensure to re-assess at least 2% of the 168,943 census blocks across the country in order to ensure the creditability of 6th population census.
2. The Committee directed that the technical reports of Provincial Technical Committees on the Census-2017 should be communicated to the Committee.
3. The Committee decided to visit office of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics to physically monitor the compilation process of Census 2017.
4. The provisional census results should be notified at the earliest in order to satisfy all concerns as most of the political parties and civil society have shown reservations on the credibility of the census results. The Committee recommended that centers at provincial levels should be opened to verify the census results by the public. Moreover, the Non-Muslims' census results are also placed in the centers for verification.
5. The Committee reiterated its earlier stance that there is a need for the authenticity of provisional census results and proposed that at least 2% of the total blocks i.e 16,893 may be rechecked on the advice of provincial governments.
6. The Government may constitute a parliamentary committee to monitor the census process for addressing the reservations of the political parties about the census 2017.
7. The Provincial Technical Committees are required to furnish their Technical Reports immediately to the PBS as submitted to the provincial governments. The Committee directed to PBS to submit the photocopies of correspondence made with provincial governments in this regard for taking necessary action by the Committee.
8. The Committee directed to the Statistics Division to take up the matter pertaining to conversion of 1045 temporary posts of PBS on permanent footing with Finance Division for its early finalization.
9. The Committee recommended that the final census results should be compiled at the earliest by engaging double compilation staff to speed up the census process.
10. The parameters and regulations of private banks regarding loan policy should be defined and implemented properly.
11. The Committee directed that the detailed reasons why 6-7% discounts was given to sale the shares of UBL and HBL as compared to the market price of the said shares.
12. The Committee recommended that there should be a definite and comprehensive privatization policy of the Government to privatize the state owned entities. Moreover, the Government may not be involved itself in business.



(CH. SALAMAT ALI)
D.S/Secretary (Committee)



(SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ)
Chairman(Committee)

Annex**ATTENDANCE OF THE MEMBERS IN THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>Name of Members</u>	<u>29-08-2017</u>	<u>18-10-2017</u>	<u>07-11-2017</u>
1	Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman	Present	Present	Present
2	Senator Mrs. Zahida Khan	Absent	Absent	Absent
3	Senator Sherry Rehman	Absent	Absent	Present
4	Senator Malik Najmul Hassan	Absent	Present	Absent
5	Senator KhushbakhtShujat	Absent	Absent	Present
6	Senator NehalHashmi	Absent	Absent	Absent
7	Senator Hamza	Present	Absent	Present
8	Senator MushahidUllah Khan	Absent	Absent	Absent
9	Senator Mir NematullahZehri	Absent	Absent	Absent
10	Senator SaleemMandviwala	Present	Present	Absent
11	Senator NasreenJalil	Absent	Absent	Present
12	Senator Hari Ram	Absent	Absent	Present

