

**SENATE OF PAKISTAN  
HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION**



**Report No. 2**

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE  
AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY**

**ON THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR MIR KABEER  
AHMED MUHAMMAD SHAHI REGARDING THE CONCERNS OF FARMS IN  
BALOCHISTAN REFERRED BY THE HOUSE ON 30-08-2018.**

**PRESENTED BY**

**SENATOR SYED SHABILI FARAZ,  
LEADER OF THE HOUSE  
CHAIRMAN STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & TEXTILE  
INDUSTRY**

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

### REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY ON POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR MIR KABEER AHMED MUHAMMAD SHAHI REGARDING THE CONCERNS OF FARMERS IN BALOCHISTAN IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2018.

I, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile Industry have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on the Point of Public Importance moved by Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi with respect to, concerns of farmers in Balochistan regarding imports of vegetables, in the sitting of the Senate held on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

2. The Honourable Chairman Senate referred the said Point of Public Importance to the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile Industry and directed to report back in the next Session.

3. The standing Committee deliberated the issue in its meeting held on 17th October, 2018 and finalized its recommendations.

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

1. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Chairman
2. Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Member
3. Senator Haroon Khan	Member
4. Senator Rana Maqbool UI Hassan	Member
5. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
6. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
7. Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
8. Senator Islamuddin Shaikh	Member
9. Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak	Member
10. Senator Aurangzeb Khan	Member
11. Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
12. Minister for Commerce	Ex-Officio Member

5. The Following members attended the meeting:

1. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Chairman
2. Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Member
3. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
4. Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member

10. The Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Textile Industry, assured the Committee that he would personally meet with Senator Mir Kabir Muhammad Shahi and resolve the issues raised by the Honourable Senator on the floor of the House.

11. The Committee, after detailed deliberations and discussions with different stakeholders unanimously finalized the following recommendations: -

- i. The Committee recommended that the government should direct FBR and Ministry of Interior to ensure strict anti-smuggling measures at all border points in Pakistan, at all entry points.
- ii. The Committee recommended that PASCO ensures a minimum support price for agricultural produce from Balochistan to supplement the livelihoods of the farmers of Balochistan.
- iii. The Committee recommended that Ministry of Commerce and Textile Industry should make Quality Certification mandatory for all goods being imported from Iran, especially apples, to ensure that only non-hazardous goods are imported, quality is maintained, and the local farmers of Balochistan are protected against unfair competition. The committee directed that quarantine conditions should be strictly followed.

  
**(IFFAT MUSTAFA)**  
Secretary Committee

  
**(SENATOR SYED SHIBLI FARAZ)**  
Chairman Committee

5. Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak	Member
6. Senator Aurangzeb Khan	Member
7. Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
8. Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi	Mover

6. The Committee appreciated Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi for raising an issue of utmost importance to the livelihoods of the farmers of Balochistan. In a special session, the Committee deliberated upon the raised issue of vegetables and fruits prices in Balochistan in the wake of cheaper imports in August. According to Senator Shahi, the government policies were directly and indirectly hurting the Baloch farmers.

7. Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi opined that the import restrictions and smuggling checks on fruits and vegetables from India, Iran and Afghanistan will help the local farmers and consequently uplift the Baloch farmers. He also informed that the approximate produce of around 1.2 million tons of apples produced in Balochistan, in comparison to the 1 million tons worth of demand. He added that this produce was in addition to the 0.3 million tons of grapes, 0.5 million tons of onions and 0.5 million tons of dates every year by the north eastern province, but unfortunately, routine smuggling of similar produce is threatening the local growers.

8. Senator Shibli Faraz, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile Industry, acknowledged the concern raised by the Honourable Senator, and assured the Committee that the Government will lend its full support to the local farmers. He further suggested that cold storages facilities should be built to minimize the wastage.

9. The Ministry also informed the Committee that after imports from Afghanistan were banned, a high-level delegation from Afghanistan sought to fix the issue, and consequently only fruit and vegetable imports were allowed into the country. The Committee was also informed that Pakistan imports tomatoes worth \$29.5m, onions worth \$14m and apples worth \$33m from Afghanistan and Iran. Furthermore, the Indian imported tomatoes, worth Rs17bn last year, were banned in 2018. While these imports were subject to laboratory testing, the Chairman questioned the quality and capacity of the laboratories for their accuracy at the import stage.

