

**SENATE OF PAKISTAN
HOUSE OF FEDERATION**



Report No. 4 of the Committee

**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, NATIONAL
HISTORY AND LITERARY HERITAGE ON "POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR
MUHAMMAD USMAN KHAN KAKAR IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2018,
REGARDING INSULT OF PASHTOONS IN A GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENT"**

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR FAISAL JAVED

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, NATIONAL HISTORY AND LITERARY HERITAGE ON POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR USMAN KHAN KAKAR IN THE SENATE, REGARDING INSULT OF PASHTOONS IN A GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENT.

I, Senator Faisal Javed, Chairman Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage, have the honor to submit, on behalf of the Committee, this report on point of public importance raised by Senator Usman Khan Kakar in the Senate, regarding insult of Pashtoons in a government advertisement, referred by the House on 18th September 2018 to the Committee for consideration and report.

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

1.	Senator Faisal Javed	Chairman
2.	Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar	Member
3.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
4.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
5.	Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
6.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
7.	Senator Mushtaq Ahmed	Member
8.	Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
9.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
10.	Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
11.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member
12.	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
13.	Senator Kamran Michael	Member
14.	Minister for Information and Broadcasting	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee placed the matter on agenda in its meetings held on 5th and 18th October 2018 and 7th January 2019. The following attended the meeting on 5th October 2018.

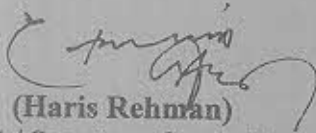
1.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
2.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
3.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member



Rashid endorsed the views expressed by Senator Kakar and categorically condemned all incidents of victimization in any form of Pashtuns or any other ethnic/linguistic groups. However, he also pointed out that the assertion, as if it is a Punjabi mindset against Pashtuns or Punjabis as a group are responsible, is wrong. He added that while talking about respect of one group, the other groups should not be disrespected. Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar maintained that Pakistan is a pluralistic society and there's absolutely no tolerance for such acts against Pashtoons or any other ethnic group. Secretary Information briefed the Committee regarding a content committee to be formed to monitor campaign advertisements before airing. However, the Chairman Faisal Javed opposed the idea of forming a content committee observing that censor board and PEMRA already exist to ensure that all content going on air abides by the set standards and codes. To this, the Secretary replied that PEMRA's role comes after airing of a program/advertisement, Censor Board is only for films and PTV's internal censor board cannot review campaign ads being telecasted on private channel, while the Content Committee's mandate is to regulate the content before it is aired on all TV channels. The Chairman said that there used to be a Censor Board at PTV for checking all TVCs, whether belonging to government departments or private sector before airing. There is no need of a content committee rather this forum of censor board needs to be updated to cater for ads of print, TV, radio and digital media. The Secretary then informed that an inquiry against two officers of PTV is already underway on this particular incident and its findings would be presented to the Committee in due course. The Chairman Committee also pointed out that a TV commercial of a private concern is showing a dummy of the Prime Minister, and observed that while entertainment program do take the liberty of showing dummies of national leaders, the use of this liberty for commercial purposes cannot be allowed. Chairman PEMRA informed that the said TVC is against the PEMRA code of conduct, therefore channels have been asked to stop airing it. The Committee against expressed dissatisfaction with PEMRA's response on the matter observing that the said TVC is being aired on almost all TV channels even at the time of holding of the Committee Meeting. The Chairman Committee underscored that government advertisements shall be meticulously planned and a foolproof system shall be devised to ensure no such lapse happen in future. He also said that there was absolutely no justification for maligning any ethnic group and it was a totally uncalled for act.

5. The Committee finally decided to dispose of the matter on above lines. The Committee also recommended that under Rule 265-A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in

the Senate, 2012, the Minister for Information will be required to make a statement on the matter before the House.



(Haris Rehman)
DS / Secretary Committee



(Senator Faisal Javed)
Chairman

Islamabad
The 15th January 2019