

**SENATE OF PAKISTAN
HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION**



REPORT NO.5

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AVIATION

**ON THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR
GIANCHAND REGARDING "A NEWSPAPER REPORT HIGHLIGHTING
THE INVOLVEMENT OF PIA OFFICERS IN SMUGGLING AND MONEY
LAUNDERING" REFERRED BY THE HOUSE ON 25.09.2018**

PRESENTED BY

**SENATOR MUSHAHIDULLAH KHAN
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AVIATION.**

I, Senator Mushahidullah Khan, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Aviation have the honour to present the report of the Committee on the Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Gianchand regarding "a newspaper report highlighting the involvement of PIA officers in smuggling and money laundering" referred by the House on 25.09.2018.

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

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|-----|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Senator Mushahidullah Khan | Chairman |
| 2. | Senator Sherry Rehman | Member |
| 3. | Senator Fida Muhammad | Member |
| 4. | Senator Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem | Member |
| 5. | Senator Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo | Member |
| 6. | Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah | Member |
| 7. | Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan | Member |
| 8. | Senator Shaheen Khalid Butt | Member |
| 9. | Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi | Member |
| 10. | Senator Moula Bux Chandio | Member |
| 11. | Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak | Member |
| 12. | Senator Samina Saeed | Member |

3. The Standing Committee on Aviation considered the matter in its meetings held on 17.10.2018 & 22.11.2018 respectively.

4. The Mover Senator Gianchand while highlighting the issue during the meetings said that involvement of PIA staff in such kind of activities is not new and various incidents of such kind had been reported and published not only in the domestic print and electronic media in the past but also reported in the international media as well, which carried bad name and image of the national flag carrier.

5. He while showing dissatisfaction on the briefing by PIA as given in the first meeting, requested the Chairman of the Committee to pass directions to PIA for conducting an in depth inquiry into the whole issue in order to enforce discipline in the PIA.

6. The Secretary Aviation said that although the complaint was not signed by anyone and under the rules anonymous complaints do not warrant any action however, as the news was also highlighted in the media therefore the notice was taken immediately and Deputy General Manager (Security) was entrusted the responsibility to verify the facts as mentioned in the complaint. The entire Committee was however, did not agree with the statement/ views given by DGM(Security) in his report and observed that the charges of smuggling, money laundering etc as mentioned in the complaint/newspaper are very serious in nature as such the hon'ble Chairman and members of the Committee asked the Secretary Aviation to hold a transparent inquiry into the matter and report be submitted in the next meeting of the Committee.

7. Accordingly in the next meeting, the Committee was informed that in lines with the directions as given in the meeting held on 17.10.2018, an inquiry was conducted and as per the findings of the said inquiry few staff have been put under scrutiny and disciplinary action has already been taken against the two staff members. Lack of coordination between the other concerned departments was also one of the reason for occurring such kind of incidents. However, the involvement of staff of other concerned departments cannot be ruled out, it was further informed.

8. The CEO of PIA Air Marshal Arshad Malik said that the matter of smuggling and money laundering by the cabin crew, indeed a very serious in nature and we have taken it very seriously. Such kind of incidents not just bring disgraced to the PIA but to the entire nation as well.

9. He further said that security procedures and practices by various agencies are well defined in the books and if implemented in true spirit, the incidents of smuggling and money laundering can be controlled very effectively, however, these are not possible without the patronage of the very influential external forces as well as higher ups of all concerned departments who are responsible to curb such kind of malpractices.

10. ASF officer also briefed the Committee on the role of ASF in stoppage of smuggling & money laundering and said that as per the SoP, during search of passengers and their luggage / baggage, if found any objectionable item like narcotics, liquor, currency, Gold and other smuggling items, handed over to the relevant agency like ANF, Custom, FIA etc for further necessary action.

11. The officer also informed that in order to avoid such kind of incidents in future an effective coordination amongst all the relevant agencies is required and in this regard a proposal of establishing a joint CCTV room is under consideration from where all concerned agencies will be in a position to monitor all activities / movements.

12. The Secretary Aviation while summing up the briefing, said that on the directions of Prime Minister of Pakistan all necessary measures have been made at all Airports from where international flights are being operated in order to ensure strict check on smuggling, money laundering and other illegal activities.

13. The Committee alongwith the Mover, expressed their satisfaction on the steps taken by the PIA, ASF and other agencies in order to prevent such kind of incidents which carry bad name not only for the concerned government agencies specially for the PIA but for the country as well.

14. After the detailed discussion on the matter, hon'ble Chairman of the Committee disposed-off the matter with the following recommendations:-

“The Committee directed the Secretary Aviation, PIA and CAA officers to take strict actions against those officers/ officials who were involved in smuggling, money laundering and keep strict check on the staff particularly on the cabin crew to avoid such incidents in the future. The matter was disposed-off with the consent of the Mover, Senator Gianchand.


(HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH)
AS/Secretary Committee


(SENATOR MUSAHIDULLAH KHAN)
Chairman Standing Committee on Aviation

Islamabad the,
7th January, 2019