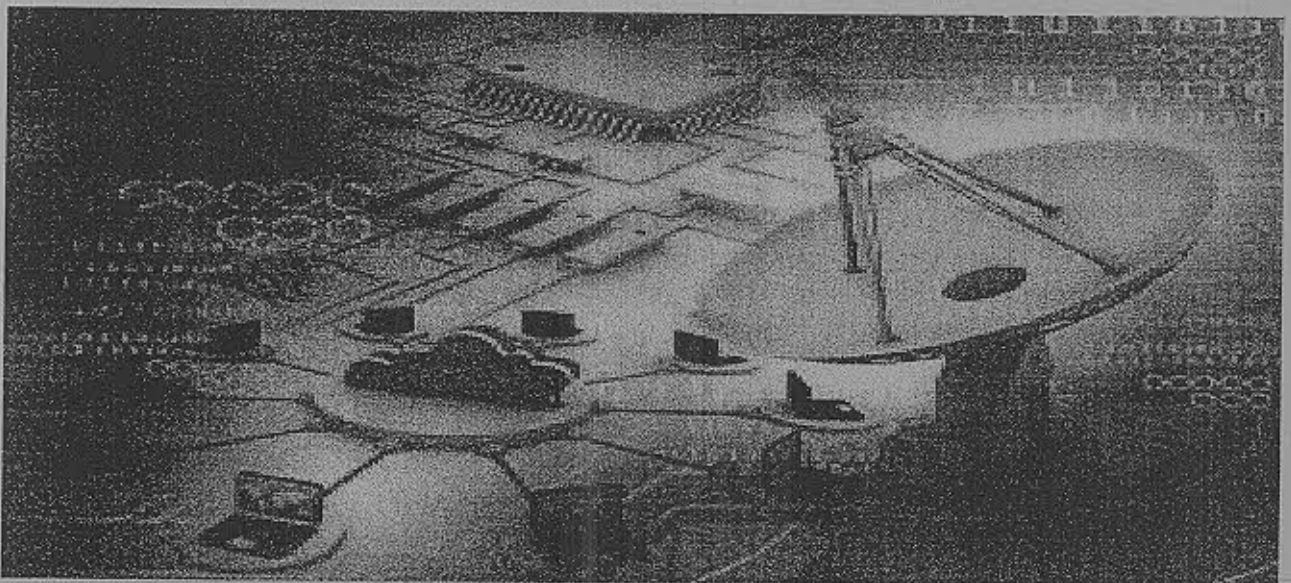


SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION



UNDER PROVISIO TO SUB-RULE (4) OF RULE 166 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE SENATE, 2012

PRESENTED BY
SENATOR RUBINA KHALID
CHAIRPERSON

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION UNDER PROVISIO TO SUB-RULE (4) OF RULE 166 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE SENATE, 2012

I, Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, have the honor to present the report, on behalf of the Committee, on the budgetary allocation and its utilization in respect of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, under proviso to sub-rule (4) of rule 166 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication is as under:-

i.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
ii.	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
iii.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
iv.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member
v.	Senator Fida Muhammad	Members
vi.	Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Member
vii.	Senator Engineer Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
viii.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
ix.	Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
x.	Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
xi.	Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
xii.	Senator Faisal Javed	Member
xiii.	Senator Kamran Michael	Member
xiv.	Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Minister for IT and Telecommunication (Ex-Officio Member)	


3. The Committee considered the budgetary allocation and its utilization in respect of the Ministry of the Information Technology and Telecommunication, in its meeting held on 14th February, 2019. The meeting of the Committee was attended by the following members:-

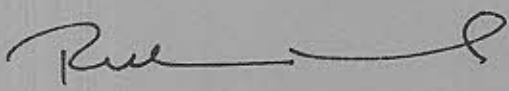
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v.	Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
vi.	Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Member
vii.	Senator Engineer Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
viii.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member

4. The Secretary MoIT and Telecommunication apprised the Committee that the budgetary allocation to the Ministry during year 2018-19 on non-development side was Rs. 4.075 billion that was divided in seven attached departments of the Ministry. He informed the Committee that the allocation for the Ministry in total budget was 9.7% only, whereas, 72% of the total budget was allocated to the Special Communication Organization (SCO). He further informed the Committee that all the personnel and development expenditures of SCO were born by the MoIT and Telecommunication. Further, SCO was a capital intensive organization with significant operations cost. Hence, a 72% of budget was allocated to the SCO.
5. The Secretary MoIT and Telecommunication further explained the various heads, their allocation and utilization from the allocated budget until December, 2018. He informed that 10% of the total allocation (18.8 million rupees) was cut by the Government from the non-development side expenditures. The Secretary informed that original developmental budget allocation was Rs. 3 billion from which almost 50% was cut and revised allocation stood at Rs.1.4 billion.
6. The Chairperson expressed dissatisfaction over 50% cut in the development budget of the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication. Senator Abdul Rehman Malik stated the 50% cut in the budget equated to taking Information Technology (IT) backwards when the country's future development relied on the progress in IT. Senator Dr. Ghous Mouhammad khan Niazi and Senator Sana Jamali also expressed their reservations on the budget cut remarking that such step was likely to put Pakistan laid back in IT. The Chairperson expressed that due to lack of budget, departments fail to perform as required due to which implementation of laws and policies suffer badly.
7. Briefing about the development projects, the Secretary MoIT and Telecommunication stated that a project of 'Construction of Cross-border optical fibre cable system between China and Pakistan for international connectivity' had been completed. The Secretary explained that this project had been providing transit to the China's data traffic and was beneficial to Pakistan as an enhancement in its connectivity and as a source of revenue in terms of transit fees that is charged from the traffic that passes through it. The Committee decided that in future a meeting on the ongoing and proposed development projects of the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication will be

conducted in which the feasibility, budget and completion status of the projects will be evaluated.

8. Briefing on the budget, the Secretary MoIT and Telecommunication informed that allocation of the 'Employee related expenses' was 183.703 million rupees, of which 38.46% had been utilized till December, 2018. The Chairperson asked the reason of less than 50% utilization of the budget in 'Employee Related Expenses' despite passing of half-year. The Secretary informed that there were various 'Vacant Posts' that could not had been filled He informed that it was because of the expenditure saved on such vacant posts that budgets utilization was less than 50% till the mid-year in December, 2018.
9. The Chairperson asked whether Ministry had surrendered any budget on her own. The Secretary responded that no budget had been surrendered by the Ministry except the cuts by the government.
10. After detailed deliberations and analysis, the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication:-
 - Emphasized the role of adequate budget for an organization to implement its mandate effectively.
 - Expressed dissatisfaction over the 50% cut in the development budget of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication.
 - Recommended that budget cut of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication should be avoided and Ministry be provided additional budget so that its mandate did not suffer due to lack of budget.
 - Decided that in future a meeting on the ongoing and proposed development projects of the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication will be conducted.
 - Directed MoIT and Telecommunication to come up with couple of proposals for development of IT in Pakistan whereby the Committee would support to secure the budget for the same from the Government.


IFFAT MUSTAFA
SECRETARY (COMMITTEE)


SENATOR RUBINA KHALID
CHAIRPERSON (COMMITTEE)