

**SENATE SECRETARIAT**

**REPORT  
OF THE  
SENATE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE  
ON  
PROBLEMS OF LESS DEVELOPED AREAS**

**FOR THE VISIT OF CHITRAL, KALASH AND PESHAWAR**

**From 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018**

**Presented by**

**Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar**

**Chairman, Committee**

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## Preface

I feel great pleasure to present the report of Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas of the meetings/visit of Chitral, Kalash and Peshawar held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018.

2. In pursuance of Rule 160 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate 2012, the Committee on problems of less developed areas performs the functions to promote a balanced development in different areas of the country and to pay special attention to the problems of the less developed areas:-

- a) to review plans and special programmes for less developed areas as approved by the Government from time to time;
- b) to receive representations from effected persons and areas concerning the development of those areas within the frame work of budgetary provisions already made in that behalf;
- c) to identify problems, bottlenecks and differences in the implementation of the programmes and policies for less developed areas as approved and enunciated by the Government from time to time; and
- d) to make recommendations subject to availability of resources, for resolving these problems and for the speedier development of those areas in order to achieve more balanced and equitable utilization of resources in the country for greater socio-economic justice.

3. The Committee attended the meetings at Chitral and Kalash with local administration, political and public representatives, Nazims etc of the area and visited various locations earmarked during the meetings to know the problems and issues of the area. A meeting was also held with Scout Commandant, Chitral about the security measures in the area as well as relations with local community. At the end, the Committee held a meeting in the office of Chief Secretary, Peshawar to discuss grievances and problems of less developed areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. The proceedings of the Committee meetings and important recommendations are included in this report for the perusal and record.

4. I am thankful to the Members of the Committee who participated in the Committee proceedings effectively especially Late Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel who made active contribution during the visit. I am also grateful to district administration, Chitral, public and political representatives, Nazims etc who cooperated with the Committee. I appreciate the contributions made by Ch. Salamat Ali, Secretary Committee, Mr. Rehan Islam, Private Secretary and other officers and staff who rendered valuable support to the Committee.

Sd/--

(SENATOR MUHAMMAD USMAN KHAN KAKAR)  
Chairman Functional Committee on  
Problems of Less Developed Areas

## Less Developed Districts of Pakistan

PUNJAB	SINDH	KHYBER KUKHITUN- KHWA	BALUCHISTAN			SPECIAL AREAS
Layyah	Dadu	Banu	Awaran	Jhal Magsi	Mustung	All Districts In AJK GB & FATA
		Chitral	Barkhan	Lasbella	Zhob	
Lodhran	Jacobabad	Lakki Marwat	Harnai	Loralai	Dera Bughti	
	Kamber	Tank	Chagai	Musa khail	Kohlu	
Muzaffar Garh	Kashmore	Batagram	Jaffarabad	Noshki	Sibbi	
	Sanghar	Upper Dir	Kharan	Kalat	Ziarat	
	Tharparkar	Shangla	Khuzdar	Gwadar	Pishin	
Rajanpur	Umerkot	Kohistan	Kila Abdullah	Kech/Turbat	Panjgur	
		D.I Khan	Kila Saifullah	Bolan	Dera Murad Jamali	
	Badin	Buner	Sherani	Washuk		
		Lower Dir				

List of Less Developed Districts of Pakistan as notified by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, Islamabad.

## Agenda and Meetings of the Committee

The meetings of the Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas were held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018 at Chitral, Kalash and Peshawar.

The agenda before the Committee was as under:-

### Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at Chitral

- i) Meeting with local administration, political persons/ Nazims etc of Chitral area with regards to Problems of Less Developed Areas.
- ii) Briefing by Scout Commandant, Chitral about the security measure in the area as well as relations with local community of Chitral.
- iii) Visit of various locations/points of Chitral earmarked during the meeting.

### Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at Kalash, Chitral

- i) Meeting with local administration, political persons/Public of Kalash area regarding Problems of Less Developed Areas.
- ii) Visit to various locations/points of Kalash earmarked during the meeting.

### Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018 in Chief Secretary Office, Peshawar

- i) Detailed and comprehensive briefing by Chief Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and officials from FATA Secretariat, regarding grievances and problems of less developed areas related to federal government departments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA.
- ii) To discuss future plans and take remedial steps to reduce the grievances of the people of less developed areas in light of visits of above less developed areas.

## Proceedings and Achievements of the Committee

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at the Deputy Commissioners Office, Chitral. The Chairman, Committee informed the purpose and aim of the Committee to visit Chitral. The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Committee regarding geographical position, history of administrative set-up, main issues and problems of the district. He said that the district Chitral has 475 km boundary with Afghanistan along with boundary conjoint with districts Upper Dir, Swat and Gilgit-Biltistan. He intimated that district has area of 14,850 sq km, population 447,362, Tehsils 4, literacy rate 54%, forest 4.8%, crops land 4%, glacier 76%, population consists of 69% Sunni, 30% Ismaili and 1% Kalash. Regarding history of Chitral, he said that Katur Dynasty ruled from 1590 to 1947 and the Ruler was called Methar. He informed that the 1st instrument of accession was signed in November 1948 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1953 when the old system of the government was abolished and the state become federal part of Pakistan. He said that the district was integrated with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 1970.

2 The Committee was apprised regarding educational institutions, health facilities, roads infrastructure, bridges, development schemes, allocation of development funds and progress of the schemes in the District. According to the Deputy Commissioner the following steps may be taken to solve the basic issues and problems of the area:

- i. Bifurcation of the District Chitral into upper and lower Chitral being the largest area-wise district of the country.
- ii. Development of barren land as declared state property under notification 1975.
- iii. Exploration of natural resources to generate income resources for local people.
- iv. Rehabilitation of valley's roads.
- v. Establishment of custom check post at Arandu and Shah Saleem.
- vi. PSDP projects approved during last Government should be continued.
- vii. Gas projects already approved should be continued and completed.
- viii. Electricity Royalty may be given.
- ix. Completion and opening of Lowari Tunnel.

3 The Committee discussed the budget allocation and the funds released in the current financial year 2018-19. While discussing basic facilities, the Committee observed that the number of middle schools, vocational institutions, road infrastructure, bridges and rural health centers available in the area were very low as compared to the requirement. The District Nazim, Chitral informed that the development budget was allocated less as compared to the area. He said that the financial allocation may be given according to the length of

roads, requirement and geographical area instead of population. The Committee desired that the share in budget allocation should be given as per geographical area and requirement instead of population. He said that peoples of Chitral are always loyal to their area irrespective of their political affiliation. He said that Chitral has different culture after Lowari Tunnel as the investors and tourists have shown interest towards Chitral. He requested that there should be ban on sale of land except residents of Chitral to save the interest of local community. According to him, electricity is available only to 35% of population and requested that electricity may be given to the area on subsidy rates. He further requested that a specific percentage in allocation of financial resources may be given to District Chitral.

4. The representatives of the local community demanded that Shandour to Chitral road 173 km may be repaired. Moreover, Kalash valley is a non-developed area without approachable road. It was further said that Shandour to Chakdra road approved but no work has yet been started and requested that the approved projects may be continued and completed. Moreover, royalty of river may be given to the Chitral District. They demanded LPG-Air Mix plants may be installed at the earliest to save the forests used as fire wood. The D.C, Chitral intimated that MoU will be signed with the concerned Company after approval of the Provincial Cabinet. The Committee recommended that the LPG-Air Mix plants already approved should be installed at the earliest.

5 Mr. Said Ahmad Khan, Ex-MPA said that Chitral has 34 valleys which are linked with the country through only Lowari Tunnel. He said the Tunnel has been closing alternatively for every 2-3 hours which creating many problems to the people especially families and patients to wait for hours. He further said that the PSDP projects and roads already approved should be continued and completed. He said that electricity issue of the area should be resolved. The President, CCC&I proposed that Chitral business community may be given a special package. He said that human development skill of people of Chitral should be enhanced. He further said that loan should be given on low interest rates especially long term loans for establishment of Mining and Marble industry. He requested for establishment of Dry Port at Arandu, Chitral. Mr. Hidayat-ur-Rehman, MPA said that 100 posts of scouts' police for tourists should be approved at the earliest. The P.D, University of Chitral said that PC-1 of Rs.3 billion of the university was under process, however, the approaching roads were required to be constructed/ rehabilitated. Replying to a question, he said that at present temporary arrangements for 11 general departments with enrolment of 1500 students have been made.

6 The Representatives of political parties, press club, and other sections of the community raised the issue of Lowari Tunnel and misbehavior of NHA with the public and MNA. They demanded that the issue should be resolved at the earliest as the public badly suffers. They further said that sufficient drinking water was not available. They requested to reserve a special seat in the parliament to represent Chitral community. They raised the issues of development of roads infrastructure, non-availability of employments, insufficient education and health facilities, non-provision of electricity, lack of economic development and investment facilities. They demanded that the border at Arandu with Afghanistan may be opened as the peoples of both sides have their identical culture and traditions. They said that the earthquake and flood of 2015 damaged most of the area of Chitral and requested for a special package. Moreover, relevant machinery may be provided to Chitral to control and monitor the situation in future.

7 While discussing the Lowari Tunnel, the Deputy Commissioner, Chitral intimated that closing of Lowari Tunnel for alternative 2-3 hours was an important issue of the area as the tunnel has yet not fully functioned. He said that there was suffocation and has no proper availability of air, exhaust and water drainage system. He proposed that stop-gap arrangements may be made to facilitate the peoples of Chitral. He further proposed that the security audit of the Tunnel may be conducted. The District Nazim said that NHA created problems and proposed that a high level meeting may be arranged with NHA to resolve the issue. He further proposed that the administrative control of the Lowari Tunnel may be handed over to the Chitral District Management who may run it in better way. The C&W Engineer said that the Tunnel has two basic technical faults that non-availability of drainage water pipes and air pressure control pipes. Moreover, no medical facility was available at Lowari Tunnel.

8 The Committee appreciated the comprehensive briefing given by the D.C, Chitral and pointed out the main issues and problems of the area. The Committee recommended that the issue of Lowari Tunnel should be immediately resolved to facilitate the people of Chitral. The Committee emphasized to solve the issues of electricity and LPG Air-Mix plants to save the forests of the area. The Committee desired that the provincial and federal governments may take essential steps to resolve the issues and problems of the area. The Committee appreciated the people of Chitral on their behavior, relationship and collective efforts to take up their problems and issues. The Committee remarked that the people must elect their representatives who solve their problems and issues.



9 The Chairman, Committee remarked that 90% treasures of the country located in the less developed areas whereas availability of basic necessities of life regarding education, health, drinking water, electricity, roads infrastructure are insufficient for the people of the areas. He further said that if the expenditure on provision of electricity, water supply, sewerage and roads in less developed areas compare with developed areas, it would be observed that more expenses have to be made for provision of such facilities in the less developed areas. He remarked that unfortunately the public representatives of the less developed areas did not play their proper role to solve the issues and problems of that area. He emphasized on the awareness of the peoples of these areas. He said that the problems and issues created in less developed areas due to injustice in division of financial resources among the provinces and again to districts.

10 The Committee recommended that NFC Award, budget allocation and division of financial resources among the provinces should be made according to the geographical area and requirement of the people instead of population. The Committee ensured the participants to take up their issues relating to provincial government with the Chief Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the scheduled meeting at Peshawar and the issues pertaining to the federal government with the concerned departments and also in the Senate.

11 The Scout Commander, Chitral briefed the Committee on the overall security situation of the area and measures taken by the Chitral Scouts as well as relations with local community. He intimated the history of the Chitral Scouts from 1895 and role played by the scouts in the internal as well as external security of the area. He informed about geographical location, border situation, war history of the area, role and responsibilities of the Chitral Scouts and relations with other security agencies. He apprised the Committee regarding activities performed and challenges faced by the scouts and said that 119 shuhda sacrificed their lives in the area. He further intimated about the behavior and occupations of the people and weather conditions of the area during the year. Replying to a question, he said that there were almost no smuggling activities in the area. He informed the Committee regarding medical, education and security facilities provided by the Scouts to the civilians of the area. He intimated the role played by the Scouts in disaster during the earthquake and flood in 2015. He also gave in-camera briefing to the Committee on the overall security and border situation and replied the questions raised by the Honorable Members of the Committee.

12 A meeting of the Committee was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at Kalash, Chitral. The Committee was apprised that the Kalash community with a population of about 4000, have been residing in a distinct cultural area consists of three valleys namely Bumburet,

Rumbur and Birir in district Chitral. They were indigenous people considered Pakistan's smallest ethno-religious community who maintained their own language, unique culture and traditions. The Representatives of Kalash Community briefed the Committee regarding their issues and problems. They said that the approaching road was approved but no work has yet been started. They demanded that Saeedabad bridge may be built as 7 km distance will be reduced between Arandu and Kalash and tourism will be flourished. Moreover, electricity may be provided to the area to save the forests of the valley. They further said that due to earthquake and flood in 2015, 70% agriculture land and houses have been damaged; therefore, a special package may be given.

13 The Kalash Welfare Secretary and Coordinator apprised the Committee that due to non-availability of the basic facilities like education, health, electricity and road infrastructure, they have been facing various problems in the valley. They requested to provide the scholarships and hostel facility in the colleges/ university on priority basis to the Kalash students especially girls. They requested that a special quota may be determined for the Kalash community in employment especially in police, scouts and levies. They demanded that ban on sale of land property in Kalash valley to non-locals may be imposed.

14 The Committee appreciated the Kalash community to live in such hardship environment where no basic facilities and road infrastructure were available. The Committee observed that God have given a beautiful valley, environment and mountains containing treasurers of precious mines, metals and marbles but the residents live without availability of basic facilities of life. The Committee remarked that it was due to injustice in division of financial resources and recommended that the financial resources should be allocated with justice and according to requirements and geographical area instead of population. The Committee further recommended that the concerned provincial as well as federal government departments must give proper attention to solve the issues and problems of the area and provide them equal facilities as available to the developed areas. The Committee desired that the culture, language and traditions of Kalash community must be protected. The Committee further recommended that the already approved roads, bridges and electricity schemes must be completed. Moreover, employment, education and health facilities must be provided to the people and proper protection to the forest must be given.

15 A meeting of the Committee was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018 at Chief Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar. The Chairman, Committee welcomed the Senators, MNAs and participants of the meeting and intimated the aim and purpose for holding the meeting at Peshawar. However, the Committee showed displeasure over non-attending the meeting by

