



SENATE OF PAKISTAN

Report No.6 of 2019

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Question No.15 raised by Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan in the Senate sitting held on 28th August, 2018 regarding core responsibilities and jurisdiction of Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA)

PRESENTED BY
SENATOR SASSUI PALIJO
Chairperson SSC on Parliamentary Affairs

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ON THE QUESTION NO.15 REGARDING CORE RESPONSIBILITIES AND JURISDICTION OF EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION AUTHORITY (ERRA) ASKED BY SENATOR CHAUDHARY TANVIR KHAN IN THE SENATE DURING ITS SITTING HELD ON 28TH AUGUST, 2018.

I, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs have the honor to present the report, on behalf of the Committee, on the Question No.15 regarding core responsibilities and jurisdiction of Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) asked by Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan in the Senate sitting held on 28th August, 2018.

2. The Question was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs for consideration and report to the House.

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

1. Senator Sassui Palijo	Chairperson
2. Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem	Member
3. Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar	Member
4. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
5. Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Member
6. Senator Brig(R) John Kenneth Williams	Member
7. Senator Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini	Member
8. Senator Musadik Masood Malik	Member
9. Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
10. Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
11. Senator Walid Iqbal	Member
12. Senator Hilal ur Rehman	Member
13. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Standing Committee considered the issue in its various meetings and finally on 4th October, 2019. The Committee with Senator Sassui Palijo as the Chairperson decided to submit the report to the House. The meeting was attended by the following members, namely:-

1. Senator Sassui Palijo	Chairperson
2. Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem	Member



3. Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar	Member
4. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
5. Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Member
6. Senator Brig(R) John Kenneth Williams	Member
7. Senator Mir Muhammad Yousaf Badini	Member
8. Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
9. Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
10. Senator Walid Iqbal	Member

SUMMARY

After earthquake of October, 2005, the Federal Relief Commission was established on 10th October, 2005 in the Prime Minister's Secretariat. It was aimed to work as Central Coordination Office for rescue and relief. The Government of Pakistan established Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) through Government of Pakistan's notification No.1(4)/2005-Admn. ERRA started functioning from 24th April, 2006 and continued operating under ERRA Ordinance promulgated on 1st November, 2011. The preamble of ERRA Act, 2001 mandated ERRA to function as

"An autonomous organization for post-disaster damage assessment, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the areas affected by earthquake."

ERRA's Jurisdiction

- Pakistan
- Azad Jammu and Kashmir in consultation with its Government.

ERRA's Core Responsibility

As an autonomous organization, ERRA works for post disaster damage assessment, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the areas affected by the earthquake.

ERRA has a list of accomplishments of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction projects to its credit. The Rural Housing Programme of ERRA was recognized by UNO as a mark of success and so ERRA earned the SASAKAWA Award in 2011. The Award Jury while conferring the Award appreciated ERRA's successful completion of a large

scale reconstruction. To add, the "Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction" (GFDRR), a project of World Bank for funding grants appreciated the performance of ERRA regarded it as a good example to be followed by others in the Manual on "How to Train Post-disaster Housing Programme Managers." Conspicuously, ERRA's model emerged at an international level and the GFDRR referred ERRA's experience as a role model to be replicated by the World Bank. Islamic Development Bank of Pakistan published a Brochure for distribution during its 40th Annual conference at Jeddah terming ERRA's Housing Reconstruction Programme as a success story. They dwelt at length during the Conference on "How Pakistan Built Back Better" in presence of 57 Member Countries.

The Standing Committee appreciated the fact that ERRA has utilized its funds to 100%. During the briefing it was noticed that resource constraint is one of the problems faced by ERRA. The rehabilitation programme requires more funds for education, health and infrastructure projects. The reduction of annual PSDP budget since 2012, is a matter of concern, the Committee observed. Reduction of ERRA's budget has not only increased inconvenience of the earthquake affected community but also multiplied the completion cost of the projects due to price escalation in the market.

Encompassing the whole of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, ERRA has a wide spread area and at times difficult terrain to go for rehabilitation work. It requires resources to accelerate the work in the affected areas of natural calamities like earthquake.

ERRA's strategy was conceptualized in ERRA Council meetings and consequently 14704 projects were aimed to be under taken in the affected areas of earthquake. The Federal Government allocates PSDP funds to ERRA that are transmitted and distributed to AJ&K and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for execution of under construction



projects. Out of which 9730 are being funded by Government of Pakistan through annual PSDP budget. Remaining, around 5,000 projects were undertaken by various Donors and Sponsors. However, some of the Donors and Sponsors left their projects incomplete at various stages of construction, which are being funded now from ERRA's annual PSDP allocation. Annual accounts of ERRA are duly audited by a dedicated officer of Director General Audit working under the Auditor General of Pakistan.

Unfortunately, the Mover, Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan could not attend the meetings because of his illness, however the reply of ERRA was dispatched to the Mover and the Committee received no objection to that effect. The Committee was satisfied with the reply submitted by ERRA and decided to submit the report to the House.

The Standing Committee made the following recommendations:

- (i) ERRA should map out a program in shape of a living document with proper identification of targets and also point out the weaknesses and constraints while achieving those targets. It should be a quantitative and qualitative exercise based on data analysis.
- (ii) The Committee recommended that financial constraints should not hinder ERRA's rehabilitation and re-construction. The Government should come forth to provide the maximum funds.
- (iii) The Committee also recommended that ERRA should be mandated to seek donations from the charity organizations and civil society. With proper record maintenance, it should also be audited by the Auditor General of Pakistan.


(Javaid Iqbal)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Sassui Palijo)
Chairperson Committee