

SENATE OF PAKSITAN



REPORT NO.4

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE SENATE IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEE

ON

THE MATTER RAISED BY SENATOR SAJJAD HUSSAIN TURI
REGARDING THE "RESOLVING PHENOMENA IN GETTING VISA OF
PAKISTANIS BY ISSUING PAKISTANI ORIGIN CARDS (POC) TO
EXPATRIATES STAYING IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, REFERRED BY
THE HON'BLE CHAIRMAN SENATE FROM HIS CHAMBER

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR DILAWAR KHAN
CONVENER SENATE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: SPECIAL REPORT OF THE SENATE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON THE MATTER RAISED BY SENATOR SAJJAD HUSSAIN TURI REGARDING THE "RESOLVING PHENOMENA IN GETTING VISA OF PAKISTANIS BY ISSUING PAKISTANI ORIGIN CARDS (POC) TO EXPATRIATES STAYING IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

I, Senator Dilawar Khan, Convener Senate Implementation Committee have the honour to present the special report of the Committee on the matter raised by Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi regarding the "resolving phenomena in getting visa of Pakistanis by issuing Pakistani Origin Cards (POCs) to expatriates staying in European countries, referred by the hon'ble Chairman Senate from his Chamber on 25.09.2019.

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

1) Senator Dilawar Khan	Convener
2) Senator Aurangzeb Khan	Member
3) Senator Chaudhary Tanvir Khan	Member
4) Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad	Member
5) Senator Muahammad Ayub	Member
6) Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
7) Senator Nighat Mirza	Member
8) Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan	Member
9) Senator Saleem Zia	Member
10) Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member

4. The Committee considered the matter in its meetings held on 8th & 29th October and 11th December, 2019 respectively, which were attended by the following Members and Special Invitee:-

1) Senator Dilawar Khan	Convener
2) Senator Nighat Mirza	Member
3) Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad	Member
4) Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
5) Senator Auranzeb Khan	Member
6) Senator Saleem Zia	Member

7) Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
8) Senator Muhammad Asad Ali Khan Junejo	The then member
9) Senator Khanzada Khan	The then member
10) Senator Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Jamot	The then member
11) Senator Muhammad Ayub	The then member
12) Senator Walid Iqbal	The then Member
13) <u>Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi</u>	<u>The then member</u>
14) Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi	Special Invitee

5. Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi, the Mover of the matter informed the Committee that not only me but most of the hon'ble members have been receiving complaints from the various people of the Pakistani origin residing in different parts of world particularly living in UK and other European countries in relation to the non-issuance of Pakistani Origin Cards (POCs). The existing procedure of issuance of POC is so difficult and almost impossible for the people specially belonging to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to have it in their favour. He further said that the delay in issuance or refusal has created severe problems for the people who would not able to attend their even family events in which their personal presence is necessary. He therefore urged the concerned departments to resolve this issue as early as possible.

6. The Director General International Operations, NADRA, apprised the Committee that issuance of Pakistani Origin Cards is undergoing since 2003. In 2015 the process was digitalized and made online. The number of applications received during August, 2015 & September, 2019 were 58025, while the number of cards issued and dispatched were 54914.

7. He further said that rejection or delay in issuance of POC, mainly due to the incomplete application, forms, non-submission of required documents and same cases NOC from the Ministry of Interior also required.

8. The Director General while responding the query made by hon'ble Convener of the Committee said that the process of issuance of POC was remained shut for quite some time due to some reasons but now it has been restored and in this regard a notification has also been issued.

9. The Committee was also briefed by the officers from M/o Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, M/o Parliamentary Affairs, M/o Foreign Affairs and M/o Interior on the issuance of POC and suggested some way-outs for making process more easier for the expatriates in issuance of POCs.

10. The Committee while appreciating the views of all the officers of their concerned offices and further decided that a Committee comprising of officers of all the relevant Ministries and departments may be constituted in order to make process more easier and device a mechanism that actually help the Pakistanis living abroad to get the POCs in smooth manner in accordance with the rules and regulations. The names of the officers will be communicated by their respective ministries and other head of the departments.

11. The Committee was directed to submit its recommendations within two weeks of the notification of the constitution of departmental Committee. The departmental Committee was comprised of officers of all relevant Ministries and departments. The Committee was headed by Secretary Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

12. Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and head of the Committee added that six meetings of the departmental Committee were held in order to discuss the issue in hand at length and in order to facilitate such expatriates, grant of visa by liberalization of Visa Policy / rules may be made on need basis. Previously, visas were granted for a short duration, now the departmental committee has decided that after the security clearance and acting upon the visa liberalization policy the grant of visas to such expatriates shall be of longer duration of time.

13. Further, it was apprised that genuine cases of issuance of POCs to Afghanistan origin applicants shall be processed as per the orders notified by the Ministry of Interior vide U.O No. 4/2/2012 dated 2nd April, 2013, that such cases shall be referred to Security Agencies for clearance / vetting. The orders contained in the U.O are to remains as it with the addition, that, to facilitate such expatriates the verifying agency shall be made liable to submit its clearance / vetting or otherwise to Ministry of Interior within two-month time period. The representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and NADRA seconded the observations and recommendations contained in the report of departmental committee.

14. Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi, Mover appreciated the functioning of departmental Committee constituted by the Senate Implementation Committee and lauded the efforts of all concerned officers of various Ministries / Division. The Committee unanimously disposed-off the agenda item raised by the Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi.



(HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH)
Additional Secretary /Secretary Committee



(SENATOR DILAWAR KHAN)
Convener Senate Implementation
Committee