

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT NO. 01 OF 2020

SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENTARY YEAR 2019-2020

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION

ON

- i.** Consideration of the reply to subject matter of Starred Question No. 165, asked by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, regarding number of persons working in the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, its attached Departments, Authorities, Corporations, Autonomous/Semi-autonomous Bodies and Organizations etc.
- ii.** Complaint lodged by Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Committee, regarding circulation of fake news on social media regarding recovery of huge quantity of gold from her house.
- iii.** Progress made so far on the issue of lack/deficient services of Pak Telecom Limited (U-Fone) in various towns and areas of District Malakand.

PRESENTED BY

**SENATOR RUBINA KHALID
CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION

I, Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, have the honor to submit the report on the following matters:

- i. Consideration of the reply to subject matter of Starred Question No. 165, asked by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, regarding number of persons working in the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, its attached Departments, Authorities, Corporations, Autonomous/Semi-autonomous Bodies and Organizations etc.
- ii. Complaint lodged by Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Committee, regarding circulation of fake news on social media regarding recovery of huge quantity of gold from her house.
- iii. Progress made so far on the issue of lack/deficient services of Pak Telecom Limited (U-Fone) in various towns and areas of District Malakand.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:

1) Senator Rubina Khalid	Chairperson
2) Senator Kalsoom Parveen	Member
3) Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
4) Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
5) Senator Faisal Javed	Member
6) Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
7) Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
8) Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
9) Senator Moulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Member
10) Senator Sana Jamali	Member
11) Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
12) Senator Hillal Ur Rehman	Member
13) Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member

3. The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, in terms of sub-rule (1) of Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, constituted a sub-committee in its meeting held on 17th July, 2019. The composition and ToRs of the sub-committee were as under:



Composition

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1) Senator Kalsoom Parveen | Convener |
| 2) Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar | Member |
| 3) Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi | Member |

ToRs

- i. Consideration of the reply to subject matter of Starred Question No. 165, asked by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, regarding number of persons working in the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, its attached Departments, Authorities, Corporations, Autonomous/Semi-autonomous Bodies and Organizations etc.
- ii. Complaint lodged by Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Committee, regarding circulation of fake news on social media regarding recovery of huge quantity of gold from her house.
- iii. Progress made so far on the issue of lack/deficient services of Pak Telecom Limited (U-Fone) in various towns and areas of District Malakand.

The sub-committee convened its meetings and called the representatives of Ministry of I.T & Telecom, Special Communication Organization, PTA, FIA (Cyber Crimes Wing) and Establishment Division to discuss the above referred issues. The sub-committee completed its report and the Convener presented the same before the main Committee for its adoption. The main Committee in its meeting held on 15th January, 2020 considered and unanimously adopted the report of the sub-committee and decided to present the same before the House during the 295th session of the Senate.

4. I am grateful to the members of the Sub-committee for their efforts in addressing the issues and giving its recommendations. The report of the sub-committee is placed at Annexure-A.



(Muhammad Azam)
Secretary Committee



(Senator Rubina Khalid)
Chairperson Committee

SENATE OF PAKISTAN

House of Federation



**REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND
TELECOMMUNICATION**

- I. ON THE CONSIDERATION OF THE REPLY TO SUBJECT MATTER OF STARRED QUESTION NO.165, ASKED BY SENATOR MIR KABEER AHMED MUHAMMAD SHAHI, REGARDING NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING IN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS, AUTHORITIES, CORPORATIONS, AUTONOMOUS/SEMI AUTONOMOUS BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ETC.
- II. COMPLAINT LODGED BY CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE, SENATOR RUBINA KHALID REGARDING CIRCULATION OF FAKE NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA REGARDING RECOVERY OF HUGE QUANTITY OF GOLD FROM HER HOUSE.
- III. PROGRESS MADE SO FAR ON THE ISSUE OF LACK/DEFICIENT SERVICES OF PAK TELECOM LIMITED (UFONE) IN VARIOUS TOWNS, AREAS OF DISTRICT MALAKAND, AS DISCUSSED IN THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY, 2019.

PRESENTED BY
SENATOR KALSOOM PARVEEN
CONVENER

SENATE SECRETARIAT

**REPORT OF THE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND
TELECOMMUNICATION ON THE ISSUES OF:**

- I. **CONSIDERATION OF THE REPLY TO SUBJECT MATTER OF STARRED QUESTION NO.165, ASKED BY SENATOR MIR KABEER AHMED MUHAMMAD SHAHI, REGARDING NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING IN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION ITS ATTACHED DEPARTMENTS, AUTHORITIES, CORPORATIONS, AUTONOMOUS/SEMI AUTONOMOUS BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ETC.**

- II. **COMPLAINT LODGED BY CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE, SENATOR RUBINA KHALID REGARDING CIRCULATION OF FAKE NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA REGARDING RECOVERY OF HUGE QUANTITY OF GOLD FROM HER HOUSE.**

- III. **PROGRESS MADE SO FAR ON THE ISSUE OF LACK/DEFICIENT SERVICES OF PAK TELECOM LIMITED (UFONE) IN VARIOUS TOWNS, AREAS OF DISTRICT MALAKAND, AS DISCUSSED IN THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY, 2019.**

The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication in terms of Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 constituted a Sub-Committee in its meeting held on 17th July, 2019. The Composition and Terms of the Reference (TORs) of the Sub-Committee are as under:

COMPOSITION:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Senator Kalsoom Parveen | Convener |
| 2. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar | Member |
| 3. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi | Member |

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

- i. Consideration of the reply to subject matter of Starred Question No.165, asked by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, regarding number of persons working in Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication its attached departments, authorities, corporations, autonomous/semi-autonomous bodies and organizations etc.

- ii. Complaint lodged by Chairperson Committee, Senator Rubina Khalid regarding circulation of fake news on social media regarding recovery of huge quantity of gold from her house.

iii (Ufone) in various towns, areas of District Malakand, as discussed in the Committee meeting held on 14th February, 2019.

TOR No. I Consideration of the reply to subject matter of Starred Question No.165, asked by Senator Mir Kabecr Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, regarding number of persons working in Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication its attached departments, authorities, corporations, autonomous/semi autonomous bodies and organizations etc.

2. The Sub-Committee convened its meetings on 28th August, and 1st October 2019 for the matter stated above. Representatives from the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Special Communication Organization and Establishment Division attended the meetings. In first meeting held on 28th August the Mover, Senator Mir Kabecr Ahmed Muhammad Shahi was also present to explore the information data provided by MoIT&T.

3. After the detailed briefings and deliberations by the Ministry, PTA and Establishment Division, the Sub-Committee, was apprised that there are no basic educational facilities to enable people to compete with other provinces on merit. There is also a question mark on the expertise of recruitment agencies in providing services to all professional sectors. The Constitutional provisions and Civil Servants Act, 1973 with rules devised by Establishment Division are basic factors in recruitment and employment. The Ministry is bound to abide by these laws.

4. The convener observed that there is a dire need to accommodate the people from province of Baluchistan to bring them at par with other provinces, by relaxing some laws and rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

5. The Sub-Committee made the following recommendations

- I. to establish a comprehensive mechanism for recruitments in the federal and provincial government departments with the active involvement of relevant ministries at the federal and provincial levels.
- II. directed PTA to issue the license to SCO as all the legal formalities are fulfilled.
- III. to bring details of the employees along with the PTA Regulations for further deliberations.
- IV. provisions in rules and regulations be made in National Information Technology Board Act, to accommodate people from Baluchistan.
- V. to make policy or rules to award grace marks to candidates especially from Baluchistan, who cannot qualify the competition tests with little difference of marks in meeting the laid criteria.



- VI. arrangement be made by the Establishment division in which qualified and talented officers from different ministries be selected to jointly device a transparent recruitment system instead of taking services from Testing Agencies.
- VII. Companies Act may be amended to provide maximum chances to the people of Baluchistan.
- VIII. Baluchistan specific appointment campaign for recruitment should be run by the Establishment Division.
- IX. PTA should take the matter of blocking and deleting Facebook accounts, effectively with the Facebook management to ensure that the blocked pages are restored.

TOR No. II Complaint lodged by Chairperson Committee, Senator Rubina Khalid regarding circulation of fake news on social media regarding recovery of huge quantity of gold from her house.

6. The Sub-Committee convened its meetings on the mentioned on 28th August and 6th October 2019. Representatives from the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Federal Investigation Agency and National Response Center for Cyber Crime attended the meetings.

7. The members observed that it is a crime to publish any unverified news and one such news was published on Facebook and Twitter by Dua Bhutto PTI Karachi and Asad Younis Tanoli respectively, regarding recovery of gold from the house of Honorable Senator Rubina Khalid. The Convener stated that the individuals involved in fabricating such news should prove their statement or revert the news with an apology otherwise should be given penalty according to the law. Through social engineering techniques, FIA found that the news was initiated by multiple accounts and one of them is Dr. Anwar Iqbal who has already surrendered his Twitter & Facebook accounts along with cellphone through which the post was uploaded. He apologized and clarified that he had no bad intentions to damage the reputation of the complainant. The Sub-Committee accepted his apology and also assigned him the duty on his request to educate citizens for ethical use of social media and point out individuals involved in such malpractices to the committee which shall be forwarded to FIA for further action without revealing the sender's identity.

8. While taking notice on the delay of accounts verification, FIA informed that recovery of alleged user's IP addresses from foreign agencies is difficult and time consuming because Pakistan is not the signatory of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). They also requested Committee to make a recommendation for the ratification of MLAT by government of Pakistan under Section 42 of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Sub-Committee gave following recommendations:

- I. Committee accepted the apology rendered by Dr. Anwar Iqbal, involved in forwarding the fake news.

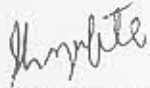


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- II. Dr. Anwar Iqbal was given a duty to prepare working paper to educate university students for ethical use of social media and also to point out individuals involved in such malpractices to the committee which shall be forwarded to FIA.
- III. PTA along with other allied departments shall be called in the Standing Committee meeting to discuss the feasibility to provide telecom/mobile data access to FIA.
- IV. to ratify Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) which will facilitate for quick data recovery.

TOR No. III Progress made so far on the issue of lack/deficient services of Pak Telecom Limited (Ufone) in various towns, areas of District Malakand, as discussed in the Committee meeting held on 14th February, 2019.

The Sub-Committee took this agenda in its meeting held on 28th August, 2019. The convener decided to call Senator Fida Muhammad Khan in next meeting to discuss this issue in detail. However, this agenda is still pending to be addressed.



(Shagufta Shaukat)
Secretary Committee



(Senator Kalisham Parveen)
Convener