

SENATE OF PAKISTAN
HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION

Report No.08
Parliamentary year 2020-2021



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON POWER

ON

**PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY TO CHROMITE MINING AREA OF
MUSLIM BAGH, DISTRICT QILLA SAIFULLAH, BALOCHISTAN**

Presented By

SENATOR FIDA MUHMAMMAD
Chairman Committee

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON POWER ON POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD USMAN KHAN KAKAR REGARDING PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY TO CHROMITE-MINING AREA OF MUSLIM BAGH, DISTRICT QILLA SAIFULLAH, BALOCHISTAN

I, Senator Fida Muhammad, Chairman, Standing Committee on Power, have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar in the House on 20th July, 2020, regarding "Provision of electricity to chromite mining area of Muslim Bagh, district Qilla Saifullah, Balochistan.

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

1.	Senator Fida Muhammad	Chairman
2.	Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Member
3.	Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak	Member
4.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
5.	Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
6.	Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani	Member
7.	Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan	Member
8.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
9.	Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
10.	Senator Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Jamot	Member
11.	Senator Muhammad Akram	Member
12.	Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad	Member
13.	Senator Siraj ul Haq	Member
14.	Minister for Power	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the subject matter in its meeting held on 18th August, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., in Committee Room No.1, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:-

1.	Senator Fida Muhammad	Chairman
2.	Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani	Member
3.	Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak	Member
4.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
5.	Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
6.	Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Member
7.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
8.	Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad	Member
9.	Senator Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Jamot	Member
10.	Senator Siraj Ul Haq	Member
11.	Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	Mover

4. Mr. Munir Azam, Special Secretary, Power Division, informed the Committee that in 2016/2017 a request was received for electrification of chromite mines area of Muslim Bagh and a PC-I for Rs.145 million was prepared by QESCO. He further informed that there was no progress in that regard due to non-availability of funds. He apprised the Committee that expansion of network was done through SDGs, provision of funds by the provincial government or through special allocation by the federal government. He said that QESCO did not have funds for such schemes. Senator Usman Khan Kakar, Mover of the agenda item expressed his displeasure and said that Parliament and Parliamentarians should have the authority to identify and get approved such schemes. He further said that he did not have friends in the power corridors to approach the Prime Minister to get the scheme approved. He added that it was in his knowledge that the Power Division had approved such schemes in Punjab province but in the case of Balochistan it was told that there were no funds. He further said that the whole of Pakistan was benefitting from the minerals extracted from there but the people of the area were deprived of the basic utility on the pretext of lack of funds. He said that the amount of the project was not big and should be approved. He informed the Committee that the mines area in the Muslim Bagh was the largest in the region consisting of around three to five thousands mines and thousands of people were working there.

5. Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak said that royalty from the mines go to the provincial government who also know the extent of extraction from there. He further said that it was duty of the provincial government to go leaps and bounds for the development of infrastructure in the area where economic activity was going on. Senator Dilawar Khan seconding the point of view of Senator Khattak said that the provincial department dealing with mines and minerals should impart its role in that regard. At this juncture, Senator Usman Khan Kakar left the Committee room under protest. Senator Dilawar Khan and Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi immediately went after him and successfully persuaded him to come back and attend the meeting. The Committee was of the view that presence of the stakeholders from provincial government of Balochistan was necessary to come to a viable conclusion in the matter. The Committee, therefore, unanimously recommended that the Chief Secretary and Secretary, Mines and Mineral Department, Government of Balochistan, should be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee for their input in the matter.

6. The Committee again considered the subject matter in its meeting held on 28th September, 2020, at 02:00 pm. in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following attended the meeting:-


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| 1. | Senator Fida Muhammad | Chairman |
| 2. | Senator Moula Bux Chandio | Member |
| 3. | Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi | Member |
| 4. | Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan | Member |
| 5. | Senator Muhammad Akram | Member |
| 6. | Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad | Member |
| 7. | Senator Siraj Ul Haq | Member |
| 8. | Minister for Power | Ex-Officio Member |
| 9. | Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar | Mover |



7. Senator Usman Khan Kakar, Mover of the agenda item apprised the Committee that it was largest deposit of chromite in Asia. He further said that percentage of chromite in the ore extracted from there was 53% which was highest in the world. He informed the Committee that diesel engines were being used by the miners which were very costly. He further informed that 3-4 years back a PC-I for provision of electricity in the area was prepared by QESCO for Rs.145 million and according to the new PC-I, the cost had risen to Rs.285 million.

8. Syed Zafar Ali Bukhari, Secretary, Mines and Mineral Department, Government of Balochistan stated that chromite mining in the area was started around 100 years back and there were still huge reserves available. He further stated that the raw chromite was exported to China and its value added product 'ferrochrome' was imported from there which was more than 10 times costly than the raw chromite. He informed the Committee that the Government of Balochistan was planning to establish a processing plant at the site of the mining area to produce the finished product which would boost the economic activity in the area manifolds.

9. Minister for Power, Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, informed the Committee that the Prime Minister had approved a package for development of Southern Balochistan through the National Developmental Council (NDC). He assured the Committee that he would speak to Mr. Asad Umar, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, to get it approved either from NDC or have it included in the next PSDP. Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar, Mover of the agenda item expressed satisfaction on the assurance given by the Minister and the matter was accordingly disposed of.


(ABID HUSSAIN)
Secretary Committee


(SENATOR FIDA MUHAMMAD)
Chairman Committee