

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

to be asked at a sitting of the Senate to be held on

Wednesday, the 10th February, 2010

10. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 22-01-2010 at 12:40 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state:

- (a) *the date on which salaries of the employees of Heavy Mechanical Complex were enhanced last time; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to further increase the salaries of those employees, if so, when?*

Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani: (a) The salaries of Supervisory Staff and Executives of Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC) were enhanced on 01-07-2008.

(b) Last time salaries/benefits of workers/ workmen have been increased through bilateral negotiations with Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) and to this effect a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) was signed on 12-08-2009. It however took effect from 01-07-2008 for a period of two years, which is valid upto 30-06-2010.

11. ***Mr. Abdul Haseeb Khan:** (Notice received on 22-01-2010 at 12:55 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide incentives for revival of sick industrial units and those units which have been closed down due to the prevailing energy crisis?

Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani: Ministry of Industries and Production has already taken up the matter on priority basis and made a plan for the Revival of Sick Industrial Units in the country with the consultation of SMEDA, Provincial Industries Departments and private sector *i.e.* Chambers of Commerce and Industry etc.

2. Recently Ministry of Industries and Production through Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) took an initiative for revival of Sick Industrial Units initially in NWFP and subsequently for replication of the concept in the other three provinces. Data of Sick Industrial Units was collected from across Pakistan through Provincial Offices of SMEDA, Provincial Industries Departments, various Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Trade Associations. In order to ascertain the causes and possible way forward,

SMEDA Officials held meetings with the representatives of Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Trade Associations and Industrial Estate Associations etc.

3. In NWFP ten (10) Sick Industrial units have been revived with the worth of Rs. 85 Million and generating employment for more than 300 persons. In addition to these five (5) other units are in pipe line with more than 60% of these issues have been resolved with concerned organizations.

4. The revival of sick industrial units is undertaken as per Government policy explained below:—

The problems faced by Sick Units are duly considered by the concerned Government agencies and necessary incentives provided by adopting one or more of the following measures:—

- (a) Reduction in fix charges of electricity bills.
- (b) Tariff in respect of products and raw materials is appropriately reduced or increased.
- (c) Loans are re-scheduled / re-structured keeping in view the merits of each unit.
- (d) Payment of utility bills and other dues is allowed in installments.
- (e) Easy installments of outstanding dues.

12. ***Dr. Khalid Mehmood Soomro:** (Notice received on 22-01-2010 at 13:05 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Health be pleased to state the present demand and supply of anti-rabies and anti-snake vaccines in Sindh with district-wise break up?

Makhdoom Shahabuddin: The anti-rabies vaccine that was available upto December, 2009 was the old sheep brain vaccine that was given as 14 injections in the abdomen. This has now been replaced by the new Cell Culture Rabies Vaccine given as five injections given in the arm. The supply of this new vaccine has started in the last week of January, 2010 and so far over 6,000 doses have been supplied to different government hospitals. The present demand of Anti-rabies vaccine and Anti-snake venom serum is annexed.

Annexure

District wise statement showing the demand and supply of ARV/ASV Sindh Province For the Period 1st January 2009 to 31st December, 2009

S. #.	Name of District	Demand ARV Vials	Issued ASVS Vials	Demand ASVS Vials	Issued
1.	Khair Pur	3150	475	2440	605
2.	Larkana	7610	655	1000	100
3.	Tando Muhammad Khan	2100	220	80	80

4.	Tando Allah Yar	2270	490	350	185
5.	Sukkur	2305	1087	190	100
6.	Ghotki	602	92	15	5
7.	Karachi	80	55	20	20
8.	Kamber	2470	570	900	570
9.	Badin	2798	380	4150	750
10.	Thatta	4680	510	4115	655
11.	Dadu	6750	983	2600	470
12.	Nesharo Feroze	730	130	250	50
13.	Sanghar	5260	490	3410	640
14.	Mir Pur Khas	7150	495	5840	710
15.	Umer Kot	1135	195	16615	2585
16.	Shahdad pur	105	70	30	20
17.	Kashmor	385	145	20	20
18.	Jacobabad	1450	485	225	145
19.	Shikar Pur	3000	775	1020	405
20.	Nawab Shah	1000	30	1200	145
21.	Jamshoro	400	50	200	50
22.	Jacobabad	510	295	50	50
TOTAL		55940	8677	44720	8360

13. ***Dr. Khalid Mehmood Soomro:** (Notice received on 22-01-2010 at 13:05 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Health be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of Hepatitis patients in the country with province-wise break up; and*
- (b) *the steps taken by the Government for provision of free of cost medicines to the poor patients?*

Makhdoom Shahabuddin: (a) In FY 2007-08; a seroprevalence survey of Hepatitis B & C was conducted through Pakistan Medical Research Council, where in the magnitude of the problem in the country is:—

1. Hepatitis B = 2.5% (4,000.000)
2. Hepatitis C = 4.9% (7,840.000)

3. As per information collected from 152 sentinel sites established across the country. A total 51,822 patients of Hepatitis C & 8,270 patients of Hepatitis B have been registered their names and provided free of cost treatment so far.

Province-wise break up is as under:—

Sr. No.	Province	Number of Hepatitis C patients	Number of Hepatitis B patients
1	Punjab	23,837	2650
2	Sindh	16,862	3,427
3	NWFP	4,064	771
4	Balochistan	1,747	613
5	FATA	577	161
6	FANA	308	133
7	AJK	588	163
8	Federal Area/ICT	3,839	352

Total:	51,822	8,270
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(b) The following steps have been taken by Government for provision of free of cost medicines to the poor patients of Hepatitis B&C.

- ◆ The Federal Government has established 152 sentinel sites across the country for provision of free cost medicines to the poor patients of Hepatitis.
- ◆ The Federal Government has provided free of cost medicines to 32,998 patients of Hepatitis C and 6,720 patients of Hepatitis B.
- ◆ The Provincial Government of Punjab has extended free of cost treatment to 8,824 poor patients of Hepatitis C.
- ◆ The Provincial Government of Sindh has extended free of cost treatment to 10,000 poor patients of Hepatitis C and 2000 patients of Hepatitis B.
- ◆ The Provincial Government of NWFP and Balochistan have also developed their PC-I for provision of free of cost treatment to poor patients of Hepatitis.
- ◆ The Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan, announced strategy to take steps for “Prime Minister’s Emergency Action Plan on Hepatitis”. The Ministry of Health has prepared a revised PC-I costing Rs. 13.783 billion and the same has been submitted to Planning Commission for consideration. The revised PC-I includes provision of free of cost medicines to 1,02000 poor patients of Hepatitis B&C and free PCR facilities for poor deserving patients.

14. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 27-01-2010 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of increase or decrease in yield of major crops in the country during the last five years with year-wise break-up; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to increase the yield of the said crops?*

Mr. Nazar Muhammad Gondal: (a) The details of increase or decrease in yield of major crops in the country during the last five years from 2004-05 to 2008-09 is given below:—

Crops	Year	Yield (kg/hectare)	Increase/decrease
Wheat	2004-05	2586	(+) 8.98 %
	2005-06	2519	(-) 2.59 %
	2006-07	2716	(+) 7.82 %
2007-08	2451	(-) 9.75 %	
	2008-09	2657	(+) 8.40 %

Rice	2004-05	1994	(+) 1.22 %
	2005-06	2116	(+) 6.12 %
	2006-07	2107	(-) 0.43 %
	2007-08	2212	(+) 4.98 %
	2008-09	2347	(+) 6.10 %
Crops	Year	Yield (kg/hectare)	Increase/decrease
Cotton	2004-05	760	(+) 32.87 %
	2005-06	714	(-) 6.05 %
	2006-07	711	(-) 42 %
	2007-08	649	(-) 8.72 %
	2008-09	713	(+) 9.86 %
Maize	2004-05	2849	(+) 42.24 %
	2005-06	2984	(+) 4.74 %
	2006-07	3037	(+) 1.78%
	2007-08	3427	(+) 12.84 %
	2008-09	3415	(-) 0.35 %
Yield (tons/hectare)			
Sugarcane	2004-05	48.9	(-) 1.61 %
	2005-06	49.2	(+ 0.61 %
	2006-07	53.2	(+) 8.13 %
	2007-08	51.5	(-) 3.10 %
	2008-09	48.6	(-) 5.63 %

(b) Government has taken the following steps to increase the yield of wheat, Cotton and Rice production:

- ◆ The government realized that the poor interest of farmers in the agriculture sector is due to lack of adequate incentives in agriculture. The Guaranteed Minimum Price (GMP) of wheat for 2009-10 retained at the last year's level of Rs.950/- per 40 kg inspite of declining trend in the world prices of wheat. To ensure fair return to the rice growers, the Government has announced the Intervention Price for procurement of paddy @ Rs. 1250/40 Kg for Super Basmati, Rs. 1000/40 Kg for Basmati-385 & Basmati-2000 and Rs 600/40kg for IRRI-6.
- ◆ Public and private sector is developing Joint Ventures with multinational companies and International Research Institutes for research and development of Hybrid and Bt cotton, hybrid rice, etc.

- ◆ Most productive Bt cotton varieties with resistance from insect-pests are being released from the next Kharif season on official basis to increase cotton production. Certified cotton seed availability is being ensured by the government.
- ◆ Stringent breeding work is in process for release of varieties resistant to cotton leaf Curl Virus (CLCV) – the biggest issue of cotton crop.
- ◆ World Class Research Institutes are being established for cotton and wheat in the country for Research & Development of these crops using modern techniques.
- ◆ To increase the cotton fiber quality, a Cotton Ginning Institute is being established in Multan with the objective to produce world class quality fiber from cotton.
- ◆ Transgenic Cotton Development Project is being initiated.
- ◆ All efforts are being taken by the government for availability of inputs (agricultural credit, irrigation water, fertilizers, seeds, weedicides, pesticides etc.), to ensure high level of crops.
- ◆ Emphasis is being given on proper plant protection measures using “Biological control methods” against various insect pests and diseases of major crops.
- ◆ In order to improve various farming practices, Benazir Tractor Scheme and farm machinery, was introduced to provide 10,000 subsidized tractors with the subsidy of Rs. 2, 00, 000 / tractor.
- ◆ Availability of certified seed of improved varieties of wheat, paddy and cotton has been ensured by the government.

Islamabad :
The 9th February, 2010.

RAJA MUHAMMAD AMIN,
Secretary.