

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Wednesday, the 20th January, 2010

156. ***Begum Najma Hameed:** (Notice received on 20-10-2009 at 09:00:a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development be pleased to state the amount of remittances made by the Overseas Pakistanis during the current financial year with country-wise break up?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: An amount of US\$ 4531.08 million was received during the current financial year (July 2009 —December 2009). Country-wise breakup of the remittances is annexed.

157. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 22-10-2009 at 08:30:a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the purchase of furniture and stationary for various offices of FBR during the last three years with year-wise break up; and

(b) the procedure adopted for purchase of the said items?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: (a) Amount spent on purchase of Furniture and Stationery for various offices of FBR during the last three years is as under:

	Amount in Rs. (Million)	
Year	Purchase of Furniture	Purchase of Stationery
2006-07	19.926	54.287
2007-08	101.296	66.659
2008-09	77.203	75.773
Total:	198.425	196.719

(b) The furniture/stationary items were purchased by strictly adopting the procedure laid down in the PPRA Rules 2004 and through International Competitive Bidding as per World Bank's Procurement Guidelines.

158. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 22-10-2009 at 08:30:a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and location of buildings presently hired by FBR for its offices in the country;*
- (b) the amount being paid as rent of those buildings; and*
- (c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to construct its own buildings for the offices of FBR?*

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: (a) 113 buildings have been hired by the FBR throughout the country. The details of their location is given at Annex-A

(b) An amount of Rs.12,854,915/- is being paid as monthly rent of these hired office buildings.

(c) FBR is passing through Reforms Process and infrastructural development is one of its key components. Accordingly, there are various projects for construction of offices which have been approved by the Planning Commission and funded by the Finance Division. Details of the completed and ongoing projects are as under:

COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. Office for Mobile Customs Squad at Abbottabad.
2. Model Customs Collectorate, Islamabad
3. Large Taxpayers Unit, Islamabad
4. Office for Director Intelligence and Investigation (Customs, Sales Tax and Federal Excise), Lahore.
5. Customs Check Post at Kohat Tunnel.
6. Interagency Complex at Khudabad, Khunjrab Pass.
7. Integrated Cargo Container Control (IC3) at Port Muhammad Bin Qasim, Karachi
8. 3rd Floor on Regional Tax Office, Faisalabad
9. Model Customs Collectorate, Hyderabad.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

1. Office of Internal Audit of Customs, Islamabad
2. Directorate of Training (Customs, Sales Tax & Federal Excise), Islamabad.
3. 2nd Office Block at FBR HQ. Islamabad

4. Office of the Additional Director, Intelligence and Investigation (Customs, Sales Tax & Federal Excise), Peshawar.
5. Taxpayers Facilitation Centre, Bannu
6. Taxpayers Facilitation Centre, D.I. Khan
7. Taxpayers Facilitation Centre, Ghotki.
8. Additional Block for Regional Tax Office, Multan.
9. Additional Block for Regional Tax Office, Faisalabad.
10. Model Customs Collectorate, Multan
11. Large Taxpayers Unit, Karachi
12. Customs Station Qamar ud Din Karez at Afghanistan Border.
13. Customs Station Badini at Afghanistan Border
14. Customs House at Chaman
15. Purchase of land for Model Customs Collectorate Gawadar
16. Acquisition of land for Expansion Integrated Cargo Container Control (IC3) at Port Muhammad Bin Qasim, Karachi
17. Purchase of Land for Customs Station at Tank
18. Purchase of Land and construction for Taxpayers Facilitation Centres at 46 stations across the Country

159. ***Begum Najma Hameed:** (Notice received on 22-10-2009 at 09:05:a.m.)

Will the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state whether the requirements of Environment Protection Agency were fulfilled before starting construction work on inter-change at zero point, Islamabad?

Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division: Yes. No Objection Certificate was issued by Pakistan Environment Protection Agency.

160. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 23-10-2009 at 08:45:a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development be pleased to state:

- (a) *the percentage of decrease in the value of Pak-Rupees against other international currencies during the last two years with year-wise break-up; and*

(b) *the reasons for the said decrease?*

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: (a) Pakistan rupee has depreciated by 3.1% in 2007-08, 20.3% in 2008-09 and 3.3% in July—December 2009 *versus* US dollar. Depreciation against other major currencies is given below:

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (July—Dec.)
Euro	-14.1	-14.2	-14.0
Japanese Yen	-10.3	-28.7	-7.0
UK Pound	-6.5	-0.6	-15.0

(b) The exchange rate is determined in the market keeping in view the relative changes in exchange rates and prices of country's major trading partners/ competitors as well as major macro-economic indicators of Pakistan. The depreciation of Pakistani rupee is indicative of overall developments in the balance of payments of the country. Pakistan has faced relatively higher inflation as compared to trading partners/ partners during the last two years. The massive depreciation in the first half of the 2008-09 was owing to unprecedented rise in oil and commodity prices in the international market which resulted in widening of trade deficit, erosion of competitiveness, stagnation of Pakistani exports due to lower demand amidst global financial crisis. Under the unified exchange rate system, floating inter-bank rate is the effective exchange rate at which all foreign exchange receipts and payments (both in public and private sectors) take place. All foreign exchange requirements for all approved purposes (including imports, invisibles, debt repayment etc.) are to be met by the Authorized Dealers from the inter-bank market. The Authorized Dealers neither approach the State Bank for release of foreign exchange for any purpose, nor are they required to surrender it to the State Bank. As a part of exchange rate management policy, the State Bank may intervene in the market for the sale and purchase of foreign exchange like all other Central Banks in the world but in line with our international agreements, it cannot maneuver the exchange rate to keep it artificially low. Rupee will be stabilized with the economic stabilization and strengthening of fundamentals.

161. ***Begum Najma Hameed:** (Notice received on 23-10-2009 at 08:55:a.m.)

Will the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state the total number of Agro-Farms in Islamabad leased out with and without auction since 15th March, 2008, indicating also the names and addresses of the allottees?

Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division: Following Agro Farms were leased out since 15th March, 2008:—

(a) **Auction.**

Three Farms were disposed off through Open Auction as per details at Annexure "A".

(b) **Allotment to Affectees.**

Eight Agro Farms were leased out to those affectees from whom CDA acquired 100 kanal of land as per policy. Details are at Annexure "B".

162. ***Dr. Muhammad Ismail Buledi:**(Notice received on 01-12-2009 at 13:50:p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development be pleased to state the number of cases of customs duty evasion surfaced during the last three years with province-wise break up?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: The number of cases of customs duty evasion surfaced during the last three years with province-wise break up is as under:—

(Rs. in Millions)

Number of Cases of Customs Duty Evasion during the last three Years (2006—09) with Province-wise break up.						
S.No.	Year	Punjab	Sindh	NWFP	Balochistan	Islamabad
1	2006-07	1452	285	630	2670	432
2.	2007-08	1107	191	76	579	295
3.	2008-09	1382	341	30	360	308
TOTAL:		3941	817	736	3609	1035

163. ***Hafiz Rashid Ahmad:** (Notice received on 31-12-2009 at 14:30:p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development be pleased to state whether the Government has provided funds to peace committees and Lashkers in NWFP and FATA during the last two years, if so, the details thereof?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: Finance Division provided an amount of Rs. 650 million on 21-10-2009 to FATA Secretariat to meet the expenditure to be incurred on the establishment of local lashkar/peace committees in FATA.

165. ***Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:** (Notice received on 02-01-2010 at 10:30:a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) the names and addresses of the defaulters of House Building Finance Corporation at present indicating also the amount outstanding against each of them; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to recover the said amount?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: (a) As of December 2009, 57,010 persons are defaulters of HBFCL having default amount of Rs.6.3 billion (ranging from 90 days to 15 years and above).

List of defaulters names, addresses, outstanding balance and default amount against each of them is enclosed.

(b) The steps taken by the HBFCL to recover the said amount is at **Annex.**

(Annexure has been placed on the table of the House as well as Library)

166. *Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi: (Notice received on 02-01-2010 at 10:30:a.m.)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) *the volume of trade with Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Maldives and Sri Lanka during the year 2008-09 indicating also the names of items exported to those countries during that period; and*

(b) *the steps taken by the Government to enhance trade with the said countries?*

Makhdoom Amin Fahim: (a) Volume of Trade During 2008-09 (July-March)

(i) **Sir Lanka**

(Millions US\$)

YEAR	EXPORTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL TRADE	BALANCE
2007-08	214.582	61.584	276.17	(+) 153.00
2008-09 (Jul—Mar)	147.159	46.656	193.81	(+) 100.5

Source:FBS

The details of the items exported are Annexed.

Names of major items exported to Sri Lanka during 2008-09 (July-March)

(1) Cotton Fabrics (woven), (2) Knitted or Crocheted Fabrics, (3) Medical and Pharmaceutical Products, (4) Vegetable and Vegetable Prep Incl. Pulse, (5) Rice (all sorts), (6) Iron and Steel Mfg. thereof, (7) Arms and ammunition, (8) Fish and fish preparation, (9) Construction materials Incl. Cement, (10) Chemical element and compounds.

(ii) **Maldives**

(Millions US\$)

YEAR	EXPORTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL TRADE	BALANCE
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2007-08	4.512	0.003	4.515	(+) 4.509
2008-09 (Jul-Mar)	4.800	0.003	4.803	(+) 4.797

The details of the items exported are Annexed.

Names of major items exported to Maldives 2008-09 (July-March)

(1) Rice all sorts, (2) Construction materials Incl. cement, (3) Medical and pharmaceutical products. (4) Sugar confectioneries. (5) Fruits and fruit preparations.

(iii) **UAE(including Abu Dhabi)***

(value in US\$ million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total	Balance
2007-08	2070.953	3413.594	5484.547	(-) 1342.641
2008-09 (Jul-Mar)	1122.344	2567.889	3690.229	(-) 1445.545

(iv) **Saudi Arabia during**

(value in US\$ million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total	Balance
2007-08	380.080	5330.395	5710.475	(-) 4950.315
2008-09 (Jul-Mar)	324.566	3238.512	3563.078	(-) 2913.946

The details of the items exported are annexed.

Major items of export to UAE (including Abu Dhabi):

Meat & meat preparations, fish & fish preparation, rice, chemical elements & compound, essential oils, perfumes & cosmetics, fruit & fruit preparation, chemical material & product, cotton fabrics, synthetic fabrics, made-up articles of textile material, construction material including cement, manufactures of non ferrous metals, machinery & its parts, article of apparel & clothing, footwear, jewellery etc.

Major items of export to Saudi Arabia:

Meat & meat preparation, fish & fish preparation, rice, fruit & fruit preparations, spices, all crude minerals, chemical material and product, cotton fabrics (woven), tarpaulins, sails & tents, made-up articles of textile material, machinery & its parts, article of apparel & clothing, footwear, baby carriages sports goods, etc.

(b) **Steps taken by the Government to enhance trade with the said countries:**

Sri Lanka

1. Pakistan concluded a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Sri Lanka on August 1st, 2002, establishing a Free Trade Area through elimination of tariffs on the movement of goods. The FTA became operational from 12th June 2005.
2. To further enhance trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, negotiations with Sri Lanka are in progress to conclude a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), by incorporating the following chapters in the Agreement:
 - (i) Trade in Services
 - (ii) Investment
 - (iii) Customs Cooperation
3. Besides bilateral FTA, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are members of South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA).
4. To promote bilateral trade, Pakistan organized a Single Country Exhibition in Sri Lanka from 11-13 January 2008.

Maldives

1. Pakistan and Maldives are members of SAFTA Agreement, which is operational since 1st January 2006.
2. Although Maldives offer limited opportunities in merchandise trade, its success story in tourism and services sector is of significance to Pakistan under the ongoing negotiations on the SAARC Framework Agreement on Trade in Services. Pakistan is looking forward to capitalize on these opportunities.
3. In order to expand bilateral trade with Maldives, the Minister for Commerce visited Maldives from 10-13 November 2008 and held important meetings with President and Deputy President of Maldives, Members of Parliament and Business Chambers.
4. As a follow up, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan sent a trade delegation to Maldives on 20-23 July 2009 to explore trade and commercial opportunities.
5. TDAP disseminated the company profiles of leading importers of Maldives among exporters and associations of Pakistan and also uploaded the information on its website. At the same time information about Pakistan exporters and associations was conveyed to the Maldivian importers through High Commission of Pakistan in Maldives.

UAE (including Abu Dhabi) and Saudi Arabia

1. The first round of on Pak- GCC FTA negotiations was held on 20-21 February 2006 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia whereas, the second round of talks concluded on 7-8 September 2008 at GCC Headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

- 2 The third and decisive round of negotiations is expected to be held in the near future. The GCC, being a custom union, therefore, the Free Trade Agreement with Pakistan will provide market access to Pakistani exportable products in the entire market of GCC countries.

* FBS has not provided separate data for Abu Dhabi to Ministry of Commerce (AC, Statistics).

(Annexure has been placed on the table of the House as well as Library)

167. ***Eng. Malik Rashid Ahmed Khan:** (Notice received on 04-01-2010 at 11:50:a.m.)

Will the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to-state:

- (a) *the normal tenure of posting of the officials posted in various CDA enquiry offices in Islamabad;*
- (b) *the names, designation and date of present posting of the persons working in CDA enquiry office in Sector G-10, Islamabad; and*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that some employees have been serving in the said enquiry office for the last 10 to15 years, if so, the reasons for not transferring them to other offices?*

Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division: (a) The normal tenure of posting is as under:—

- i. Sub-Engineer & Assistant Director 3 years
- ii Operational /Field Staff. Tenure not fixed

(b) Detail is at Annexure “A”.

(c) Sub-Engineers and Assistant Directors posted at G-10 Enquiry Office are well within the normal tenure. However, some of the operational / field staff are performing their duties at G-10 Enquiry Office for the last 10-15 years, being well conversant with the area and having vast experience in attending the complaints effectively.

ISLAMABAD:
The 19th January, 2010.

RAJA MUHAMMAD AMIN,
Secretary.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“UN-STARRED QUESTION AND ITS REPLY”

For Wednesday, the 20th January, 2010

15. **Eng.Malik Rashid Ahmed Khan:** (Notice received on 04-01-2010 at 11:50:a.m.)

Will the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to-state:

- (a) *the funds released to the CDA enquiry office, Sector G-10, Islamabad for maintenance of Government quarters during the last five years; and*
- (b) *the names and quantity of various items provided to the said enquiry office during that period and the details of its utilization with quarter-wise break up and those available in stock?*

Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division: (a) No specific funds are released directly to CDA enquiry offices. The Government houses in various Sectors are repaired/maintained through consolidated allocation.

The year-wise allocation for repair/maintenance of Government houses for Civil & (E & M) works in various Sectors are given below:

Civil Works.

S.No.	Year	Amount
1.	2004-05	Rs. 1.5 (M)
2.	2005-06	Rs. 2.2 (M)
3.	2006-07	Rs. 2.7 (M)
4.	2007-08	Rs. 1.3 (M)
5.	2008-09	Rs. 3.8 (M)

(E & M) Works.

S.No.	Year	Amount
1.	2005-06	Rs. 3.500 (M)
2.	2006-07	Rs. 3.500 (M)
3.	2007-08	Rs. 4.000 (M)

4.	2008-09	Rs. 4.160 (M)
5.	2009-10	Rs. 7.000 (M)

- (b) (i) The details of civil items are given at **Annexure- "A"**.
- (ii) The details of (E & M) stock position/utilization with quarter wise break-up during the last five years is a time consuming job. Therefore, the same will be provided within ten days time.

(Annexure has been placed on the table of the House as well as Library)

ISLAMABAD :
The 19th January, 2010.

RAJA MUHAMMAD AMIN,
Secretary.