

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Wednesday, the 6th March, 2013

DEFERRED QUESTIONS

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| (i) | Questions No.21 | Set down for answering on 24th January, 2013 |
| (ii) | Question Nos.67 and 68 | Set down for answering on 6th February, 2013 |

21. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:** (Notice received on 11-01-2013 at 08:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Production be pleased to state:

- (a) *the quantity and value of raw material purchased by Pakistan Steel Mills locally during the last three years indicating also the names of suppliers of the same; and*
- (b) *the quantity and value of raw material imported by Pakistan Steel Mills during the said period?*

Mr. Anwar Ali Cheema: (a) During last 03 years (i.e. 2010-2011-2012), Pakistan Steel has purchased 5,83,267 MTN of local iron ore valuing Rs. 4,567,295,795/- from local mine owners / suppliers. The detailed information is enclosed as **Annex-A**.

(b) Pakistan Steel during last three years has procured/imported 571,198 MT of Iron Ore Fine, 225,428 MT of Iron Ore Lump and 1,133,271 MT of Coal valuing US\$ 78,599,271, US\$ 27457801 and US\$ 273,847,059 respectively. The detailed information is enclosed as **Annex-B**.

67. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 16-01-2013 at 10:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister, for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) *the expenditures incurred on Pakistan embassy / mission in Saudi Arabia during the last three years with head-wise and year-wise break up; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the said expenditures, if so, its details?*

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: (a) The expenditures incurred on Pakistan Embassy/Sub-Mission in Saudi Arabia during last three years under Demand No. 43 (Missions Abroad) are as under:—

S.No.	Name of Mission	Expenditure (Pak-Rupees)		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1.	Riyadh	84,943,061	99,601,164	106,969,125
2.	Jeddah	153,229,911	157,107,111	179,805,421

The head-wise and year-wise break-up are Annexed at A & B).

(b) There is no proposal under consideration to apply any specific cuts other than envisaged by the Ministry of Finance. The instructions of the Ministry of Finance with regard to financial discipline are being followed in letter and spirit.

68. ***Mr. Heman Dass:** (Notice received on 16-01-2013 at 10:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to go into an agreement with Yeman for exchange of prisoners, if so, when?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: A two member Yemeni delegation, comprising senior officers, visited Pakistan in the first week of January 2013 and held discussions in Islamabad with their counterparts in Ministry of Interior, on the draft text of bilateral agreement on Transfer of Offenders. The draft text was agreed between the two sides, however, formal written confirmation of the Yemeni side is awaited. The Yemeni delegation has said that they would send their confirmation of the draft text through diplomatic channels. The matter is consistently being pursued with Yemeni Authorities.

21. ***Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq:** (Notice received on 08-02-2013 at 13:15 p.m.)

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to refer to the Senate starred question No.52, replied on 13th December, 2012 and state the steps taken by the Government for promoting diverse, affordable and nutritious food in the domestic market and start food relating social protection schemes in order to reduce food insecurity from the country?

Mir Israrullah Zehri: The steps taken by the Government for stable and affordable availability of food and food related social protection schemes in order to reduce food insecurity in the country are summarized as;

- i. Government is promoting Agriculture Research to enhance the productivity. Resultantly we are surplus in wheat, rice and sugar.
- ii. The Government has fixed attractive Support Price for wheat procurement to encourage the growers. The price fixed for next crop is Rs. 1200/ per 40 kg. Additionally the Government is subsidizing imported fertilizer.
- iii. Government has allowed PASSCO to offload 1 million ton wheat in the domestic market at reduced rate of Rs. 1050 to Rs. 1100 per 40 kg. This initiative has increased wheat availability and enhanced access of insecure households to food.
- iv. The Government has also provided 50,000 tons wheat to the World Food Programme (WFP) as a donation for distribution among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country. Additionally, Government plans to donate 150, 000 tons of wheat through WFP for distribution amongst the IDP's of FATA/KPK.
- v. Ministry of National Food Security and Research is working on a National Zero Hunger Programme based on the success story of Brazil and a proposal for setting up of a National Food Security Council.
- vi. Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is providing cash support of Rs. 1000 to over 3.5 million food insecure households in the country.
- vii. Pakistan Bait-ul- Mal (PBM) is making significant contribution towards poverty reduction through its numerous poorest of the poor focused services to food insecure.

22. ***Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq:** (Notice received on 11-02-2013 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to refer to Senate Starred Question No. 19, replied on 24th January, 2013 and state the steps taken by the Government to ensure implementation of strategic Trade Policy Framework 2012-15 particularly with reference to supply of energy, electricity and gas to industrial units in the country?

Makhdoom Amin Fahim: As management of energy sector is not handled by the Ministry of Commerce, there are no proposals in Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2012-15 as such to enhance the supply of energy, electricity and gas to industrial sector. However, being aware of the fact that energy shortage and quality of energy supply in

Pakistan, in the recent past have, negatively impacted export comprehensiveness of Pakistan, STPF 2012-15 provides an adhoc relief of 3% to selected sectors.

The relevant policy in this respect is here under:—

Small exporters in Pakistan have to face the challenge of energy crisis with limited resource. While the bigger exporters may have alternate sources of energy such as captive power plants, the smaller ones have to bear the brunt of load shedding of energy and gas shortages. This significantly adds to their costs and reduces their competitiveness. Therefore, in order to offset the increasing cost of utilities, it has been decided that selected non-textile exporting sectors be provided an ad-hoc relief of 3% of FOB. The selected sectors are Fish and Fish Preparations, Processed Foods, Meat and meat preparation, Sports goods, Footwear, Surgical goods/medical instruments, Cutlery, Electric Fans, Auto Parts and Furniture.

23. ***Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:** (Notice received on 11-02-2013 at 10:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state the growing area and production of tea in the country and steps taken by the Government for enhancement of tea cultivation?

Mir Israrullah Zehri:

Growing Area and Production of Tea

Existing Tea Plantation and Cultivation

	Area(acres)	Nursery(acres)
• Tea Plantation at NTRI	35.5	4.5

Tea cultivation areas at present are as under:—

	Area(acres)	Growers
District Mansehra	11	08
District Battagram	02	01
District Swat	25	25
TOTAL:	38	34

- Year wise Production during last five years:

Year	TEA (KG)
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	Black	Green
2007	3002	1250
2008	8238	750
2009	10374	1975
2010	8885	1225
2011	13146	616
Total Tea Production 2002-12	90609	6036

Steps taken for Enhancement for Tea Cultivation

The adoptability trials and research part which include introduction/evaluation of the tea varieties, raising of tea plantation nurseries and development of production technologies have been completed successfully by PARC. However, promotional activities need to be under taken by the provinces. In this regard a project was initiated by the defunct MinFA with the cooperation of provinces and Government of AJ&K including the private sector. After the 18th Constitutional Amendment this project was closed and its execution was handed over to the provinces but since then no activities have been started by the provinces in this regard.

24. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 13-02-2013 at 10:45 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India is exploring minerals, oil and gas from the area of sir creek, if so, the objection, if any, raised by the Government of Pakistan on such activities?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: We do not have any such report of exploratory activities being carried out by India in the disputed area, in search of oil and gas. The area is under regular surveillance by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and Pakistan Navy. We have, however, referred the query to PMSA for its input.

25. ***Mr. Nisar Muhammad:** (Notice received on 13-02-2013 at 10:55 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the names of allowed and prohibited items / goods passing through Pakistani Territory to Afghanistan under Pak-Afghan Transit Trade Agreement?

Makhdoom Amin Fahim: Only two items, auto parts and cigarettes, are on the negative list for the purpose of transit trade to Afghanistan via Pakistan. Moreover, as per Article 25 of the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA), the transit of

arms, ammunition and military equipments is prohibited unless agreed upon by both the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

26. **Syeda Sughra Imam:** (Notice received on 13-02-2013)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that the Federal Cabinet has approved the decision to grant Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India, if so, the details of conditions attached to this decision; and*

(b) *the date on which the said decision was taken?*

Makhdoom Amin Fahim: (a) The Cabinet in its meeting held on 2nd November 2011 endorsed the efforts of Ministry of Commerce for full normalization of trade relations with India and directed Commerce Division to complete the process of trade normalization for grant of MFN status to India (**Annex-I**).

Subsequently, the Cabinet in its meeting held on 29th February 2012 accorded approval of a Negative List of 1209 items for imports from India replacing the Positive List. The Cabinet also approved phasing-out of the Negative List, with the timeline of 31st December 2012 in principle subject to further progress regarding provision of level playing field for Pakistan's exports to Indian markets and directed Ministry of Commerce to bring the case for complete normalization of trade relations with India to Cabinet for approval after further negotiations with India (**Annex-II**).

Accordingly, Ministry of Commerce notified the Negative List vide its SRO No. 280 dated 20th March, 2012 replacing the Positive List in the Import Policy Order with the Negative List.

As the timeline of 31st December 2012 could not be met, the Cabinet in its meeting held on 3rd January 2013 decided that since the matter had attained finality, it should be ensured that the Cabinet decision of 29th February 2012 to be implemented in both letter and spirit (**Annex-III**).

This Ministry could not meet the timeline of 31st December 2012 as it was consulting other ministries and private sector stakeholders to assess and evaluate level playing field enjoyed by Pakistani exports to India, non-tariff barriers being faced by Pakistani exporters and issues of market excess of Pakistani products to India.

Ministry of Commerce will submit the case to the Cabinet for complete normalization of trade relations with India in due course.

(b) The decision to grant MFN Status to India was taken by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 2nd November 2011.

27. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 14-02-2013 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings held with Indian authorities on issue of sir creek during the last live years; and

(b) the present status of the said issue?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar (a) & (b) We have not been able to achieve a breakthrough on this issue so far. Our principled position is to seek resolution of the dispute in totality and demarcation of land boundary on the horizontal and vertical segments in accordance with the historical and legal documents (Resolution of the Government of British India date 24th February 1914), which get further substantiated by a number of well preserved historical evidences. This position is not acceptable to India.

28. ***Mr. Nisar Muhammad :** (Notice received on 14-02-2013 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the source and items of imports and Pakistani exports to other countries since 2008 with year-wise breakup?

Makhdom Amin Fahim: Year-wise break up of Pakistan's Imports and Exports since 2008, is as follows:—

In Million US \$

2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12	
Exports	Imports								
19052.1	39965.5	17688.1	34822.1	19290.0	34709.9	24810.4	40413.6	23624.2	44911.9

(Source: FBS)

Year-wise details of sources/destinations of Pakistani Imports and exports are placed at **Annex A**.

Items-wise break up of the major imports of Pakistan since 2008 is placed at Annex B, whereas item wise details of exports of Pakistan since 2008 is placed at **Annex- 'C'**

ISLAMABAD :
The 5th March, 2013.

IFTIKHAR ULLAH BABAR,
Secretary.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIRS REPLIES”

For Wednesday, the 6th March, 2013

DEFERRED QUESTIONS

[Questions Nos. 1 and 3 were set down for answering on 6th February, 2013 (90th Session) but were deferred]

1. **Mr. Heman Dass:** (Notice received on 15-01-2013 at 15:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the number of persons working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad (headquarters), with grade-wise and province-wise break-up?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: A statement containing number of persons (officers and staff members) working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad (Headquarters), with grade-wise and province-wise break-up, is Annexed.

3. **Mr. Heman Dass:** (Notice received on 16-01-2013 at 10:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the number of persons presently posted in Pakistan Missions in Kuwait, Masqat, Abu Dhabi, Iran, Zahedan, London, France and New York with province-wise break-up?

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar: A statement containing number of Pak-based employees (officers and staff members) of this Ministry (Diplomatic Wing) presently posted in the Pakistan Missions in Kuwait, Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Iran, Zahidan, London, France and New York, with province-wise break-up, is Annexed.

ISLAMABAD :
The 5th March, 2013.

IFTIKHAR ULLAH BABAR,
Secretary.