

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Friday, the 6th March, 2015

DEFERRED QUESTIONS

*(Questions Nos. 58, 1, 9, 17, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 167, 154, 156, 158, 159, 161, 162, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61
Deferred on 4th February, 2015 (110th Session))*

Question No. @27. (Def.) *Mr. Saeed Ghani:

(Notice received on 24-04-2014 at 10:25 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights be pleased to state the names and dates of retirement of Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Pakistan who retired since 1985 indicating also the details of pension, allowances and other fringe benefits such as servants, officials accommodation, plots vehicles (with make and model) and utility bills etc. admissible to them under the rules and of those actually provided them?

Mr. Pervaiz Rashid: A list of Chief justices of Pakistan retired since 1985 is at Annex-I. The details of Pension, allowances and other fringe benefits admissible to them are at Annex-II.

@Deferred form 4th March, 2015

Annexure-I

**THE NAMES AND DATE OF RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICES
OF PAKISTAN WHO RETIRED SINCE 1985**

S. NO.	NAME OF CHIEF JUSTICE	PERIOD
1.	Mr. Justice Muhammad Haleem	25-03-1981 — 31-12-1989

2.	Mr. Justice Muhammad Afzal Zullah	01-01-1990 — 18-04-1993
3.	Mr. Justice Dr. Nasim Hassan Shah	17-04-1993 — 14-04-1994
4.	Mr. Justice Sajjad Ali Shah	05-06-1994 — 02-12-1997
5.	Mr. Justice Ajmal Mian	03-12-1997 — 30-06-1999
6.	Mr. Justice Saiduzzaman Siddiqui	01-07-1999 — 26-01-2000
7.	Mr. Justice Irshad Hasan Khan	26-01-2000 — 06-01-2002
8.	Mr. Justice Muhammad Bashir Jehangiri	07-01-2002 — 31-01-2002
9.	Mr. Justice Sh. Riaz Ahmad	01-02-2002 — 31-12-2003
10.	Mr. Justice Nazim Hussain Siddiqui	31-12-2003 — 29-06-2005
11.	Mr. Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry	30-06-2005 — 11-12-2013
12.	Mr. Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani	12-12-2013 — 05-07-2014

Annexure-II

DETAILS OF PENSION AND OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS

(i) **Pension**

A Chief Justice of Supreme Court on his retirement is entitled to the minimum amount of pension equal to 70% (seventy percent) of the salary determined by the President from time to time under paragraph 16 of the Supreme Court Judge (Leave, Pension and Privileges) Order, 1997 (P.O 2 of 1997) plus 5% for each completed year of service either as the Chief Justice or as the Judge not exceeding the maximum amount of pension equal to eighty-five per cent of the said salary;

(ii) **Servant**

Service of a driver and an orderly.

(iii) **Utility Bills**

- (a) 3000 free local calls per month.
- (b) 2000 units of electricity as well as
- (c) 25 hm of gas per month
- (d) free supply of water.

(iv) **Vehicle**

- (a) 300 liters of petrol per month.

- (b) purchase of official vehicle of 1800cc at depreciated value which had been under the use of Judge during his Posting as Chief Justice.
- (v) No income tax shall be payable in respect of benefits and perquisites to which a Judge or a widow, as the case may be, is entitled under paragraph 25 of P.O. 2 of 1997.

Facility availed other than entitlement

Mr. Justice (R) Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry is using 6000cc (Bullet Proof) Mercedes Benz Car No: GD-0341 of Cabinet Division. Law and Justice Division is bearing the expenditure on Petrol and maintenance under Islamabad High Court Judgment dated 15-01-2014 in Writ Petition No: 4761/2013. ICA No. 65/2014 has been filed but despite applications for early hearing ICA is still pending. Since 30-01-2014, 4689 litres of petrol has been issued to said car. A repair estimate of Rs. 3,375,029/- has been presented to Law Division; funds through a Special Grant are required from the Finance Division.

Question No. 58. (Def) *Mr. Saeed Ghani:

(Notice received on 24-04-2014 at 10:25 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of loss making Public Sector Organizations proposed to be privatized indicating also the loss suffered by each of those organizations during the last ten years with year-wise break up; and*
- (b) *the details of amounts injected / provided by the Government in the form of loan, aid, grant and bailout packages etc. separately, to the said organizations during the said period with year-wise breakup?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The details of loss making PSEs, along with financial data for the last 10 years^[1], of the entities on the privatisation list is placed at **Annex-A***.

(b) The details of the amounts injected/ loans etc. by the GoP in some PSEs with year wise break-up is placed at **Annex-B**.

^[1]As per data submitted by the respective Organizations /Division/ Ministries.

*Data in ease of other entities is either not shared by the respective Organizations /Division, Ministries or they are profit making.

Question No. 1. (Def) *Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:

(Notice received on 17-06-2014 at 10:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to obtain loans from foreign commercial banks, if so, the details thereof?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: Government borrows funds from the domestic and foreign banks from time to time to build the foreign exchange reserves and strengthen budgetary position of the country. Currently there is no proposal under consideration to obtain loan from foreign commercial banks for the time being.

Question No. 9. (Def.) *Mr. Baz Muhammad Khan:

(Notice received on 20-06-2014 at 2:55 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the names, designations and names of departments of the Government employees who obtained / drew non refundable GP Fund from AGPR during the last year indicating also the amount of GP Fund drawn and the amount deducted as Zakat in each case?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: The list of employees who obtained/ drew non-refundable GP Fund from AGPR during the period 01-07-2011 to 11-12-2014 attached. Wage type 4028 represents amount paid as non-refundable GP Fund and wage type 4029 represents amount of Zakat deducted in each case. **(Annex-I)**

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

Question No. 17. (Def.) *Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi:

(Notice received on 30-06-2014 at 10:46 a. m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the names of companies and persons whose loans have been written off by the financial institutions in the country during the last fiscal year indicating also the reasons for writing off loan in each case?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) while providing information has stated that most of the banks are dealing in consumer loans and the banks used to write off their non- performing personal loans on regular basis as per their approved policies. Being the huge volume of the information, it may become difficult to collect and handle. Due to this reason SBP has collected information regarding written off loans from the financial institutions for significant amount of Rs. 10 million and above.

The names of companies and persons whose loans have been written off by the financial institutions in the country during the last fiscal year along with justification are annexed.

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

Question No. 147. (Def.) *Syeda Sughra Imam:

(Notice received on 20-06-2014 at 3:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the details of proposal / plan for privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA)?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: PIAC, the national flag carrier, was incorporated in 1955 and presently operates under the Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Act, 1956 (the Act). PIAC is listed on all the three domestic stock exchanges. Government of Pakistan ('GOP') is the principal shareholder, holding 85% of the share capital, while 8% is held by BESOS PIA Employees Empowerment Trust.

GOP intends to restructure its national flag carrier through a private sector partnership in core operations of PIAC to enable the airline to re-build on its improved operating performance. Primary objectives with regard to PIAC are to ensure the continued operation of PIAC as the country's national airline:

- (a) Promote rapid development and modernization of PIAC through the help of strategic private sector participation which will facilitate injection of private sector capital, skills and technology to upgrade PIAC operational and financial performance.
- (b) Achieve improvement in performance and operational efficiency of various business segments/units of PIAC.
- (c) Maximize sale proceeds from the divestment of GOP equity in PIAC and enhancing the value of GOP residual shareholding through much needed investments, modernization and up-gradation of PIAC.
- (d) Re-define the role of government from an owner operator to that of a regulator whilst widening the ownership base of PIAC.

Pursuant to the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCOP) and Privatisation Commission Board, the Privatisation Commission has appointed. consortium led by Dubai Islamic Bank, IATA Consulting, Deloitte, Freshfields, HMBNR, etc hired as Financial Advisors for the PIA transaction. Relevant modalities of the transaction, including restructuring and divestment strategy, transaction structure, divestment mode etc. will be finalized in consultation with the PIA management and all the stakeholders involved.

For the year ended Dec. 31, 2013, PIAC booked net revenue of ~Rs. 96 Billion (FY2011-12: ~Rs.112 Billion). However, higher aircraft fuel cost of ~Rs. 55 Billion (FY2011-12: ~Rs. 61 Billion) due to aging fleet coupled with other operating costs of ~Rs. 71 Billion (FY2011-12: ~Rs. 68 Billion) besides finance costs of ~Rs. 12.6 Billion (FY2011-12: ~Rs. 11.4 Billion) led the company to book loss before tax of ~Rs. 43 Billion (FY2011-12: ~Rs. 29 Billion for the period. Accumulated losses as at Dec. 31, 2013 stand at ~Rs. 198 Billion (December 31, 2012: ~Rs. 152 Billion) whereas out of the gross finance and lease liabilities of ~Rs. 163 Billion, ~Rs. 100 Billion are of short term maturity thus casting serious doubts over the company's going concern status without the assistance of Federal Government.

Question No. 148. (Def.) * Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi:

(Notice received on 25-06-2014 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the details of the income tax paid by the incumbent President, Prime Minister, Advisors to the PM and Members of the Cabinet during the financial year 2013-14?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: As per Section 216 of Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 a public servant is barred from disclosure of information regarding statements made, return furnished, accounts or documents produced, evidence given, affidavit or deposition made, record of any assessment and proceedings or recovery of tax demand under the ordinance.

However, information for Tax Year 2013 regarding the returns filed and tax paid by the parliamentarians is available on website of FBR. The directory for Tax Year 2014, will also be published by FBR in due course of time after lapse of the due date for filing of returns.

Question No. 149. (Def.) *Syeda Sughra Imam:

(Notice received on 25-06-2014 at 1:50 p.m)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of SROs in force / field in the country at present;*
- (b) *the financial benefits derived by various sectors as a consequence of each of the said SROs with sector-wise break-up; and*
- (c) *the overall financial loss caused to the Government as a consequence of each of the said SROs?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) IN LAND REVENUE

INCOME TAX

At present there are 64 S.R.Os in field issued under Income Tax Ordinance, 2001. Other concessions in Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 have been enacted through Finance Bills. Any concessionary SRO issued under Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 for amendment in Second Schedule to Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 are to be placed before the Parliament during the financial year, and become part of Ordinance. The SROs issued during the preceding financial years have been placed before the Parliament during Budget sessions and are now part of the main body of law and do not stand independently. However, it is submitted that these SRO's have been issued over the last many years. Furthermore concession worth Rs.103 billion given through SROs by previous regimes have been withdrawn through budget 2014-15. During the current financial year, only three concessionary SROs have been issued as detailed below.

SRO 716(I)/2014 dated 7th August, 2014 granted exemption from deduction of withholding tax on import of potatoes upto 15th November, 2014.

SRO 1029(I)/2014 dated 19th November, 2014 granted exemption to Pakistan International Sukuk Company Limited, Second Pakistan International Sukuk Company Limited and Sukuk holders.

SRO 1030(I)/2014 dated 19th November, 2014 granted exemption from charge of Capital Value Tax to Pakistan International Sukuk Company Limited and Second Pakistan International Sukuk Company Limited.

SALES TAX/FEDERAL EXCISE

32 Sales Tax concessionary SROs and 7 Federal Excise concessionary SROs are in field and category-wise details of Sales Tax SROs are as under:

- | | | |
|--|---|----|
| (i) SROs to promote industry & Agriculture | = | 05 |
| (ii) SROs to promote exports/ export oriented sector | = | 06 |
| (iii) SROs to provide cheap diagnosis & medical treatment | = | 08 |
| (iv) SROs to stabilize prices of commodities of common man's use | = | 04 |
| (v) Miscellaneous | = | 09 |

Details of concessionary SROs in field is placed at **Annex-A**.

CUSTOMS

At present 31 Customs SROs are in field the rates wherein of customs duty is lower than the standard rates. Category-wise details are as under:—

- | | | |
|--|---|----|
| (i) Export related SROs granting concession on import of raw materials | = | 03 |
| (ii) SROs relating to FTAs / PTAs | = | 09 |
| (iii) Concessions to socially sensitive items and industrial inputs | = | 19 |

(b) INLAND REVENUE

The financial benefits derived by various sectors and losses caused to the government as a consequence of each of the SROs in the year 2012-13 and 2013-14 are given in **Annex-B** and **Annex C**.

CUSTOMS

The cost of exemptions derived by various sectors as a consequence of the Customs related SROs during financial year 2013-14 is attached as **Annex-D**.

(c) INLAND REVENUE

Same as (b) above

CUSTOMS

As above

(Annexures have been placed on the Table of the House as well as Library.)

Question No. 150. (Def.) *Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain:

(Notice received on 25-06-2014 at 1:50 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform be pleased to state whether any feasibility report has been prepared for Islamabad-Rawalpindi Metro Bus Project, if so, its details including estimated number of people who will travel by that bus on daily basis?

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal: Yes: Prefeasibility study and traffic model study have been conducted for the project as per following details:

- a. A Prefeasibility study conducted by Capital Development Authority (CDA) in November, 2012 under Asian Development Bank (ADB.) funding.
- b. Transport Modeling for Mass Transit System between Rawalpindi & Islamabad – Study carried out by NESPAK in 2014.

As per the above studies following is the data of estimated passengers:

- o Approximate daily total passengers between twin cities over various routes = 525,000.
- o Total traffic volume between twin cities over major corridors is as under:
 - Murree Road = 79,110 PCUs
 - Islamabad Highway = 113,587 PCUs
 - 7th Avenue = 34,206 PCUs

- 9th Avenue = 60,556 PCUs
(PCUs – Passenger Car Units)
- o Daily Public Transport Demand = 1,224,102 passengers
(total demand for twin cities).
- o Passenger demand (Ridership) over the proposed Metro Corridor is as under:
 - Without routes and fare integration = 135,000 passengers per day.
 - With routes and fare integration = 221,602 passengers per day.
 - Passenger carrying capacity of the proposed Metro Buses = 313,278 passengers per day.

Question No. 151. (Def) *Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:

(Notice received on 27-06-2014 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of applications received under the Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme so far with province-wise break-up; and*
- (b) *the number of persons who will be provided loans under the said scheme with province-wise break-up?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Province wise number of applications received by National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) and First Women Bank Limited (FWBL) under the Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan (PMYBL) Scheme as on December 01, 2014 is as under:—

S. No.	Province	No. of applications
i.	Punjab	46,888
ii.	Sindh	5,579
iii.	KPK	5,652
iv.	Baluchistan	1,412
v.	Islamabad	909
vi.	Gilgit-Baltistan	598
vii.	AJK	1071
viii.	Fata	—
Total		62,109

(b) Under PMYBL, 100,000 loans will be provided to youth entrepreneurs within one year. Share of each Province under the Scheme will be based on the Population of each province.

Question No. 152. (Def) * Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi:

(Notice received on 27-06-2014 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the financial losses suffered by the commercial banks in the country due to fraud committed therein during the last one year with bank-wise details;*
- (b) the number of persons arrested in the said cases; and*
- (c) the steps being taken by the concerned authorities to recover the said amount and to control such incidents in future?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) As per information provided by the banks, details of financial losses suffered by the banks due to frauds committed during the last one year are as follows:

Film

(b) As per information provided by the banks, overall 42 persons have been arrested in the said incidents of frauds.

(c) The steps taken by the banks to recover the amount involved in these frauds includes recovery from insurance claims and other sources, legal actions against perpetrators of frauds, lodgment of FIR against culprits, constant follow-up with individuals involved for recovery etc.

Moreover, in order to control such incidents in future various measures have been taken by the banks such as issuance of necessary instructions to staff to ensure strict compliance of laid down policies/ procedures, strengthening of security measures and internal controls in branches, strict disciplinary actions against delinquent staff etc.

In order to strengthen the Fraud Risk Management and Monitoring functions in banks, SBP has issued detailed instructions on Fraud Risk Management & Reporting in February 2014 which requires banks to formulate and implement Fraud Prevention Policy, Whistle Blowing Program, Quarterly & Annual review of frauds through involvement of the Board and senior management etc. Furthermore, constant follow up is being done with the banks on the cases of frauds and SBP Inspection team ensures compliance of instructions issued during their normal course of inspection.

Question No. 167. (Def.) *Syeda Sughra Imam:

(Notice received on 27-06-2014 at 02:15 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the name of the Cabinet Committee which authorized the sale / privatization of the Government's shares in the United Bank Limited;*
- (b) the names of Ministries / Divisions which are members of the said Committee;*
- (c) the names and designations of the Ministers who were present in the meeting of the said committee when the decision of the said sale / privatization was taken indicating also the names of those Ministers who were in favour of that decision; and*
- (d) the details of the said decision and the privatization plan that was approved by the Committee?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Notification of the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) authorized the sale/ privatisation of the Government's shares in the United Bank Limited (UBL) (**Annex-A**).

(b) The composition of the CCoP, notified vide Cabinet Division's Notification No. F.5/4/2013-Com dated 20th June, 2013 is placed at **Annex-A**.

(c) The list of Ministers who were present in the meetings of the CCoP is placed at **Annex-B**.

As far as information pertaining to indication of names of Ministers who were in favour of those decisions is concerned, the same is part of minutes of the CCoP meetings, which are available with the Cabinet Division and are not distributed. Therefore, the Cabinet Division may kindly be approached for provision of the same.

(d) Notification of Completion of UBL Transaction is placed at **Annex-C**, which contains all such information.

Question No. 154. (Def.) *Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah:

(Notice received on 04-07-2014 at 10:25 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to reduce the fiscal deficit and contain it within the set targets?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: Following steps are taken by the Government to reduce fiscal deficit and contain it within the set targets:—

- (a) Revenue collection and expenditures are closely monitored on monthly basis.
- (b) Un-budgeted expenditure are not allowed except under unavoidable circumstances.
- (c) All releases for expenditure are made in the light of flow of revenue receipts and other receipts through implementation of ways and means procedure.

2. Budgeted Target for fiscal deficit for 2013-14 was 6.3% of GDP which has been contained to 5.5% of GDP (Provisional Actual). This reflects a strong commitment of the Government to fiscal discipline. Further, in the budget 2014-15, budget deficit target has been fixed at 4.9 % of GDP.

Question No. 156. (Def.) *Mr. Osman Saifullah Khan:

(Notice received on 25-08-2014 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the time by which the next population census will be conducted in the country; and*
- (b) *the steps taken by the Government to ensure conducting of the said census at proper time / the time specified in the relevant law/rules?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has completed all preparations and is ready to conduct the next Population Census at a notice of ten months. A summary for holding census in the country was submitted on 29th May, 2014 to the Council of Common Interests (CCI) wherein it was decided that the matter would be further discussed with Chief Minister Balochistan by Minister for IPC. The issue was also placed on the agenda of CCI meeting scheduled for 1st October, 2014, which was postponed. However, as and when Government decides, the Census will be conducted in the Country.

(b) Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has taken steps to conduct the census which are attached (Annex-I). There is no binding on the Government to conduct census after every ten years. However, traditionally Population & Housing Census is conducted after a decades' time. Under the prevailing laws *i.e.* u/s 31 of the General Statistics (Re-organization) Act 2011:

“The Federal Government may, from time to time by notification in the official Gazette, declare that census of population and housing conditions of Pakistan shall be taken by the Bureau during such period as may be specified therein”.

Question No. 158. (Def.) *Mr. Osman Saifullah Khan:

(Notice received on 28-08-2014 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of deposits raised from the public by scheduled banking institutions from 1st July, 2013 to 30th June, 2014 with province-wise breakup; and*
- (b) *the details of loans advanced / provided by the said institutions during that period with province-wise breakup?*

Reply not received.

Question No. 159. (Def) *Mr. Osman Saifullah Khan:

(Notice received on 28-08-2014 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are net exporters of capital to the rest of the country, if so, the policy measure / steps being taken by the Government to correct / reduce this imbalance?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: No. There is no such evidence which suggests that the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are net exporters of capital to the rest of the country.

The four provinces of Pakistan constitute a single market, as Article 151 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 provides for freedom of inter provincial trade. Investors from one province are free to move their capital and invest in another province keeping in view the business opportunities.

Question No. 161. (Def.) *Mr. Muhammad Idrees Khan Safi:

(Notice received on 04-09-2014 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state as to whether it is a fact that trade deficit is adversely affecting economy of the country, if so, the magnitude of that adverse affect during the last two years?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: Trade deficit in developing countries like Pakistan generally remain high due to high volume of imports as compared to exports because of development needs. These imports increase the productive capacity of the economy and generate economic activities over time. Therefore trade deficit does not necessarily affect adversely to the economy of the country.

The trade deficit during 2011-12 to 2013-14 is as under:—

(US\$ Millions)

<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>
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Exports	23,624	24,460	25,110
Imports	44,912	44,950	45,073
Trade deficit	21,288	20,490	19,963

However, trade deficit relatively improved' on account of appropriate measures to bridge the gap through building reserve position, maintaining exchange rate stability and export enhancement in 2013-14 as compared to 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Question No. 162. (Def.) *Mr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari:

(Notice received on 11-09-2014 at 11:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister announced in his budget speech 2014-15 to upgrade the post of Superintendent from BPS-16 to BPS-17;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the Superintendents in BPS-16 have been granted higher time scale (BPS-17) vide Finance Division O.M. No. 1(3)R-1/2010/2014 dated 10th September, 2014 instead of up-grading the post of Superintendent;*
- (c) *whether it is further a fact that incumbents of the said post are not entitled to the grant of premature increment, increase in rental ceiling / house rent allowance and medical allowance etc. upon their placement in BPS-17, if so, the reasons thereof ; and*
- (d) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to upgrade the said post as announced by the Finance Minister in the said speech?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The Finance Minister during budget speech 2014-15 announced that **“the post of Superintendent is being upgraded from BS-16 to BS-17”**.

(b) As per recommendation of the Establishment Division. Higher Time Scale has been granted to the incumbents of the post of Superintendent instead of up-gradation of the said post.

(c) Yes. As per policy of government already invoked, these benefits are not admissible to the Superintendent (BS-16) on placement in (BS-17).

(d) No. As mentioned in reply at Sl. No. (b) above.

Question No. 31. (Def.) *Syeda Sughra Imam:

(Notice received on 31-10-2014 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that 19 out of 32 Public Sector Entities (PSEs) which have been approved for privatization are profit making entities; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that privatization of some of the said entities has already taken place, if so, the details of such entities indicating also the revenue generated from their privatization and the names of the companies / individuals who bought the shares of the same, separately?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Yes, 19 out of 32 PSEs are profit making, which have been approved for privatisation by the CCoP on 3rd October, 2013.

(b) Yes, out of the approved privatisation program, certain PSEs have already been partially privatized. Details of the same is **Annexed**.

Question No. 32. (Def.) *Mr. Osman Saifullah Khan:

(Notice received on 31-10-2014 at 09:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to link the interest / profit rate offered to the depositors by the scheduled banks in the country with KIBOR?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: No proposal is under consideration at State Bank of Pakistan to link the profit rate offered to the depositors by the scheduled banks, with KIBOR.

Question No. 33. (Def.) *Mr. Osman Saifullah Khan:

(Notice received on 31-10-2014 at 09:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the amount of credit extended to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by the banking sector in the country as on 30th June, 2014 and its percentage to the total credit extended by that sector?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: As on June 30, 2014 credit extended to SME sector stood at Rs. 264.84 billion, which amounts to 6% of total bank lending and 7% to total private sector lending in the country.

Question No. 34. (Def.) *Mr. Osman Saifullah Khan:

(Notice received on 05-11-2014 at 08:45 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the number of individual share holders presently holding shares of the companies listed on the Stock Exchanges of the country?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: The total number of individual shareholders presently holding shares of listed companies of the stock exchanges of the country is approximately 197,000. (This information is to the extent of individual shareholders having shares in electronic form).

Question No. 36. (Def.) *Mrs. Sehar Kamran:

(Notice received on 05-11-2014 at 11:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of ongoing development projects in the country which are being funded by the international donors /financial institutions; and*
- (b) the details of financial assistance, donations and loans provided by the said donors / institutions for those projects during the present regime and the details of its utilization with province wise break up?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: The question requires comprehensive and detailed information/data which is being collected from all concerned quarters and will be placed before the Senate on next Rota Day.

Question No. 37. (Def.) *Mrs. Saeeda Iqbal:

(Notice received on 05-11-2014 at 02:20 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and privatization be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Minister for Finance in his budget speech, 2014, announced to increase the pension of EOBI pensioners from Rs. 3600 to Rs. 6000 but the same has not been implemented so far, if so, its reasons and the time by which that decision will be implemented?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: Increase was announced for government employees/pensioners only. EOBI pensions are regulated under EOBI Act 1976 and are paid out of the Fund thereof.

Question No. 38. (Def.) *Mrs. Saeeda Iqbal:

(Notice received on 05-11-2014 at 02:20 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs Statistics and Privatization announced in his budget speech 2014-15 that BPS-17 will be granted to the Superintendents and Appraisers working in FBR; and*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that BPS-17 has been granted to the Superintendents working in the Ministries / Divisions / Attached Departments / Subordinate Offices*

while the same has not been granted to the Superintendents and Appraisers working in FBR, if so, the reasons thereof?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Grant of BPS-17 was announced only for the Superintendents of Ministries/ Divisions/ Attached Departments/ Subordinate offices. However, Superintendents, Principal Appraisers/ Appraisers working in the Customs Department under FBR were not mentioned/ included in the budget speech.

(b) The Finance Division O.M. No.1(3)R-1/ 2010/2014 dated 10-09-2014 regarding grant of higher time scale BPS-17 is applicable to those Superintendents who are governed by the Recruitment Rules framed by the Establishment Division *vide* S. R.O.1077(i)/ 2005 dated 15-10-2005. Contrary to it, the Recruitment Rules, Job Description and Organizational hierarchy of the Superintendent Customs, Office Superintendent, Principal Appraiser etc. in the field formations of FBR are altogether different than the Superintendents of Ministries/Divisions etc. However, the management of FBR has formally taken up the case of Superintendent (Customs/ Preventive) and Principal Appraisers for up-gradation to BS-17 with the Establishment Division.

Question No. 41. (Def.) *Syeda Sughra Imam:

(Notice received on 07-11-2014 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names, location and mandate of NGOs presently working in the country which are receiving international / foreign financing, funding, contributions, support, sponsorship or investment indicating also the names of international / foreign sponsor in each case; and*
- (b) *whether the Government give permission to international/ foreign donors, contributors or sponsors to fund, invest in or support the said NGOs, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) There are 127 International Non Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in the record of Economic Affairs Division (EAD), which are presently working in the country, receiving foreign contributions. A list indicating their names, mandate, geographical focus and source of funding (Names of donors), is at (**Annex-A**). Only 19 INGOs have been registered under the INGOs new policy of November, 2013 (**Annex-B**) and the cases of remaining INGOs are under process.

(b) No. The International Organizations / Donors select their implementing partners (INGOs) at their own and for implementing programs/projects other than Government to Government. However; registration of INGOs receiving foreign funding is processed and accorded by the Government of Pakistan.

(Annexures have been placed on the Table of the House as well as Library.)

Question No. 42. (Def.) *Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla:

(Notice received on 07-11-2014 at 01:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the rate of return on National Saving Certificates for the 1st quarter of the current fiscal year and its comparison with the rate which was admissible during the same period of the last fiscal year; and*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the performance of Central Directorate of National Savings?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The rates of return on National Savings Schemes during the 1st quarter of current fiscal year and their comparison with the same quarter of last fiscal year are tabulated below:—

Film

(b) Following steps have been/being taken to improve the performance of Central Directorate of National Savings(CDNS):-

- i. Rates of return of National Savings Schemes (NSSs) have been made competitive with the market. Rates of return on National Savings Schemes are revised after every two months as per interest rates announced in the monetary policy of State Bank of Pakistan.
- ii. Automation of CDNS is in progress.
- iii. Monthly profit payment schemes have been successfully co-related with Savings Account on sixteen pilot National Savings Centres *w.e.f.* 2-6-2014.
- iv. The proposal for payment of monthly profit on Bahbood Savings Certificates and Pensioners' Benefit Account through National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) is under process.
- v. Model Branches to facilitate the senior citizens and female investors in Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta have been established since January, 2014.
- vi. Complaint Resolution Units at CDNS Headquarter at Islamabad and at all the Regional Directorates of National Savings have been established to redress grievances of valued customers.

Question No. 43. (Def) *Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla:

(Notice received on 07-11-2014 at 01:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the inflation rate in the country since July, 2013 with month-wise break-up; and*
(b) *the steps taken / being taken by the Government to control the inflation?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The inflation rate since July 2013 to January 2015 is as follow:

Year	Inflation rate %
Jul-2013	8.3
Aug	8.5
Sep	7.4
Oct	9.1
Nov	10.9
Dec	9.2
Jan-2014	7.9
Feb	7.9
Mar	8.5
Apr	9.2
May	8.3
Jun	8.2
Jul	7.9
Aug	7.0
Sep	7.7
Oct	5.8
Nov	4.0
Dec	4.3
Jan 2015	3.9

- (b) The government is taking following measures to control the inflation in the country:

The Prime Minister of Pakistan has written letters to provincial Chief Ministers to extend the benefit of reduction of oil prices to the people by lowering the transportation fares and the prices of essential commodities.

The ECC also reviews inflationary trend/ prices and supply of essential commodities in its meetings on regular basis.

National Price Monitoring Committee chaired by the Federal Finance Minister also monitors the prices and supply position of essential commodities in consultation with provincial governments and concerned federal Ministries/ Divisions and organization.

Pakistan Railways has reduced the normal freight by 5 percent across the board. Pakistan Railways has also reduced the fares by 5 percent for the trains including Bolan Mail, Bahauddin Zakaria Express, Fareed Express and Sukkur Express and 3 percent fares of Allam Iqbal Express, Awam Express, Karachi Express, Millat Express, Akbar Bugti Express and Jaffer Express.

PIA has also reduced fares for various destinations as given below:

- o Umrah fares has been reduced by Rs.7,900.
- o 10 percent discount has been offered in economy class fares from New York.
- o 25 percent discount has been offered on business class from New York.
- o 20 percent discount has been offered in market for Toronto.
- o Upto 50 percent discount on business class fares from Pakistan to Europe, United Kingdom and North Americas.

Provincial governments are also taking appropriate measures to monitor the prices and ensuring smooth supply of commodities so that the benefits of the reduction in oil prices be passed on to the common man.

In response to these measures, the headline inflation measured by CPI is on downward trajectory. In January 2015 CPI has come down to 3.9 percent as compared to 7.9 percent in the same month last year. The other inflationary indicators like food inflation declined to 3.0 percent and non-food 4.5 percent as compared to 7.2 percent and 8.4 percent in the same month last year.

The SPI which monitor the prices of 53 essential commodities has witnessed declining trend consecutively for the last eight weeks.

Question No. 44. (Def.) *Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla:

(Notice received on 07-11-2014 at 01:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the reasons for which the present Government has negotiated a loan with IMF; and*
- (b) *the terms and conditions of the said loan?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Pakistan was facing the following challenges during recent years:

- Economic performance in Pakistan was substandard in recent years.
- Private investment fell by nearly half over the past five years, reflecting sharp drops in both foreign and domestic investment.

- Inflationary pressures remained in the economy because of persistently high fiscal deficit.
- The external position weakened significantly and central bank reserves declined to critical levels of \$6 billion by end June 2013.
- The rupee depreciated by 5.3 percent against the dollar during 2012/13.
- The fiscal deficit remained large; The 2012/13 fiscal deficit (excluding grants) is estimated to be over 8½ percent of GDP.
- Revenue sharing agreement continued to pose a challenge to fiscal consolidation.
- Heavy burden on domestic borrowing, crowding of private sector credit and near absence of external flow.
- The energy sector was a major drag on economic activity with acute energy shortages.
- Security concerns could increase economic risks.
- Vulnerability to oil price shocks had risen in recent years.
- The financial system was dominated by banks that have been relatively healthy but nonperforming loans remained high.
- Repayment of old IMF loans.

To meet the above situation, Pakistan entered into a 3 year program of \$6.64 billion with IMF under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) in September 2013 and introduced an economic reform program under the arrangement.

(b) The terms and conditions of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the IMF are given below:-

- Interest rate 2-3% per annum
- Commitment fee 15-30 basis points
- Service Charges 50 basis point (on each amount drawn)
- Repayment period 4.5 – 10 years (In equal semiannual installments).

Question No. 45. (Def) *Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:

(Notice received on 11-11-2014 at 09:10 a. m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the outstanding amount of domestic debt in rupees as on 1st June, 2014 and the increase made in it during the last one year; and*
- (b) *the outstanding amount of foreign debt in US dollars as on 1st June, 2014 and the increase made in it during the last one year?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The domestic and external debt data is maintained on monthly basis. Therefore, corresponding data for June 1, 2014 and June 1, 2013 would be the data as at May 31, 2014 and May 31, 2013, which is as follows:

	May 31, 2014	May 31, 2013	Increase
Domestic Debt (Rs. billion)	10,593.1	9,078.5	1,514.6

The total outstanding amount of domestic public debt in rupees as on May 31, 2014 was Rs. 10, 593 billion with an increase of Rs. 1,514.6 billion during the last one year.

(b)

	May 31, 2014	May 31, 2013	Increase
Foreign Debt (US\$ billions)	51.2	47.8	3.4

The total outstanding amount of foreign public debt in US dollars as on May 31, 2014 was \$51.2 billion with an increase of Rs. 3.4 billion during the last one year.

Question No. 47. (Def.) *Syeda Sughra Imam:

(Notice received on 11-11-2014 at 04:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the salient features of policy of the Government for the ownership rights of multinational companies / corporations working in Pakistan; and*

(b) *whether the said companies / corporations are required to carry out welfare schemes / works for people / areas of their operation, if so, the details of their social corporate responsibilities in this regard?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Foreign investment is fully protected following acts:

- (i) Foreign Private Investment (Promotion & Protection) Act, 1976.
- (ii) Protection of Economic Reforms Act, 1992.
- (iii) Special Economic Zone (SEZs) Act, 2012.

Salient features of provisions of the above mentioned acts / Laws regarding investment Policy are as under:-

- Equal treatment to local and foreign investors.
- All economic sectors are open to FDI except a few specified industries like arms and ammunition, explosives, radio-active substances, security printing, currency and minting of coins.
- Foreign equity up-to 100% is allowed.
- No minimum foreign investment amount is required.
- Remittance of dividends, capital and profits are allowed.
- Import of raw material for export manufacturing is zero-rated.
- 0% customs duty for import of machinery/ equipment for agriculture sector.

(b) No, it is not mandatory for the companies/corporations to carry out welfare schemes/works or such activities. Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility) General Order, 2009 which require that if a public company undertakes Corporate Social Responsibility activity, it should report the same in its annual Directors Report to the shareholder. Necessary 'Corporate Social Responsibility Voluntary Guidelines, 2013 have also been issued by SECP which are voluntary in nature and not mandatory. Details are at Annex I&II respectively.

(Annexures have been placed on the Table of the House as well as Library.)

Question No. 48. (Def) *Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:

(Notice received on 17-11-2014 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the estimated loss to economy caused due to sit ins by PTI and PAT in Islamabad since August, 2014; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to cope with the threat to economy by the said sit ins?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The Government has suffered both implicit and explicit losses due to sit-in protest by the PTI and PAT from August, 2014. Some losses are measurable in numerical terms and some are not. Major losses incurred to sit-in includes:—

- i. Investor's confidence of Both local and foreign was, shattered.
 - ii. Additional supplementary grant of Rs. 645.5 million had to be provided to law enforcement agencies for the security of dharnas.
 - iii. Foreign reserves which were targeted to reach around \$ 15 billion by end September 2014 delayed on account of late inflows of US \$ 2.4 billion from different donors and launching of sukuk bond.
 - iv. Sale/offloading of OGDCL's shares had to be deferred due to offering of lower price of the share in the Stock Market on account of dharnas. From the sale of shares. \$ 800 million was expected.
 - v. Capital loss on foreign liabilities due to rupee depreciation of around Rs. 200 billion.
 - vi. The Karachi Stock Exchange initially crashed down to 27,000 level (KSE 100 Index) that was earlier at 30,000 level. However, it has been recovered now.
 - vii. Slower growth in exports as importers of Pakistani products were reluctant to make new orders.
 - viii. Due to unsatisfactory performance in export and less foreign inflows there was pressure on exchange rate which rose to Rs. 103/\$ from Rs.98/\$.
 - ix. Delay in implementation of ongoing government development projects especially power projects.
- (b) The government has taken following steps to cope with the said sit ins:
- I. Recently SBP has reduced Policy rate from 10 % to 9.5 %, with a view to ensure availability of cheap credit to the investors and therefore give further boost to economic activity in the country.

- II. in order to strengthen foreign reserve position, Pakistan successfully returned to the international Sukuk market, with the issuance of \$ 1 billion Sukuk bonds. The foreign investor's interest was so encouraging that the offer was oversubscribed,
- III. Pakistan and IMF have successfully completed fourth and fifth reviews under the 3-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programs leading to the disbursement of US \$ 1.1 billion before 15th December which will help in strengthening reserve position required to approach IBRD financing for the development activities.
- IV. 19 agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and China which could not be signed in August due to sit-ins have now been signed during PM's recent visit to China. These MOUs mainly cover projects relating to China- Pakistan Economic Corridor and energy generation.
- V. In agriculture sector, the government has increased the support price of wheat Rs.1300 per 40 kg for the 2014-15 crop.
- VI. The basmati rice grower 'will be provided a subsidy of Rs. 5000/ per acre to help them combat the declining global rice export price.
- VII. The government has allowed Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to procure one million bales of cotton at the support price of Rs. 3000/ per 40 kg to benefit the farming community.
- VIII. During July-October FY15, banks disbursed Rs.128.1 billion agriculture sector credit as compared to Rs. 91.2 billion over corresponding period of last year showing an increase of 40.4 percent.
- IX. These measures in Agriculture sector will have spillover effects on Industrial and Services sectors.

Question No. 50. (Def.) *Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:

(Notice received on 18-11-2014 at 10:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the details of aid received by the present Government from foreign countries for the flood affectees in the country and details of its utilization / disbursement?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: The present Government has received emergency grants of US\$1.50 million and US\$1.00 million from China for flood affectees as per agreements signed on 26-08-2013 and 30-09-2014 respectively.

Question No. 51. (Def.) *Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:

(Notice received on 19-11-2014 at 9:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the targets fixed for revenue collection during the first quarter of the current fiscal year with head-wise break up;*
- (b) the details of revenue collected during the said quarter with head-wise break up;*
- (c) whether it is a fact that the said targets could not be achieved, if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed for revenue collection during the remaining quarters of the current fiscal year?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The target fixed for revenue collection during the first quarter of the current fiscal year is Rs. 537.0 Billion. The head-wise break-up is

Tax Head	Target
Direct Taxes	190.0
Sales Tax	258.0
FED	31.0
Customs	58.0
Total	537.0

(b) During first quarter Rs. 537.9 Billion were collected. The head-wise breakup is as under

Tax Head	Collection
Direct Taxes	189.7
Sales Tax	258.2
FED	25.5
Customs	64.5
Total	537.9

(c) The said target has been achieved to the extent of 100.2% during quarter-1 of CFY.

(d) The government has taken various measures to increase the tax revenues. The main features of plan are given as under:

- Broadening of tax base by issuing 140,000 notices to the potential taxpayers on the basis of data indicating expenditure patterns
- Phase-wise withdrawal of exemptions / concessions
- Expansion of audit coverage
- Simplification and automation of business processes for taxpayers facilitation
- Addressing inadmissible input adjustment and illegal refunds in sales tax
- Custom modernization and control program
- Better human resource management
- Taxpayers facilitation drive

Through budgetary measures 2014-15 the cost of doing business for a non-tax filer has been raised considerably vis-à-vis to compliant tax filers

Question No. 53. (Def.) *Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi:

(Notice received on 21-11-2014 at 11:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the amount of bank loans written off during the last two years indicating also the names of persons / companies whose loans have been written off with bank wise break up?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: Details of loans written off during the last two years, with the names of persons/companies whose loans have been written off with bank wise break-up is annexed.

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

Question No. 54. (Def.) *Nawabzada Saifullah Magsi:

(Notice received on 21-11-2014 at 11:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statics and Privatization be pleased to state the number of cases of pension presently lying pending in the Office of AGPR for the last 6 months indicating also the reasons for pendency and the time by which the same will be finalized?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: No pension cases (Fresh pension *i.e.* Superannuation, Retiring, Medical Invalidation, Fresh Family, and Family Conversion) are lying pending in the office of AGPR for the last 6 months.

Question No. 55. (Def.) *Mr. Amar Jeet:

(Notice received on 28-11-2014 at 01:30 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of persons belonging to Malakand Division who have applied for loan under Prime Minister's loan scheme for youth so far, with district-wise break-up;*
- (b) *the number of the said persons who have been provided loans under the said scheme so far with district-wise break-up; and*
- (c) *the time by which loans will be granted to the remaining applicants?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Upto December 9, 2014, Total 1,143 applications have been received from Malakand Division under Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan (PMYBL) Scheme. District wise break-up is as under:

District	Applications received
Upper Dir	55
Lower Dir	81
Swat	571
Malakand P.A	134
Buneer	40
Shangla	262
Total	1.143

(b) 124 loans have been disbursed to the applicants who have completed all the pre-disbursement formalities. District-wise break up of these applications is as under:

District	Number of Loans disbursed
Upper Dir	6
Lower Dir	8
Swat	37
Malakand P.A	12
Buneer	2
Shangla	59
Total	124

(c) From Malakand Division, 856 applications are under approval process in the banks. Timelines have been defined for banks for speedy processing of loan requests. However, specific

timeline for their approval and disbursement cannot not be given as it is subject to completion of various formalities by the applicants.

Question No. 56. (Def.) *Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:

(Notice received on 05-12-2014 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of Public Sector Entities (PSEs) / share of PSEs privatized by the present Government so far; and*
- (b) *the amount collected from the privatization of the said PSEs / shares and the details of its utilization?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) So far, three (03) Capital Market Transactions have been completed, by the present Government. Details of the same are annexed.

(b) The amount collected from the privatisation/ divestment is transferred to the Finance Division, as per Section 16 (2) of the Privatisation Commission Ordinance 2000, which stipulates that:

The privatisation proceeds distributed to the Federal Government shall be utilized by the Federal Government, in the following manner:-

- (i) *Ten percent shall be used for poverty alleviation programmes; and*
- (ii) *The remaining ninety percent for retirement of the Federal Government debt.*

Question No. 57. (Def.) *Mr. Muhammad Zahid Khan:

(Notice received on 11-12-2014 at 02:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has granted approval for revival of the lapsed amount of Rs. 7.7 billion for the schemes of supply of natural gas in the country, if so, the time by which that amount will be released to the concerned gas companies?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: The Finance Division has been allocating budget under Demand of Cabinet Division for schemes under PWP-II. The funds under these programmes were released by the Cabinet Division after fulfilling all the codal formalities to the concerned executing agencies including the gas schemes. However, PWP-II programme has been discontinued in the financial year 2013-14. On a summary the Prime Minister approved the recommendations of Finance Division that the third party audit may be initiated after the retrieval of all the required information from the Provinces and other executing agencies. The Prime Minister has further desired that the detailed information regarding outstanding liabilities

of the contractors against these schemes, if any, till the date of issuance of short order of Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan dated 24-06-2013 may also be furnished for his kind perusal. The points approved by Prime Minister are as under:-

- (i) Total funds released against each scheme, physical work completed against each scheme as on 30th June, 2013, and payment made to the Contractors.
- (ii) Fund drawn from Assignment Accounts by the Executing Agencies.
- (iii) Outstanding liabilities of the contractors for schemes executed/completed in accordance with codal formalities/PPRA Rules.
- (iv) Observance of rules/regulations such as PPRA Rules, assignment of work in transparent manner and feasibilities etc. for payment of outstanding amounts to the contractor against the work completed.
- (v) Feasibility of incomplete schemes with regard to public interest or otherwise and the percentage of work done and leftover work. A certificate from the concerned Secretary regarding continuation or otherwise of the said scheme in the public interest.

Cabinet Division is gathering information on the above points. However funds in the assignment accounts lapse at the end of the financial year. There is no concept of re-validation of funds. Funds can only be placed in the Demand of Cabinet Division through Supplementary Grant if so requested with the approval of Principal Accounting Officer.

As regards revival of lapsed amount of Rs. 7.7 billion, no request for supplementary grant has been received from Cabinet Division. It may be noted that Prime Minister has approved the proposal for provision of funds subject to completion of exercise by the Cabinet Division and Supreme Court latest orders on the subject remaining in compliance. That Division is to take action in the light of Prime Minister's decision and order of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The Supreme Court's order dated 14th May, 2014 states that **"Let notice be issued to Secretary Finance and the Auditor General for Pakistan for 02-06-2014. In the meanwhile, no discretionary grant shall be granted either by the Prime Minister or the Minister. No funds shall be expended on any scheme at the behest of any MNA or MPA. However, the Federal Government may proceed to grant expenditure in terms of Article 84 of the Constitution, if it is a scheme of national or public interest. Notice shall also issue to all the applicants in the CMAs noted in the judgment under challenge"**.

The Cabinet Division and Finance Division have jointly moved a reference to the Attorney General for Pakistan on 31-12-2014 for guidance to proceed further in the matter. The advice of the Attorney General is still awaited.

Question No. 58. (Def) *Mr. Kamil Ali Agha :

(Notice received on 22-12-2014 at 05:30 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the amount allocated for making payments to the provinces under NFC Award during the financial years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 indicating also the amount paid out of the same with province-wise breakup?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Finance Division releases funds to Provinces according to their share under NFC Award on the basis of actual collection rather than on fixed allocation basis except Balochistan. In the case of Balochistan, the share in the divisible pool taxes is transferred on the basis of budget estimates. The payments made to the provinces, under NFC Award on the basis of actual collection together with Budget Estimates during the Financial years 2013-14 & 2014-15 alongwith provinces wise break-up is shown at **Annex-I** and **Annex-II**, respectively.

Question No. 59. (Def.) *Begum. Najma Hameed:

(Notice received on 08-01-2015 at 09:15 a. m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of allowances being paid to the Government employees on which tax is being deducted / charged indicating also the rate of tax being deducted / charged on each allowance; and*
- (b) *the amount deducted by AGPR as tax on the said allowances from July, 2011 to December, 2013?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Allowances admissible to Federal Govt. employees are not taxed separately. Rather tax is deducted from the gross salaries (including all pays and allowances) of Federal Government employees at the rates specified by Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) **Annex-A**. However, monetization allowance is taxed separately @ 5%. A list showing the names of various allowances included in the Gross salaries is at **Annex-B**.

(b) The amount deducted by AGPR as tax on the Gross Salary from July 2011 to December, 2013 is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs.)
July 2011 to June 2012	895,456,887
July 2012 to June 2013	611,486,980
July 2013 to December 2013	403,715,381
Total :	1,910,659,248

Question No. 60. (Def.)*Begum. Najma Hameed:

(Notice received on 09-01-2015 at 09:40 a. m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the rate of conveyance allowance admissible to the Government employees with grade-wise breakup; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to minimize the difference of said rate amongst various grades, if so, when?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Rates of conveyance allowance admissible to the Government employees with grade wise breakup are as under:-

S.No	BPS	Rate of Allowance
a.	1-4	Rs. 1785/-p.m
b.	5-10	Rs. 1932/-p.m
c.	11-15	Rs. 2856/-p.m
d.	16-19	Rs. 5000/-p.m
e.	20-22 Who are not allowed Monetization of Transport/ Staff car facility	Rs. 5000/- p.m

(b) Differences in the rates have been substantially decreased during last years, therefore no proposal for further minimization is under consideration.

Question No. 61. (Def.)* Begum. Najma Hameed:

(Notice received on 09-01-2015 at 09:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the period / duration after which pay scales of Government employees are required to be revised under civil servant rules / relevant rules;*
- (b) *the date on which the said pay scales were revised last time; and*

(c) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to revise those pay scales in the next budget?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) No specific rules / laws exist prescribing period for revision of Pay Scales. Past practice ranges from 01 to 07 years.

(b) The basic pay scales of Government employees were revised last time by the Federal Government *w.e.f.* 01-07-2011.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government to revise those pay scales in the next budget.

Question No. 1. *Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla:

(Notice received on 10-11-2014 at 09:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

(a) *the amount borrowed by the Government from State Bank of Pakistan since June, 2013 with month-wise break-up; and*

(b) *whether it is a fact that Government has printed more currency than that allowed under the State Bank of Pakistan Act?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The amount borrowed by the Government from State Bank of Pakistan since June, 2013 to December, 2014 is Rs.(-)107.6 billion. The month-wise break-up is as under:—

(Rs. in billion)

June, 2013	146.0
July, 2013	373.9
August, 2013	172.9
September, 2013	(-) 194.0
October, 2013	243.4
November, 2013	(-) 170.8
December, 2013	17.7
January, 2014	(-) 44.8
February, 2014	(-) 232.3
March, 2014	(-) 107.2
April, 2014	(-)95.9
May, 2014	85.3
June, 2014	111.6
July, 2014	122.1

August, 2014	(-) 13.2
September, 2014	(-) 147.9
October, 2014	137.3
November, 2014	(-)346.3
December, 2014	(-)165.4

Total: (-)107.6

(b) There is no statutory limit on printing of banknotes by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). SBP assesses the demand of banknotes in its annual indent, for printing by Pakistan Security Printing Corporation, which is based on stock of banknotes required to be withheld by SBP for replacement of soiled/damaged notes, expansion/contraction of banknotes in circulation and stock to be maintained for buffer.

Question No. 2. *Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla:

(Notice received on 10-11-2014 at 09:20 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the comparison of tax revenue in terms of tax rate for the current and last fiscal years;*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that due to higher tax rate the increase in revenue collection is being projected as growth in revenue; and*
- (c) *the additional tax revenue collected during the current fiscal year so far on account of 10% increase in the tax net?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Provisional tax revenues during current and last fiscal year are given below:

Fiscal Year	FBR Taxes (Rs. Million)
2013-14	2,254,531
2014-15 (upto Dec.)	1,171,937

Sales Tax

Standard rate of sales tax for the last 2 years is given below:

2013-14	17%
2014-15	17%

Customs

The maximum rate of customs duty in the last 2 years is Given below:

2013-14	30%
2014-15	25%

Slabs of Customs duty are: 1%,5%,10%,15%, 20%, and 25%.

Income tax

For the fiscal year 2013-14 & 2014-15 the slabs and rate of income tax in case of non-corporate taxpayers namely individuals and Association of Persons have remained unchanged.

The rate of Income tax in case of companies was 34% during the year 2013-14 and for current year (2014-15) it is 33% as amended through Finance Act, 2014.

Federal excise

The general rate of FED has remained @16% for the last 2 years.

(b) The standard rates of Sales tax and Federal excise duty remained un-changed. Rates of Custom duties were rationalized on few items, besides measures relating to tariff reforms. Policy measures were taken on direct tax side mainly to broaden the base and encourage filing of returns. The revenue growth can be attributed to better administrative measures, elimination of distortions, rationalization of concessionary regime and merit-based placement of HR.

(c) The additional tax revenues are necessarily not realized only through increasing tax net. It involves other factors as discussed above at part (b) including administrative and other policy measures.

Question No. 3. *Mrs. Sehar Kamran:

(Notice received on 10-11-2014 at 02:45 p.m.)

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

- (a) the profit earned or loss suffered by Pakistan Steel Mills during the last financial year; and*
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to make the said Mills a profitable organization?*

Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi: (a) Pakistan Steel Mills suffered losses of Rs. 25.535 million during the Financial Year 2013-14.

(b) The Present Government has taken number of steps to improve the performance of PSM which includes:

- I. ECC approved a package of Rs. 2.9 Billion on 07-09-2013 for salaries, clearance of critical liabilities & working capital.
- II. Regular release of the salaries for PSM employees through the platform of ECC, an amount of Rs.1.68 billion from September 2013 to March 2014.
- III. ECC has approved Rs. 18.5 billion for Restructuring Plan for PSM on 25th April, 2014, out of which Rs. 15.0 billion has been disbursed till 10th December, 2014.
- IV. ECC has approved funding for PSM duty payments at customs on imported iron ore to be released as and when ore is received. Also facilitated by deferment of 17% sale tax for 03 months on import of raw materials provided basically to meet liquidity crunch to PSM. Relief on payment of 6% Income Tax on import of raw material was also extended to PSM.
- V. Pakistan Russia Inter Governmental Commission has considered PSM in their meeting in Moscow held on 26th to 28th November 2014 for the following:
 - a. Russia has offered 01 billion US\$ loan for PSM Rehabilitation & Expansion.
 - b. Pakistan has suggested acquiring 26% equity share in PSM by them.

Question No. 4. *Syeda Sughra Imam:

(Notice received on 13-11-2014 at 04:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of multilateral organizations from which the Government of Pakistan has obtained loans since 5th June, 2013 indicating also the amount and terms and conditions of loan program /package or facility in each case; and*
- (b) *the names of foreign countries from which the Government of Pakistan has obtained loans since the said date indicating also the amount and terms and conditions of loan program /package or facility in each case?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Loan agreements of US\$5,681.68 million have been signed with Multilateral organizations [Asian Development Bank (ADB), ECO Trade Bank, European Investment Bank (EIB), International Development Association (IDA), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and OPEC Fund] from 5th June 2013 to 31st December, 2014. Out of total committed amount of US\$5,681.68 million, US\$2,821.79 million were disbursed during the said period. Details including terms and condition are given at **Annex-I**. On September 4, 2013 the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved financing arrangements under Extended Fund Facility (EFF) a three year program for US\$ 6.64 billion. So far Pakistan has received \$3.25 billion under the program. Remaining amount will be evenly disbursed after quarterly reviews. The terms and conditions of the arrangements are given below:

An Interest Rate of 2-3%, Commitment Fee per-annum at 15-30 basis points, Service Charges 50 basis point on each amount drawn and Repayment Period 4.5-10 years equal in semiannual installments.

The disbursements during the same period against the loan agreements signed prior to 5th June, 2013 was US\$1,819.74 million.

(b) Loan agreements of US\$6,954.39 million have been signed with China, Germany, Japan and Saudi Arabia from 5th June 2013-to 31st December, 2014. Out of total committed amount of US\$ 6,954.39 million, US\$ 439.94 million were disbursed during the said period. Details including terms and condition are given at **Annex-II**.

The disbursements during the same period against the loan agreements signed prior to 5th June, 2013 was US\$1060.74 million.

Question No. 5. *Syeda Sughra Imam:

(Notice received on 14-11-2014 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether the Government has completed its fourth quarterly review of the Extended Fund Facility with the IMF; and*
- (b) *whether the IMF has released quarterly tranche of that fund upon completion of the said review, if so, its details and if not, its reasons?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Government concluded fourth and the fifth reviews discussions with the IMF staff under the IMF Extended Fund Facility in Dubai in November 2014. IMF mission was encouraged by the overall progress in strengthening macroeconomic stability and output growth.

(b) The mission reached staff-level understandings with the government of Pakistan on a Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP). The MEFP was considered by the IMF Executive Board in December 2014 and on approval fourth and fifth tranche amounting to a total of SDR 720 million (US\$1050 million) was made available to Pakistan.

Question No. 6. *Syeda Sughra Imam:

(Notice received on 14-11-2014 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the amount of financial assistance received by the Government from United Kingdom during the last five fiscal years with year-wise break-up; and*

(b) *the utilization / disbursement of that amount / assistance with province-wise and area-wise break-up?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The total amount of financial assistance (grant) committed by the UK during, the last five years is £ 1468.2 million out of which £ 535.598 million has been disbursed. Project-wise details including areas are given in Annex-I.

The total disbursements in 2010-11 was £ 20.1 million, £ 28.5 million in 2011-12, £ 116.9 million in 2012-13, £ 288.678 million in 2013-2014 and £ 81.42 million in 2014-15. Details can be seen at Annex-I.

(b) Details can be seen at Annex-I.

Question No. 7. *Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla:

(Notice received on 25-11-2014 at 01:30 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state that how does the Government intend to hedge the Fx (foreign exchange) risk after assurance of dollar sukuk bonds?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: External debt raised by a country in foreign currency is subject to exchange risk including Sukuk bonds. The underlying exchange rate risk can, however, be minimized (if not fully mitigated) through sound economic management and ensuring macroeconomic stability in the county. Specifically, it is essential to keep domestic inflation low and stable, ensure sustainability of external and fiscal accounts, and build foreign exchange reserves to adequate levels.

Government of Pakistan is actively pursuing a macroeconomic stabilization program, supported by IMF. As a result, over the past one year or so, inflation has come down significantly (to 3.9 percent YoY in January 2015), balance of payment position has improved substantially, fiscal deficit has come down considerably, and country's foreign exchange reserves are on a rising path. This improvement in macroeconomic indicators has led to stability in the foreign exchange market and exchange rate; followed by a sharp appreciation of Rupee against US Dollar during the third quarter of FY I4.

Going forward, inflation is likely to remain benign, fiscal deficit is planned to be brought down further, and buildup in foreign exchange reserves is likely to continue. This buildup of Fx reserves along with sound macroeconomic policy will ensure continuity of stability in the foreign exchange market and minimize the exchange rate risk of the government on its external debt.

It may also be important to note that complete hedging or full coverage of a country's external debt by maintaining equivalent amount of foreign exchange reserves, is not desirable and against the purpose of raising external debt and liabilities, especially for developing countries like Pakistan. It is, therefore, observed that for almost all the developing countries external debt and liabilities are significantly greater than their level of foreign exchange reserves. Underlying idea of raising external debt is to generate long-term external financing and use it for

the development of a country and then repay these external liabilities over a period of time with enhanced debt repayment capacity.

Question No. 8. *Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:

(Notice received on 28-11-2014 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform be pleased to state the details of mega projects presently under consideration of the Planning Commission of Pakistan indicating also the amount allocated for those projects in budget 2014-15?

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal: Details of 68 new Mega projects budgeted in Federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2014-15) with an overall allocation of Rs. 100.38 billion are attached at Annex-I.

Question No. 9. *Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:

(Notice received on 03-12-2014 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of public sector entities proposed to be privatized indicating also the percentage of shares to be sold in each case;*
- (b) the estimated amount to be received from privatization of the said entities; and*
- (c) the head under which the said amount is allocated to be utilized under the laws / rules?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) The Cabinet Committee on Privatisation (CCoP) in October, 2013 & June 2014 had approved a list of PSEs for early divestment/ strategic sales (**Annex-I**). Out of which, Privatisation Commission has initiated/completed the following transactions:-

(b) The estimated amount to be received from divestment/ strategic sales of the said transactions is at **Annex-II**.

(c) Pursuant to Section 16 (2) of the Privatisation Commission Ordinance 2000, the privatisation proceeds distributed to the Federal Government shall be utilized by the Federal Government, in the following manner:-

- (i) Ten percent shall be used for poverty alleviation programmes; and
- (ii) The remaining ninety percent for retirement of the Federal Government debt.

Question No. 10. *Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:

(Notice received on 13-01-2015 at 11:40 a. m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce / exempt the duty on the import of Agricultural Machinery, if so, the details thereof?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce/exempt the duty on import of agricultural machinery.

Question No. 11. *Mr. Adnan Khan:

(Notice received on 28-01-2015 at 12:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a difference in perks like ceiling of hiring of accommodation, telephone and mobile phone facilities etc. various cadres of Government employees in same grade, if so, the reasons for this disparity?

Reply not received.

Question No. 12. *Mr. Adnan Khan:

(Notice received on 28-01-2015 at 12:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state the details of cases received in Finance Division from various Ministries / Divisions / Departments for seeking advice / clarification regarding fixation of pay, grant of pre-mature increments and annual increments during the last three years?

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: Details of cases received from various Ministries/Divisions/Departments during the last three years are as under:

Years	Fixation of pay	Grant of pre-mature increments	Annual increments
2012	43	23	04
2013	35	18	05
2014	50	75	07
Total	128	116	16

Question No. 13. *Mr. Adnan Khan:

(Notice received on 28-01-2015 at 12:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of cases filed by Government employees against the Finance Division in various courts during the last three years which are subjudice at present; and*
- (b) *the details of cases filed by Government employees against the Finance Division during the said period in which judgments have been passed by various courts but the decisions have not been implemented so far indicating also the reasons for non-implementation of the court orders in each case?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) Government employees filed 891 cases against the Finance Division during the last three years *i.e* 2012, 2013, 2014 which are presently subjudice in various courts. Court-wise break-up is as under:—

Supreme Court of Pakistan	8
Islamabad High Court	384
Lahore High Court	117
Peshawar High Court	24
High Court of Sindh	30
Federal Service Tribunal	328
<hr/>	
Total	891

Year-wise details of these cases are given at **Annex-I**

(b) A total of 39 judgments have been received from various Courts / Tribunals during the period. The Finance Division have filed Intra Court Appeals (ICA) for review against the said judgments mainly on account of their significant financial implications. Case-wise details are given at **Annex-II**.

Question No. 14 *Begum. Najma Hameed:

(Notice received on 28-01-2015 at 03:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of Government employees who applied for the grant of House Building Advance (HBA) during the period from 20th to 30th April, 2012;*
- (b) *the names, designations and names of departments of the said persons who have been granted HBA; and*
- (c) *the names, designations and names of departments of those persons who have not been granted HBA so far indicating also its reasons and the time by which they will be granted the same?*

Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar: (a) 32 Government employees applied for House Building Advance (HBA) during the period from 20th to 30th April, 2012. (**Annex-A**).

(b) The names, designations and names of departments of the said persons who have been granted HBA is at **Annex-B**.

(c) The names, designations and names of departments of those persons who have not been granted HBA so far alongwith reasons and time by which they may be granted HBA are at **Annex-C**.

Question No. 15. *Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah:

(Notice received on 09-02-2015 at 11:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform be pleased to state whether it is a fact that completion of the Makhai-Farash Link Canal project, Chotiaria Phase-II has been delayed, if so, the reasons thereof and the time by which the same will be completed?

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal: ECNEC in its meeting held on 23rd August 2006 approved the project at a cost of Rs. 1,729.912 million on cost sharing basis *i.e.* 20% financing by the Govt. of Sindh and 80% financing by the Federal Government.

An amount of Rs. 540 million exists in PSDP 2014-15, out which Rs. 378 million has already been released during current financial year which makes total releases/expenditure of Rs. 1,227.887 million including Rs. 317.139 million of Sindh Government's share. The physical and financial progress of the project as per original schedule is 57% and 71% respectively.

The project was started in 2008 after lapse of about 02 years with planned completion period of 03 years up to 2011-12 but now Government of Sindh is in process of formulating a revised project. Completion of the project in its revised form will depend upon scrutiny and its approval by competent forum, time line of new activities, financing arrangements and efficiency of Irrigation Department, Government of Sindh.

The reasons of delay are:

- The work on 8 contracts was stopped due to land acquisition issues.
- No independent project director has been appointed and the work is being carried out by SE Chotiari along with other projects.
- Sindh Government is reportedly in the process of formulating a revised PC-I (with enhanced scope). Further action on the part of federal government will be taken after receipt of revised PC-I.

Question No. 16. *Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:

(Notice received on 09-02-2015 at 01:45 p.m.)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that manufacturing of China's cars in Pakistan will be cheaper as compared to the cars presently being manufactured Pakistan;*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to allow Chinese car manufacturing companies to manufacture cars in Pakistan, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the prices of cars presently being manufactured in Pakistan, if so when?*

Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi: (a) At present there are no Chinese cars manufacturing units in Pakistan as such comparison of Chinese Cars with Pakistani Cars cannot be made. However, manufacturing of Chinese cars is expected to be cheaper than Pakistani cars due to economies of scale of Chinese auto parts vendors.

(b) At present, Ministry of Industries and Production is in a process of finalizing Automotive Development Policy (ADP wherein under new Investment Policy various incentives are being proposed which would definitely attract new investors including Chinese as well.

(c) All car/automobile manufacturers are in the private sector as such prices are governed by market mechanism, Government's role is to provide policy framework to create competition.

Question No. 17. *Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:

(Notice received on 16-02-2015 at 11:30 a.m.)

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

- (a) *the criteria and parameters laid down for import of explosive material in the country;*
- (b) *the mechanism and parameters set down to control and manage the sale and purchase of the said material in the country; and*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that unconventional explosives are mushrooming in the country, if so, the steps being taken by the Government to control the import of the same?*

Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi: (a) License for import of commercial explosives is granted in Form "EL-08" under the Explosives Rules, 2010 subject to issuance of NOC by Ministry of Defence Production only.

(b) These imported commercial explosive are used by importers under license in Form "EL-01" (for manufacturer & sale) and "EL-03" (for storage & use) under the Explosives Rules, 2010.

(c) Department of Explosives, Ministry of Industries and Production, deals with commercial explosives only. No unconventional explosives are controlled by this Department.

ISLAMABAD :
The 5th March, 2015.

AMJED PERVEZ,
Secretary.