

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Friday, the 7th February, 2020

@*Question No. 153 Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen:

(Notice Received on 14/05/2019 at 1:50 PM) QID: 36127

Will the Minister Incharge of the Aviation Division be pleased to state whether the province of Balochistan is provided any share out of the tax/amount collected by the Government from the aeroplanes of international routes using the airspace of Balochistan, if so, its details and if not, its reasons?

Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan: Pakistan is a signatory to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention 1944) and has international obligations to support international air transport operations through its entire airspace. In order to discharge these obligations, Pakistan has established Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority under CAA Ordinance 1982 to provide for the promotion and regulation of civil aviation activities and develop an infrastructure for safe, efficient, adequate, economical and properly coordinated civil air transport services in Pakistan.

In accordance with Article 15 of the International Convention, “No fees, dues or other charges shall be imposed by any contracting State in respect solely of the right of transit over or entry into or exit from its territory of any aircraft of a contracting State or persons or property thereon.”

However, states may levy aeronautical charges for provision of such facilities / services provided under the provisions of convention. Government of Pakistan, therefore, did not collect any tax / amount from

@ Deferred on 21st January, 2020.

the aeroplanes on the usage of Pakistan airspace including Balochistan airspace. Pakistan CAA charges Route Navigation charges from such aeroplanes which use Pakistan airspace. These charges are utilized for the provision of infrastructure including airports (terminal buildings & runways), communication, navigation and surveillance aids, air traffic management systems, and provision of related services to these aircraft.

@*Question No.154 Senator Shahzad Waseem:

(Notice Received on 14/05/2019 at 2:35 PM) QID: 36068

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

(a) the names of brands/ companies selling smart phones in the country;

- (b) *whether the Government has set any limit for SAR (Specific Absorption Rate) value for smart phones being used in the country, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to evaluate the SAR value for different brands of smart phones being sold in the country at present?*

Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division: (a) As per Telecom Act Section 29 and Technical Type Approval Regulations 2019, all terminal equipment including mobile devices require type approval. As per regulations all approved models details are published on PTA website. The complete details are available at link <https://www.pta.gov.pk/en/industry-support/industry-services/type-approval/approved-equipments>

(b) Specific absorption rate (SAR) is a numerical expression of absorbed radio frequency energy waves. SAR refers to the amount of radio wave energy absorbed in unit mass of human body. Electromagnetic waves emitted by mobile phones are of high frequency, thus capable of body temperature increase. Such heat reactions are expressed quantitatively by the specific absorption rate (SAR). The Limits for specific absorption rate is reflected within PTA type approval regulations 2019 and reproduced below for reference.

@ Deferred on 21st January, 2020.

“Safety Requirements i.e. Mobile/Handheld devices are required to comply with a Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) limit of 2 watts/Kg of tissue (average over 10 gm) when exposed to a radio frequency (RF) electromagnetic field.”

The set limit is in accordance with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) technical standards recommendations worldwide, as per this recommendations all manufacturers for mobile devices are required to manufacturer device meeting the ITU SAR standards. Details on SAR standards issued by ITU are available at link <https://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-K.52-201801-I/en>

This conformance to SAR standards is complied with all manufacturer where they provide complete SAR Test Report for each model from certified Labs all around the world.

(c) In line with type approval regulations 2019, all mobile devices require type approvals prior to import and connectivity with mobile networks in Pakistan. As part of type approval process given within the regulations, the applicant company is required to submit all test reports for the device including SAR reports in case of mobile devices. These test reports are obtained by the manufacturer in compliance to ITU-T standards set out worldwide. As part of evaluation process the test report is evaluated in accordance with ITU standards and type approval regulation clause related to SAR values.

@*Question No.155 **Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 14/05/2019 at 3:00 PM) QID: 36067

Will the Minister Incharge of the Aviation Division be pleased to state:

- (a) *the present status of work on the scheme for construction of parking area in the*

Bacha Khan International Airport, Peshawar; and

- (b) *whether the number of entrance lanes on the approach road to the said airport has been increased, if so, the details thereof?*

@ Deferred on 21st January, 2020.

Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan: (a) ➤ Bacha Khan International Airport (BKIA) is a joint user airport between CAA and PAF to available land before renovation area was used for car parking for hardly 25-30 cars.

➤ During renovation of airport, a drop lane was provided in addition to car park for convenience of passengers and reducing congestion on approach road. CAA has taken following measures to resolve car parking issues at BKIAP on medium term and long term basis:—

Medium Term:

- i. Established new car park space for 70-80 cars.
- ii. Established car park on land taken from Pak Army on lease to accommodate 250 cars.
- iii. Currently there are 350 cars parking slot available.

Long Term:

- i. Multi-level car park to accommodate 900 cars on three levels (300 cars on each level).

(b) The number of entrance lanes on the approach road to the said airport has not been increased as yet. However, case for widening of approach road to BKIAP was taken up with provincial Government, which was initially forwarded to C&W department by Chief Secretary KPK for execution; however the case for widening of approach road (addition of two lanes) to BKIAP Peshawar (length 1500 ft, involving 0.75 Acres Pak Army Land) is taken up with PDA and currently the PC-I for subject scheme is under approval with local Government and rural development department (LGE & RDD).

@*Question No.197 **Senator Seemee Ezdi:**

(Notice Received on 15/11/2019 at 12:01 PM) QID: 35612

Will the Minister Incharge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of certificates for financial assistance for poor patients issued by the Medical Board of PIMS and referred to Pakistan Bait-ul- Maal during the last 5 years; and*

@ Deferred on 21st January, 2020.

- (b) *the amount of financial assistance provided by Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal in the said cases?*

Minister Incharge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division: (a & b)
The details of number of certificates for Financial Assistance (Medical) of poor patients dealt/ issued by Medical Board of PIMS and the amount provided by PBM against these

cases after completion of all codal formalities during the last five years (2014 to 2019) are given below:—

F.Y. 2014-15		F.Y. 2015-16		F.Y. 2016-17	
(a) No. of cases	(b) Amount in Rs.	(a) No. of cases	(b) Amount in Rs.	(a) No. of cases	(b) Amount in Rs.
2588	184,934,514	3475	293,455,667	3022	250,071,459

F.Y. 2017-18		F.Y. 2018-2019	
(a) No. of cases	(b) Amount in Rs.	(a) No. of cases	(b) Amount in Rs.
3662	315,956,702	3290	331,010,650

@*Question No.198 **Senator Seemee Ezdi:**

(Notice Received on 19/11/2019 at 12:05 PM) QID: 35551

Will the Minister Incharge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state;

- the details of funds allocated for the Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal from January, 2013 to January, 2018 with year wise break up; and*
- the details of utilization of the said funds with head wise and year wise breakup?*

Minister Incharge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division: (a)

Financial Year	Amount Allocated Rs. Million
2013-14	2,000.000
2014-15	2,000.000
2015-16	4,000.000
2016-17	4,500.000
2017-18	6,000.000

@ Deferred on 21st January, 2020.

(b) It is stated that the expenditure over and above the allocated budget were made from the savings of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal accumulated over the period of time from Financial Year 2001-2018 due to non-lapsable budget of the organization (**Annex-I**). The Grant-in-Aid released by Finance Division and funds received from any other sources by the PBM were non-lapsable since 2001 as per letter of Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Educations dated 11-06-2005 (**Annex-II**). The details of utilization of the said funds with head-wise and year-wise break up are as under:—

Financial Year 2013-14

Heads	Utilization Rs. Million
Individual Financial Assistance (IFA)	971.257
Projects	893.523
Child Support Programme	79.640
Institutional Rehabilitation through NGOs	15.857
Administration	745.630
Total	2,705.907

Financial Year 2014-15

Heads	Utilization Rs. Million
Individual Financial Assistance (IFA)	1,105.279
Projects	1,076.452
Child Support Programme	65.559
Institutional Rehabilitation through NGOs	29.617
Administration	800.389
Total	3,077.296

Financial Year 2015-16

Heads	Utilization Rs. Million
Individual Financial Assistance (IFA)	1,890.575
Projects	1,300.066
Child Support Programme	110.819
Institutional Rehabilitation through NGOs	37.284
Administration	930.773
Total	4,269.517

Financial Year 2016-17

Heads	Utilization Rs. Million
Individual Financial Assistance (IFA)	1,788.940
Projects	1,430.749
Child Support Programme	152.796
Institutional Rehabilitation through NGOs	39.423
Administration	1,021.707
Total	4,269.517

Financial Year 2017-18

Heads	Utilization Rs. Million
Individual Financial Assistance (IFA)	2,822.377
Projects	1,678.042
Child Support Programme	148.476
Institutional Rehabilitation through NGOs	28.204
Administration	1,231.299
Total	5,908.398

PAKISTAN BAIT-UL-MAL
BUDGET ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE
2001-02 to 2018-19

Sr. No	Financial Year	Budget Allocation/Received (Rs in Million)	Expenditure (Rs in Million)
1	2001-02	2,902.175	2,142.772
2	2002-03	2,913.014	1,420.170
3	2003-04	3,392.514	2,544.856
4	2004-05	3,500.287	3,506.013
4	2005-06	4,000.000	3,315.266
5	2006-07	5,331.690	3,095.151
6	2007-08	7,818.172	1,537.721
7	2008-09	1,246.500	2,104.156
8	2009-10	3,064.770	3,161.401
9	2010-11	2,000.000	4,206.930
10	2011-12	2,000.000	2,852.291
11	2012-13	2,752.000	2,956.667
12	2013-14	2,000.000	2,705.907
13	2014-15	2,000.000	3,077.296
14	2015-16	4,000.000	4,269.516
15	2016-17	4,500.000	4,433.616
16	2017-18	6,000.000	5,957.882
17	2018-19	5,000.000	4,999.987

F.NO.7-2/2005-E-II
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education

Islamabad, the 11/11/2005

Subject: LAPSABLE / NON LAPSABLE STATUS OF PAKISTAN BAIT-UL-MAL
FUND ACCOUNT NO. X.

With reference to PBM's note dated 16.03.2005 on the above cited subject, Finance Division BR Wing has decided the matter as under:-

"Section 10 of the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Act, 1991 clearly states that the PBM is a body corporate. Therefore, the grant-in-aid released by the Finance Division and funds received from other sources by the PBM are non-lapsable. However, before making budgetary allocations for grants-in-aid to PBM, the FA Organization should keep in view the actual requirements of the PBM and the surplus funds available with it."


(ABDUL JABBAR PATOLI)
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*Question No. 323 **Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood:**
(Notice Received on 27/05/2019 at 9:15 AM) QID: 35756

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *the salient features of trade and commercial policy of the present Government; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to enhance trade with various countries?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a)

Trade & Commercial Policies

- I. **Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2020-25:** The Ministry of Commerce is in the process of finalizing the Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2020-25, with an aim to address capacity constraints of competitiveness and factor productivity related issues that are hampering growth of small-scale entrepreneurs. It proposes interventions for women and small-scale entrepreneurs by facilitating their businesses for inclusive economic growth. The STPF, *inter*

alia, includes measures for:

- i. Optimizing the strength of existing export sectors and develop niches within the core sectors;
- ii. Product diversification through selected developmental sectors;
- iii. Development of services sector with focus on logistics and shipping (L&S), information and communication technology (ICT), and tourism;
- iv. Integration into global and regional value chains (GVCs) of products and services;
- v. Broadening the export-oriented entrepreneurship base through development of export-driven small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

II. **National Tariff Policy:** The Federal Cabinet approved the National Tariff Policy (2019-24), on 19th November, 2019. The Policy aims to make the tariff structure truly reflect trade policy priorities, improve competitiveness through duty-free access to imported inputs, rationalize the tariff structure for enhancing efficiencies and reduce the relative “disincentive” for the exporting activities.

The Policy is based on the principles:

- i. Employing tariffs as an instrument of trade policy rather than revenue,
- ii. Maintaining vertical consistency through cascading tariff structures (increasing tariff with stages of processing of a product),
- iii. Providing ‘strategic protection’ to the domestic industry against the foreign competition during the infancy phase, and
- iv. Promoting competitive import substitution through time-bound protection, which will be phased out to make the industry eventually competitive for export-oriented production.

(b) I. **ASIA PACIFIC**

In order to boost exports to Asia-Pacific countries, the Government has taken various steps. These include:

- Implementation of the Phase-II of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) which was signed, during visit of the Prime Minister to China in April, 2019, has been implemented from 1st January, 2020. In Phase-II, China has offered favorable concessions to Pakistan, which *inter alia* include;
 - Immediate elimination of tariffs on 313 tariff lines of Pakistan’s prime export interest (list attached).
 - Increase in the protected list of Pakistan from 10% to 25% which comes to

1760 tariff lines.

- Implementation of Electronic Data Exchange System to curb under-invoicing and mis-declaration.
- In addition to receiving concession on 232 tariff lines under Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Indonesia, Pakistan has also gained unilateral market access on 20 top priority tariff lines at zero duty as a result of persistent trade diplomacy of Ministry of Commerce.
 - These 20 tariff lines constitute US \$ 4 billion of Pakistan's global exports and cover over US \$ 600 million of Indonesia's global imports.
 - Concessions on these tariff lines have come into effect from March 1, 2019.
- Pakistan and Thailand are negotiating Free Trade Agreement to increase market access. Nine rounds of negotiations have been held to date.
 - In the meantime, potential items have been identified and efforts are underway to boost export in these items.
 - First ever single country exhibition of Pakistan was held in Bangkok in which exhibitors from all the key sectors such as fisheries, sports goods, Pharma, surgical, furniture and handicrafts participated.
- Pakistan has secured maximum concessions in Sri Lanka by way of FTA. Pakistan enjoys a trade surplus with Sri Lanka. Pakistan's major exports to Sri Lanka include weaved cotton fabric, Durum wheat, cement, rice, potatoes etc.
- Under new market access strategy, Pakistan is exploring the possibility of bilateral trade arrangements with Vietnam, South Korea and Philippines. Feasibility studies are being conducted in this respect.
- Joint Trade Committee (JTC) is a forum where bilateral issues are discussed. To diversify trade relations and proceed towards possible concessionary trade regime, Pakistan is scheduled to hold 5th Round of JTC meeting with Vietnam in this year.

Pakistan regularly participates in trade exhibitions abroad for showcasing our products to potential buyers.

II. CARs

- 6th meeting of Pakistan-Iran Joint Border Trade Committee (JBTC) held at Quetta on 15-16 October, 2018 to discuss the issues of border areas.
- 2nd JWG meeting with Azerbaijan was held on 11-12 October 2018 at Islamabad, Pakistan side reaffirmed its commitment to provide technical support to Azerbaijan in WTO accession process through Pakistan's WTO Mission at Geneva.
- Ministry of Commerce held TEXPO 2019 in April, in which participants from Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan participated.
- Follow-up meeting of Afghanistan Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity

(APAPPS) was held in Islamabad on 10th June, 2019 to discuss the decisions made in the 1st meeting of APAPPS held on 22nd July, 2018 in Islamabad.

- Ministry of Commerce arranged Pakistan Afghanistan Business Forum on 28th June, 2019 in Lahore. Business communities from both sides participated in the event.
- Ministry of Commerce has held the 8th Meeting of the Pak-Iran Joint Trade Committee (JTC) in Islamabad from 4-5th July, 2019. Both sides had negotiations over the establishment of barter trade mechanism, cooperation in the fields of customs, Agriculture and Industry.
- 4th Meeting of Technical Negotiation Committee's (TNC) on Pak-Iran Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was held on the sidelines of 8th JTC's meeting in Islamabad from 4-5th July, 2019. Both sides discussed Trade Reduction Modalities and concession lists during the meeting. FTA, once finalized, will help market access of products of both countries in each other's market.
- Pakistan has restarted technical talks with Afghanistan on trade and investment. In this regard, Afghan Technical Level Delegation visited Pakistan from 11-12th July, 2019. Both sides had technical level discussions in the fields of bilateral and transit trade, customs, agriculture, energy and Information technology. As a result of technical level talks, Afghanistan has shared changes in Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement 2010 (APTTA), which Ministry of Commerce is currently analyzing by taking on board all the stakeholders. Furthermore, Afghan side has also shared views on the draft Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) shared by Pakistan.
- In a bid to revamp the socio-economic conditions of the people affected by the anti-smuggling drive, Ministry of Commerce is working in tandem with the Provincial Governments of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for establishment of the Joint Border Trade Markets.

III. AFRICA

- 2nd Pak-Tunisia Trade Negotiation Committee meeting was held in February 2018 during which the final draft agreement was finalized and initialed. Pakistan's request list has been shared with Tunisia and their list is awaited. 3rd session has been proposed for the 1st week of February, 2020.
- Bilateral Trade Agreements are under negotiation with Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Rwanda.
- Pak-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was established and the composition of the JTC was exchanged.
- Ministry of Commerce organized a Pakistan-Egypt Trade Conference in Islamabad on 15th-16th October, 2019 under the Look Africa Policy Initiative of Ministry of Commerce. A high powered delegation comprising of both officials and businessmen from Egypt attended the conference. During the Conference,

B2B meetings were arranged between the Egyptian businessmen of Pharmaceutical, Power, Fertilizer, Tourism, Construction, Shipping and bed linen sectors with Pakistani businessmen of respective sectors. Ministry of Commerce and Egyptian Commercial Service also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the establishment of a Pakistan - Egypt Joint Working Group (JWG) on trade. First meeting of the JWG on Trade was held on the sidelines of the Trade Conference.

- As part of “Look Africa” initiative of Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 30th-31st January, 2020. The Conference was attended by Higher Government Officials and Businessmen from 20 African countries where Pakistan has a Resident Mission as well as EAC Countries (Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda). Around 350 delegates from Africa attended the Conference. From Pakistan Side, senior officials of Ministry of Commerce & Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the Conference along with a business delegation of around 120 businessmen from eight priority sectors.
- Under Look Africa Policy, Ministry of Commerce has opened six new Trade Offices in Algeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Senegal, Sudan & Tanzania in addition to existing Trade Offices in Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa. Almost all of the newly appointed Trade & Investment Officers have assumed their duties in African countries.

IV. MIDDLE EAST

- International Product Exhibition and Conference (IPEC) an initiative from H.E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and involves several ministries and government bodies, including Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Industry and Energy, Chamber of Commerce, QDB, General Authority of Customs and others. The event was held from 8th to 10th October, 2018 in Doha, Qatar and more than 32 companies participated from Pakistan.
- On 12-13th November 2018, a Qatar-Pakistan Business Forum was arranged with the assistance of Embassy of Pakistan, Doha. About 25 companies from Pakistan participated in the event including 9 companies belonging to the Fauji Foundation; Engro Corporation, M/s Packages and M/s Interwood. Entire expenditure for the event was borne by the State of Qatar.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Doha on 21st - 22nd January 2019, and met his counterpart Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani. He was accompanied by the Foreign Minister, Advisor to PM on Commerce, Investment and Industries, Chairman BOI and the Finance Minister of Pakistan.
- Pak- Qatar Investment Conference was held on 10th March 2019.
- An MOU establishing Pakistan-Qatar Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment was signed during the visit of Emir of Qatar to Pakistan on 22nd June, 2019. The said MOU shall improve the bilateral trade relations between the

two countries by removing impediments to trade and enhancing exports to Qatar.

(a) **Saudi Arabia**

- 2nd meeting was held on September (5th), 2018 at Islamabad to discuss Trade and investment opportunities in both the countries and prospects of export enhancement.
- Mr. Ahmed Hamed Al-Ghamdi, Advisor to Saudi Minister for Energy along with representatives of Saudi Aramco, Maaden and ACWA power visited Pakistan from Sept 30- Oct 05, 2018 to hold technical discussions with their counterparts in Government of Pakistan for investments in mega projects.
- Prime Minister of Pakistan along with delegation comprising Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, Advisor to PM on Commerce & Investment, Information Minister, Chairman BOI and Foreign Secretary, participated in The Future Investment Initiative (FII), also known as “Davos in the Desert”, is an annual investment forum, which was held on 23-25 October 2018 at Riyadh under the direct patronage of HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Crown Prince.
- Pakistan Trade Delegation comprised of 30 Companies representing these sectors and Trade Bodies represented by the Presidents of Karachi, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Sarhad & Haripur Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry visited Saudi Arabia from 12-15 January 2019. Saudi Export Development Authority-KSA (SEDA) in line with their Vision 2030, hosted the Pakistani Trade Delegation to Jeddah (Jan 12-15, 2019). It was fully sponsored Delegation by SEDA. Pakistani delegation had a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources Eng. Abdul Aziz Al-Abdulkarim and the Secretary General of Saudi Export Development Authority Eng. Saleh Al-Solami. The two sides discussed aspects of joint cooperation and ways to enhance trade and economic relations between the two countries. This was followed by dinner hosted by SEDA.
- Pakistan - Saudi Arabia Business Conference on 18th February 2019.

(b) **UAE**

- Pakistan signed the Contract for participating in the EXPO 2020 Dubai on 28th October 2018.
- In the follow-up of the PM’s visit to UAE in September 2018, a twenty member delegation on Investment from UAE, headed by H.E. Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, Minister of State and Director General/CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil company (ADNOC) and H.E. Mohammad Sharaf, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Economic and Trade Affairs visited Pakistan on 26th October, 2018.
- As an aftermath of the Investment Delegation from UAE, the Refining and Petro Chemicals Division of Mubadala Petroleum and Petrochemicals is actively

engaged for investment in Pakistan. Besides expansion in PARCO refinery, Mubadala is also conducting feasibility of setting up LNG terminals in Pakistan, investments in Petro Chemical Sector and setting up of strategic reserves in collaboration with ADNOC. In a recent meeting with Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE, the Executive Director of the Refining Division, Mubadala, expressed his satisfaction on their investments in Pakistan and showed his willingness to expand in future.

- The Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textiles, Industries & production and Investment visited Abu Dhabi on 27th October 2018 to witness the signing ceremony of Participation Contract with EXPO 2020 authorities.
- An Investment Delegation comprising of Chairman BOI and Minister of Maritime Affairs (Ports and Shipping) visited UAE on 6-8 December 2018 and discussed the avenues of investment in Food processing, Maritime services and Construction sector.

V. American Region:

Pakistan's major export destinations to American region are USA, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina etc. USA is the single country largest export destination of Pakistan with trade surplus of more than US\$ 1 billion.

In this regard, Pakistan's export performance and initiative taken by this Ministry to promote and facilitate trade with American Region during last five years are given below:

Pakistan's Export Performance in the American Region:

In US\$ Million

Country	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (July-Dec)
USA	5932.6	5925.7	6020.7	6543.1	6627.5	3129.8
Canada	668.23	869.55	975.09	886.95	767.52	396.10
Brazil	288.99	461.35	509.13	735.72	523.63	247.30
Argentina	360.04	564.19	294.29	206.25	147.34	60.70
Chile	113.61	91.14	86.49	100.97	52.90 (July-Dec)	39.60
Mexico	154.97	156.40	152.70	191.37	200.59	80.20

Source: PBS

- In the recent years, however, Pakistan's export in the region has started showing positive trend which also improved Pakistan's balance of trade in the region.

Ministry of Commerce has taken the following initiatives to increase exports:

- The U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world, provides preferential duty-free treatment for over 3,500 products from 128 designated beneficiary countries and territories. However, for the 44 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), enhanced market access is provided by allowing an additional 1500 tariff lines for duty free treatment. On 1st July 2017, the US Government included 134 tariff lines into GSP scheme like travel bags, travel goods related to {HS 42 (two digits)} export interest to Pakistan. The US has renewed GSP Preferential Market Access Program till December, 2020.
- US-Pakistan 10th TIFA Inter-sessional meeting was held in May, 2019 after its postponement in January, 2019. The meeting discussed issues of bilateral trade and investment. In this connection, a webinar on ease of doing business in Pakistan was held on 17-04-2019. US businesses were briefed by the Ministry of Commerce, FBR, SBP and BOI regarding the pro-business and investment friendly policies of the present Government. The US business community was also apprised about the investment opportunities available in Pakistan and the regulatory regime for doing and establishing business in the country.
- Ministry of Commerce is also in the process with different trading blocks in Latin American region to get market access for Pakistan's exports. Pakistan had requested for inclusion into MERCOSUR (a trading bloc including Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay), and the request has been taken up with the member countries rigorously to improve market access to these countries.
- Ministry of Commerce issued SRO No. 711(I)/2018 dated 08-06-2018 to facilitate and incentivize businessmen regarding drawback of local taxes and levies.

VI. European Region:

The following steps have been taken during the last five years to increase exports to the European Union countries:

- Two biennial reviews of the GSP+ scheme were conducted by the European Parliament in 2016 and 2018, whereby, Pakistan showed strong commitments on compliance with UN obligations for successful review of GSP+ scheme, and as a result thereof, GSP+ scheme was extended for two year. Third biennial review is under process, and Pakistan is actively engaged with EU member countries.
- As a part of the outreach program to promote Pakistan's GSP+ status, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment attended the annual meeting at the World Economic Forum in Davos from 21-24th January, and Brussels from 27-28th January, 2020, and had important meetings with EU parliamentarians and EU Trade Commissioners.
- Export performance of the last 5 years is as under:

Pakistan's Trade with EU

In US\$ Million

Years	Pak Exports	Pak Imports	Total Trade Volume	Trade Balance
2013-14	6,933.43	5,027.16	11,960.59	1,906.27
2014-15	6,925.50	4,868.00	11,793.50	2,057.50
2015-16	6,795.01	5,314.85	12,109.86	1,480.16
2016-17	6,978.87	5,603.72	12,582.59	1,375.15
2017-18	8,003.85	6,502.43	14,506.28	1,501.42
2018-19	7,986.11	6,172.18	14,158.29	1,813.93

Source: PBS

VII. Eastern European countries, Russia and Turkey:

Pakistan's exports to the Eastern European block have witnessed an increase of 5 percent during the period **July to Dec 2019** as compared to same period last year. The government has undertaken many initiatives for enhancing trade to the region, prominent among them are as following:

- Promotional /marketing activity in the Eastern Europe region is being carried out as part of strategy to target non-traditional markets.
- MoC is arranging business delegations of textile garments, sports goods, leather goods and surgical goods from Pakistan in coordination with TDAP.
- To cater to the demands of Eastern European region, MoC is carrying out market analysis of potential non-traditional sectors and products.

Joint Ministerial Committees (JMCs) and Joint Economic Committees (JECs) held in 2019:

- Pak-Russia signed Agreement on Settlement of Mutual Financial Claims in October, 2019.
- 6th Session of Pakistan Russian Inter Government Commission (IGC) held on December 10, 2019.
- Pak-Turkey 2nd Inter-sessional meeting of JWG under the HLSCC held on 16-17th of January 2020 in Islamabad.
- Pak-Turkey FTA negotiations and Joint Scoping Study for identifying potential sectors.
- Joint Working Group for signing Pak- Turkey Strategic Economic Framework (SEF).

- 1st Session of the Hungarian-Pakistani Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation on September 12-13, 2019 in Budapest.
- 4th Session of Pak-Italy joint Economic Commission (JEC) held on November 26th, 2019 in Islamabad.
- 2nd Session of Pakistan-Bulgaria Inter Governmental Commission (IGC) on May 20-21, 2019 at Islamabad, Pakistan.

TDAP Exhibitions in the Americas and European Region:

TDAP also participates in numerous Fairs and Exhibitions in the Americas and EU Region. E.g. Sial Food Fair, Montreal, Canada; Apparel Textile Sourcing, Canada; Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas, USA; Tex World International Apparel Sourcing /Home Textile Sourcing Show, New York, USA; Sourcing at Coterio, New York, USA; AIM Expo, USA; Heimtextil, Frankfurt, Germany; Domotex, Hannover, Germany; Texworld, Paris, France; Fruit Logistica, Berlin; Safety & Health EXPO, UK, etc., to promote Pakistan's products in these international markets.

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

***Question No. 324 Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood:**

(Notice Received on 29/05/2019 at 9:35 AM) QID: 35757

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the steps taken by the present Government to encourage trade through Gawadar port indicating also the details of facilities established and being provided by FBR to the traders at that port?

Reply not received.

Ministry of Commerce and Textile has transferred this question to the Ministry of Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs (Federal Board of Revenue) But they have not accepted it so far.

***Question No. 326 Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood:**

(Notice Received on 30/05/2019 at 10:35 AM) QID: 35740

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- the procedure laid down for selection or appointment of commercial counselors, commercial secretaries and trade ministers for posting in Pakistan's missions abroad; and*
- the name of authority which accord final approval for the appointment and posting of the said officers?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) The prescribed procedure for selection of Trade & Investment Counsellors, Attache and Ministers is as follows:—

- Applications are invited from the eligible candidates, in public and private sector, by the M/o Commerce through press.

- b. LUMS/IBA conducts a written test for selection of trade & Investment Officers.
- c. Successful candidates are called for interview by Ministry of Commerce. Interview is conducted by Interview Committee, constituted by the Prime Minister, under the chairmanship of Minister/Advisor for Commerce.
- d. The Interview Committee proposes successful candidates against vacant stations, on the basis of their merit position, to the Prime Minister for approval through a summary.
- e. After approval of the Prime Minister, the officers are allocated stations for posting.

(b) The Prime Minister of Pakistan has accorded final approval on the proposal of Interview Committee headed by the Commerce Minister / Advisor.

***Question No. 327 Senator Sirajul Haq:**

(Notice Received on 31/05/2019 at 10:15 AM) QID: 36165

Will the Minister Incharge of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state:

- (a) *the date of launching the Benazir Income Support Programme in the country indicating also the details of financial assistance provided under the same so far with year wise break up;*
- (b) *the increase made in the said financial assistance since inception of that programme with year wise break up; and*
- (c) *the names of national and international donor agencies which provide financial assistance for the said programme indicating also the amount provided by each of the same so far?*

Minister Incharge of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division: (a) BISP was launched in July, 2008. Details of financial assistance provided by BISP since its inception is as follows - (Rs. In billions):

Financial Year	Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT)	Conditional Cash Transfer (WeT)
2008-09	14.729	-
2009-10	34.456	-
2010-11	25.678	-
2011-12	39.364	-
2012-13	41.664	-
2013-14	64.905	0.084
2014-15	86.818	0.450
2015-16	95.673	1.880
2016-17	102.989	2.274
2017-18	97.999	3.222
2018-19	104.641	4.013
Total	708.916	11.923

- (b) Increase made in the quarterly financial assistance paid to eligible beneficiaries

since inception (in Pak Rs.)

Financial Year	Unconditional Cash Transfer (Per Quarter)	Waseela-e-Laleem (Per Quarter)
2008-09	3,000	-
2009-10	3,000	-
2010-11	3,000	-
2011-12	3,000	-
2012-13	3,000	-
2013-14	3,600	600*
2014-15	4,500	750
2015-16	4,700	750
2016-17	4,834	750
2017-18	4,834	750
2018-19	5,000	750
2019-20	6,000	750 for boys 1000 for girls

*Rate changed w.e.f. April 2015

Year wise budget allocation of BISP and corresponding increase in budget allocation

Financial Year	Total Allocation (Rs in billions)	Increase in Budget (Rs in billions)
2008-09	33.98	

*Question No. 328 **Senator Sirajul Haq:**

(Notice Received on 3/06/2019 at 1:30 PM) QID: 36169

Will the Minister Incharge of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state:

- the number of offices established under the Benazir Income Support Programme in the country with district-wise break up indicating also the number of persons working in the same with designation wise break up;*
- the expenditure being incurred on the said offices and employees working therein with district-wise break up; and*
- whether it is a fact that most of the said offices have been established in rented buildings, if so, the expenditure being incurred on the same in each case?*

Minister Incharge of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division: (a) It is submitted that BISP has its Regional Offices at all Provincial Headquarters and field offices at Divisional and Tehsil level throughout the country. BISP had 06 Regional Offices, 35 Divisional and 406 Tehsil Offices. Division wise breakup is enclosed for ready reference at **Annex-A**.

Furthermore, the number of persons working in the same with designation wise breakup is attached as **Annex-B**.

(b) The expenditure being incurred on the said offices is attached as Flag-C and employees working therein with region-wise breakup attached as **Annex-D**.

(c) It is submitted that BISP have not its own buildings. Most of the offices have been established in rented premises. Out of which 55 offices are established at Government Premises. Meanwhile, the expenditure being incurred on the same is attached at **Annex-C** also.

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

***Question No. 329 Senator Sirajul Haq:**

(Notice Received on 28/06/2019 at 11:00 AM) QID: 36210

Will the Minister Incharge for Aviation be pleased to state the amount being charged by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) from the passengers under the head of airport charges indicating also the reasons for the same?

Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan: The amount of USD was being charged as airport charges (USD 10 each for Security & Infrastructure Development per International Departing Passenger). Continuous difficulties were being faced as result of devaluation of PKR and were causing inconvenience to passenger due to demand by airlines (difference of dollar rate) at the issuance of boarding pass. Considering the complexities in charging amount in USD, PCAA has rationalized fixed rate of Airport Charges @ PKR 2,800/- effective from June 23, 2019.

***Question No. 332 Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh:**

(Notice Received on 8/07/2019 at 2:40 PM) QID: 36217

Will the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to prepare and launch a website of all tourist zones/spots in the country, if so, when?

Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation has informed that the most significant step taken for promotion of tourism in Pakistan is development of a website / e-portal. PTDC is planning to develop a new website/e-portal that highlights tourist attractions and promotes positive image of the country both at domestic and international levels. The website / e-portal will have images, clips / videos, information about tourist spots, cultural, archaeological and historical sites etc. with the purpose to attract tourists. The proposed web site/e-portal is expected to be developed by 31st December, 2019.

However, there is no plan of developing tourist zones specific website.

***Question No. 333 Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi:**

(Notice Received on 27/09/2019 at 2:10 PM) QID: 36444

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no significant increase in Pakistan's exports despite the significant devolution of Pakistan's currency during the last one year; and

(b) the number of new markets explored by the Government for exports of Pakistani products during the said period?

Minister for Commerce and Textile:

1. The value of the Pak Rupee is determined by the market forces and the Government desists from intervening in the matter. However, the depreciation of currency often results in positive impact on a country's exports. The impact of different policy measures including devaluation has considerably reduced the trade deficit. It has also helped exports to remain stable and in the growth zone despite the headwinds.

2. Exports maintaining positive trend despite strong headwinds:

Pakistan's exports, during the first quarter of the current financial year (Jul-Sep 2019) have increased by 2.75% compared with the corresponding period of the last year. During the last 10-12 months, the fundamentals of the export sector have significantly improved due to a set of policy interventions.

- 2.1 **Exchange Rate Rationalisation:** The gradual rationalization of exchange rate has improved the export competitiveness, by decreasing the cost of rupee-denominated inputs e.g. energy, wages, overheads and indigenous raw materials in dollar terms.
 - 2.2 **Reasonable Energy Prices:** The export sector has so far been shielded from hike in electricity and gas prices, though the impact has been passed on to commercial and domestic consumers in the wake of price hike in the global energy market.
 - 2.3 **Export Refinance:** The interest rates under export schemes *i.e.* Export Refinance and Long-Term Finance Facility have been retained at the previous level, despite the increase in policy rate by the State Bank of Pakistan in multiple rounds of monetary policy adjustments.
 - 2.4 **Tariff Rationalization on Raw Materials:** In the supplementary budgets (in October 2018 and March 2019) and the Annual Budget 2019-20, the import duties have been reduced on 422 raw materials and 1635 inputs of export-oriented industries respectively with a cumulative relief annual relief of Rs. 40 billion.
 - 2.5 **PM's Export Package:** The support provided under the Prime Minister's Export Enhancement Package has been extended for three-years to lend predictability for export-oriented investment.
3. **Headwinds:** Despite the above-mentioned tailwinds, the export growth remains sluggish because of the offsetting impact of equally strong headwinds.
 - 3.1 **Sino-US Trade War (slowing global economy):** The global trade growth is consistently decreasing in the wake of Sino-US trade war. WTO has downgraded the trade growth forecasts from 2.6% in April 2019 to 1.2% in October 2019 due to trade tensions and slowing global economy.

- 3.2 **High Interest Rates:** The contractionary monetary policy has gradually increased the cost of capital, especially for the small and medium enterprises, which cannot secure concessionary finance under the export schemes.
- 3.3 **Slow GDP Growth:** Since the economic growth has been slowed down through a set of intentional policy measures, the availability of exportable surplus has shrunk as a natural corollary.
- 3.4 **Anti-Export Bias in Tariff Structure:** Despite a partial relief of customs duties on 1635 raw materials in the Finance Act 2019-20, the tariffs on all other imports have been further increased, in turn, escalating the cost of doing business.
- 3.5 **Exchange Rate Volatility:** The volatility of exchange rate during 2019 has deterred the exporters from taking sales positions, since it is not possible to forecast the final cost-revenue equation in rupee terms, when the export proceeds would arrive after 6 to 9 months of production.
- 3.6 **Geopolitical Uncertainty:** Regional geopolitical uncertainty in the wake of Pulwama incident and Indian moves on Indian Occupied Kashmir, the ensuing border skirmishes and reciprocal airspace blockade, has vitiated the exporting environment.

MARKET ACCESS INITIATIVES:

Ministry of Commerce has been mandated, *inter-alia*, to promote Pakistan's trade with other countries and to ensure optimum market access opportunities for our core export products in global markets. Two main tools employed by the Ministry of Commerce to achieve this end are:

- (i) Trade Diplomacy
- (ii) Trade Promotion

The Ministry carries out trade diplomacy by securing unilateral/ bilateral and multilateral concessions from the major trading partners under the framework of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) or Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

ASIA PACIFIC:

1. Pakistan has recently reached an agreement on Phase-II of the China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) after 11 rounds of rigorous negotiations. A Protocol to this effect has been signed by both sides during the visit of the Prime Minister to Beijing on 28th April, 2019.
 - Pakistan has gained immediate market access on 313 items of its prime export interest (at par with ASEAN).
 - These 313 most priority tariff lines cover over \$8.7 billion worth of our global exports and \$64 billion worth of Chinese global imports.
 - China has agreed on 90% liberalization for Pakistan in terms of its trade

volume.

- Under the complete offer from China, over \$19 billion of Pakistan's exports will be covered corresponding to \$1.6 trillion of the China's global imports.

At present, the Ministry is in the process of reviewing the existing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) / Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) to restore lost Margin of Preference (MoP) of Pakistan in those markets and initiating new Free Trade Agreement (FTAs) with important trade partners to secure enhanced market access. Steps being undertaken by the Commerce Division to this end in last one year are delineated below;

2. In addition to receiving concession on 232 tariff lines under Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Indonesia, Pakistan has also gained unilateral market access on 20 top priority tariff liens at zero duty as a result of persistent trade diplomacy of Ministry of Commerce.
 - These 20 tariff lines constitute US \$ 4 billion of Pakistan's global exports and cover over US \$ 600 million of Indonesia's global imports.
 - Concessions on these tariff lines have come into effect from March 1, 2019.
3. Pakistan is holding regular meetings with Thailand to negotiating Free Trade Agreement to increase market access. In the meantime, potential items have been identified and efforts are underway to boost export in these items.
4. Under new market access strategy, Pakistan is exploring the possibility of bilateral trade arrangements with Vietnam and Philippines. Feasibility studies are being conducted in this respect.
5. Pakistan has successfully engaged in high level dialogue with South Korea and Japan to secure market access in these countries.
6. In addition to this, Pakistan has been regularly participating in trade exhibitions abroad for showcasing our products to potential buyers. The list of trade fairs for current year is attached at **Annex-I**.

AFRICA AND CARS:

The Ministry of Commerce is working to develop new markets for Pakistan in Africa and Central Asia. Ministry of Commerce has launched "Look Africa Policy Initiative" to explore the opportunity of nontraditional markets of Africa and to boost trade between Pakistan and Africa in the upcoming years. The salient features of this policy for exploring the new markets exports are as under:

- Pakistan concentrates on top ten African Economies to enhance trade; i.e. Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Angola as they constitute 78% of Total African GDP.
- Under Look Africa policy, six new Commercial Sections have been relocated in Africa including Egypt, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan, Senegal and Algeria where

Pakistan has resident embassies.

- Pakistan has started negotiations on bilateral/multilateral trade agreements of market access with different African countries.
- M/o Commerce has been pursuing to enhance exports to Africa by concentrating on the following six sectors i.e. pharmaceuticals and surgical instruments, electrical appliances, rice, wheat, corn, textiles, cement and construction materials, Services.
- Joint Working Groups (JWGs) with Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa and Rwanda are under negotiation. Pak-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) has been established. 1st session of the JTC will be held in the later part of 2019. Similarly, JWG on Trade with Egypt has been formed and its 1st meeting was held on 15th October, 2019.
- Africa cell has been established at TDAP Karachi. After the launch of Look Africa Policy Initiative, 12 exhibitions in Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia etc. and 1 delegation of Surgical, Pharma and Sports Goods to Algeria and Tunisia have been sponsored by TDAP under the policy in 2018 with special subsidy (80-90%). Also, 2% additional duty drawback is also offered on the exports of non-traditional items to Africa.

The exports of the Pakistani products to the new markets of the Central Asian Republics during last year have increased. The following trade statistics are testimony to the fact:

Pakistan's Bilateral Trade with Central Asian Republic in \$ million					
Country	Years	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trade Balance
Uzbekistan	2017-18	8.47	5.88	14.35	2.59
	2018-19	23.74	4.54	28.27	19.2
Kazakhstan	2017-18	80.23	5.37	85.6	74.86
	2018-19	86.1	2.35	88.45	83.75
Azerbaijan	2017-18	12.44	2.77	15.21	9.67
	2018-19	14.37	0.82	15.19	13.55
Tajikistan	2017-18	7.85	5.82	13.67	2.03
	2018-19	8.14	0.13	8.27	8.01

(Source FBR)

Efforts done by Ministry of Commerce (MoC) to increase Trade are described below:

- MoC has established commercial sections in Dushanbe and Almaty for better trade cooperation.
- Joint Working Groups have been created with Azerbaijan and Tajikistan for market access of Pakistani products in the countries.
- Another MoU is currently being negotiated with Uzbek side.

AMERICAN REGION:

Pakistan's overall exports to American region (covering more than 40 countries) is

US\$ 4.58 billion which is more than 19% of Pakistan's exports to world while Pakistan exports to American region have been **increased** by more than 5.6% from US\$ 4.34 billion in FY 2017-18 to US\$ 4.58 billion in FY 2018-19.

US is the single largest export destination of Pakistan. Bilateral Trade between Pakistan and US during last three years have shown positive trend as per the following details:

Pak-USA Bilateral Trade (US\$, Million)				
Trade Indicators	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Growth 2018-19
Export	3,449	3,638	3,910	7.5%
Import	2,558	2,875	2,707	-5.8%
Balance of Trade	891	763	1,203	57.6%

Source: FBR

- Pakistan has enjoyed trade surplus with US which has increased by 57.6% from US\$ 763 million in 2017-18 to US\$ 1203 million in 2018-19.
- Pakistan is the beneficiary of US-GSP scheme and GSP covered export to US amount to US\$ 326 million in 2018 Which is 9.5% of total export to US due to exclusion of textile sector, furniture etc. Moreover, India and Turkey have been graduated from USGSP Scheme which may increase Pakistan's export share to US under GSP Scheme.
- Pakistan and US have Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) to address the bilateral trade issues and Pakistan is pursuing for greater market access in textile, leather, mango and beef. Whereas US has major exports in agriculture sector and bidding to increase exports in these areas like soya bean, raw cotton etc.

In Latin Americas and Canada, the details of bilateral trade for last three years as given below:

- In Canada, Pakistan is recipient of GPT which excluded textile and leather sectors. Pakistan's request for FTA is pending approval with Canada. Both sides are preparing to hold 3rd JWG meeting which has been postponed due to election in Canada in early 2020.
- In Latin Americas, Pakistan is pursuing Mercosur (A custom union comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) to sign a PTA leading to FTA. Presently, the Presidency of Mercosur is with Brazil and Pakistan Embassy in Brasilia pursuing early negotiations for the same.
- Government of Pakistan has recently opened trade office in Mexico to expand its presence and greater market access in the Latin Americas region.

- Furthermore, Pakistan trade offices in Brasilia (Brazil) and Buenos Aires (Argentina) are currently vacant; however, selection of trade officers has almost completed and will be posted shortly.

Pakistan's Bilateral Trade With Canada and Latin American Countries (US\$, Million)						
Indicator/Year	Canada	Mexico	Argentina	Brazil	Paraguay	
Export	2016-17	230	94.08	39.97	42.20	8.75
	2017-18	255	101.29	55.89	53.00	10.88
	2018-19	270	96.77	27.24	65.46	6.36
Export Growth 2018-19		6.1%	-4.5%	-51.3%	23.5%	-41.5%
Import	2016-17	735	58.05	253.09	468.77	6.74
	2017-18	631	90.08	146.25	681.87	18.90
	2018-19	504	103.82	120.10	468.43	3.61
Import Growth 2018-19		-20.2%	15.3%	-17.9%	31.3%	-80.9%
Balance of Trade	2016-17	-505	36	-213	-427	2
	2017-18	-377	11	-90	-629	-8
	2018-19	-234	-7	-93	-403	3

Source: FBR

EUROPE REGION:

During last one year, Pakistan's exports to many European countries have increased. List of countries with positive export trend is placed below:

COUNTRIES	Exports (US\$, Million)		
	2017-18	2018-19	Growth %
BULGARIA	19.16	20.13	5.03%
CZECH REPUBLIC	40.96	48.98	19.57%
DENMARK	165.91	184.91	11.45%
GREECE	79	88.47	11.99%
IRELAND	63.72	64.08	0.57%
ITALY	777.02	794.2	2.21%
LATVIA	16.46	24.96	51.66%
MALTA	3.57	4.43	24.21%
NETHERLANDS	881.11	986.26	11.93%
POLAND	219.78	259.14	17.91%
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	2.69	5.35	98.88%
RUSSIA	146.92	154.29	7.05%

- Ministry of Commerce is working on exploring non-tradition/ new markets for export of Pakistani products. Apart from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus most of the countries in the region are part of the European Union. Due to Ministry of Commerce's positive engagement with EU, Pakistan became a beneficiary of EU's GSP+ scheme in 2014. EU is one of the biggest trade partners of Pakistan now.
- The government considers Russian Federation as important potential market for increasing exports in the Eastern European Region. In this regard, the Ministry of Commerce facilitated participation of Pakistani companies in various trade fairs in Russia including International Exhibition Sport 2018, Inter CHARM Exhibition Moscow, World Food Moscow 2018 and Heimtextil 2018.
- In order to facilitate active promotion of economic linkages between Pakistan and Hungary and to realize true bilateral trade potential, both countries have signed an Economic Cooperation Agreement in April 2017. Furthermore first session of Pak Hungary Joint Commission also took place in September 2019 in Budapest.
- 2nd session of Pakistan-Bulgaria IGC took place in May, 2019 in Islamabad.
- European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA): In order to explore new international market and enhance Pakistan's exports to the European countries, Commerce Division is working on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprising of Norway, Switzerland,, Iceland and Liechtenstein. In this regard, EFTA has shared a scoping paper with this Division

to identify potential areas to be incorporated in the FTA to enhance trade which includes goods, Customs Cooperation, Rules of Origin, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs), Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures, trade remedies, services, investment and Intellectual Property (IP). Commerce Division, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, has thoroughly examined the scoping paper and also conducted an internal analysis of the feasibility of FTA with EFTA States.

- Commerce Division is in the process of firming up its position on the proposed agreement in light of the consultations with relevant stakeholders. After identification of proposed sectors and areas to be included in the FTA, this Division will take up the matter with EFTA States.
- Pak-Turkey Free Trade Agreement: Ministry of Commerce is in the process of building consensus with Turkish counterparts and other stakeholder to have a meaningful FTA with Turkey that increases economic integration and corroborates with the close political and cultural relations that both countries have. The Framework Agreement is aimed at promoting and strengthening mutually beneficial trade and economic relations between enterprises of Pakistan and Turkey. The Framework Agreement includes provisions on Trade in Goods, Services, Intellectual Property Rights, Competition Policies, and Dispute Settlement Mechanism. So far, seven (7) rounds of talks have been held.
- Pakistan Turkey Strategic Economic Framework: During the visit of Prime Minister to Turkey on 3rd and 4th of January 2019, it was agreed to establish a Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) between Pakistan and Turkey. The framework aims to enhance bilateral economic cooperation with special focus on Trade and Investment. The Turkish Vice President and Pakistani Finance Minister have been designated to lead the task from respective sides. The purpose of SEF is to establish strategic economic partnership and achieve goal of enhanced economic integration. Both countries are exchanging proposals for Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) to realize the vision of their respective leadership.

International Exhibition Calendar - January to December, 2019

Asia (Middle East)				
S.no	Event	Year	Country	Product
1	Intersec Dubai	Jan, 2019	U.A.E	Security Equipment
2	Arab Health, Dubai	Jan, 2019	U.A.E	Hospital Equipment
3	Gulf food, Dubai	Feb, 2019	U.A.E	Food Sector
4	Paper World Dubai	Mar, 2019	U.A.E	Writing Instruments
5	Middle East Electricity, Dubai	Mar, 2019	U.A.E	Electric products
6	Hotel Show, Jeddah, KSA	Apr, 2019	Saudi Arabia	Home Textiles
7	Project Qatar, Doha	May, 2019	Qatar	Construction material
8	Beauty World, Dubai	May, 2019	U.A.E	Cosmetics & Make up items
9	Auto Mechca, Dubai	June, 2019	U.A.E	Automobile & auto parts
10	Global Health Expo, Riyadh	Sept, 2019	Saudi Arabia	Pharmaceuticals and Surgical
11	Hospitality Qatar	Oct, 2019	Qatar	Home Textiles, Food Products
12	GITEX Dubai, Dubai	* Oct, 2019	U.A.E	Information Technology- Services
13	Foodex, Jeddah	Nov, 2019	Saudi Arabia	Confectionary / Agro Food
Asia (China)				
S.no	Event	Year	Country	Product
1	China Xiamen International Stone Fair	Mar, 2019	China	Marble, Granite Precious Stones
2	Intertextile Shanghai Apparel & Fabrics (Spring)	Mar, 2019	China	Apparel and fabrics
3	Dental Expo Chengdu	Apr, 2019	China	Dental Instruments
4	China International Occupational Safety & Health Goods Expo	Apr, 2019	China	Gloves
5	China Medical Equipment Fair (CMEF) Shanghai	May, 2019	China	Surgical Instruments
6	China Beauty Expo Shanghai	May, 2019	China	Beauty Instruments
7	China Cycle Show, Shanghai	May, 2019	China	Sports Goods
8	7th China -South Asia Expo, Kunming	June, 2019	China	General Items
9	Harbin Trade Fair	June, 2019	China	General Items
10	ISPO Shanghai	July, 2019	China	Sports Goods
11	Intertextile Shanghai	Aug, 2019	China	Home Textile
12	FIBO China	Aug, 2019	China	Sports Goods Fitness Equipment, Smart Wearables
13	China International Furniture Fair Shanghai	Sep, 2019	China	Furniture
14	China Dental Show, Shanghai	Sep, 2019	China	Surgical Instruments
15	Intertextile Shanghai	Sep, 2019	China	Apparel Fabrics
16	Canton Fair Phase-I	Oct, 2019	China	Electrical goods
17	23 rd China Seafood and Fisheries Expo	Nov, 2019	China	All Seafood-fresh, frozen, etc.
18	China International Import Expo Shanghai	Nov, 2019	China	General Items
19	Automechanika Shanghai	Nov, 2019	China	Auto Parts
Fairs Allocated to Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) (China)				
20	All China Leather Fair, Shanghai, (ACLE)	Nov, 2019	China	Leather

Asia (South East Asia)				
S.no	Event	Year	Country	Product
1	Saigon Textile & Garment Industry Expo, Ho Chi Minh City	Apr, 2019	Vietnam	Textile & garments
2	Safety First Expo, Melbourne	May, 2019	Australia	Safety goods
3	International Shoes and Leather Exhibition and International Footwear and products Exhibition	July, 2019	Vietnam	Leather Products
4	Pharmed	Sep, 2019	Vietnam	Surgical and Dental Instruments
5	Fine Food, Australia	Sep, 2019	Australia	Food Items
6	Sial Inter Food Jakarta	Nov, 2019	Indonesia	Food Items
7	International Sourcing Expo	Nov, 2019	Australia	Textile and Products
Fairs Allocated to Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) (South East Asia)				
8	Indo Leather and Footwear	Apr, 2019	Indonesia	Leather Products
9	LeatherTech Show Bangladesh	Nov, 2019	Bangladesh	Leather Products
Fairs Allocated to FPCCI on Self Finance Basis (South East Asia)				
10	The Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF)	January, 2019 (30 days)	Bangladesh	General Products
11	Chittagong International Trade Fair (CITF)	February, 2019 (30 days)	Bangladesh	General Products
Asia (East Asia)				
S.no	Event	Year	Country	Product
1	Hong Kong International Diamond and Gem Show	Mar, 2019	Hong Kong	Gems and Stones
2	Korean Intr'l Medical & Hospital Equipment Show	Mar, 2019	South Korea	Hospital Equipment
3	Fashion World, Tokyo	Mar, 2019	Japan	Textiles
4	APLF Fashion Access	Apr, 2019	Hong Kong	Leather Garments
5	Asia Fashion Week, Osaka	Apr, 2019	Japan	Textiles
6	Sports Wear and Goods Expo, Tokyo	July, 2019	Japan	Sports goods and sports wears
7	Cosmoprof Wanchai	Nov, 2019	Hong Kong	Beauty Salon and Cosmetics Products
Fairs Allocated to Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) (East Asia)				
8	MMT Section of APLF	Mar, 2019	Hong Kong	Leather
CARS + Turkey + Iran				
1	Expo Med	Mar, 2019	Turkey	Surgical Equipment
2	Automechanika, Istanbul	Apr, 2019	Turkey	Auto Parts
3	International Sports Fair, Istanbul	Sep, 2019	Turkey	Sports Goods
4	Istanbul Leather Fair	Oct, 2019	Turkey	Leather & its Products
5	World Food Kazakhstan, Almaty	Nov, 2019	Kazakhstan	Food Sector
6	International Universal Exhibition, Dushanbe	Nov, 2019	Tajikistan	All Products
7	Halal Expo/World Halal Summit	Dec, 2019	Turkey	Halal Food

Africa				
S.no	Event	Year	Country	Product
1	Medical Expo, Casablanca	Mar, 2019	Morocco,	Surgical and Pharmaceutical
2	Mediconex, Cairo	Apr, 2019	Egypt	Healthcare
3	Food West Africa,	May, 2019	Nigeria	Food Items
4	SECUREX, Johannesburg	May, 2019	South Africa	Security and fire industries
5	Africa Health Expo, Johannesburg	May, 2019	South Africa	Surgical and Pharmaceutical
6	Cape Argus Sports Show	June, 2019	South Africa	Sporting goods
7	Automechanika, Johannesburg, (Biennial)	Sept, 2019	South Africa	Automobile Sector
8	Medic East Africa Exhibition & Congress, Nairobi	Sept, 2019	Kenya	Healthcare Products
9	A-Osh Expo & Fireexpo / Securexpo, Nairobi	Sept, 2019	Kenya	Safety Gloves & Equipment, Work Wear, Firefighting Uniforms,
10	Medic West Africa, Lagos	Oct, 2019	Nigeria	Healthcare/ Surgical/Pharmaceutical
11	Beauty West Africa, Lagos	Nov, 2019	Nigeria	Beauty Items
12	Food Africa, Cairo	Dec, 2019	Egypt	Food Products
America				
S.no	Event	Year	Country	Product
1	Hotel Motel Show,	Jan, 2019	USA	Food services, table top products suppliers
2	Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas	Feb, 2019	USA	Apparel, Knitwear, Leather, Sportswear
3	Emilex/Simatex and Confemaq Fair	Apr, 2019	Argentina	Textile Products
4	NJ Minerals, Fossils, Gems & Jewelry Show	Apr, 2019	USA	Gems & Jewelry
5	Sial Food Fair, Montreal	May, 2019	Canada	Agro Food
6	FIME SHOW, Florida	July, 2019	USA	Surgical & Dental Equipment
7	Tex World International Apparel Sourcing /Home Textile Sourcing Show, New York	July, 2019	USA	Textile & Apparel
8	Cosmoprof, North America, Las Vegas	July, 2019	USA	Surgical & Dental Equipment
9	Magic	Aug, 2019	USA	Textile, Apparel and Footwear
10	Apparel Textile Sourcing	Aug, 2019	Canada	Textile and Apparel
11	Beauty Expo	Sep, 2019	Brazil	Surgical and Beauty equipment/ products
12	Sourcing at Coterio, New York	Sep, 2019	USA	All Kinds of Garments, Footwear and accessories
13	AIM Expo	Oct, 2019	USA	Leather & Leather apparels
14	Private Label Manufacturer Association- PLMA, Chicago	Nov, 2019	USA	General Products
15	NSC Congress and Expo	Nov, 2019	USA	Safety Products
16	FIBO	Dec, 2019	USA	Fitness equipment, smart wearable's, fitness club interiors, sports nutrition products
Europe				
S.no	Event	Year	Country	Product
1	Heimtextil, Frankfurt	Jan, 2019	Germany	Textile & its products
2	Domotex, Hannover	Jan, 2019	Germany	Carpets

3	ISPO Winter, Munich	Jan, 2019	Germany	Sports Goods
4	Expo Riva Schuh	Jan, 2019	Italy	Footwear
5	Texworld, Paris	Feb, 2019	France	Textile & its products
6	Fruit Logistica, Berlin	Feb, 2019	Germany	Fresh Fruits & vegetables
7	Ambiente, Frankfurt	Feb, 2019	Germany	General Items
8	Cosmoprof, Bologna	Mar, 2019	Italy	Beauty & cosmetic products
9	International Food Event	Mar, 2019	UK	Food Products
10	ISH fair	Mar, 2019	Germany	Engineering Products
11	Intercharm, Moscow	Apr, 2019	Russia	Beauty Instruments
12	FIBO Fitness & Health Show	Apr, 2019	Germany	Sports Goods
13	Le Show Moscow	May, 2019	Russia	Garments, Fur Garments, Skin & Hides
14	PLMA's World of Private Label Fair, Amsterdam	May, 2019	Netherlands	Food, Textiles & others
15	Safety & Health EXPO	June, 2019	UK	Healthcare
16	Mipel The Big Show	Sep, 2019	Italy	Leather
17	Heimtextil Moscow	Sep, 2019	Russia	Textile
18	World Food, Moscow	Sep, 2019	Russia	Food Items
19	Automechanika Frankfurt	Sep, 2019	Germany	Auto parts
20	Texworld, Paris- France	Sep, 2019	France	Textile & its products
21	Poznan Sports Fair	Oct, 2019	Poland	Sports Goods
22	Anuga	Oct, 2019	Germany	Food Items
23	Intermot, Cologne	Oct, 2019	Germany	Surgical
24	EUROTIER FAIR	Nov, 2019	Germany	Surgical & Vet Inst.
25	EXPO Protection, Paris	Nov, 2019	France	Leather and Protective gears
26	National Sports Exhibition, GORINCHE	Nov, 2019	Netherlands	Sports Goods
27	A+A Dusseldorf	Nov, 2019	Germany	Gloves, Safety & Security Products
28	EICMA MOTO, Milan	Nov, 2019	Italy	Gloves / Auto parts
29	Medica Dusseldorf	Nov, 2019	Germany	Surgical Instruments
30	Mineralientag	Nov, 2019	Switzerland	Gems and Jewelry
31	Agrotechnika, Hannover	Nov, 2019	Germany	Agricultural Machinery & Equipment
Fairs Allocated to Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA)				
1	Premier Vision, Paris	Feb, 2019	France	Leather & its product
2	Lineapelle Fair, Bologna	Feb, 2019	Italy	Shoes
3	Premier Vision, Paris	Sep, 2019	France	Leather & its product
4	Lineapelle Fair, Bologna	Oct, 2019	Italy	Leather & its product
Fairs Allocated to Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB)				
1	Mobile World Congress	Mar, 2019	Spain	Information Technology

*Question No. 334 **Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi:**

(Notice Received on 1/10/2019 at 10:05 AM) QID: 36464

Will the Minister Incharge of the Aviation Division be pleased to state:

(a) *the losses incurred by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) during the fiscal year 2018-19; and*

(b) *the steps being taken by the Government to make PIA a profitable organization?*

Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan: (a) Fiscal year of PIA is from January - December. The accounts of PIACL for 2019 are un-audited. However, summary of losses incurred by PIA during the year 2018 and 2019 are as under:

	PKR in thousands	
	2018	2019
Revenue	103,490,460	146,386,914
Total expenditure (Other than finance & Exchange loss)	135,571,059	157,663,204
Finance cost	20,384,567	31,380,133
Exchange Gain/loss	14,952,649	9,396,000
Loss Before Tax	67,417,815	53,107,097
Loss after tax	67,327,605	54,204,999

(b) PIA is passing through dire financial state but the present Government is very keen to make it self-reliant. Efforts are underway to improve the financial health of the Corporation by reducing its losses/ deficit through various means and modes.

- It is worth mentioning that despite facing difficulties, PIACL has been able to improve upon its performance with an objective of reduction in losses. The major reason behind PIA's losses is the increased financial cost due inherited legacy loans of previous governments and rising mark ups and debt servicing. Moreover, significant increase in fuel prices and devaluation of currency etc. has also contributed towards losses.
- The decrease in losses is being addressed at two levels, enhancing revenues and curtailment of costs. Revenue side is being addressed by improving market share through realigning sales team, manning stations on merit, aggressive sales promotion, improvement in product and services, focusing on revenue generation through ancillary sources, mounting new flights and expanding on existing productive routes such as KSA and Gulf.
- The cost curtailment side is being addressed through austerity measures and cutting down on unnecessary administrative expenses, discipline and accountability in functions to tap leakages and wastage, cutting down loss making routes and other ventures, route rationalization and shifting operational facilities suitable to PIA flight operations.
- Consequently, all performance indicators such as revenue, seat factor, yield and revenue per available seat are all showing tremendous growth as compared with previous years and while considerable reduction in operating and administrative costs are achieved for the same period.

***Question No. 336 Senator Kalsoom Perveen:**
(Notice Received on 4/11/2019 at 3:15 PM) QID: 36598

Will the Minister Incharge of the Establishment Division be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish the section officer promotional examination, if so, the reasons thereof indicating also the alternative venue of promotion being proposed for promotion of Federal Government officials?

Minister Incharge of the Establishment Division: No such proposal is presently under consideration.

***Question No. 337 Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**
(Notice Received on 20/11/2019 at 11:00 AM) QID: 36650

Will the Minister Incharge of the Aviation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that PIA has not submitted its financial statement in SECP for the last two years, if so, the reasons thereof?

Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan: The Annual Report (containing financial statements) of Pakistan International Airlines, for the period ended December, 2017 was duly submitted to Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan, on 2nd August, 2019. Similarly, the Annual Report for the year ended December, 2018 was submitted to SECP on 3rd December, 2019.

***Question No. 339 Senator Seemee Ezdi:**
(Notice Received on 12/12/2019 at 11:12 AM) QID: 36692

Will the Minister Incharge of the Aviation Division be pleased to state;

- (a) the average ratio of employees per aircraft as per International standards; and*
- (b) the average ratio of PIA's employees per aircraft during the period from 2010 to 2012 and from 2013 to 2018 separately?*

Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan: (a) The average ratio of employees per aircraft of each airline varies. There is no standard formula as few airlines provide all services through their own set up and few have outsourced certain services.

(b) The details of average ratio of PIA's employees per aircraft during the period from 2010 to 2018 are as under:

Year	Total No. of Employees	Fleet Size	Ratio	*No. of Employees excluding Non-Core(PHS)/Line Mant/Catering/TGS/Medical/Printing Press)	*Ratio
2010	17663	40	441	11738	293
2011	17948	40	448	12001	300
2012	17420	38	458	11723	308
2013	16487	35	471	11087	317
2014	15636	29	539	10454	360
2015	14799	40	369	9935	248
2016	14342	36	398	9441	262
2017	13768	37	372	9113	246
2018	13046	33	395	8684	263

***Question No. 340 Senator Seemee Ezdi:**

(Notice Received on 12/12/2019 at 11:15 AM) QID: 36691

Will the Minister Incharge for Aviation Division be pleased to state:

- (a) the date on which the PIA's open sky policy was implement indicating also the purpose/justification thereof; and*
- (b) whether it is a fact that the said policy could not prove successful, if so, its impacts on the PIA's finances so far?*

Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Khan: (a) Pakistan Aeronautical Authorities first adopted Open Skies in 1992 upon commissioning of Jinnah International Airport, Karachi. The airport was designed as Open Skies.

- The objective of Open Skies agreement between two countries must only be based on commercial reciprocity and organic (point-to-point) market growth, as has been envisioned in the National Aviation Policy 2019. However, in case of Pakistan's Open Skies with city states like Dubai / Abu Dhabi / Sharjah / Ras-ul Khaimah, it has damaged commercial viability of airlines of Pakistan and adversely affected our national exchequer.
- Open skies policy is mostly pursued by countries either having insignificant indigenous traffic of their own or by City States that have no domestic network, like Emirates of UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Singapore, etc. In order for their airlines to survive and their countries to prosper, they seek liberal rights from densely populated countries. These countries seek unrestricted traffic rights for multiple cities in countries like Pakistan while offering only one point in their territory.
- For example, Emirates airlines has permission to operate to 11 cities in Pakistan, whereas, the airlines of Pakistan can only operate to 1 point in Dubai.
- Airlines of UAE and Gulf countries siphoned off 6th freedom traffic through their hubs for UK, Europe, USA and Canada which otherwise was the right of Pakistani airlines or airlines of country to which the passenger was travelling.
- With the adoption of liberal grant of traffic rights the other airlines started robbing PIA's traffic share, the capacity glut resulted in dumping of available capacity on low rates.

- PIA's financial crisis had started with the advent of the Open Skies policy adopted in 90s and subsequent grant of liberal rights particularly to UAE and Gulf states.

(b) Approximately PKR 107 billion was lost by the Pakistan national exchequer during year 2017 as a consequence of allowing open skies/liberal traffic rights arrangement to airlines of Gulf, UAE, Turkey & Sri Lanka. All these passengers were the right of airlines of Pakistan, whose earnings otherwise would have contributed to Pakistan's economy.

***Question No. 342 Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak:**

(Notice Received on 6/01/2020 at 3:20 PM) QID: 36724

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state the present status of work on the projects for establishment of Expo Centers, Quetta and Peshawar separately?

Minister for Commerce and Textile: The present status of work on Expo Centre, Quetta and Peshawar are as under:

(a) Expo Centre Quetta:

CDWP approved the project in its meeting held on 26th September, 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2500.00 million. Authorization letter of the project was issued in October, 2019. M/s Pakistan Expo Centres Pvt. Ltd. took possession of a 50 acres piece of land for construction of Expo Centre provided by Govt. of Balochistan in November, 2018. During current financial year (CFY 2019-20) an amount of Rs. 100.00 million has been allocated for the project in PSDP 2019-20. The project will start after Administrative Approval.

(b) Expo Centre Peshawar:

The project was approved by CDWP in October, 2015 with an estimated cost of Rs. 2500.00 million. Physical work on the project started in February, 2017 after transfer of the land by the Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to M/o Commerce. The project is being executed by Pakistan Expo Centres Pvt. Ltd. Lahore. Against allocation of Rs. 1900.00 million allocation, an accumulative releases of Rs. 1690.00 million has been made up to 30th June, 2019. An allocation of Rs. 300.00 million has been earmarked in PSDP 2019-20. Aggregate utilization of the released PSDP funds stand at Rs. 1087.00 million which become 64% of the total releases. The project has achieved physical progress of 49%, up to 31st December, 2019.

Following are the completed/in progress works of the project:

- Major designing of the project has been completed.
- Topographic & geotechnical surveys have been completed.
- Pile load testing is completed.
- The fabrication of pre-engineered steel structure buildings of both the Exhibition Halls has been completed and delivered on site.

- (v) Construction of boundary wall is almost completed.
- (vi) Foundation of Exhibition halls have been completed and erection of steel building are in progress.
- (vii) Work on gate houses are in progress.

The remaining work on the project is likely to be completed by 30th June, 2021.

***Question No. 343 Senator Muhammad Ayub:**
(Notice Received on 7/01/2020 at 1:30 PM) QID: 36725

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure capacity building of trade officers posted in Pakistan Missions abroad; and*
- (b) whether any mechanism has been evolved by the Government to ensure that the said trade officers effectively promote the export of Pakistani products to the countries of their postings, if so, the details thereof?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a) Ministry of Commerce provides pre-departure training to all the Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) posted in Pakistan Trade & Investment Missions abroad for their capacity building. The training is being organized at Pakistan Institute of Trade & Development (PITAD) in coordination with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and is given to all batches of TIOs after their appointment before departures to missions. The training is mandatory for all TIOs. Keeping in view the challenging demands and nature of the job of TIOs, the training mix includes:-

- (a) Class room sessions on Pakistan's economic issues and trade & investment potentials.
- (b) Panel discussions and sharing of experiences by previous TIOs.
- (c) Data Analysis Workshop and diplomatic tactics etc.
- (d) Meetings with Board of Investment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- (e) Two weeks Study Tours (arranged by TDAP) for meetings with Chamber of Commerce & Industry, business associations and leading exporters.
- (f) Briefings by Foreign Trade Wings of the Ministry of Commerce.

2. Further, Trade Data Analysis System (Portal) has been developed to assist TIOs in carrying out their duties in efficient, transparent and effective manner.

The portal provides all the necessary data and information related to trade of Pakistan, major markets and commodities etc. to TIOs to organize their daily responsibilities and keep in electronic record of their official activities and correspondences. The portal also provides documents repository to store and access all the necessary information from a central

location.

(b) The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are based on the following parameters:-

- (a) Market intelligence report.
- (b) Role in delegation.
- (c) Role in exhibitions.
- (d) Special initiatives/trade Leads / seminars.
- (e) Business networking.
- (f) Institutional networking / relation with key stakeholders of the host government.
- (g) Commercial dispute resolution.

Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has evolved a strict mechanism to evaluate the performance of TIOs based on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). In this regard, Trade Officers Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (TOMECE) has been constituted which evaluate performance of Trade Officers in every quarter and video conference sessions are arranged for update and follow-up chaired by Secretary Commerce in which all TOMECE members participate. The current composition of committee is as below:-

Secretary Commerce	Chairman
Additional Secretary (TD), MoC	Member
Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade -I), MoC	Member
Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade-II), MoC	Member
Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade-III), MoC	Member
Joint Secretary (Admn), MoC	Member
Director General, TDAP	Member
Deputy Secretary (TOs), MoC	Member/ Secretary

*Question No. 344 **Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 9/01/2020 at 11:50 AM) QID: 36726

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) the impact of rationalization of the exchange rate, made during the tenure of the present Government, on the exports of the country in quantifiable terms;*
- (b) the investment made by the present Government in developing export infrastructure in the country for ensuring sustained growth of exports; and*
- (c) the names of non-essential imports on which import duties have been levied by the present government indicating also the impacts of the same on import bill in quantifiable terms?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile:

- (a) Impact of Exchange Rate Rationalization**

- (i) In contemporary economics, it is believed that currency devaluation directly translates into enhanced exports, as it makes exports to foreign customers cheaper. Depreciation of currency increases the volume of exports and reduces the volume of imports, with the resultant favorable effect on the balance of trade. However, it is not the only factor, besides exchange rate there are a plethora of other factors which impact a country's exports.
- (ii) The Government has adopted a prudent policy of letting the market-forces determine the exchange rate with resulted in the gradual depreciation of Pak Rupee. However, during FY 19 Pakistan's exports decreased by -0.94% from US\$ 23.3 Billion to US\$ 22.98 Billion and our trade deficit decreased by 5.84%.
- (iii) The trend of exports during the current fiscal year has been promising as exports which were US\$ 11.18 billion in July-December 2018, increased to US\$ 11.53 during July-December 2019, showing a positive growth of 3.15 %. Moreover, imports have shown a substantial decrease of 16.90% during the July-December 2019 over the corresponding period of the previous year with positive impact on the country's balance of trade:

Value: US\$ Million

Series	JULY- DECEMBER 2019	JULY- DECEMBER 2018	% CHANGE
Exports	11,533	11,181	3.15
Imports	23,229	27,952	-16.90
Balance of Trade	-11,696	-16,771	-30.26

Source: PBS

(b) Development of Export Infrastructure

Trade is regarded as an engine of growth and development capable of brining lasting improvement in the living standards of the people. Therefore, the Government has embarked upon improving export infrastructure and supply chain with an aim to ensure sustain growth of exports. The following is the list of projects being developed by the Government to improve supply-chain of the export-oriented sectors:

- (i) Establishment of Sialkot Tannery Zone at Sialkot.
- (ii) Up-gradation of Combined Effluent Treatment Plant and new segment of power generation at Sialkot.
- (iii) Establishment of department of textile and apparel design at National Textile University, Faisalabad.
- (iv) Establishment of Pen Fish farm of Sea Bass and Groupers along with coastal belt of Sindh.
- (v) Completion of Export Display Center at GCCI.
- (vi) Funds for Effluent Treatment Plant and new segment of power generation at Sialkot.

- (vii) Funding for Display Centre for Women Entrepreneur/SMEs AND COTTAGE Industry.
- (viii) Construction of Hall at Expo Center Lahore.

(c) **Duty on Non-Essential imports**

- (i) The Government has levied Regulatory Duty (RD) vide SRO 680(I)/2019 on the imports of various non-essential groups which include: imported intermediary goods, consumer items and luxury goods (**Annex-I**).
- (ii) The RD has been imposed within the range of 5 %, 10%, 15%, 20 %, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 50%, 70% and 90%. A comparison of period of July-Oct 2018 and July-Oct 2019, shows around 7 percent decrease in the imports bill of these items.

Value: PKR Million			
Series	JULY- OCTOBER 2019-20	JULY- OCTOBER 2018-19	% CHANGE
Imports on which RD is imposed.	363,594	390,688	7%

Source: PBS

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

***Question No. 345 Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 9/01/2020 at 11:50 AM) QID: 36728

Will the Minister for Commerce and Textile be pleased to state:

- (a) *the increase registered in the exports of the country during the fiscal year 2019-2020 indicating also the rate of the same; and*
- (b) *the increase or decrease registered in the trade deficit of the country during the said fiscal year indicating also the rate of the same?*

Minister for Commerce and Textile: (a)

Exports trend in 2019-20

The trend of exports during the current fiscal year has been promising as exports, which were US\$ 11.18 billion in July-December 2018, increased to US\$ 11.53 during July-December 2019, showing a positive growth of 3.15 %. Moreover, imports have shown a substantial decrease of 16.90% during the July-December 2019 over the corresponding period of the previous year with positive impact on the country's balance of trade:

Value: US\$ Million			
Series	JULY- DECEMBER 2019-20	JULY- DECEMBER 2018-19	% CHANGE
Exports	11,533	11,181	3.15
Imports	23,229	27,952	-16.90
Balance of Trade	-11,696	-16,771	-30.26

Source: PBS

(b) **Trade Deficit**

Given the prudent policies of the Government, there was substantial decline of 30.26% in the trade deficit from US\$ 16.771 Billion in July-December 2018-19 to US\$ 11.696 Billion in July-December 2019-20.

*Question No. 346 **Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar:**

(Notice Received on 17/01/2020 at 12:00 PM) QID: 36733

Will the Minister Incharge of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division be pleased to state names, parentage, designations and name of departments of the Government officers and officials who were receiving BISP stipends in the name of their relatives and have been excluded from the BISP roll since December, 2019 with province wise break up indicating also the names of their relatives, their mutual relationship and the amount of stipend released to them with date wise break up?

Reply not Received.

*Question No. 347 **Senator Fida Muhammad:**

(Notice Received on 17/01/2020 at 1:30 PM) QID: 36734

Will the Minister Incharge of the Establishment Division be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Establishment Division appoint/post officers under Section 10 one step above their actual grade / scale, if so, the criteria laid down for the same; and*
- (b) the rules prescribed for appointment of officers on current charge basis against posts higher than the actual grades in a service group/cadre?*

Minister Incharge of the Establishment Division: (a) Establishment Division appoints/posts the officers to equivalent/higher grade under Section 10 of the Civil Servants Act, 1973 which provides that "every civil servant shall be liable to serve anywhere within or outside Pakistan, in any equivalent or higher post under the Federal Government or any Provincial Government or local authority, or a corporation or body set up or established by any such government. The officers are posted on higher grade on need basis to overcome the shortage and to meet the requirements of organizations.

Posting against a higher grade does not always involve grant of pay of the higher post. The instructions issued for grant of higher pay by Finance Division are at **Annex-I**.

(b) The administrative instruction regarding grant of current charge against higher post are contained in the Establishment Division's O.M. 1/21/76/AR-I/R-II, dated 18-06-1980 as amended from time to time (**Annex-II**).

According to the above said instructions where a vacancy in a higher posts occurs for less than two months and it is considered impossible for good reasons to make arrangements for day to day work of that post to be carried on otherwise, the current charge of the duties of that post may be given temporarily, with the approval of the authority competent to make appointments to the said post, to the senior-most officer in the cadre present at the place or in the organization where the vacancy may have occurred if he is otherwise fit and eligible for promotion.

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

***Question No. 349 Senator Kalsoom Perveen:**

(Notice Received on 22/01/2020 at 10:55 AM) QID: 36748

Will the Minister Incharge of the Establishment Division be pleased to refer to Senate starred question No. 186 replied on in the House on 21st January, 2020 and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 117 posts of Section Officers of promotional quota are lying vacant in the Office Management Group (OMG), if so, the time by which a requisition will be sent to the Federal Public Service Commission for conducting the Section Officer Promotion Examination (SOPE) to fill those posts; and*
- (b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to conduct the Section Officer Promotion Examination on annual basis on the analogy of CSS examination, if not, the reasons thereof?*

Minister Incharge of the Establishment Division: (a) As per the notification No. F. 6/1/2019-E-VII dated 31-12-2019, 19 Section Officers (Probationer/ BS-17) with the approval of Competent Authority as per the recommendations of Federal Public Service Commission are appointed as Section Officer (Probationer/ BS-17) *w.e.f* the date of joining training in Secretariat Training Institute, Islamabad i.e. 06-01-2020. As per the Establishment Division's O.M. No.1/2/75-ARC dated 27-01-1975, the vacant posts of Section Officers (BS-17) appointed through Section Officer Promotional Examination (SOPE) as on 29-01-2020 is calculated as per 1/3rd of Promotional quota which is **98**.

Requisition to FPSC for conducting next SOPE will be forwarded during February, 2020.

(b) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Federal Government for conducting Section Officers Promotional Examination on annual basis on analogy of CSS. CSS being a competitive exam conducted by FPSC is arranged on annual basis however, Section Officer Promotional Examination as per SOPE rules 2015 is conducted by FPSC for selection of Section Officers against the number of vacancies as

advertised by the Commission, as and when such requisition is received from the Establishment Division. Therefore SOPE is not conducted on annual basis.

ISLAMABAD,
the 6th February, 2020

DR. AKHTAR NAZIR,
Secretary.