

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Friday, the 24th July, 2020

***Question No. 35 Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hassan:**
(Notice Received on 4/03/2020 at 8:10 PM) QID: 36917

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that payment of land, acquired for construction of an interchange at M-II, Kot Sarwar, Hafizabad, has not been made to the legitimate owners despite the lapse of several years, if so, the reasons thereof and the time by which the same will be made to them?

Mr. Murad Saeed: Necessary facts of payment of land acquired for construction of an interchange at M-2 kot sarwar, Hafizaad are as under:—

- The process for acquisition of land for the construction of Kot Sarwar Interchange started in the year 2004 and necessary notification u/s 4 of the Act, 1894 has been got published on 11/10/2004.
- The District Price Assessment Committee (DPAC), Hafizabad has recommended and communicated the prices of land on 20/10/2016.
- NHA has objected the instant recommendations made by the DPAC dated 20/10/2016 which is still unattended.
- A joint demarcation has already been carried out on 14/02/2019 by the Acquiring Agency and the District Revenue Authorities.

- The position of LAC, M-2 was remained vacant since long. Currently, the Board of Revenue, Punjab, Lahore has posted the LAC on M-2 dated 01/08/2019 and who is pursuing the matter.
- NHA is vigorously pursuing the matter regarding completion of land acquisition proceedings with the LAC, on war footing basis.

***Question No. 36 Senator Samina Saeed:**

(Notice Received on 5/03/2020 at 4:00 PM) QID: 36996

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has established any laboratory in Islamabad to test the quality of life saving drugs, if so, the details thereof; and*
- the number of drug samples tested in the said laboratory during the last five years indicating also the number of those found sub-standard out of the same?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Yes. Federal Drug Surveillance Laboratory (FDSL) is established in Islamabad but is non-functional because the tailor-made building for the laboratory was occupied by Federal Medical & Dental College in November, 2011. Only two floors (ground and fourth floor) of the building have been vacated by FM&DC, while second and third floors of the building are still occupied by them. Due to aforesaid reasons, the physical and financial targets of the PC-I could not be achieved and Project Completion Report (PC-IV) could not be finalized. Furthermore, Project Management Wing, Ministry of Planning and Reforms has been requested to formally close the project, so that it could be made operational by DRAP from its own resources at the earliest in the larger interest of public.

Moreover, National Control Laboratory for Biologicals (NCLB), via S.R.O. 491(I)/2000 dated 18-07-2000 was established for testing and lot release of Biological drugs. No human biological drug is allowed sale and use until a "Lot Release Certificate" from the Federal Government

Analyst of the National Control Laboratory for Biologicals, Islamabad has been obtained and this applies to all vaccines / biological products imported or locally manufactured.

(b) Since the Federal drug Surveillance Laboratory (FDSL) has not started operation, so data is not available whereas Lot release data of National Control Laboratory for Biologicals (NCLB) is available online at weblink: http://www.nclbmoh.gov.pk/lot_release_data.htm.

***Question No. 37 Senator Seemee Ezdi:**

(Notice Received on 6/03/2020 at 1:30 PM) QID: 36928

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the details of foreign visits undertaken by the Prime Ministers of Pakistan during the period from 2008 to 2012 and 2013 to 2018 indicating also the number of persons accompanied the Prime Minister and expenditure incurred in each case?

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi: The details are Annexed.

***Question No. 38 Senator Sassui Palijo:**

(Notice Received on 9/03/2020 at 11:55 AM) QID: 36941

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) *the number of persons working on the gazetted and non-gazetted posts prescribed against the quota of Sindh in the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, its attached departments, subordinate offices and organization/bodies; and*
- (b) *the number of gazetted and non-gazetted posts prescribed against the quota of Sindh in the said Ministry, departments, offices and organizations/bodies lying vacant at present?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) & (b) Number of persons filled and vacant on the gazetted and non-gazetted posts prescribed against the quota of Sindh in the Ministry of NHR&C and its attached departments, subordinate offices and organizations/bodies are as under:

Ministry of NHR&C

a) Filled:	=	21
Gazetted	=	05
Non gazetted	=	16

b) Vacant:	=	08
Gazetted	=	01
Non gazetted	=	07

District Health Office

a) Filled:	=	01
Gazetted	=	01
Non gazetted	=	0

b) Vacant:	=	07
Gazetted	=	01
Non gazetted	=	06

Central Health Establishment (CHE)

a) Filled:	=	385
Gazetted =		21
Non gazetted =		364
b) Vacant:	=	0
Gazetted =		0
Non gazetted =		0

Pakistan Health Research Council, Islamabad

a) Filled:	=	25
Gazetted =		09
Non Gazetted =		16
b) Vacant:	=	17
Gazetted =		08
Non-Gazetted =		09

Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS)

a) Filled:	=	398
Gazetted =		272
Non gazetted =		126
b) Vacant:	=	36
Gazetted =		25
Non gazetted =		11

Federal Government Poly Clinic Hospital (FGPC)

a) Filled:	=	146
Gazetted =		71
Non gazetted =		75
b) Vacant:	=	37
Gazetted =		37
Non gazetted =		0

National Institute of Rehabilitation & Medicine (NIRM)

a) Filled:	=	27
Gazetted =		18
Non gazetted =		09
b) Vacant:	=	02
Gazetted =		01
Non gazetted =		01

Federal Government Hospital (FGH)

a) Filled:	=	42
Gazetted =		30
Non gazetted =		12
b) Vacant:	=	0
Gazetted =		0
Non gazetted =		0

Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP)

a) Filled:	=	32
Gazetted =		28
Non gazetted =		04
b) Vacant:	=	11
Gazetted =		03
Non gazetted =		08

National Institute of Health (NIH)

a) Filled:	=	27
Gazetted =		07
Non gazetted =		20
b) Vacant:	=	15
Gazetted =		04
Non gazetted =		11

Directorate of Malaria Control

a) Filled:	=	04
Gazetted =		01
Non gazetted =		03
b) Vacant:	=	01
Gazetted =		0
Non gazetted =		01

Health Services Academy

a) Filled:	=	03
Gazetted	=	01
Non Gazetted	=	02
b) Vacant:	=	01
Gazetted	=	01
Non Gazetted	=	0

National Health Emergency Preparedness Response Network (NHEPRN)

a) Filled:	=	02
Gazetted	=	0
Non-Gazetted	=	02
b) Vacant:		
Presently, 7 gazetted and 11 non-gazetted posts are lying vacant in NHEPRN. Out of them the Sindh quota will strictly be observed as and when recruitment is made.		

Islamabad Blood Transfusion Authority (IBTA)

Recruitment rules of the institute are still not finalized so recruitment has not been made. Recently IBTA has been merged with Islamabad Health Regulatory Authority. Out of 15 positions created for institute, one post of BS-17 is allocated for Sindh (R) quota which shall be filled as and when recruitment is made.

Pharmacy Council of Pakistan

There are total 05 sanctioned posts in this department of different grades, therefore, on percentage basis, there is no quota of Sindh province existing at present.

Pakistan Nursing Council, Islamabad

There are total sanctioned 29 posts, out of which 11 are filled. None, of them is filled on Sindh quota. However, After notification of recruitment rules, the quota of Sindh shall be filled strictly as per rules. At present position as under:-

National Council for Homoeopathy (NCH)

- a) Filled:
- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| Gazetted | = | 0 |
| Non-gazette | = | 0 |
- b) Vacant:
- | | | |
|-------------|---|----|
| Gazetted | = | 0 |
| Non-gazette | = | 01 |

National Council for TIB (NCT)

- a) Filled:
- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| Gazetted | = | 0 |
| Non-gazette | = | 0 |
- b) Vacant:
- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| Gazetted | = | 0 |
| Non-gazette | = | 0 |

Human Organs Transplant Authority (HOTA)

- a) Filled:
- | | |
|----------------|----|
| Gazetted = | 0 |
| Non gazetted = | 02 |
- b) Vacant:
- | | |
|----------------|----|
| Gazetted = | 0 |
| Non gazetted = | 05 |

Federal Medical & Dental College (FM&DC)

- a) Filled:
- | | |
|----------------|----|
| Gazetted = | 03 |
| Non gazetted = | 02 |
- b) Vacant:
- | | |
|----------------|----|
| Gazetted = | 05 |
| Non gazetted = | 01 |

National Trust for Population Welfare (NTPOW)

There are no gazetted or non-gazetted positions in NATPOW,
However total 20 employees, 4 belonging to Sindh province

National Research Institute of Fertility Care (NRIFC)

a) Filled:	=	33
Gazetted =		05
Non gazetted =		28
b) Vacant:		
Gazetted	=	
Non gazetted	=	

Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU)

Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University is newly established through an Act of Parliament in year 2013. There are two gazetted and one non-gazatted officials are working in this University on Sindh quota. The university is still in its hiring phase and hired official on open merit. However, in future recruitments priority would be given to Sindh quota as per prescribed Rules.

Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC)

a) Filled:	=	25
Gazetted	=	04
Non-Gazetted	=	21

Furthermore, the provincial quota system will be observed by the council while appointments in future as prescribed by the Federal Government.

It is pertinent to mention here that instructions are issued by the Government from time to time for observance of provincial/regional quota. The posts falling within the quota of Sindh will be filled in strictly as per prescribed rules as and when recruitment is made.

***Question No. 39 Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh:**
(Notice Received on 9/03/2020 at 2:40 PM) QID: 36946

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government has dissolved the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) without taking the stakeholders into confidence, if so, the reasons thereof?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: At present, the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council is fully functional headed by the ad-hoc Council notified *vide* No. F1-9/2019-PMDC/NHSR&C dated 22nd April 2020 (Annex-A) as per order of Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) dated 17-04-2020 in Criminal Misc. Application No. 459 of 2020, Criminal Petition No. 350 of 2020, CrI. M. A. No. 460 & 468 of 2020 against the Order dated 07-04-2020 passed by the Islamabad High Court, Islamabad in Criminal Original No. 70 W/2020 in Writ Petition No. 3800 (Annex-B).

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

***Question No. 40 Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh:**
(Notice Received on 9/03/2020 at 2:40 PM) QID: 36948

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of medicines could not be reduced despite the steps taken by the present Government, if so, the reasons thereof;*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that some medicines needed for treatment of fatal diseases like cancer are not being manufacture in the country and are imported from foreign countries like including India, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) the steps taken by the present Government to provide medicines to the general public on cheaper rates?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) It is not a fact that the prices of medicines have not been reduced despite the steps taken by the present Government. A consultative process was made with respect to price reduction of drugs in line with directions of the Prime Minister with relevant stakeholders including the Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Pharmaceutical Companies.

In the light of above referred consultations, prices of 78 drugs were reduced *vide* SRO. 577 (I)/2019 dated 24th May, 2019 after approval by Federal Government.

Moreover, Maximum Retail Prices of 89 generic drugs have been reduced to maintain minimum difference of 15% with their respective originator brands *vide* S.R.O. 09 (I)/2020 dated 1st January, 2020.

(b) Three manufacturers have got permission to manufacture anti-cancer drugs in Pakistan *i.e.* M/s Pharmedic, M/s Pharmasole and M/s Rotexpharma (**Annex-A**) M/s Pharmasole and M/s Pharmedic has started manufacturing of drugs and M/s Rotexpharma is in phase of product development and will be commercially manufactured soon. However, detail of anticancer imported from India is annexed at **Annex-B**.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Federal Government in order to provide medicines to the public on cheaper rates:

I. Regulation imposed:

Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, with the approval of Federal Cabinet notified a Drug Pricing Policy-2018 Which provides a transparent mechanism for fixation, decrease & increase in maximum retail prices of drugs.

II. Reduction in MRPs of drugs:

Reduced Maximum Retail Prices of 395 drugs *vide* S.R.O. 1610 (I)/2018 dated 31st December, 2018 and 78 drugs *vide* S.R.O. 577(I)/2019 dated 24th May, 2019 have been notified after approval by the Federal Government.

Maximum retail prices of 89 originator brands have been reduced *vide* S.R.O 1610(I)/2018 dated 31st December, 2018. Further, Maximum Retail Prices of 89 generic drugs have been reduced to maintain minimum difference of 15% with their respective Originator Brands *vide* S.R.O. 09(I)/2020 dated 1st January, 2020.

III. Public notice in newspaper:

DRAP has published public notice of reduced prices of 469 drugs in national newspapers for information of public. Toll free number and email address has been given in public notice to lodge complaints if any pharmaceutical company or retailer sells any drug at price more than notified prices.

IV. Encouragement of production of generics

Manufacturing of generic drugs is being encouraged and facilitated, as by and large the generic products are cheaper than the branded drugs. Priority and all facilitations are being given to the manufacturers of generic drugs and to make their investment fruitful in the shortest possible time. For that purpose, meetings of the various boards are being held frequently.

Priority is also being given to grant registration to new licenses/new sections to increase production of drugs which increase competition in the market which in turn results in the reduction of prices of drugs.

V. Coordination with provincial health authorities to monitor prices in the market

Under Section 6 of the Drugs Act, 1976, the storage and sale of drugs in the market is regulated by the Provincial Governments, therefore, DRAP has advised the Provincial Health Authorities to take action under the law against the companies which increase prices of drugs more than approved prices.

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

***Question No. 41 Senator Prof. Dr. Mehar Taj Roghani:**
(Notice Received on 10/03/2020 at 2:55 PM) QID: 36955

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Polio virus type 2 (P-2), which was earlier declared as eradicated, has resurfaced in the country, if so, the reasons thereof, indicating also the steps being taken by the Government to control and eradicate the same?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: Out of the 3 Wild Poliovirus (WPV) types, the type-2 & 3 have been eradicated from the world including Pakistan since 1999 and 2012 respectively and currently only one type *i.e.* WPV1 is circulating in

Pakistan and Afghanistan. In the context of the question, it is further clarified that the detection few months ago in Pakistan was that of a circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type-2 (cVDPV-2) and not the Wild Poliovirus type-2 (WPV2) that stands completely eradicated. The VDPV challenge is in fact global and during 2019/20, over 500 cases of cVDPV have so far been reported from around 20 countries including 72 from Pakistan (22 in 2019 and 50 so far in 2020).

The summary of actions / steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to control the current cVDPV-2 transmission and prevent future outbreaks are summarized below:

- i. Following detection of VDPV2, thorough investigations and comprehensive risk analysis was conducted by the multidisciplinary rapid response and surveillance teams in the affected, adjacent & linked areas to determine the reasons and geographical extent of transmission.
- ii. Surveillance has been beefed up in areas of potential risk by establishing environmental surveillance sites and obtaining healthy stool samples from children.
- iii. A dedicated Incident Management Team (IMT) comprising of specialists from all key areas including operations, communication, surveillance, vaccine management and rapid response has been established to coordinate and manage the response activities effectively.
- iv. A combined bOPV-IPV campaign was conducted during Sept/Oct 2019 and Feb. 2020 in a total of 6 districts including 3 districts in KP, 2 in GB & 1 in Punjab, vaccinating around 0.5 million children aged between 4-59 months with IPV.
- v. The mOPV2 vaccine (special vaccine required for the purpose) was arranged from global stocks, and six rounds of mOPV2 campaign (2 each in Nov. / Dec., Jan. and Mar.) have been conducted in different districts of KP, Punjab & GB and in Islamabad during which, around 18.2 million under five children were vaccinated. One round is currently in progress in five districts of the country (20 – 24 Jul.).

- As a result of these high quality campaigns, the intensity of cVDPV2 transmission started declining from March 2020, and the number of cVDPV2 cases decreased from 19 in Jan & 18 in Feb to 7 in Mar, 2 in Apr, 4 in May, and zero so far in Jun/Jul.
 - One round planned for 24 – 27 Mar 2020 in 16 districts of KP was postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and is being rescheduled in Aug. / Sep.
 - Two more extensive rounds of mOPV2 campaign have also been scheduled in Aug. — Sep.
 - Atleast two nationwide vaccination rounds with tOPV are also being planned to be conducted during last quarter of 2020. Around 40 million children will be vaccinated in each of the nationwide rounds.
- vi. Besides facilitating provinces through trained experts/ facilitators from the federal level, the Polio Programme continues to vigorously monitor the situation and is in touch with the Advisory Group to respond to the risks as they emerge.
- vii. The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) is also working with relevant stakeholders to accelerate routine immunization service delivery in the country starting from the districts flagged as high risk.

As the cVDPV is a global challenge, intense efforts are underway to develop a novel oral polio vaccine (nOPV), with minimal risks of mutation. Scientists have found encouraging initial results the novel vaccine is expected to become available soon.

***Question No. 42 Senator Prof. Dr. Mehar Taj Roghani:**
(Notice Received on 10/03/2020 at 2:55 PM) QID: 36956

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names / types of vaccines being produced / manufactured in the country at present; and*

- (b) *whether it is a fact that at times there is shortage of vaccines for diseases like measles, diphtheria, rabies and snake bite in various areas of the country, if so, the reasons thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to ensure regular availability of the same in the country?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad has been producing/manufacturing vaccine and sera for the public sector since 1950s such as Measles, Tetanus Toxoid, Typhoid Cholera, Allergy, Rabies Vaccine, and Anti Snake Venom Serum and Anti Rabies Serum.

(b) The production facilities of NIH are more than 30 years old and their capacities were designed according to the then requirements which do not meet the current country demand due to this shortcoming quite often the shortage of vaccine does happen. **NIH has taken some major steps in order to increase their production capacity to cater such situation and meet country demand in future:**

- A new mega Antisera Project is in the phase of final completion stage and will be operational by July, 2020. On the completion of this project, this institute will be able to meet the country demand of Antisnake Venom Serum (ASVS) and Anti Rabies Serum (ARS). The project also includes the production Anti Tetanus and Anti Diphtheria serum.
- NIH is trying to enhance the production capacity of Rabies Vaccine by utilizing its own resources to increase the production from 150,000 to 300,000 doses and supplied to all over the country.
- Further 200,000 doses of Rabies Vaccine for the next financial year are in progress and hopefully will be started to supply from August, 2020.
- To manage the shortfall of Rabies Vaccine in the country a comprehensive plan has also been initiated for funding to enhance the production upto 600,000 doses.
- NIH has also called letter of interest for private national and international vaccine manufacturers to collaborate with NIH to enhance the production of vaccine to achieve the self sufficiency and reliance of the country.

***Question No. 43 Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh:**

(Notice Received on 10/03/2020 at 3:20 PM) QID: 36961

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of corona virus patients in the country at present; and*
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control the spread of the said virus/disease in the country?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) The total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases as on 16-07-2020 are 257,914 out of this 178,737 have been recovered.

(b) Establishment of National Command and operation center to synergize and articulate unified national effort against COVID-19. The center is one window operation to collate, analyze and process information based on digital input and human intelligence across Pakistan through all provinces, AJ&K, GB & ICT dedicated representatives and centers. Recommendations based on information and data is the processed including health, financing and all matter related to COVID-19 to NCC for real time projections and timely interventions by NCC headed by PM

- The Ministry of NHSR&C has notified a Risk Communication and Community Engagement Task Force with professional communication, public relations and community engagement experts from the government and development sector partners. The Taskforce.
 - coordinates on all communication, health education and public outreach initiatives around the Corona Virus (COVID-19) response led by the Ministry.
 - ensures consistency in all risk communication initiatives from planning, strategy development, content finalization, capacity building, implementation and monitoring of activities in line with the National Action/Response Plan developed for COVID-19. The coordination has helped in increasing community

outreach with appropriate messaging across different networks.

- supports in development of a preparedness plan that guides the work of the Ministry.
- guides the provincial teams in implementation, monitoring and reporting of communication interventions.
- Assists the government in Knowledge management of available data through daily/weekly analysis to enable data driven decision making.
- Development of COVID-19 Health Advisory Platform (<http://covid.gov.pk/>) for Real-time Pakistan and Worldwide COVID-19 statistics and situation to direct information seekers to trusted and reliable sources of knowledge and information about different aspects of the Coronavirus disease outbreak. This platform provides information regarding.
 - Signs and Symptoms
 - Basic Protective Measures
 - Travel advisories
 - Common FAQs on COVID-19
 - National Sources
 - International Sources
 - United Nations
 - Latest News
 - Guidelines/ SOPs (List attached below in ANNEX-A)
- Development of National Guidelines / SOPs for COVID19 effective response on following areas that have been endorsed on official website of Ministry of NHR&C, NIH and HSA after approval from higher authorities.
 - <http://covid.gov.pk/>
 - <http://www.nhsr.gov.pk/>
 - <http://www.nih.org.pk/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>
 - <http://www.hsa.edu.pk/>

- Utilization of Sehat Tahaffuz 1166 as COVID-19 Helpline Centre at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) for COVID-19 basic information and primary symptoms. As part of emergency response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the government has expanded the centre to help people get information on how to stay safe and connect them to a doctor when required.
- Development of Resource Management Systems (RMS), which generate COVID-19 related data on public sector hospital stock, equipment and HR. RMS capturing data of COVID and Non-COVID Hospitals. Current number of Hospitals are 3,567, 1,142 frontline doctors, 19,074 paramedic staff, 204,958 N95 Masks, 4,197 total ventilators, 1,546 ventilators for COVID, 603 ventilators used for COVID, 111,345 total beds capacity 22,729 beds allocated for COVID, 85.70 beds used for COVID in RMS.
- COVID-19 Gov. PK mobile based application (Android & IOS) developed that can download and give information on current statistics, PAK Neghayban, radius alert, COVID tracker self-assessment and awareness messages features.
- Lists of isolation, quarantine, tertiary hospitals and functional testing labs with capacity prepared and displayed /uploaded on different platforms including COVID19 Dashboard.
- Issuance of daily sitreps based on Integrated Disease Information Management System (IDIMS).
- Mapping/Coding of Districts (Corona Affected Cases) for GIS Maps.
- Projections and Modeling of COVID-19 cases in Pakistan to generate projections for cases month wise to plan for appropriate interventions.
- Projections and need assessment of PPEs, lab equipment and medical equipment/supplies. The need assessment is on the basis of case load and number of Human resource allocated in isolation units.

- These needs of health systems are conveyed to NDMA after approval of NCOC for making purchases.
- Data Organization/Synchronization of COVID-19 daily cases with Weather Data Sets for Modeling.
- Contribution in the development of Risk communication systems that include: Facebook messenger Chabot, WhatsApp Chabot (+92-300-. 1111166), providing the latest and updated information on corona virus in Pakistan in multiple languages comprising of Urdu, Punjabi, Pushto, Sindhi, Balochi and Kashmiri. And also providing regular feedback on the issues and content.
- Establishment of a coordination mechanism between M/o NHR&C, NIH, HSA and NITB for website/knowledge management regarding COVID19 response.
- Spread of Knowledge pertaining to the pandemic by websites such as M/o NHR&C, COVID19, NIH, and HAS.
- Contribution in the establishment of Tele- medicine initiatives to provide health care services to the patients via technology both in public and private sector and there are plans to expand this further in coming weeks.
- Regular coordination with all provinces/regions, health partners and other stakeholders regarding corona virus outbreak and providing supply chain management system.
- Launch of “We care” program and training of 10,000 Health care providers on Ventilators and other equipment and also ICU management of patients- trainings for doctors and nurses (5000).
- Training on Stress Alleviation for health care providers working in COVID started under “We Care”.
- Strengthening of health care capacities (oxygenators, equipment distribution to provinces and regions). The detail is attached as Annex-B.

Annexure-A

***Question No. 44 Senator Sassui Palijo:**

(Notice Received on 12/03/2020 at 12:40 PM) QID: 36972

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Foreign Service Agreements (FSAs) signed between Pakistan and foreign countries/employers abroad since 2013 with country wise breakup; and*
- (b) the number of Pakistani workers, sent abroad under those agreements during the said period with country wise breakup?*

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development: (a) According to Rule 21 of Emigration Rules 1979, it is mandatory for every intending emigrant to appear before Protectorate of Emigrant office under Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BE&OE), an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) for registration of Foreign Service Agreement (FSA). The details in Foreign Service Agreement include:-

- Particulars of emigrant i.e. Name, CNIC Number, Passport Number, Address, Date of Birth etc.
- Nature of Contract, Job Title, Salary, duration of contract, accommodation, food and other relevant details.
- Acknowledgment from OEP on behalf of employer that the emigrant has been provided employment as per mentioned details in FSA and from emigrant that he is agreed on the employment offered by the OEP.

(b) Since 2013 to June 2020, more than 4.8 million emigrants have been registered with Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BE&OE) through its regional Protectorate of Emigrants offices. The Country-wise detail of emigrants is attached at **Annex-A**. Moreover, since 2013 Pakistan signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on manpower export with countries such as UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Japan and

South Korea. The emigration statistics from 2013 to 2020 (till June) are mentioned below:-

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
UAE	273,234	350,522	326,986	295,647	275,436	208,635	211,216	49,915	1,991,591
Oman	47,794	39,793	47,788	45,085	42,362	27,202	28,391	6,944	285,359
Bahrain	9,600	9,226	9,029	8,226	7,919	5,745	8,189	3,876	61,810
South Korea (OEC+BEOE)	1,162	730	713	619	616	791	518	30	5,179
Japan	44	69	82	102	153	253	391	147	1,246
Total	331,834	400,340	384,598	349,679	326,486	242,631	248,705	60,912	2,345,185

Annex-A

*Question No. 45 **Senator Sassui Palijo:**

(Notice Received on 12/03/2020 at 12:40 PM) QID: 36973

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state the number of persons / workers sent abroad for employment during the year 2019 with province wise and profession wise break up indicating also the names of countries to which they were sent?

Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development: During the year 2019, there were 625,203 emigrant workers, who were registered by the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development. The province wise profession wise and country wise details are at **Annexures A, B and C** respectively.

Annex-A

Annex-B

Annex-C

***Question No. 46 Senator Sirajul Haq:**

(Notice Received on 19/03/2020 at 10:00 AM) QID: 37013

Will the Minister for Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and culture be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Government has decided to establish Seerat Chairs in nine Universities of the country to carry out research on various aspects of life of the Holy Prophet (SAW), if so, the names of Universities where the same have been established so far and the details of research to be carried out and that which has been carried out by each of them; and*
- (b) *the time by which the said Chairs will be established in the remaining Universities?*

Mr. Shafqat Mahmood: (a) Yes, 09 Seerat Chairs will be established by the Government of Pakistan through HEC in different universities of the country under the Project titled “Establishment of Seerat Chairs in Public Sector Universities” which was approved by CDWP in its meeting held on October 3rd, 2014.

However, only following three Seerat Chairs have been established so far:

- i. **Gender Studies** in University of Punjab, Lahore.
- ii. **Human Rights & Justice** in University of Education, Lahore.
- iii. **Global Peace** in International Islamic University, Islamabad.

The details of research to carried out is attached at **Annex-I**.

(b) The recruitment process has been designed to place competent, vastly experienced and internationally acclaimed Islamic scholars on Seerat Chairs. In this regard, three recruitment processes have been completed based on open advertisement, and competitive process. In

first recruitment cycle, only one scholar vis. Dr. Qibla Ayaz was appointed on the Seerat Chair for Inter-faith and Communal Harmony, which later became vacant due to his appointment as the Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology. During the 2nd attempt, above listed 03 chairs have been selected. While in third cycle, scholars on the following two Chairs were selected, however, the matter is pending on account of stay granted by the court:

- i. **Social Justice and Welfare.**
- ii. **Inter-faith and Communal Harmony**

The remaining four Chairs will be advertised and established by HEC during 2020.

***Question No. 47 Senator Sirajul Haq:**

(Notice Received on 19/03/2020 at 10:00 AM) QID: 37020

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that a project for establishment of Islamabad General Hospital in Tramri, Islamabad was approved in 2016 and an amount of Rs. 100 million was allocated for the same in the fiscal year 2016-17, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that the said hospital was expected to be completed by June, 2019, if so, the present status of the same?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Yes, it is true, Establishment of Islamabad General Hospital at Tarlai was approved by CDWP at total cost of Rs. 2499.993

million and administrative approval was issued on 06-05-2016, Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) approved grant assistance of SR.75,000,000 (Equivalent to Rs. 2,000 million) for this project. Further, in Financial Year 2016-17, Rs. 100.000 million including Rs. 50.000 million FEC was allocated to this project. Following is the detail of the project as desired.

i. Project Details:

1	Date of Approval	02-12-2015/CDWP
2	Approval Cost	Rs.2499.993 (M)
i	F. Aid.	Rs.2000.000 (M)
ii	Pak. Rupees	Rs.499.993 (M)
3	Date of Work awarded to Contractor	04-08-2016
4	Date of start of work	October, 2016
5	Total Exp. up to 30th June, 2019	Rs.62.803 (M)
6	Budget Allocation in 2019-20	Rs.550.000 (M)
i	F. Aid.	Rs.500.000 (M)
ii	Pak. Rupees	Rs.50.000 (M)
7	Release during FY 2019-20	Rs.50.000 (M)
8	Expected Exp. up to 30th June, 2020	Rs.72.803 (M)

ii. Physical Progress: 3%

(b) Yes, it is true, this hospital was expected to be completed by June, 2019, the construction work was started from the boundary wall by the Pak PWD of the said Hospital that started in October 2016, but due to litigation by some local land mafia it was delayed for 2 years being sub-judiced in the court. That was again started and it was to be completed in the current fiscal year 2019-20. As per present status of the project the boundary wall is complete, the approach roads from the Lehtrar road and Park Road are also complete while gates are installed, all work was done through GOP funds of the project amount.

- Recent update is that the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) had arrange a meeting in the month of December 2019 with the SFD follow up mission that visited Pakistan for further progress in the matter, and the Health Department and Pak PWD attended a meeting chaired by the DG Pak PWD. In the meeting the SFD mission informed that they have cancelled the already completed process up-taken previously by the Pak

PWD for hiring of International Consultant and asked the PWD to re-advertise the hiring process. The change is due to certain reservations of the mission's new SFD Chief Engineer. After the new hiring process is completed the mission shall consider offering the grant money for the construction of hospital and also mission emphasized in the same meeting and re-assured its commitment to construct a 200 bedded hospital that shall be extended to 500 beds in the next phase by the KSA.

***Question No. 48 Senator Kalsoom Perveen:**

(Notice Received on 19/03/2020 at 10:40 AM) QID: 37000

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state names of Assistant Directors who have been given additional charge of the posts of Deputy Directors in the National Highway Authority at present?

Mr. Murad Saeed: There are 131 Assistant Directors given Additional Charge of Deputy directors as on **Annex-A**.

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

***Question No. 49 Senator Kalsoom Perveen:**

(Notice Received on 19/03/2020 at 10:40 AM) QID: 37001

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Federal Government at Taftan to curtail the entry / spread of corona virus into Pakistan;*
- (b) the number of testing kits provided to the Government of Balochistan in the wake of spread of the said virus; and*
- (c) the amount released to the provincial Government of Balochistan to combat this virus?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Following steps were taken up by the Federal

Government at Taftan to curtail the entry/spread of Corona Virus in Pakistan:

- (i) Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Training of staff of health staff was conducted by Central Health Establishment(CHE) and National Institute of Health from January-March 2020.
 - (ii) A Medical team was sent in Feb, 2020 for on-spot training of staff at Taftan on SOP's per Health Declaration from Islamabad.
 - (iii) In lieu of Covid-19, Civil Surgeon Quetta was deputed to look-after overall situation in Baluchistan, in addition to his own duties (at Chaman, Quetta Airport and Taftan Border).
 - (iv) Moreover, a Medical team from Karachi airport health Authority was deputed at Taftan Border.
 - (v) PPEs to staff, Health Declaration Forms, Banners & Thermoguns, etc. were provided.
 - (vi) Quarantine facility was established by provincial/ NDMA at Pakistan House Taftan to cope with the pilgrims coming from Iran/ Taftan under emergency. NDMA is building 1 Thousand bedded quarantine hospital at Taftan under the orders of honorable Supreme Court. There are 10 Quarantine facilities in Balochistan.
- (b) NDMA is the lead agency to provide the testing kits to the provinces. However an approximate of 100,000 testing kits have been given to Balochistan government. The total tests conducted till now are 55,000.
- (c) A national Program encompassing 70 Billion Rs. have been allocated for FY 2020-2021 for provinces and ICT, AJK & GB. The Health component is for 25 billion to strengthen Integrated disease Surveillance, laboratories and case management at district and Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals. These funds will be allocated to provinces and federating areas through approval of PC-Is.

***Question No. 50 Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**

(Notice Received on 6/04/2020 at 10:05 AM) QID: 37023

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the amount allocated by the Government to control the spread of corona virus in the country indicating also the heads under which the same is being or will be utilized?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: National Coordination Committee (NCC) on COVID-19, chaired by the Prime Minister, in its meeting held on 26th March, 2020, announced a fiscal stimulus package of Rs.50.00 billion for M/o National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, for implementation of the above-mentioned decisions (**Annex-I**).

The detail of funds utilized out of fiscal stimulus package on various initiatives, in this regard, is given as under:

S#	Initiatives	Funds involved (Rs. In million)
1	Grant of Risk Allowance to healthcare workers performing duties related to COVID-19 in ICT Hospitals/Health Institutes /Entities	Rs.480.556
2	Operationalizing the newly established "Isolation Hospital and Infections Treatment Center (IHITC)" in NIH – procurement of equipment and hiring of human resource.	Rs.900.00
3	Support to provinces and federal territories through NDMA in combating CVOVID-19 pandemic.	Rs.10,000.00
	Total	Rs.11,380.556

Besides above, on the onset of pandemic M/o National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination has also disbursed funds from its regular budget to support NDMA, Central Health Establishment (CHE) and NIH, as detailed below:

Sl	Initiatives	Funds allocated (Rs. In million)
1	Establishment of quarantine facility in Haji Camp, Islamabad	Rs.300.00 (Allocated through Technical Supplementary Grant)
2	Procurement of PPEs and other necessary items	Rs.85.00 (Allocated through Re-appropriation)
	Total	Rs.385.00

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

***Question No. 51 Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**

(Notice Received on 6/04/2020 at 10:05 AM) QID: 37015

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pilgrims diagnosed with corona virus in quarantine center established in Taftan for the pilgrims returning from Iran; and*
- (b) the names of quarantine centers in the country wherein the said pilgrims were sent in, from Taftan quarantine center, with center wise break up?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) As per the information gained from National Institute of Health, the total number of Tests conducted by Mobile lab sent from NIH w.e.f 11th March 2020 to till date from Quarantine center established at Taftan are as under:

COVID-19 Test Conducted 2158
Positive 146

(b) There are total 972 quarantine facilities established in the country. 10 are in Balochistan and 2 in Sindh (list attached). Initially the pilgrims were sent to quarantine centers established at Dera Ghazi Khan, Sukkur, Dera Ismail Khan and Gilgit.

***Question No. 52 Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**

(Notice Received on 6/04/2020 at 10:15 AM) QID: 37014

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the number of polio cases reported in the country during the first 02 months of the year 2020 indicating also the steps being taken by the Government to control the increasing number of polio cases in the country?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: Pakistan reported a total of 35 wild poliovirus cases during first two months of the year (18 in January and 17 in February). The number of Wild Polio Virus (WPV) cases dropped down to 07 in March. 06 in April and 01 so far in May.

The Government of Pakistan is committed to ensure a polio-free future for the coming generations, and has taken all necessary measures & steps to control current situation of Poliovirus in the country. A comprehensive action plan National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for the year 2020 has been devised based on thorough analysis of the 2019 crisis and keeping in view the specific / special requirements to address remaining challenges in each province / area across country. The plan hence includes all ingredients, strategies and interventions required to interrupt Poliovirus transmission in the country.

The reinvigorated efforts under the NEAP 2020 are focused on taking the initiative forward as a shared priority across the political divide and promoting sense of collective responsibility, regaining 'One Team' approach, strengthening delivery of Essential Immunization Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI-EPI Integration), delivering Integrated package of Polio plus services in Super High Risk UCs, contextualizing programme's communication approaches according to specific needs of communities, and optimizing quality of door to door Polio vaccination campaigns through transformations in structure, processes, data & human resource. Moreover, to simultaneously interrupt virus transmission in

shared corridors, stronger coordination with Afghanistan is also being ensured.

The reinvigorated highest level political commitment across Parties & other segments of society and the revitalized efforts by all stakeholders led to the successful nationwide door to door polio vaccination campaigns in December 2019 & February 2020 and special response rounds during January and March 2020. A total of around 40 million children were vaccinated across the country in each of the nationwide rounds and 26 million children in the response campaigns. Community at large was quite receptive and resultantly a significant reduction of missed children was witnessed at the end of these campaigns.

The country programme is thus getting back on track by maintaining a constant and vigilant look at remaining gaps and challenges and undertaking a collective approach to strategically overcome them. The progress however has been halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, as the Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) planned during the months of April and May could not be conducted, as all Polio SIAs and transit vaccinations were stopped in the country since last week of March till 1st June in view of the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and in compliance with ‘ the national guidelines on COVID-19 response including social distancing.

The situation is being regularly reviewed by the Programme, and in view of the heightening risks associated with Poliovirus as well as considering that the COVID-19 pandemic may continue for several months, the Programme is in process to resume the SIA activities and has initiated deliberations with the provinces & other stakeholders in this regard. The plan currently under consideration is to conduct case response rounds in July & August followed by three nationwide rounds between September to December 2020. The plan has been agreed by all Provinces in a meeting of the National Polio Management Team conducted on 19th May. The Ministry will present this plan to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) well in advance for its endorsement to proceed with the resumption and implementation of SIAs.

In order to implement the planned SIAs during COVID-19 pandemic safely and to mitigate all the associated risks, the Ministry will ensure all necessary measures including provision of the PPEs (masks, sanitizers, etc.) to the frontline workers, mobilization of communities,

provision of security and stringent monitoring during vaccination rounds as well as the field operations and vaccination modalities will be adjusted in line with the national COVID guidelines. The top Political and Military leadership has ensured its fullest support to the Programme for resumption of the Polio activities.

The country is thus all set to resume the vaccination activities and regain the momentum. Whereas the additional focus on strengthening health service delivery and other basic services will be a focus as well, ensuring that every child under five years of age in Pakistan receives two drops of the vaccine in routine as well as in every campaign will be the mainstay of our success.

The programme urges every segment of the society to come together as a nation to achieve a Polio free Pakistan for future generations.

***Question No. 53 Senator Sirajul Haq:**

(Notice Received on 7/05/2020 at 12:15 PM) QID: 37012

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the details of foreign assistance received by the Government under the head of covid-19 relief activities with country wise break up indicating also the name of department / authority which received the said assistance and the details of utilization of the same?

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: Details of foreign assistance received by the Government under the head of Covid-19 relief activities with country wise break up are as under:

S.No.	Country	Amount	Received Department	Areas of support
1.	China	USD 4 Million	NDMA	Infectious disease hospital
2.	USA through USAID	USD 2 Million	DoH/ NDMA/PD MA and HSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19: Training of health care providers and procurement of laborator and emergency supplies • Surveillance for Covid-19
3.	Japan	PKR 2.5 Billion	M/o NHR&C	Operationalization of ICT Covid-19 Emergency Plan PC-1 is under process

***Question No. 54 Senator Kalsoom Perveen:**

(Notice Received on 12/06/2020 at 11:30 AM) QID: 37072

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Federal Government in collaboration with Pakistan Red Crescent Society has established Corona Care Hospital at 5th Road, Rawalpindi under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Corona Task Force, if so, the special purpose of its establishment indicating also the special facilities being provided to the corona patients in the hospital;*
- (b) the names and qualifications relevant and related to Covid-19 of the head and other doctors and the names and educational qualification of the administrative staff working in the said hospital; and*
- (c) the amount of funds released by the Government for that hospital so far?*

Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination: (a) Pakistan Red Crescent Society has established Corona Care Hospital at 5th Road, Rawalpindi though its own resources. In additions, all the operations and administration is being carried out by PRCS itself.

It is a corona Care Hospital/Quarantine facility in Rawalpindi to aid Government. In handling influx of Corona patient.

(b) Requested list is attached at **Annex-A**.

(c) PRCS is running the hospital through its own resources and is not in receipt of any funds by the Government.

Annex-A

***Question No. 55 Senator Lt. Gen. (R) Salahuddin Tirmizi:**
(Notice Received on 23/06/2020 at 12:30 PM) QID: 37086

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the categories of foreign diplomatic staff posted in Pakistan who enjoy diplomatic Immunity?

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi: The categories of foreign diplomatic staff posted in Pakistan enjoying diplomatic immunity are according to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961. These include: head of the mission, members of the diplomatic staff (having diplomatic rank), administrative and technical staff, and the service staff. Similarly, as per the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963, the members of the consular posts include consular officers, consular employees (administrative or technical service) and the members of the service staff.

It is mandatory for all members of the resident missions in Pakistan to be in possession of a valid Accreditation Card /ID Card issued by the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The diplomatic immunity is enjoyed by the following categories of diplomats/officials:

Categories of Diplomatic Staff posted at Islamabad

- Ambassadors / High Commissioners
- Charge d' Affaires'
- Deputy Heads of Mission
- Counsellors
- Defense/Naval/Air Attaches

- Diplomatic Secretaries (1st, 2nd 3rd)
- Liaison Officers
- Commercial/Information Attache
- Other Attaches
- Administrative and Technical Staff
- Service Staff

***Question No. 56 Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi:**
(Notice Received on 30/06/2020 at 2:15 PM) QID: 37103

Will the Minister for Communications be please to state:

- (a) *the details of service areas established on Lahore - Abdul Hakeem Motorway (M-3) with locations wise breakup indicating also the names of persons / firms who have been awarded contracts for the same; and*
- (b) *whether the said service areas have been made functional, if so, the details of services being provided to commuters in the same and if not, the reasons thereof?*

Mr. Murad Saeed: (a) Three service areas (North & South Bound) have been constructed on Lahore-Abdul Hakeem Motorway (M-3). The detail is as under;

Sr No	RD/Locations	Awarded to firm	Status
1.	974+275 Muridwala (North & South)	M/s Nawaz Const. Co & AKB JV	Will be completed in August, 2020 and operational in September, 2020
2.	1045+575 Tandlianwala (North & South)	M/s Nawaz Const. Co & AKB JV	Fully operational in all respect
3.	1109+50 Nankana (North & South)	528+035	Tendering in process

(b) The service area at Km 1045+575 is functional. The facilities of Tuck shop, Hotel, Filling Station (Petrol/Diesel) Tyre shop, Ladies & Gents Toilets and Mosque are available for the commuters.

***Question No. 57 Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi:**

(Notice Received on 30/06/2020 at 2:15 PM) QID: 37102

Will the Minister for Communications be please to state:

- (a) *the details of service areas established on Multan-Sukkur Motorway (M-5) with locations wise breakup indicating also the names of persons / firms who have been awarded contracts for the same; and*
- (b) *whether the said service areas have been made functional, if so, the details of services being provided to commuters in the same and if not, the reasons thereof?*

Mr. Murad Saeed: (a) The details of service areas established on Multan-Sukkur Motorway (M-5) location wise breakup indicating the names of contractors is as under;

Sr No	Description	Locations (KMs)	Contractor
1.	Rohri Service Area (North & South Bound)	397+216	M/s MAZ & KBC
2.	Qutab Din Shah Service Area (North & South Bound)	460+425	M/s NLC
3.	Azampur Service Area (North & South Bound)	528+035	M/s MAZ & KBC
4.	Zahirpir Service Area (North & South Bound)	609+910	M/s MAZ & KBC
5.	Uch Sharif Service Area (North & South Bound)	679+700	M/s MAZ & KBC
6.	Multan (Khokhar) Service Area (North & South Bound)	760+200	M/s MAZ & KBC

- (b) The status of service areas is as under;

Sr No	Description	Locations (KMs) ~	Contractor
1.	Rohri Service Area (North & South Bound)	397+216	Not taken over by operator
2.	Qutab Din Shah Service Area (North & South Bound)	460+425	South side taken over North side in process
3.	Azampur Service Area (North & South Bound)	528+035	Operational
4.	Zahirpir Service Area (North & South Bound)	609+910	Operational
5.	Uch Sharif Service Area (North & South Bound)	679+700	Operational
6.	Multan (Khokhar) Service Area (North & South Bound)	760+200	Operational

Services are being provided on the service areas.

***Question No. 58 Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi:**
(Notice Received on 30/06/2020 at 2:15 PM) QID: 37104

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Shorkot Interchange on Faisalabad-Multan Motorway (M-4) has not been made functional since opening of M-4 in September, 2019 and all the commuters are forced to get off the interchange causing inconvenience to them, if so, the reasons thereof indicating also the persons responsible for the same; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that due to non-operationalization of the said interchange a number of accidents has taken place there so far, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Murad Saeed: (a) Shorkot interchange operational since 2nd February 2019. However the vehicles have to exit at Shorkot Interchange due to Segregation of Toll.

Toll on M-4 is collected in two sections separately i.e. from Pindi Bhattian to Shorkot and from Shorkot to Multan through two different

operators, therefore, the toll revenue at Shorkot Interchange/Toll Plaza needs to be segregated.

To resolve this issue NHA has floated a single tender for entire M-4 Section from Faisalabad to Shorkot-Khanewal-Multan (297 Kms) and the same is in the finalization stage. After award to successful bidder the issue will be resolved and vehicles would not have to exit at Shorkot Interchange/ Toll plaza.

(b) As explained earlier, the said interchange is operational, however, traffic is being diverted into loop but not a single accident occurred due to diversion at Shorkot Interchange.

ISLAMABAD,
the 23rd July, 2020

DR. SYED PERVAIZ ABBAS,
Secretary.