

(333rd Session)

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Tuesday, the 7th November, 2023

DEFERRED QUESTIONS

*[Questions Nos. 5 and 14 were deferred on
25th July, 2023 (331st Session)]*

(Def.) *Question No. 5 **Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur:**

(Notice Received on 10/05/2023 at 11:55 PM) QID: 40838

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the details of commercial / trade counselors in Pakistan embassies / missions abroad with embassy / mission wise breakup indicating also the salary, allowance and other fringe benefits admissible to them?

Mr. Gohar Ejaz: Ministry of Commerce has fifty-seven (57) Trade Missions at Pakistan's Trade Missions abroad.

The list of Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) presently posted abroad indicating their stations and requisite information is attached as Annex-I.

Annex-I
LIST OF TRADE OFFICERS POSTED IN PAKISTAN TRADE MISSIONS ABROAD

S #	Place of Posting	Name of the Officers	Designation	Service Group	BPS	Salary in Rs.	Foreign Allowance in US\$	Entertainment Allowance in US\$
1	Afghanistan (Kabul)	Dr. Syed Kausar Ali Zaidi	Miniter (Trade & Investment)	CTG	20	189,440	4,189	1,932
2	Afghanistan (Kandahar)	Vacant	Trade & Investment Counsellor		19	-	-	-
3	Algeria (Algiers)	Mr. M.Qazafi Rind	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	3,247	620
4	Argentina (Buenos Aires)	Mr. Jamil Ahmed Baloch	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PCS	19	151,260	3,138	600
5	Australia (Sydney)	Mr. Muhammad Ashraf	Consul General (Trade & Investment)	CTG	20	189,440	4,310	1,013
6	Dhaka (Bangladesh)	Mr. Zain Aziz	Trade & Investment Attachee	OMG	18	78,180	2,381	303
7	Belgium (Brussels)	Onar Hmaeed	Economic Minister	CTG	21	202,830	4,033	949
8	Brussels (Belgium)	Muhammad Bilal Khan	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	103,740	3,102	593
9	Brazil (Sao Paulo)	Mr. Waqas Alam	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PAS	19	133,140	4,306	823
10	Canada (Toronto)	Mr. Azhar H Merchant	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PCS	19	133,140	3,800	712
11	China (Beijing)	Mr. Ghulam Qadir	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PVT	19	133,140	3,467	662
12	Hong Kong (China)	Mr. Bilal Ahmed Butt	Consul General (Trade & Investment)	PAS	20	177,560	4,189	1,932
13	China (Shanghai)	Mr. Hussain Haider	Consul General (Trade & Investment)	CTG	20	177,560	3,756	883
14	China (Guangzhou)	Mr. Muhammad Irfan	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	3,467	662
15	Egypt (Cairo)	Mr. Ali Tamkin Butt (TIA Lagos) (Look After Charge)	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	-	-	-
16	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	Mr. Munir Saddiq	Miniter (Trade & Investment)	IRS	20	162,680	3,558	837
17	France (Paris)	Ms. Arooj Mehwish Rizvi	Trade & Investment Counsellor	IRS	19	125,300	3,758	718
18	Germany (Frankfurt)	Mrs. Anma Naeem	Trade & Investment Counsellor	IRS	19	151,260	3,685	704
19	New Delhi	vacant	Miniter (Trade & Investment)	CTG	20	-	-	-

20	Indonesia (Jakarta)	Ms. Fouzia Perveen Ch	Miniter (Trade & Investment)	CTG	20	182,750	3,795	893
21	Iran (Tehran)	Dr. Amir Hussain	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	3,320	635
22	Italy (Rome)	Mr. Khalid Hanif	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	3,758	718
23	Japan (Tokyo)	Mr. Tahir Habib Cheema	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PCS	19	151,260	4,306	823
24	Jordan (Amman)	Mr. Khadim Ali	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	99,480	2,706	517
25	Kazakhstan (Almaty)	Mr. Muhammad Farooque	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	3,320	635
26	Kenya (Nairobi)	Mr. Laiq Daraz	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	3,175	606
27	Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	Vacant	Trade & Investment Counsellor		19	-	-	-
28	Mexico (Mexico City)	Ms. Shabana Aziz	Trade & Investment Counsellor	IRS	19	155,790	3,358	642
29	Morocco (Casablanca)	Mr. Junaid Ahmad Memon	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PCS	19	155,790	3,102	593
30	Netherlands (The Hague)	Mr. Rao Rizwan-ul-Haq	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	3,649	697
31	Nigeria (Lagos)	Mr. Ali Tamkin Butt	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	90,960	3,041	581
32	Poland (Warsaw)	Mr. Muhammad Zahid	Trade & Investment Counsellor	IRS	19	155,790	3,211	613
33	Qatar (Doha)	Ms. Serein Asad	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	90,960	2,682	341
34	Russia (Moscow)	Mr. Muhammad Shaikat Hayat	Miniter (Trade & Investment)	IRS	20	176,060	4,310	1,013
35	Saudi Arabia (Jeddah)	Mr. Abdul Waheed Shah	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PAS	19	119,550	3,138	600
36	Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)	Mr. Azhar Ali Dahar	Miniter (Trade & Investment)	CTG	20	189,440	3,792	1,750
37	Senegal (Dakar)	Mr. M. Shoaib Anwar	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	108,000	2,859	546
38	South Korea (Seoul)	Mr. Imran Razzak	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PCS	19	119,550	3,503	670
39	South Africa (Johannesburg)	Ms. Humaira Israr	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	103,740	3,211	613

40	Spain (Madrid)	Mr. Ahmad Afian	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PCS	19	137,670	3,613	690
41	Sri Lanka (Colombo)	Ms. Assma Kamal	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	103,740	2,798	535
42	Uzbekistan (Tashkent)	Mr. Ata Ullah	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	3,431	655
43	Sweden (Stockholm)	Mr. Ghulam Mustafa	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PCS	19	137,670	3,758	718
44	Switzerland (WTO Pakistan Permanent Mission Geneva)	Mr. Ali Sarfraz Hussain	Ambassador	PAS	21/22	244,130	5,291	2,440
45		Fahad Raza	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	4,379	836
46		Vacant	Trade & Investment Counsellor		19	-	-	-
47	Dushanbe (Tajikistan)	Malik Abdul Majeed	Trade & Investment Attache	PVT	18	62,500	2,408	307
48	Thailand (Bangkok)	Mr. Farukh Sharif	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PCS	19	142,200	3,247	620
49	Turkey (Istanbul)	Mr. Nauman Aslam	Consul General (Trade & Investment)	CTG	20	176,060	4,101	1,890
50	U.A.E (Dubai)	Dr. Adeem Khan	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PCS	19	142,200	3,394	648
51	U.K. (London)	Mr. Shafiq Ahmad Shahzad	Trade & Investment Counsellor	CTG	19	151,260	3,649	649
52	U.K. (Manchester)	Mr. Muhammad Akhtar	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	99,480	3,041	581
53	U.S.A. (Houston)	Ms. Shaistan Bunyad	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	99,480	3,041	587
54	U.S.A. (Los Angeles)	Ms. Qurat ul Ain Fatima	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PAS	19	137,670	3,467	562
55	U.S.A. (New York)	Mr. Talat Gondal	Trade & Investment Counsellor	PAS	19	137,670	3,649	697
56	U.S.A. (Washington DC)	Mr. Azmat Mahmud	Minister (Trade & Investment)	PAS	20	176,060	4,409	2,034
57	Vietnam (Hanoi)	Mr. Ali Qayyum Raja	Trade & Investment Attache	CTG	18	99,480	2,524	482

(Def.) *Question No. 14 **Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**

(Notice Received on 26/05/2023 at 10:54 AM) QID: 41194

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that Pakistan is exporting pink salt to India at very low prices, if so, reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the per annum volume of export of the said item to India indicating also the rate per ton at which exported, its per ton value in international market and the revenue generated there from on annual basis?*

Mr. Gohar Ejaz: (a) & (b) The Federal Government had imposed a ban on export of goods to India on 9th August 2019. Hence, pink salt has not been exported to India since the imposition of the ban.

*Question No. 3 **Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**

(Notice Received on 22/08/2023 at 12:10 PM) QID: 41496

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

- (a) *the number of persons working on daily wages basis in utility stores indicating also the monthly salary being paid to them;*
- (b) *the details of rules/ procedure laid down for transfer of the said employees from one region to another region; and*
- (c) *whether it is a fact that some of those employees working in Karachi region have been transferred to Balochistan in violation of rules, if so, the details thereof indicating also the action being taken against the officers responsible for the same?*

Mr. Gohar Ejaz: (a) Presently, 2973 employees are working in the Utility Stores Corporation on daily wages basis. Wages are being paid to the daily wagers in accordance with the minimum wages Notification as announced by the Government time to time. The wages revised by the Government vide Finance Division Office Memorandum No. 1(2)R-5/2022 dated 14-04-2022 has been implemented by the USC vide its circular order dated 06-10-2022. Copies are attached at **Annex-A and B** respectively. The last Government Notification dated 31-07-2023, copy

attached at **Annex-C**, will be implemented after approval from the USC Board of Directors in due course of time.

(b) As per USC Service Rules, all employees of the Corporation are liable to be transferred to any office or project of the Corporation located anywhere in Pakistan (**Annex-D**).

(c) Yes, it is fact that due to administrative requirements, employees have been transferred on requirement basis in accordance with USC Service Rules. Hence, no violation of rule was made.

Annex-A

Government of Pakistan
Finance Division
(Regulations Wing)

F. No. 1(2)R-5/2022

Islamabad, the 14th April, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: **GRANT OF SPECIAL ALLOWANCE TO THE CIVIL EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The President has been pleased to sanction with effect from 1st April, 2022 and till further orders, a minimum gross salary @ Rs. 25,000/- to all the Civil Employees of the Federal Government as well as the civilians paid from Defence estimates including contingent paid staff and contract employees employed against civil posts in Basic Pay Scales on standard terms and conditions of contract appointment. Those, whose gross salary is less than Rs. 25,000/- shall be allowed the difference as Special allowance.

2. The amount of Special Allowance:
 - i. Will be subject to income Tax;
 - ii. Will be admissible during leave and entire period of LPR except during extra ordinary leave;
 - iii. Will not be treated as part of emoluments for the purpose of calculation of Pension/Gratuity and recovery of House Rent;
 - iv. Will not be admissible to the employees during the tenure of their posting/deputation abroad; and
 - v. Will be admissible to the employees on their repatriation from posting/deputation abroad at the rate and mount which would have been admissible to them had they not been posted abroad.


3. The above Special Allowance shall be accommodated from within the budgetary allocation for the year 2021-22 by the respective Ministries/ Divisions/ Departments and no supplementary grants would be given on this account.

(Muhammad Ishfaq Hussain)
Section Officer (R-5)

ALL MINISTRIES/DIVISIONS/DEPARTMENTS

Copy also forwarded for information to:

1. President's Secretariat (Public), Islamabad.
2. President's Secretariat (Personal), Islamabad.
3. Prime Minister's Secretariat (Internal), Islamabad.
4. Prime Minister's Secretariat (Public), Islamabad.
5. National Assembly Secretariat, Islamabad.
6. Senate Secretariat, Islamabad.
7. Election Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad.
8. Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad.
9. Federal Shariat Court, Islamabad.
10. AGPR, Islamabad/Lahore/Peshawar/Karachi/Quetta.
11. Pakistan Mint, Lahore.
12. Auditor General of Pakistan, Islamabad.
13. Federal Public Service Commission, F-5/1, Agha Khan Road, Islamabad.
14. Capital Development Authority, Islamabad.
15. Cost Accounts Organization, Islamabad.
16. Military Accountant General, Rawalpindi.
17. Central Directorate of National Savings, Islamabad.
18. Chief Accounts Officer, M/o Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.
19. Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, Pakistan Railways, Lahore.
20. All Financial Advisers/Deputy Financial Advisers attached to Ministries/Divisions etc and all officers of Finance Division.
21. Secretariat Training Institute, Islamabad.
22. Federal Tax Ombudsman's Secretariat, Islamabad.
23. DG Post Offices, Islamabad.
24. Office of the Chief Commissioner, Islamabad.
25. Secretary, Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman)'s Secretariat, Islamabad.
26. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Islamabad.
27. All Chief Secretaries/Finance Secretaries of the Government of Punjab/ Sindh/ Khyber Pakhtun Khwa/Baluchistan & Azad State of Jammu & Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan.
28. Directorate General of Inspection & Training, Customs & Central Excise, 8th Floor, New Custom House, Karachi.
29. National Accountability Bureau, Islamabad.
30. Intelligence Bureau, Islamabad.
31. Member (Finance), KRL, P.O.Box.No.1384, Islamabad.
32. Controller General of Accounts, Islamabad.


(Muhammad Shfaq Hussain)
Section Officer (R-5)

Annex-B



Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan (Private) Limited

HEAD OFFICE: Sector F-7/G-7, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad

No. 236-Estt/D.W/1506

Date: 6th October 2022

CIRCULAR ORDER NO. HR&A-11/2022

Subject: - REVISION IN EMOLUMENTS OF DAILY WAGE EMPLOYEES

1. The USC Board of Directors during its 172th meeting held on 29th September 2022, had approved the revision/enhancement of following rates of daily wages employees of USC with effect from 1st April 2022:-

Sr. No.	Educational Qualification	Rates (in Rs. Per day)	
		Existing	Proposed
a.	Under Matric/ Matric	775/-	965/-
b.	FA/ F.Sc/ D.Com & Drivers	890/-	1,025/-
c.	BA / B.Sc / B.Com (14 years of Education)	960/-	1,100/-
d.	MA/MBA / MPA / M.Com / M.Sc (16 years of Education)	1,240/-	1,425/-
e.	M.Phil/ M.S/ MBA/ MPA or equivalent certificate issued by HEC (17.5/ 18 years of Education)	1,650/-	1,895/-
f.	Minimum rate for those working at Head Office, Zonal Offices and Projects where Saturday and Sunday are closed holiday	An additional @ Rs. 175/- per working day to daily wages working in Head Office/ Zonal Office/ Regional Office/ Own Brand, where Saturday is gazetted holiday to meet the criteria as announced by the Government.	

2. Arrears of the revised rates of daily wages shall be paid to the daily wage employees latest by 17th October 2022.

(Syed Haider Raza Bukhari)
General Manager (HR&A)

Distribution:-

1. PS to MD USC Head Office.
2. All Sr. General Managers/ General Managers/Managers, USC Head Office.
3. CFO, USC Head Office.
4. Company Secretary, USC Head Office.
4. All Zonal Manager USC.
5. All Regional Managers/Accounts Officers, USC.

Annex-C

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER
DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES & LABOUR WELFARE
ICT, ISLAMABAD

No. ADLW 8(2018)1/2021-325

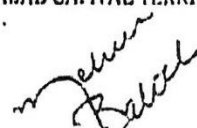
Islamabad 31.07.2021

NOTIFICATION

In exercise of powers conferred upon him under Section-4 of the Minimum Wages Ordinance, 1961 read with Law and Justice Division Notification No.F-17(2)/Pub/80 dated 31-12-1980, issued in pursuance of Article-2 of the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration Order 1980 (P.O. No.18 of 1980) and all other powers enabling him in this behalf, the Chief Commissioner ICT, Islamabad has been pleased to fix the minimum monthly wages of un-skilled workers and the Juvenile Workers in all the industrial/commercial establishment in the I.C.T., Islamabad, w.e.f. 1st July, 2023. The schedule of minimum wages is appended below:-

S.No.	Category of Workers	Minimum rates of wages	
		Per Day (for 8 working hours)	Per Month (for 8 working hours)
1.	Adult Unskilled workers employed in industrial undertakings in ICT, Islamabad	Rs. 1,231/-	Rs. 32,000/-
2.	Juvenile workers, allowed by the law, employed in industrial undertakings in ICT Islamabad	Rs. 1,231/-	Rs. 32,000/-

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER
ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY


(MEHREEN BALOCH) PAS
Director (Industries & Labour Welfare)
ICT, Islamabad

The Manager,
Printing Corporation of Pakistan Press,
Islamabad.

Copy forwarded to:

- The Deputy Commissioner, ICT, Islamabad.
- The Vice Commissioner, Islamabad Employees Social Security Institution (IESSI).
- PS to The Chief Commissioner, ICT, Islamabad.
- All Industries & Commercial Establishments in Islamabad.

UTILITY STORES CORPORATION OF PAKISTAN (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Annex-D

SERVICE RULES CONTENTS

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CHAPTER-IV

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

1. APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE ON MINIMUM OF PAY SCALE:

Appointments in any pay scale shall normally be made at the initial stage of the prescribed time scale. However, in exceptional cases, the competent authority may allow a higher start in the prescribed time scale, subject to a maximum of six increments recommendations of the Managing Director on recommendation of selection committee.

2. PAY ON INITIAL APPOINTMENT:

Pay and allowances from the day of reporting for the duty at the place intimated to the employee shall be admissible only if he reports for duty before noon.

3. PROBATION:

All employee shall be placed on probation for a period of three months except that the probationary period in the case of employees of the rank of junior executive (BPS-14) and above shall be one year. The period of probation may be extended upto a further period of one year at the discretion of the appointing authority, except in case of employee below BPS-14 where the period of probation will not be extended.

4. TERMINATION:

The services of an employee may be terminated without notice and without giving reasons at any time during the period of probation by the appointing authority. The Corporation may terminate the service of a confirmed employee on giving one month's notice or one month's pay in lieu thereof. Notice of one month or pay in lieu thereof shall not be admissible in the case of the employee who is removed from service for misconduct.

5. RESIGNATION:

An employee desiring to leave or to discontinue his service in the Corporation during the period of probation shall be required to give fifteen days notice in writing or surrender pay in lieu of notice period. An employee whose appointment has been confirmed by the appointing authority on completion of probation shall be required to give one month's notice or deposit one month's pay in lieu of Notice period.

6. RETIREMENTS:

For regular employees of the corporation the age of superannuation shall be sixty years. Those employed on contract shall, however, be governed by the terms of their appointment.

7. EARLY RETIREMENT:

Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules or in the terms and conditions of the service of an employee, the Chairman, in the case of employee in BPS-18 and 19, and the Managing Director, in case of all other employees, may direct retirement of an employee at any

15. TRANSFERS:

- a. All employees of the Corporation are liable to be transferred to any office or project of the Corporation located anywhere in Pakistan and the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as per SCHEDULE-II of the Service Rules of the Corporation.
- b. The employees of BPS-7 and below will only be transferred from or posted to Azad Jammu and Kashmir from the province of Punjab, the NWFP and the Federal Capital Territory by the respective Regional Offices controlling the stores located in the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
- c. If an employee fails to comply with the orders of his transfer, he shall be liable to be proceeded against on disciplinary grounds.

16. JOINING TIME:

Joining time will be admissible only upon transfer from one station to another, subject to the maximum limits indicated below:

- | | | |
|----|---|--------|
| a. | Where the distance does not exceed 75 kilometer | 3 days |
| b. | Where the distance exceeds 75 kilometers but does not exceed 250 kilometers | 5 days |
| c. | Where the distance exceeds 250 kilometers | 7 days |

17. ADDITIONAL PAY FOR HOLDING THE CHARGE OF AN EQUIVALENT OR HIGHER POST:

- a. If an employee of the Corporation of BPS-14 to BPS-16 is required to perform the duties of an equivalent or higher post in addition to his own duties, he may be allowed the additional pay which shall be determined as follow:
 - (1) If the vacancy is for a period of one month or less, no additional emoluments shall be admissible.
 - (2) If the vacancy is for a period exceeding one month, and the employee is required to perform the duties of an equivalent or higher post, in addition to his own duties, he may be allowed additional pay at the rate of 20% of his pay, subject to a maximum of Rs. 220/- per month.
 - (3) The dual charge arrangement shall not continue for more than six months.
 - (4) If a vacancy is for more than a month but the person who is asked to look after its duties holds a higher post no additional emoluments will be admissible.

***Question No. 10 Senator Mushtaq Ahmed:**

(Notice Received on 30/08/2023 at 3:20 PM) QID: 41330

Will the Minister for Industry and Production be pleased to state whether it is a fact that farmers are not getting fertilizer on fixed prices in the country which is only available through black marketing sold on higher prices, if so, the reason thereof and action taken / being taken by the Government against those involved in creating artificial shortage of fertilizer?

Mr. Gohar Ejaz: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has reported average monthly prices of Urea and DAP fertilizer for the Kharif Season 2023 as under:

Month	Monthly average Sona Urea price (PKR per 50kg bag)	Monthly average other Urea price (PKR per 50kg bag)	Monthly average DAP price (PKR per 50kg bag)
Apr	2,998	2,916	10,405
May	3,078	3,016	10,152
Jun	3,045	2,954	9,633
Jul	3,291	3,259	9,270
Aug	3,805	3,643	10,689
Sept	3,814	3,696	12,054

Source: SPI (PBS)

In order to track the Urea Fertilizer shipments from the manufacturers to the dealers, a portal has been established with the help of Punjab Information Technology Board since November, 2021. All the Provincial Agricultural Departments have access to the same. The purpose of this portal is to allow the Provincial Agriculture Departments to verify the receipt of the dispatch of fertilizer by the dealer and to ensure that it is sold at the notified price to genuine customer i.e. farmer.

***Question No. 12 Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 4/09/2023 at 10:36 AM) QID: 41576

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) *the volume of export made by the country during the last ten years;*

- (b) *whether it is a fact that the volume of exports has decreased during the last two years, if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (c) *the steps being taken by the Government to increase exports of the country?*

Mr. Gohar Ejaz: (a, b & c)

(i) Exports of Pakistan During Last Ten Years

Exports of Pakistan		
Value in Million U.S.\$		
Years	Exports	Y.o.Y Change %
2010-11	24.81	29%
2011-12	23.62	-5%
2012-13	24.46	4%
2013-14	25.11	3%
2014-15	23.67	-6%
2015-16	20.79	-12%
2016-17	20.42	-2%
2017-18	23.21	14%
2018-19	22.96	-1%
2019-20	21.39	-7%
2020-21	25.30	18%
2021-22	31.80	26%
2022-23	27.73	-13%
<i>Source :- PBS</i>		

It may be noted that the exports have decreased during last one year due to following reasons:

- Contraction of demand in Pakistan's export destinations (China, UK, US & EU).
- Inflationary pressures due to USD appreciation & Ukraine War.
- Import rationing by SBP resulting in disruption in smooth supply of imported inputs for export industry.

- Export supply chain disruptions caused by recent floods.
- Liquidity issues (discontinuation of DLT/ pending claims and delays in sales tax refunds).
- Inadequate allocation of SBP finance schemes against increasing demand and high cost of financing due to interest rate hike.
- Disruption in provision of energy to industry on regionally competitive rates.

(ii) **Steps being taken by the Government to boost the Exports:**

To enhance exports, the government is taking the following policy measures:

- Sector Specific Councils have been constituted under Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2020-25.
- Protocol on SPS signed with China in an effort to enhance exports of cooked beef, cherries and chilies.
- Negotiations on Mutual Recognition Arrangement with China on export of meat and dairy products are ongoing.
- High level Committee has been formed to monitor rice exports to EU for mitigating aflatoxin and MRLs.
- Enhanced market access for Services and E-Commerce is being negotiated under GCC FTA and UAE CEPA.
- Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act has been enacted in March, 2020 and Rules have been notified.
- Pakistan-Uzbekistan Transit Trade Agreement has been operationalized in March 2022 and Pakistan-Uzbekistan PTA

has been operationalized in March 2023 as a part of MoC's efforts to pursue enhanced regional connectivity.

- Preferential Trade Agreement with Azerbaijan is currently under negotiation.
- Pakistan-Tajikistan Transit Trade Agreement has been signed during the visit of the Tajik President to Islamabad on 14th December, 2022.
- Transit Trade Agreement with Kazakhstan is currently under negotiation.
- Transit Trade Agreements with Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan are under process.
- Barter trade mechanism with Iran, Afghanistan, and Russia has been notified.
- Pakistan-Turkey PTA has been operationalized.

***Question No. 13 Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 4/09/2023 at 10:37 AM) QID: 41577

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the losses suffered by the Pakistan Steel Mills during the last five years with year wise and head wise break up indicating also the reasons for the same?

Mr. Gohar Ejaz: Production of PSM is at halt since June 2015. During the F.Y 2021-22, PSM earned a profit of **Rs. 7.149 billion** mainly due to unprecedented increase under the head of "Other Income", as a result of revaluation, surplus in "**Investment Property**" recorded for an amount of **Rs. 27.647 billion**.

Position of Profit / (Loss); Gross and after-Tax deduction for the last five financial years is as follows:

(Rs. in million)					
DESCRIPTION	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
	Audited	Restated	Audited	Audited	Restated
REVENUE					
Sales (Net)	3,999	1,596	546	467	539
Other Operating Income	31,491	5,536	1,659	3,222	12,870
Total Income	35,490	7,132	2,205	3,689	13,409
Operational Expenditures					
Cost of Sale	10,057	8,889	6,349	5,716	8,008
Distribution Cost	46	77	132	100	153
Administration expenses	4,156	3,168	2,918	2,076	2,341
Other Operating Expenses	1,475	380	482	1,747	744
Total	15,734	12,514	9,881	9,639	11,246
Finance Cost	14,681	13,131	12,289	10,601	8,046
Share of profit from Associates	9	(2)	2	41	(33)
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,406	25,647	22,168	20,199	19,325
Loss before taxation	5,084	(18,515)	(19,963)	(16,510)	(5,916)
Taxation	2065	(233)	(542)	(40)	(32)
Profit (Loss) after taxation	7,149	(18,748)	(20,505)	(16,550)	(5,948)

Detail Head-wise breakup of expenses is attached at **Annex-A**.

Reason of variance (increase / decrease) in Expenses at **Annex-B**.

ANNEX-A

PAKISTAN STEEL MILLS CORPORATION (PVT.) LIMITED
STARRED SENNATE QUESTION No. 17 MOVED BY SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ
HEAD WISE BREAKUP OF EXPENSES / LOSSES

	2021-22	2020-21 (Revised)	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18 (Revised)
			Amount in Million Rs		
SALES - NET	3,999	1,596	546	467	539
COST OF GOOD SOLD					
Salaries, wages benefits and staff welfare	523	1,523	2,458	3,291	3,600
Service Department Cost (includes Salary/wages, Depreciation, Fuel-power-gas, Store & Spares, others)	2,155	1,798	2,357	2,568	3,071
Fuel, power and gases	964	1,965	891	650	548
Repair and Maintenance	0	2	5	44	1
Stores and spares consumed	1	3	1	2	97
Depreciation	5,879	3,074	280	312	338
Other Manufacturing Expenses	1	66	68	67	5
Work-in-Process					
Opening stock	3,970	4,142	4,167	2,842	2,848
Adjustment in opening stock	-	-	-	-	-
Closing stock	(3,782)	(3,970)	(4,142)	(4,167)	(2,842)
	188	172	25	(1,325)	5
Cost of goods manufactured	9,712	8,603	6,085	5,610	7,664
Opening stock of finished goods	683	916	1,103	1,138	1,335
Closing stock of finished goods	(398)	(683)	(916)	(1,103)	(1,138)
Cost of electricity purchased	69	54	77	71	147
Total (Cost of Goods Sold)	10,056	8,889	6,349	5,716	8,008
Gross Profit / (Loss)	(6,069)	(7,293)	(5,803)	(5,249)	(7,469)
DISTRIBUTION COST					
Salaries, wages, benefits and staff welfare	37	73	116	94	143
Repair & Maintenance	4	0	14	5	3
Travelling, conveyance and entertainment	0	0	0	0	1
Printing, stationery and office supplies	1	0	0	0	0
Others	4	4	2	1	6
	46	77	132	100	153

39 Depots, Water supply, Power Distribution Network, Railway, Jetty, ASGN, Process Autos Repair complex, etc

In 2021, rate dispute with K-Electric resolved, therefore previous years's expenses recorded at revised rate

	2021-22	2020-21 (Restated)	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18 (Restated)
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES					
Salaries, wages, benefits and staff welfare	1,571	1,172	1,533	866	982
Electricity, water and gas	1,804	760	1,163	1,011	1,147
Repairs and maintenance	137	25	93	60	61
Depreciation	317	779	101	111	116
Advertisement and publicity	2	0	1	0	1
Postage, Telegrams and telephones	4	4	4	4	4
Insurance	4	4	5	4	5
Printing, stationery and office supplies	20	1	2	2	1
Travelling, conveyance and entertainment	2	1	5	4	3
Legal and professional charges	20	19	3	8	8
Auditors remuneration	2	2	1	1	1
Rent rates & taxes	0	390	1	0	0
Training	0	-	0	0	0
Others	271	10	6	4	10
	<u>4,156</u>	<u>3,167</u>	<u>2,918</u>	<u>2,076</u>	<u>2,341</u>
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES					
Provision for doubtful receivables	-	32	30	242	0
Slow moving Stores, spares & loose tools	10	9	13	10	7
Others receivables & Machinery -in- Transit	31	32	34	28	21
Preservation cost of COBP	973	-	97	1,159	394
Exchange Loss	462	308	308	308	272
Port Qasim Fixed Charges					50
	<u>1,475</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>1,747</u>	<u>744</u>
FINANCIAL CHARGES / EXPENSES					
	14,631	13,131	12,289	10,601	8,046
Share of profit from Associates	9	(2)	2	41	(33)
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,406	25,646	22,169	20,199	19,325

16 Depots; Zonal offices, Township, Security, Administration & personal, Finance Directorate (10 sections), Law dept., Head office, cadet college, Transport, City building, etc

PAKISTAN STEEL MILLS CORPORATION (PVT.) LIMITED
STARRED SENNATE QUESTION No. 17 MOVED BY SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ
HEAD WISE BREAKUP OF EXPENSES / LOSSES

	2021-22	2020-21 (Restated)	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18 (Restated)	REASON OF VARIANCE
			Amount in Million Rs.			
HEAD OF EXPENSES (CONSOLIDATED)						
Salaries, wages, benefits and staff welfare	2,947	4,517	6,105	6,518	7,558	Remarkable decrease in Salary/wages/benefit is recorded due to huge Retrenchment of 5,282 Employees as per policy in FY
Fuel, power, water and gases	3,110	2,732	2,205	1,771	1,802	In 2021, rate dispute with K-Electric resolved, therefore previous year's expenses recorded at revised rate. Overall rate of Electricity and Gas charges increased by K-Electric & SSGC in 2022
Repair and Maintenance.	149	29	197	208	112	
Stores and spares consumed	17	9	22	21	108	
Depreciation	7,154	3,886	481	495	526	Depreciation charges during 2021 and 2022 increased due to impact of revaluation of Property, Plant & Equipment carried out by M/s. Joseph Lobo
Other Manufacturing Expenses	16	67	69	68	6	
Change in Stock (Work in Process)	188	172	25	(1,325)	5	Negative change in stock in FY 2018-19 is due to revaluation of
Change in stock of Finished Goods	285	233	187	35	197	
Cost of electricity purchased	60	54	77	71	147	
	13,926	11,697	9,368	7,863	10,460	
Miscellaneous Expenses (Insurance, Legal, Travelling, Postage, Auditor's Fee,	332	436	31	29	41	
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES						
Provision for doubtful receivables	-	32	30	242	0	
Slow moving Stores, spares & loose	10	9	13	10	7	
Others receivables & Machinery -in-	31	32	34	28	21	
Preservation cost of COBP	973	-	97	1,159	394	Due to devaluation of Pak-rupee with respect
Exchange Loss	462	308	308	308	272	
Port Qasim Fixed Charges					50	
	1,475	380	482	1,747	744	
FINANCIAL CHARGES						
	14,681	13,131	12,289	10,601	8,046	Financial Charges increasing due to increase in Loan from GOP, therefore increase in Markup on the Bank, EPFT & GOP loans
Share of profit from Associates	9	(2)	2	41	(33)	
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,406	25,646	22,169	20,199	19,325	

*Question No. 17 **Senator Kamran Murtaza:**

(Notice Received on 21/09/2023 at 12:41 PM) QID: 41644

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the details of movable and immovable properties owned directly and indirectly by Pakistan Steel Mills indicating also the market value, purpose and use at present of each of the same?

Mr. Gohar Ejaz:

Position of PSM's Assets/ properties with market value as desired, is summarized below. However, it is to be noted that production / operation activity of PSM is at halt since June 2015 after reduction in gas pressure by M/s. SSGCL. All assets belong to PSM and preserved for utilization after its revival in future.

A-Movable Assets / Properties	Rs. in Million
Furniture & Fixture	232.89
Office Equipment	157.23
Computer & HardWare	277.98
Vehicle / Heavy Machinery	1,547.79
Total	2,215.89
B-Immovable Assets / Properties	
Land	622,600.54
Land (classified under Investment Property)	61,363.36
Buildings (Factory & Non-factory)	50,152.83
Roads Rails & Bridges	2,217.39
Plant & Machinery	115,742.98
Gas & Electric Installation	2,739.74
Water & Sewerage Installation	1,998.50
Total	858,014.24
Grand Total (A+B)	861,129.83

Detail (head-wise breakup) of PSM's properties is attached at Annexure - A

Annexure-A

STATEMENT OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE ASSETS / PROPERTIES AS ON 30-06-2023				
DESCRIPTION	OPENING COST / VALUE (PKR)	COST ACQUIRED 30.06.2023	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	Written Down Value WDV (PKR)
MOVABLE ASSETS:				
Furniture & Fixture	232,585,506	233,499,935	220,575,950	12,924,005
Office Equipment	157,223,062	157,838,202	150,719,993	7,118,209
Computer & Hard Ware	277,980,698	279,119,698	276,652,981	2,466,716
Vehicle & Machinery	1,547,794,452	1,451,124,105	1,070,853,335	380,291,770
Total	2,215,585,658	2,121,581,940	1,718,781,239	402,800,701
IMMOVABLE ASSETS:				
Land	622,699,535,443	622,653,535,443	-	622,653,535,443
Land (Investment Property)	63,363,300,000	63,363,300,000	-	63,363,300,000
Factory Building	47,644,050,956	47,644,050,956	9,955,979,958	37,688,070,999
Non-factory Building	2,508,784,001	2,508,784,001	1,449,103,246	1,059,680,755
Motor Road & Bridges	2,217,387,801	2,217,387,801	963,179,805	1,254,207,996
Plant & Machinery	115,742,980,806	115,742,980,806	28,079,985,140	87,662,995,666
Gas & Electric Installations	2,739,710,139	2,739,710,139	1,908,218,975	831,491,164
Water & Sewage Installations	1,998,495,005	1,998,495,005	1,451,238,954	547,256,051
Total	850,914,244,153	795,504,944,153	43,807,706,078	815,600,538,075
GRAND TOTAL	861,129,829,811	797,626,526,092	45,526,487,317	815,463,338,775

***Question No. 19 Senator Dost Muhammad Khan:**
(Notice Received on 2/10/2023 at 11:26 AM) QID: 41657

Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the details of expenditure incurred on payment of salaries, allowances, utility bills and medical bills of the employees of Pakistan steel Mills during the last three years?

Reply not Received.

***Question No. 20 Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur:**
(Notice Received on 9/10/2023 at 3:16 PM) QID: 38930

Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state whether Pakistan Bureau of Statistics have conducted any latest survey about the statistics of labour force in the country, if so, the number of workers working in agriculture and bricks kilns sectors at present with province wise break up indicating also the number of women and children below the age of 14 years working in those sectors separately?

Reply not Received.

ISLAMABAD,
the 6th November, 2023

MOHAMMAD QASIM SAMAD KHAN,
Secretary.

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“UN-STARRED QUESTIONS AND THEIR REPLIES”**For Tuesday, the 7th November, 2023****Question No. 1 Senator Haji Hidayatullah Khan:**

(Notice Received on 21/08/2023 at 11:41 AM) QID: 41489

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the functions, responsibilities of the Intellectual Property Organization?

Mr. Gohar Ejaz: Section 13 the IPO Act, 2012, defines the powers and functions of the IPO-Pakistan as follows:

- (i) Administer and coordinate all government systems for the protection and strengthening of intellectual property laws, rules and regulations made thereunder;
- (ii) manage or implement measures and standards on any matter related to or connected with Intellectual Property;
- (iii) accredit or certify any person as intellectual property agent;
- (iv) levy such charges or fees for services and facilities provided by the Organization and its constituent offices with the approval of Federal Government;
- (v) carry out such other works or activities as may be deemed by the Organization to be necessary, with a view to making the best use of the assets of the Organization;
- (vi) coordinate, monitor or engage, in conjunction with other authorities, international agencies or organizations, in any study, training or cooperation project related to intellectual property;

- (vii) enter into contracts for the supply of goods or services or materials or for the execution of works as may be necessary for the discharge of any of its duties and functions;
- (viii) control, manage, supervise, direct and coordinate the working of all intellectual property offices established under intellectual property laws and any other office or registry established under intellectual property laws to be notified by the Federal Government and any other registry or office as prescribed;
- (ix) evolve and maintain a system to provide access to public documents and information relating to any intellectual property kept or maintained by the Organization;
- (x) advise the Federal Government on policy relating to intellectual property rights;
- (xi) plan for development and upgradation of the intellectual property infrastructure and capacity in Pakistan;
- (xii) promote education and research in the field of intellectual property;
- (xiii) advise the Federal Government regarding the international negotiations in the area of intellectual property;
- (xiv) engage in human resource development and training of its officers and staff;
- (xv) promote awareness about intellectual property issues in the public and private sector through print and electronic media, etc;
- (xvi) liaise and interact with counterpart Intellectual Property related organizations in other countries for capacity building and exchange of information;
- (xvii) propose and initiate intellectual property rights legislation for the protection of intellectual property rights in Pakistan;

- (xviii) initiate and monitor the enforcement and protection of intellectual property rights through designated law enforcement agencies of the Government, Federal or provincial. And collect related data and information;
- (xix) initiate and conduct inquiries, investigations and proceedings related to offences in the prescribed manner;
- (xx) refer matters and complaints, related to offences under the laws specified in the Schedule, to the concerned law enforcement agencies and authorities as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act;
- (xxi) advise any person legal or natural, on any matters related to intellectual property rights including compliance, enforcement and infringement thereof;
- (xxii) develop working manuals, references, materials and procedures in order to assist in improving the protection of intellectual property rights;
- (xxiii) engage in intellectual property rights advocacy;
- (xxiv) coordinate the implementation of foreign-aided technical assistance projects on intellectual property;
- (xxv) attend foreign funded international forums, conferences, meetings or training programmes etc., with the approval of Federal Government;
- (xxvi) work for ratification of instruments as suited to the best national interest; and
- (xxvii) perform and carry out any such other acts, things or functions relating to intellectual property assigned to it by the Board or the Federal Government.

Question No. 2 Senator Haji Hidayatullah Khan:

(Notice Received on 29/08/2023 at 12:13 PM) QID: 41460

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the details of export of sugar, wheat and cement during the last 2 years?

Mr. Gohar Ejaz: Export of Sugar, Wheat and Cement during last two years i.e. 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 is at Annex-I.

Annex-I**Export of Sugar, Wheat and Cement during last two years**

Items	Unit	Value in Million US\$				
		F.Y, 2021-22		F.Y, 2022-23		% Change Over previous Year
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Value
Sugar	M.T.	0	0.00	215,751	104.52	100.0
Wheat	M.T.	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.0
Cement	M.T.	5,733,397	224.00	4,247,719	189.88	-15.2

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Question No. 4 Senator Haji Hidayatullah Khan:

(Notice Received on 11/09/2023 at 11:54 AM) QID: 41600

Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state the details of items with zero tax and duties exported during the last three years indicating also the amount of foreign exchange earned through the same?

Mr. Gohar Ejaz:

USD Million

Pakistan's Export	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Overall Exports	25,348.61	31,745.20	28,382.14
Exports Subject to Duty	23.71	101.65	74.88
Export with Zero Duty	25,324.91	31,643.56	28,307.26

ISLAMABAD,
the 6th November, 2023

MOHAMMAD QASIM SAMAD KHAN,
Secretary.