

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

### REPORT OF THE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

(Under Rule 159 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012)

I, Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani, Chairman Functional Committee on Government Assurances, have the honour to submit, on behalf of the Committee, this report on the assurance given by Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and coordination in response to a supplementary question to the Starred Question No.33, asked by Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi on 4th November, 2015, regarding completion of recruitment process for the vacant posts in the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee is given as under: -

|      |  |          |
|------|--|----------|
| (1)  | Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani          | Chairman |
| (2)  | Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar ul Haq         | Member   |
| (3)  | Senator Aurangzeb Khan                     | Member   |
| (4)  | Senator Sirajul Haq                        | Member   |
| (5)  | Senator Ms. Nighat Mirza                   | Member   |
| (6)  | Senator Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel | Member   |
| (7)  | Senator Professor Sajid Mir                | Member   |
| (8)  | Senator Hasil Khan Bizenjo                 | Member   |
| (9)  | Senator Ms. Rahila Magsi                   | Member   |
| (10) | Senator Khanzada Khan                      | Member   |
| (11) | Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai                | Member   |
| (12) | Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati           | Member   |

3. The Committee considered the above said assurance in its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2016, at Parliament House, Islamabad, which was attended by the following:-

|    |  |                       |
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| 1. | Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani                                  | Chairman              |
| 2. | Senator Aurangzeb Khan   | Member                |
| 3. | Senator Mrs. Nighat Mirza  | Member                |
| 4. | Senator Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel                         | Member                |
| 5. | Senator Khanzada Khan  | Member                |
| 6. | Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi                       | Mover                 |
| 7. | Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination. | On special invitation |

4. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi, mover of Starred Question No.33, while throwing light on his question under reference said that after passage of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) Bill in 2012, the vacant posts were not filled and inquired about the reasons of delay thereof. The Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination informed the Committee that previously the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) was the part of the M/o NHSRC but later on in 2012 it was established as an autonomous body under the DRAP Act, 2012. She said that the offer letters to the Directors had already been issued, however, the delay for one seat i.e. Additional Director was due to the stay order granted by the court of law. She further said that the process of grade 17 & 18 officers had almost been completed and offer letters would be issued in the next week positively.

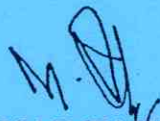
5. The CEO DRAP informed the Committee that as per provisions of the DRAP Act, 2012, the employees of the Drug Control Administration (DCA) were provided an opportunity that whether they want to remain civil servants or would like to join DRAP services. He said that the employees were of the view that the service rules of the DRAP should be formulated first and then they will decide to join civil or DRAP services. He said that the first draft of the service rules was formulated in April, 2015, on which the employees showed some reservations and then draft service rules were reviewed again and the employees were also assured that the amendments would be made as per commitment made to them thereafter a second draft was formulated in September, 2015. He further informed that in June, 2016, some of the employees were joined DRAP services and some chose to remain civil servants.

6. While briefing the criteria of recruitment process, CEO DRAP said that after completion of the service rules the process of advertisement of vacant posts was started and transparency tests were conducted through NTS and top five candidates were called for interview against each post. He said that 50% marks in each section were required for passing, as the Policy Board tightened the criteria. At that juncture, Minister for NHSRC informed the Committee that unfortunately except one or two candidates against each post nobody had passed the NTS test as per prescribed criteria due to which the process was delayed. She said that a request was sent to PM Office to get approval for calling three persons for interview who had not passed the test but lying in the top five, however, the current status was that the four candidates were

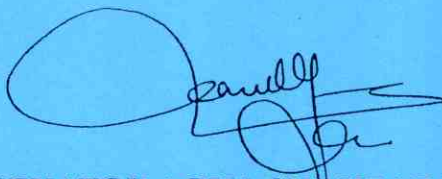
short-listed for interview out of which three failed to provide their degrees, therefore, only a Director (Budget & Accounts) was selected. She further said that another stay order was issued against the posts of grade 18, however, the appointment letters for the posts of grade 17 would be issued immediately.

7. Upon a query raised by the Committee, the Minister for NHSRC informed the Committee that employees of DRAP were claiming their promotions and got stay orders against the said posts. The Committee further inquired whether the employees of DRAP who were claiming the promotions fulfill the requisite qualification/experience. The Minister for NHSRC responded that they were experienced, technical and well skilled but do not fulfilled the requisite qualification/experience for the said posts, however, two directors were promoted from grade 17 to 18 and unfortunately one promotion against grade 18 to 19 was also challenged in the court.

8. The Committee in light of the satisfaction of the mover, Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi on the facts briefed by the Minister for NHSRC disposed of the matter and also gave approval for presentation of its report to the House.



(MUHAMMAD TAHIR KHAN)  
Secretary (Committee)



(SENATOR AGHA SHAHBAZ KHAN DURRANI)  
Chairman (Committee)

Islamabad, the  
17<sup>th</sup> August, 2016