

**SENATE OF PAKISTAN  
HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION**

REPORT NO.3 OF 2017



*House of the Federation*

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, REVENUE,  
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, STATISTICS AND PRIVATIZATION**

**ON**

**" THE MATTER POINTED OUT BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD SALEH SHAH  
IN THE HOUSE ON 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017, RELATING TO CENSUS ISSUE"**

**PRESENTED BY**

**SENATOR SALEEM MANDVIWALLA**

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

### **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, REVENUE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, STATISTICS AND PRIVATIZATION ON THE MATTER POINTED OUT BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD SALEH SHAH IN THE HOUSE ON 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017**

I, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization, have the honour to submit, on behalf of the Committee, this report on the matter pointed out by Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah in the House on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, regarding discrepancies in the forms issued by the Statistics Division for the upcoming population census of the country and devising a proper mechanism for counting of IDPs of FATA who are scattered throughout the country, which was referred to the Committee for consideration and report within thirty days, with the direction that all Senators may be invited in the meeting on special invitation, if they want to attend, and SMS should also be sent to each Senator for the meeting's date and time.

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

(1)	Senator Saleem Mandviwalla	Chairman
(2)	Senator Ilyas Ahmed Bilour	Member
(3)	Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari	Member
(4)	Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Member
(5)	Senator Nasreen Jalil	Member
(6)	Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Member
(7)	Senator Osman Saifullah Khan	Member
(8)	Senator Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
(9)	Senator Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hassani	Member
(10)	Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan	Member
(11)	Senator Saud Majeed	Member
(12)	Senator Mohsin Aziz	Member
(13)	Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization	Ex-Officio Member

M. 2

3. The Committee considered the matter in its meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, at Parliament House, Islamabad, and as per direction of House, SMS for the said meeting was also sent to each Senator, however, the following members attended the meeting, including mover and eight Senators on special invitation:-

1. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla	Chairman
2. Senator Ilyas Ahmed Bilour	Member
3. Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari	Member
4. Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Member
5. Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Member
6. Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah	Mover
7. Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi	Special Invitee
8. Senator Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel	Special Invitee
9. Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar	Special Invitee
10. Senator Saeed Ghani	Special Invitee
11. Senator Sehar Kamran	Special Invitee
12. Senator Farhatullah Babar	Special Invitee
13. Senator Nehal Hashmi	Special Invitee
14. Senator Pervaiz Rasheed	Special Invitee

4. The Chairman Committee briefed the members, movers and special invitees about the referral of the issue by the House to the Committee for consideration and report and invited the mover and the special invitees to share their concerns and views with the Committee.

5. Various queries were raised by the members, mover and special invitees, which were responded by the Chief Statistician, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and representative of NADRA. While deliberating upon the reservations regarding upcoming population census, Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi said that for every country, census played a vital role in better policy formulation and development planning, therefore, before conducting census in Pakistan, the reservations of the political parties of Baluchistan should be addressed in order to devise a proper mechanism for counting of around forty percent people of Baluchistan who had migrated throughout the country due to worst law and order situation of the province and foreign refugees should also be excluded from the population of Pakistan. Moreover, conducting of census exercise in the sensitive areas of Baluchistan in view of law and order threat should also be considered. Senators Sehar Kamran, Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel and Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar suggested that steps should be taken by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) for inclusion of overseas Pakistanis in the upcoming census and exclusion of foreign immigrants from the population of Pakistan and said that a transparent mechanism should be adopted for making constituencies during the census as it would also distress the next general elections in the country.

6. Senators Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar and Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel were of the considered opinion that in order to make census results credible, Pashto and Baluchi speaking officers should not be deployed for census exercise in Baluchistan and the population census should be made fair and

transparent, keeping in view the controversies of the people of Baluchistan. They suggested that equal representation should be given to all the provinces in the Functional Members of PBS, whereas, after completion of census activity, the results of the census should be announced at District level like general election results and a Commission should also be constituted to resolve the issues of Pashtoon and Baloch people residing in Baluchistan.

7. Senators Muhammad Saleh Shah, Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar and Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan Musakhel suggested that the form drafted by the PBS for the collection of data in respect of IDPs of FATA should be circulated all over the country along with the census form. The Chief Statistician, PBS said that a meeting was held with the provincial authorities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in December, 2016, in which Secretary, Home Department and Commissioner Peshawar Division informed the PBS that all IDPs/TDPs were sent back to their respective agencies except North and South Waziristan Agencies who were in process of going back and the government had cancelled their status of IDPs/TDPs from 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016. He further said that the form for collection of data in respect of IDPs of FATA was sent to FATA Secretariat for comments but unfortunately comments were not received from them till yet, moreover neither the said forms were printed nor circulated by the PBS even no training was imparted to the enumerators regarding filling of the said forms. Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah denied the statement quoted by the Chief Statistician, PBS that all IDPs/TDPs were sent back to their respective agencies from 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016.

8. Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Shahi supported the suggestion of Senator Usman Khan Kakar regarding constitution of a Commission and suggestion of Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah regarding circulation of the form for counting of IDPs/TDPs throughout the country. He was of the view that the PBS was not fully prepared, therefore, they were not in a position to conduct a fair and transparent population census in the present circumstances. He suggested that the census should be delayed until and unless all arrangements were completed in all respect by the PBS as well as reservations of the Baluchistan were addressed. He was also of the view that the PBS would solely be held responsible in case of conducting of unfair census.

9. Regarding arrangements made by the NADRA for upcoming census, the representative of NADRA said that a meeting of the Special Committee was held in NADRA Headquarters in which directions were issued that an SMS based facility for verification of CNICs would be extended during the census, by which army personnel who after obtaining CNIC number of head of the household would send an SMS to NADRA headquarters for verification of CNIC. He said upon confirmation from NADRA, person would be declared as Pakistani or non-Pakistani according to the status of his CNIC i.e. genuine or blocked. He said that data of 3,26,000 IDPs was already with NADRA which could also be verified by the SMS based facility

throughout the country. Replying to the query raised by the Committee, he said that there was no mechanism for identification of the people who were non-CNIC holders. At that juncture, Chief Statistician, PBS informed the Committee that data of foreign refugees would be sought from NADRA and would be marked as non-Pakistanis.

10. After detailed deliberations and in view of the views and suggestions given by the members, mover and special invitees, the Committee disposed of the matter and made the following recommendations:-

- (i) **The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) should ensure accurate reflection of IDPs/TDPs belonging to FATA, so that a correct picture emerged regarding their respective agencies/Frontier Regions (FR) during the upcoming population census of the country.**
- (ii) **The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) should ensure to take immediate steps for devising transparent mechanism for the following:-**
  - **Foreign immigrants and overseas Pakistanis should be reflected separately.**
  - **To hold fair and transparent population census in the country.**
- (iii) **The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) should ensure that the SMS based facility provided by NADRA for verification of CNICs, would be availed during the upcoming population census to declare a person as Pakistani or otherwise according to the status of his CNIC.**
- (iv) **NADRA should ensure to take immediate measures to resolve the issue of blocked/invalid CNICs prior the upcoming population census of the country.**

11. The Committee in its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, at Parliament House, Islamabad, gave approval for presentation of this report to the House.



**(MUHAMMAD TAHIR KHAN)**  
**Secretary (Committee)**



**(SENATOR SALEEM MANDVIWALLA)**  
**Chairman (Committee)**

Islamabad, the  
9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017