

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



SIXTEENTH PARLIAMENTARY YEAR 2018-2019

REPORT NO. 01 OF 2019

**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY**

ON

**"STARRED QUESTION NO. 140, ASKED BY SENATOR AGHA SHAHZAIB
DURRANI REFERRED BY THE HOUSE TO THE COMMITTEE IN ITS
SITTING HELD ON 31ST AUGUST, 2018.**

PRESENTED BY:

SENATOR MUSHTAQ AHMED

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON SENATE STARRED QUESTION NO. 140, ASKED BY SENATOR AGHA SHAHZAIB DURRANI IN THE HOUSE ON 31ST AUGUST, 2018

I, Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, Chairman Standing Committee on Science and Technology, have the honor to submit, on behalf of the Committee, this report on Senate Starred Question No. 140, asked by Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani in the House on 31st August, 2018, and referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report.

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

1.	Senator Mushtaq Ahmed	Chairman
2.	Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati	Member
3.	Senator Gul Bashra	Member
4.	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Member
5.	Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
6.	Senator Gianchand	Member
7.	Senator Sassui Palijo	Member
8.	Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
9.	Senator Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti	Member
10.	Senator Kamran Michael	Member
11.	Senator Hilal-ur-Rehman	Member
12.	Minister Incharge for Science and Technology	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee placed the matter on agenda in its meetings on 10th September and 20th December 2018, and 1st and 29th January 2019. The following Members attended these meetings:

1.	Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
2.	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Member
3.	Senator Hilal-ur-Rehman	Member
4.	Senator Gianchand	Member
5.	Senator Sassui Palijo	Member
6.	Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member

However the Mover, Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani, did not attend any of the four meetings.

4. Since conclusive discussion could not be held on the agenda item within 60 days of being referred from the House, extension of 90 working days was solicited from the Chairman Senate in his Chamber.

5. In terms of Standing Order 2.23, the Committee discussed the matter in absence of the Mover in its meetings held on 1st and 29th January 2019. In the former, Director PSQCA briefed the Committee that during last three years PSQCA has issued 27 licenses to carbonated beverage companies while action was taken against four companies on substandard production. He also informed that many beverages companies have been in litigation against PSQCA orders since last many years and courts have granted them stay orders, due to which PSQCA cannot take any further action against them. The Committee expressed dismay at poor performance of government law officers in this regard, and directed that PSQCA's legal team shall appear before the Committee in its next meeting. The Committee also directed PSQCA to submit full details of court cases pending before various courts so that the same, along with concerns of the Committee over such long pendency of court cases, are forwarded to the Chief Justice of Pakistan, drawing his attention that how stay-orders / lingering court cases are paralyzing government bodies. PSQCA was also directed to submit before the Committee its procedure, scope and frequency of monitoring food items including fizzy drinks. Agenda item was deferred to next meeting.

6. In the meeting held on 29th January 2019, the Committee expressed concern on the performance of PSQCA as was evident from the fact that action against only four companies had been taken during the last three years. To this, PSQCA representative submitted that during 2016-18, a total of 190 samples of fizzy drinks were taken from productions units, imported items and open market, out of which eight were found non-conforming. Notices were issued to all eight on nonconformity while stock was seized / de-shelved in four cases. The Committee observed that quantum of sampling is also very low, it should be increased significantly so as to ensure substandard and nonconforming products are stopped before reaching consumers. The Committee was informed that after 18th Amendment provinces have argued that food items are their domain and Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has also established its own standards, many manufacturers have also been asked to conform to PFA standards within the jurisdictions of Punjab province. Being a matter of serious importance, it is currently in Council of Common Interest. The Committee called for filling all and any lacuna in laws, rules, regulations and standards, higher penalties and improved punitive actions in case of violation so as to serve as

deterrent, proactive follow up of court cases and zero tolerance for complacency in monitoring and sampling functions of PSQCA. To review PSQCA's overall performance further, the Committee also decided to visit Karachi in due course.

7. Thereon, the Committee decided to dispose of Starred Question No.140 on above lines, with direction to PSQCA to improve its performance and recommendation that the Minister in-charge will be required to make a statement on the matter before the House under Rule 265-A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate 2012.



(Haris Rehman)
DS / Secretary Committee



(Senator Mushtaq Ahmed)
Chairman Committee

Islamabad
The 8th February 2019