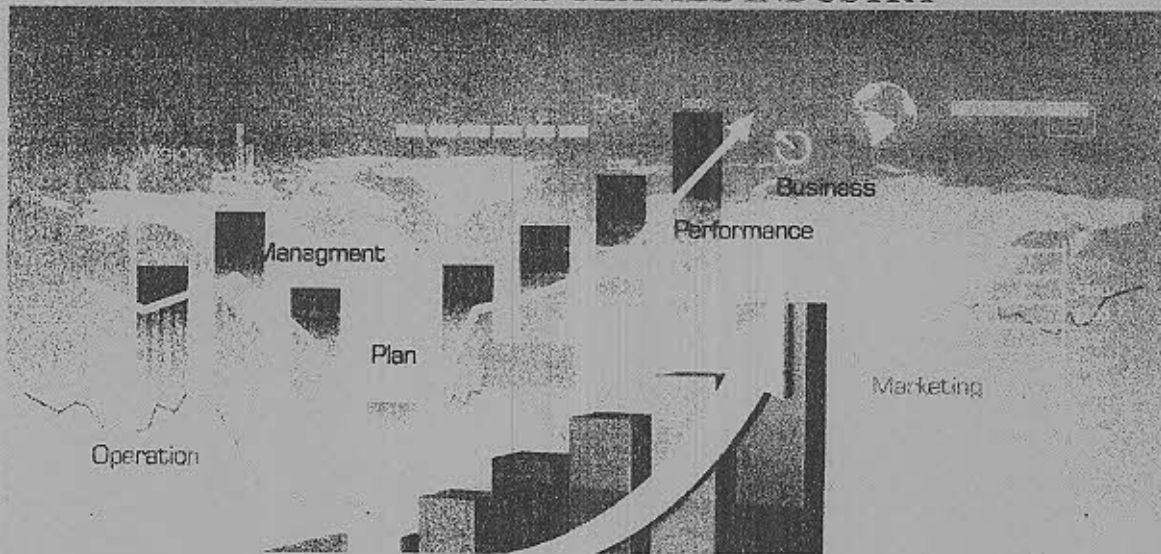


SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY ON DISCUSSION ON THE
STARRED QUESTION NO. 233 ASKED BY SENATOR MIAN
MUHAMMAD ATEEQ SHAIKH REGARDING "THE DETAILS OF
THE UN CONVENTION/TREATIES, WHICH ARE BEING
IMPLEMENTED BY THE TREATY IMPLEMENTATION CELL OF
THE CABINET"**

**PRESENTED BY
SENATOR MIRZA MUHAMMAD AFRIDI
CHAIRMAN**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENTATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY ON STARRED QUESTION NO. 233 ASKED BY SENATOR MIAN MUHAMMAD ATEEQ SHAIKH REGARDING "THE DETAILS OF THE UN CONVENTION/TREATIES, WHICH ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE TREATY IMPLEMENTATION CELL OF THE CABINET" IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 8TH MAY, 2019.

1. Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile Industry have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on **Discussion on the Starred Question no. 233 asked by Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh regarding "the details of the UN convention/treaties, which are being implemented by the Treaty Implementation Cell of the Cabinet"**, in the Senate sitting held on 8th May, 2019.

2. The Honourable Chairman Senate referred the matter to Standing Committee on the Commerce and Textile industry with the direction to report back to the House.

3. The composition of the Committee is as under:

1.	Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Chairman
2.	Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Member
3.	Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
4.	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
5.	Senator Aurangzeb Khan	Member
6.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
7.	Senator Ghous Mohammad Khan Niazi	Member
8.	Senator Islammudin Shaikh	Member
9.	Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak	Member
10.	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Member
11.	Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan	Member
12.	Minister for Commerce	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Committee took up discussion on the matter in its meeting held on 17th June, 2019. However, discussion on the agenda item was deferred till the meeting held on 26th July, 2019. The following members attended the meeting:

I. Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Chairman
II. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Member
III. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
IV. Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak	Member
V. Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
VI. Senator Aurangzeb Khan	Member
VII. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Mover
VIII. Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Mover

5. The Ministry of Commerce has apprised the Committee that Pakistan has ratified all 27 UN conventions related to human rights, labor rights, narcotics control, protection of the environment and good governance, which are mandatory for continuation of GSP plus status. The Secretary Commerce apprised the Committee that all conventions had been ratified by the Federal Government at the national level, which were pre-requirements for the GSP plus. The provinces only need to implement the conventions. Two biennial reports under the requirement of GSP + scheme to the European Commission in 2016 and 2018 have also been submitted, to the satisfaction of the European Commission. The third implementation review is due in January 2020. The Secretary Commerce has assured the Committee that Pakistan would satisfy the European Commission in this regard.

6. The Ministry of Commerce has informed the Committee that after the second biennial review, ten priority action areas were identified by the European Union Monitoring Mission to Pakistan. Furthermore, Pakistan's Trade Officers in the European Union have been directed to sensitize their European Counterparts regarding continuity of the GSP Plus status to Pakistan.

7. The committee has also been informed that following the award of the GSP status to Pakistan, a 51.62% increase in exports of Pakistan to the European Union has been witnessed. Pakistan's exports of garments and hosiery have increased by 92%, whereas exports of home textiles have witnessed an increase of 72%.

8. The Committee is of the opinion that Pakistan's export policy should not be dependent on the GSP plus status. For this purpose, the Government must exploring new venues, achieving product diversification and market diversification to enhance the country's exports, and a Post-BREXIT export plan should be devised by the Ministry. The Committee has been informed that in the scenario of the United Kingdom exiting the European Union, the UK government will enforce unilateral tariff concessions similar to the current GSP Plus scheme immediately, under the recently passed Taxation (Cross Border Trade) Act. Pakistan has been included as an eligible country in section 10 of the Act. In addition, the Ministry of Commerce has stated that the UK Government will accept the Same Certificate of Origin being used under the GSP scheme, to make the transition for Pakistani businessmen as smooth as possible.

7. The matter was disposed off by the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce Textile Industry in its meeting held on 26th July, 2019, and subsequently the following details were submitted to the Committee:

- All reports of the Federal Treaty Implementation Cell and Provincial Treaty Implementation Cells regarding implementation status of the twenty seven conventions ratified by Pakistan and the text of the conventions along with details of the benefit derived by Pakistani businessmen and exporters as a result of the GSP Plus status.
- The post Brexit plan formulated by the Ministry of Commerce and Textile Industry to maintain and /or increase exports.


(Iffat Mustafa)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi)
Chairman Committee