SENATE OF PAKISTAN

REPORT NO.6 OF 2020

House of the Federation

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT

ON

STARRED QUESTION NO, 240 ASKED BY SENATOR MUSHTAQ AHMED "RAGARDING AWARD OF CONTRACT BY PTA FOR MONITORING OF INTERNET TRAFFIC TO A COMPANY WORKING AS PARTNER WITH ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE, WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS"

PRESENTED BY:

SENATOR TALHA MEHMOOD

CHAIRMAN

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT

I, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet have the honour to present the Report of the Committee on Starred Question No.240 asked by Senator Mushataq Ahmed regarding award of contract by PTA for monitoring of internet traffic to a company working as partner with Isralaeli Intelligence, without following the relevant rules and regulations" referred by the House to the Committee on 8th May, 2019 for consideration and report.

2.   The Committee comprises of the following honourable members :--

1.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Chairman
2.	Senator Seemee Ezdi	Member
3.	Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
4.	Senator Muhammad Javeed Abbasi	Member
5.	Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan	Member
6.	Senator Najma Hameed	Member
7.	Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
8.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
9.	Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
10.	Senator Anwar Lal Deen	Member
11.	Senator Mushtaq Ahmed	Member
12.	Senator Samina Saeed	Member
13.	Senator Muzafar Hussain Shah	Member
14.	Minister In-Charge Cabinet Division	Ex-Officio Member

3.   The Committee considered the matter in its meeting held on 5th March, 2020 at the Parliament House, Islamabad. The matter was also discussed in previous meetings. The meeting of the 5th March 2020 was attended by the following members :-
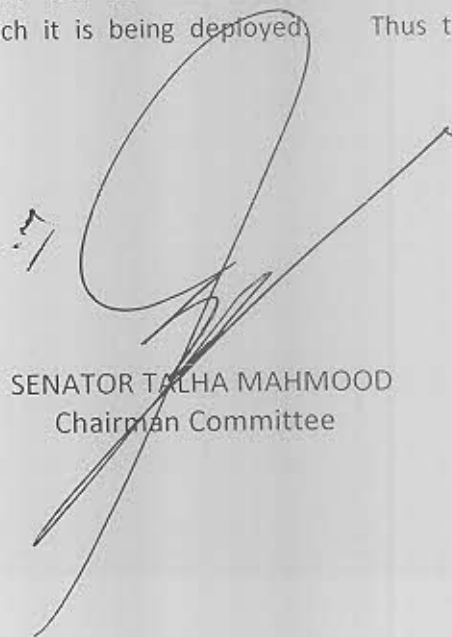
1)	Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Chairman
2)	Senator Mushahid Ullah Khan	Member
3)	Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan	Member/Mover
4)	Senator Najma Hameed	Member
5)	Senator Seemee Ezdi	Member
6)	Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah	Member

4.   Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, the Mover of the starred Question No.240, said that there was a Lack of consultative and fiscal transparency in award of contract. He expressed his concerns about the absence of Personal data protection laws Privacy issues in Pakistan. When the websites were blocked the right to review or appeal in accordance with PECA laws were being observed, the Senator said. He commented that Sandvine equipment is used for piracy all over the world and their scandals had emerged and that the Sandvine has connection and Israeli Intellegence company, NSO. The Chairman PTA responded that Contract is signed with the company, the equipment will be installed and then the security audit will ensue to make that the equipment is only being used only for the purpose it was installed. He said that when the system installed only then it could be ascertained that there are no

He commented that Sandvine equipment is used for piracy all over the world and their scandals had emerged and that it has connection with an Israeli Intelligence company, NSO. The Chairman PTA said that Contract is signed with the company after following proper procedure, the equipment will be installed and then the security audit will ensue to make that the equipment is only being used only for the purpose it was installed. He said that when the system installed only then it could be ascertained that there are no backdoor loopholes in that system that could divert the internet traffic to somewhere else. He said that it was only possible when the system was deployed and test run was done. However, the Chairman PTA apprised the committee that detailed and diligent working was performed by the PTA and relevant security organizations to make sure that Sandive has not connection with Israeli company an assured that once deployed the equipment will be checked and it will be ensured that it is being used only for the purpose for which it is being deployed. Thus the matter was disposed of with the consent of the mover.

ALI NAWAZ
Secretary Committee

SENATOR TALHA MAHMOOD
Chairman Committee