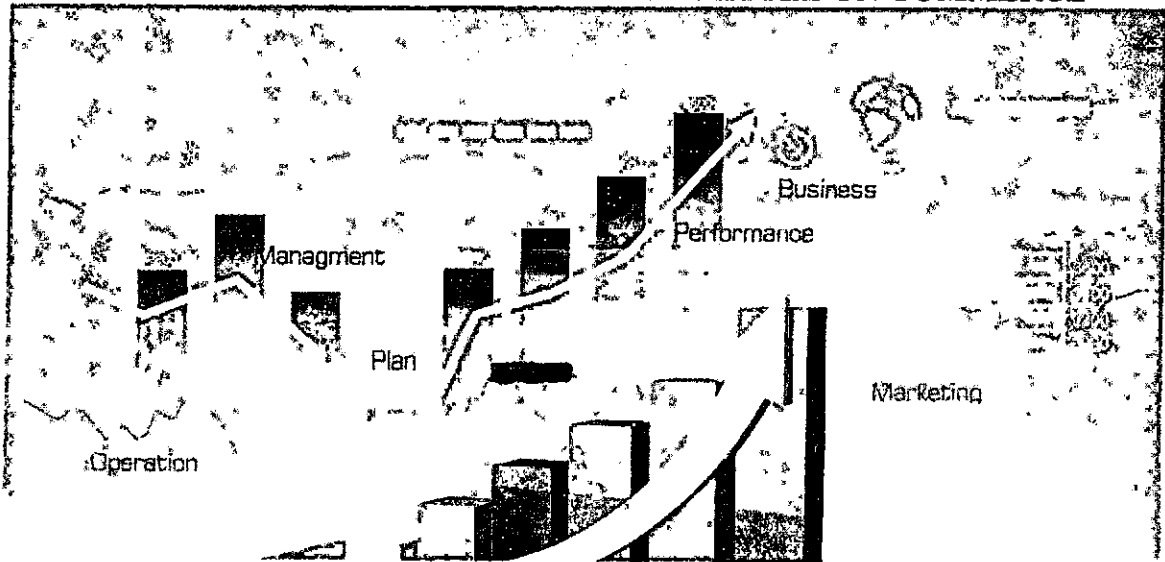


SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE ON THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR NAUMAN WAZIR KHATTAK IN THE SITTING HELD ON 14TH JANUARY, 2020 REGARDING "PERFORMANCE OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELLORS POSTED IN EMBASSIES, ESPECIALLY OTHER THAN THE COMMERCE AND TRADE GROUP" CLUBBED WITH STARRED QUESTION NO.326 ASKED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MAHMOOD IN THE SITTING OF THE SENATE HELD ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2020 REGARDING "THE PROCEDURE LAID DOWN FOR SELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELLORS, COMMERCIAL SECRETARIES AND TRADE MINISTERS FOR POSTING IN PAKISTAN'S MISSION ABROAD; AND THE NAME OF AUTHORITY WHICH ACCORD FINAL APPROVAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND POSTING OF THE SAID OFFICERS".

**PRESENTED BY
SENATOR MIRZA MUHAMMAD AFRIDI
CHAIRMAN**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE ON THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR NAUMAN WAZIR KHATTAK IN THE SITTING HELD ON 14TH JANUARY, 2020 REGARDING "PERFORMANCE OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELLORS POSTED IN EMBASSIES, ESPECIALLY OTHER THAN THE COMMERCE AND TRADE GROUP" CLUBBED WITH STARRED QUESTION NO.326 ASKED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MAHMOOD IN THE SITTING OF THE SENATE HELD ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2020 REGARDING "THE PROCEDURE LAID DOWN FOR SELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELLORS, COMMERCIAL SECRETARIES AND TRADE MINISTERS FOR POSTING IN PAKISTAN'S MISSION ABROAD; AND THE NAME OF AUTHORITY WHICH ACCORD FINAL APPROVAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND POSTING OF THE SAID OFFICERS".

I, 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 the Point Of Public Importance raised by Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak in the sitting of the Senate held on 14th January, 2020 regarding "Performance of Commercial Counsellors posted in Embassies, especially other than the Commerce and Trade Group, clubbed with starred Question No.326 asked by Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood in the sitting of the Senate held on 7th February, 2020 regarding "the procedure laid down for selection or appointment of commercial counsellors, commercial secretaries and trade ministers for posting in Pakistan's mission abroad; and the name of authority which accord final approval for the appointment and posting of the said officers";

2. The Honourable Chairman Senate referred the matter to Standing Committee on the Commerce 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 Dilawar Khan	Member
5.	Senator Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan	Member
6.	Senator Dr.Ghous Mohammad Khan Niazi	Member
7.	Senator NuzhatSadiq	Member
8.	Senator Islammudin Shaikh	Member

9.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo	Member
10.	Senator Atta-ur-Rehman	Member
11.	Senator Imamuddin Shouqeen	Member
12.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
13.	Senator Zeeshan Khanzada	Member
14.	Minister for Commerce	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Committee discussed the matter in its meeting held on 13th February, 2020, and 17th July, 2020. The following members attended the meeting held on 13th February, 2020.

i.	Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Chairman
ii.	Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Member
iii.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
iv.	Senator Imamuddin Shouqeen	Member
v.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo	Member
vi.	Senator Zeeshan Khanzada	Member
vii.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Mover

5. The following members attended the meeting held on 17th July, 2020.

i.	Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Chairman
ii.	Senator Zeeshan Khanzada	Member


6. In the meeting held on 14th February, 2020, the Additional Secretary Commerce informed the committee that selection of trade officers was made in accordance with the prescribed criteria and merit. The Committee sought performance report of 54 trade officers of whom around 30 were appointed in January, 2020, and deferred discussion on the Point of Public Importance till the next meeting of the Committee.

7. In the meeting held on 17th July, 2020, the Secretary Commerce briefed the Committee in detail regarding the performance of trade officers posted abroad. He added the Job Description of the Trade officers has been revised, and missions have been reconfigured. The presence in Africa has been increased following the governments "Look Africa" Policy, and regional coordination has been improved by way of regional cluster formations, with a cluster head for each of these clusters. These regional clusters have allowed easier coordination and implementation with regards to regional trade treaties and agreements. The Secretary Commerce has also apprised the Committee that previously trade officers were

evaluated based on the meetings they had held, and was merely a reporting exercise. However, the performance of trade officers is now result based, and regular evaluations of trade officers are conducted based on how they contribute to the export promotion of the country. As a result of these evaluations, seven trade officers have been called back on account of poor performance. The complete details of the trade officers posted abroad have also been submitted to the Committee.

8. Following the detailed briefing, the Committee has recommended that Trade Officers should focus their efforts on not just enhancing the exports of the country, but also towards image building of Pakistan. The matter was concluded.


(Iffat Mustafa)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi)
Chairman Committee