



House of the Federation

SENATE OF PAKISTAN

REPORT NO. 6

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ON

***STARRED QUESTION NO. 14, REGARDING "THE AMOUNT
CONTRIBUTED BY PAKISTAN SO FAR TOWARDS FINANCING OF
SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY (SAU) ESTABLISHED BY SAARC
COUNTRIES IN THE US" RAISED BY
SENATOR NUZHAT SADIQ, IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON
04.03.2020***

Presented by:

**SENATOR MUSHAHID HUSSAIN SAYED
CHAIRMAN
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.**

I, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs have the honour to present the report of the Committee on the Starred Question No. 14, regarding the amount contributed by Pakistan so far towards financing of South Asian University (SAU) established by SAARC countries in the US," raised by Senator Nuzhat Sadiq in the Senate sitting held on 04.03.2020. The matter was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee is as follows:-

1.	Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed	Chairman
2.	Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Member
3.	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
4.	Senator Sitara Ayaz	Member
5.	Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Member
6.	Senator Siraj ul Haq	Member
7.	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
8.	Senator Sherry Rehman	Member
9.	Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar	Member
10.	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Member
11.	Senator Dr. Asif Kirmani	Member
12.	Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
13.	Senator Seemee Ezdi	Member

3. The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs considered the matter in its meeting held on 25.09.2020 under the Chairmanship of Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, which was attended by the following hon'ble Members:-

1	Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed	Chairman
2	Senator Abdul Rehman Malik	Member
3	Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar	Member
4	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
5	Senator Dr. Asif Kirmani	Member
6	Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem	Member
7	Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Member
8	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Member
9	Senator Seemee Ezdi	Member
10	Senator Sherry Rehman	Member
11	Senator Sitara Ayaz	Member

4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed that South Asia University (SAU) was established in 2010 in New Delhi, India, with the purpose of providing quality education to the youth of SAARC Member States in various disciplines. It is meant to be non-profit entity. As the host country, India pays for the Capital expenditure of the University and is in the process of constructing a new purpose-built campus for SAU in New Delhi. Operational costs of the University are shared by all the Member States according to an agreed percentage, which is as follows: Afghanistan (3.83%), Bangladesh (8.20%), Bhutan (3.83%), India (57.49%), Maldives (3.83%), Nepal (4.92%), Pakistan (12.98%) and Sri Lanka (4.92%). As per the agreed percentages, Pakistan's share of the Operating Costs budget for the period of 2010 – 2018 was USD 7.85 million. Out of this share, Pakistan contributed USD 7.34 million. However, an amount of USD 0.51 million remained outstanding. For the period 01 January 2019 to 30 June 2020 (1st Interim Operational Budget) Pakistan's share was USD 1.040 million. However, no contribution was made during this period as Pakistan had reservations regarding the way the University affairs were managed. We also had reservation regarding the number of Pakistani students and the faculty of the university. The payable arrears till 30th June 2020 were USD 1.55 million. For the 2d Interim Operational Budget, which covers the period from 01 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, Pakistan owes USD 1.210 million. Total arrears at Pakistan's end are USD 2.431 million. The Ministry has written repeatedly to the Higher Education Commission for the release of the funds which are owed by the Government of Pakistan. The HEC has taken up the matter with the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training which has moved a summary to the Finance Division for the release of a supplementary grant for the purpose of making the contributions due at Pakistan's end.

5. Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Mover, inquired about the audit of funds and issue of non-convening of meetings of the Board of Governor. The Additional Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded that there were also reports where the Acting President and the Registrar of the University were involved in financial irregularities at the University. Pakistan has taken up the issue strongly with the SAARC Secretariat and has requested an audit of the University and the convening of the Governing Board Meeting of the SAU at the earliest.


6. Senator Nuzhat Sadiq also inquired about the latest position with regard to number of Pakistani students in the University. It was informed that the number of students studying at the SAU is quite low because of lack of proper advertising. Currently 08 Pakistani Students are studying in South Asian University while 49 students have graduated since the inception of University. The Higher Education Commission has been taken in the loop and sensitized on this matter.

7. Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Mover was satisfied with the reply given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, therefore, the Committee disposed off the matter with the following recommendations:-

- (i). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall continue to pursue the matters of audit of the University funds and the convening of the Governing Board Meeting of the SAU.
- (ii). Steps shall be taken to adequately sensitize the students from Pakistan about studies opportunities in the SAU.
- (iii). One of the objectives of the establishment of the university was to contribute to the promotion of regional peace and security by bringing together the future leaders of South Asia, and enhancing their understanding of each other's' perspectives, steps shall be taken to utilize this academic forum in an effective manner for achievement of the said objective.



(Rabeeha Anwar)
JS/Secretary Committee



(SENATOR MUSHAHID HUSSAIN SAYED)
Chairman Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs