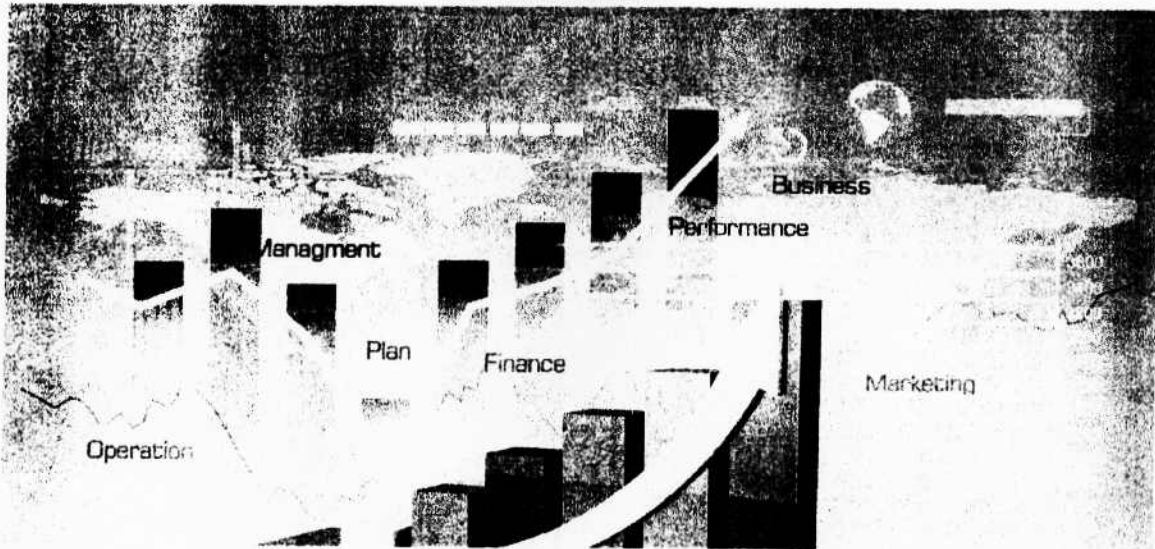


SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE



**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE ON THE
POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REGARDING 'LOW PRICES OF ONION AND
TOMATOES IN BALOCHISTAN DUE TO IMPORT FROM NEIGHBOURING
COUNTRIES OF THE SAME' RAISED BY SENATOR MIR KABEER AHMED
MUHAMMAD SHAHI IN THE SITTING OF THE SENATE HELD ON 26TH
AUGUST, 2020**

**PRESENTED BY
SENATOR MIRZA MUHAMMAD AFRIDI
CHAIRMAN**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE ON THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REGARDING 'LOW PRICES OF ONION AND TOMATOES IN BALOCHISTAN DUE TO IMPORT FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES OF THE SAME' RAISED BY SENATOR MIR KABEER AHMED MUHAMMAD SHAHI IN THE SITTING OF THE SENATE HELD ON 26TH AUGUST, 2020

I, Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Commerce have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on **Point Of Public Importance Regarding 'Low Prices Of Onion and Tomatoes in Balochistan due to Import from Neighbouring Countries of the same'** raised by Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi in the Sitting of the Senate held on 26th August, 2020

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 Nuzhat Sadiq	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 22nd September, 2020, and 16th October, 2020. The following members attended the meeting held on 22nd September, 2020.

1.	Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Chairman
2.	Senator Zeeshan Khanzada	Member
3.	Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hasan	Member
4.	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Member
5.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
6.	Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi	Mover

5. The following members attended the meeting held on 16th October, 2020.

1. Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi	Chairman
2. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
3. Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
4. Senator Islamuddin Shaikh	Member
5. Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
6. Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi	Mover

6. In the meeting held on 22nd September, 2020, the mover, Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi apprised the Committee that he raises this issue every year in the house, as it is a recurring problem. However, no policy has so far been devised for prevention of the same. The Special Advisor to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production, and Investment, Mr. Razaq Dawood however stated that banning import and export disturbs the free market phenomenon which is detrimental to the farmers themselves in the long-run. He did however agree that the issue of low prices of produce, received by the farmers of Balochistan, is very serious and needs to be deliberated in detail.

7. The Secretary Ministry of Commerce stated that, as per the general policy, the ban on imports and exports is not implemented so as to avoid market disturbances, uncertainty and reciprocal action from the other countries. Further, the ban on imports and exports of food items are implemented by the Ministry of Commerce on the recommendation by the Ministry of Food Security; which should be engaged on this matter.


8. The mover, Senator Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi stated that he raises this issue every year. He added that a sensitive policy must be devised to ensure that import and export is managed at peak harvest times as per production levels. The Committee Directed the Secretary Ministry of Commerce to come up with a viable and practical solution in the next meeting, in consultation with all the stakeholders, for provision of relief to the people of Balochistan in wake of very low market price for their fruits and vegetables due to the surplus supply of the same from Iran and Afghanistan

9. In the meeting held on 16th October, 2020, the Additional Secretary Commerce agreed that import of onions and tomatoes should be managed when there is sufficient indigenous production in the country. The Additional Secretary Commerce assured the Mover and the committee that a policy to adjust import export at peak harvest times according to production

levels will be developed. He invited the Mover Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi for a meeting to further deliberate on the same.

10. The Chairman Committee opined that this matter is of utmost importance, especially for the farmers of a poor province like Balochistan. The Chairman Committee recommended that till the policy is formulated the government should take immediate steps for resolution of the matter and protection of the farmers of Balochistan as this is a time sensitive issue. He further requested the Mover to sit down with the Ministry of Commerce for the development of the policy. The matter was disposed of.


(Iffat Mustafa)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi)
Chairperson