



SENATE OF PAKISTAN

Report No.2of 2021

REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES,
REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

Starred Question No.57 regarding number of WHO officials performing duties in the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme; salary, remuneration and facilities being paid to them – Moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed in the House on 29th October, 2020

PRESENTED BY
SENATOR KHUSHBAKHT SHUJAT
Chairperson of SSC on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

I, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination have the honor to present the report, on behalf of the Committee on Starred question No.57 regarding number of WHO officials performing duties in the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme; salary, remuneration and facilities being paid to them – Moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed in the House on 29th October, 2020

2. The matter was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination for consideration and report to the House.

3. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
3. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
4. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
5. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
6. Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar	Member
7. Senator Sikandar Mandhro	Member
8. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
9. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
10. Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
11. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
12. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
13. Senator Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Jamot	Member
14. Minister for National Health Services Regulation and Coordination	Ex-Officio Member

5. The Standing Committee considered the issue in its meeting held on 6th January, 2020. The Committee disposed of the matter and decided to submit the report to the House. The meeting was attended by the following members, namely:-

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
3. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
4. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
5. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member



6. Senator Prof. Dr.Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
7. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
8. Dr. Faisal Sultan, Spl. Asstt. to Prime Minister on Health	Ex-Officio Member
9. Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi	Mover
10. Senator Mian Muhammad Ateeq Shaikh	Mover

SUMMARY

The Committee was of the view that the WHO supports Polio Eradication Programme in provision of technical and field staff for the programme operations. It also helps in surveillance activities. The staff works as per directions of the district PEI Team and also as members of different committees led by the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner.

The staff is recruited on meritorious grounds with a defined selection criteria and fair selection system. Salaries paid to the staff is outside the PC-I and WHO provides funds for the salaries of the staff.

Describing the details it was briefed that the total number of officials are 1272 and they are supported in WHO working for the Polio Eradication Programme. 3.54% (n=45) of these officials support the Divisional Task Force of Polio Eradication, led by the Commissioner of respective Division. They primarily support the implementation of SIAs and Essential immunization activities. 18.24% (n=232) of these support the District Polio Eradication Committee led by the Deputy Commissioner of respective district. 149 and 232 of these officials support the SIAs and Essential immunization activities respectively, at district level, while 83 and 232 support the surveillance of AFP and other vaccine preventable diseases respectively. 11.48% (n=146) of these support the SIAs and Essential immunization activities in selected high risk Tehsils (defined based on Poliovirus epidemiology). The high risk tehsils keep on



changing based on epidemiology of Poliovirus, that's why the staff for these tehsils is hired through 3rd party for a specific/ required period.

After going through the whole briefing submitted by the Ministry, the Committee was satisfied and did not raise any objection to that effect. Honourable Members of the Committee were of the view that since WHO is supporting the whole staff so it is in our national interest to support the programme and to make our country a polio free country.

The Programme ensures close coordination with the Law Enforcement Agencies to ensure safe working environment for the Polio workers during campaigns. There is a dedicated focal person in GHQ to facilitate the Polio Programme and activities especially in the security compromised areas of the country. The Ministry of Interior and Provincial Home Departments also provide requisite support to ensure safe working environment for the Polio workers. At district level, DC is responsible for coordination with LEAs for deployment of security with Polio teams. The National EOC also has a security unit and an online dashboard to monitor each incident reported during campaign. This support by LEAs and Armed Forces facilitates the Programme in reaching and vaccinating each child in security compromised areas.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee was satisfied with the briefing on Polio Eradication Programme submitted by the Ministry and disposed of the matter with the direction to present the report to the House.


JAVAID IQBAL
Secretary Committee


SENATOR KHUSHBAKHT SHUJAT
Chairperson Committee