

# SENATE OF PAKISTAN



## **REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

On the Completion of its tenure (2018-2021)

*Presented by*

**Senator Hilal Ur Rehman**

**Chairperson**

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*Speed 3/12*

## Message from the Chairman Committee

A large number of Pakistanis live outside Pakistan with the majority of them residing in the Middle East, Europe and the USA. These Pakistanis have moved abroad in search of better financial and economic opportunities. The importance of these Pakistanis living abroad does not diminish just because they have moved out of Pakistan. They are important contributors to the economy of Pakistan. The remittances that they send to their families and relatives living in Pakistan are crucial to the economy. According to reports, Overseas Pakistanis send about US \$13 billion every year, and this is a massive support to Pakistan's economic health.

In addition to being economic drivers, these overseas Pakistanis also represent Pakistan internationally. They contribute towards the soft image of Pakistan in whatever fields they are working in, be it professionals, business owners, educationists, scientists, or industrialists. This makes overseas Pakistanis an excellent resource for Pakistan in almost in every field.

Many overseas Pakistanis participate in local politics, media, and public services in their country of residence, where they debate and promote the ideology of Pakistan and the geopolitical importance of Pakistan on the world map. They are true ambassadors of Pakistan and defend Pakistan on every available forum.

In light of this importance, the role of the Government of Pakistan through its Ministry for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, and the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) becomes even more prominent.

The Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP & HRD) has played a very important role in addressing issues faced by the Pakistani diaspora living abroad. From addressing the issues of Pakistanis working abroad, to making arrangements for addressing their complaints, and facilitating their families and relatives in Pakistan, the Senate Standing Committee for OP & HRD has been instrumental in facilitating its people abroad. Not only this, but the Committee has also ensured that Ministry of OP & HRD and its attached departments work effectively as per their respective mandates.

During the last three years, from 2018 to 2021, the Committee was afforded the opportunity to analyze and review the performance of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource development and its attached organizations. The committee made concrete recommendations that ended up making lives of overseas Pakistanis easier. The Committee has been proactive in its approach, and in addition to addressing problems that were brought to the attention of the Committee, it has also taken up matters suo-moto as it understands the importance of overseas Pakistanis and is aware of their importance.

*Sped 3/12/21*

### **Introduction to the Committee**

I, Senator Hilal Ur Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development have the honor to present the report, on behalf of the Committee, on the completion of its tenure (2018-2021).

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

I.	Senator Hilal-ur-Rehman	Chairperson
II.	Senator Muhammad Ayub	Member
III.	Senator Samina Saeed	Member
IV.	Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
V.	Senator Nighat Mirza	Member
VI.	Senator Shaheen Khalid Butt	Member
VII.	Senator Najma Hameed	Member
VIII.	Senator Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasar	Member
IX.	Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
X.	Senator Sassui Palijo	Member
XI.	Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad	Member
XII.	Senator Mohsin Aziz	Member
XIII.	Senator Muhammad Khalid Bizenjo	Member

3. The Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human resource Development held regular meetings during its tenure on a number of matters. The Committee held 19 meetings, with an average sitting time of 3 hours. During this time, the Committee took on various matters that were of importance to overseas Pakistanis, and invited briefings from the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and HRD, and its attached divisions and departments to proactively address issues of national and international importance. The Committee also addressed Public Petitions referred to it by the Senate Public Petition Table, and held fruitful discussions on a number of amendment bills.

### **Issues addressed by the Committee**

4. During its tenure, the Committee deliberated upon several issues that were either referred to it from the House, or received by it through its members, the Senates Public Petition table, and applications received from the Office of the Honorable Chairman Senate. The Committee also took up matters suo-moto. Some of the most important issues placed on the agenda of the Committee are as below:

- Consideration of "Companies Profits (Workers' Participation Amendment) Bill, 2018" introduced by Senator Gianchand and Senator SassuiPalijo in the Senate sitting held on



5<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 alongwith consideration on the progress of the Sub-Committee constituted on the matter.

- Detail of one Lac jobs(with trade details) announced by Qatri Government for Pakistan and Pakistan Government's response/interest in this regard.
- Detailed briefing on the reasons for discontinuation of Bahrain Visas for Pakistanis, resulting in great difficulties for students travelling from Saudi Arabia to Bahrain for Higher Studies and for frequent Pakistani traveller, Pakistani Businessmen and steps taken by Government of Pakistan for solution of this matter.
- Briefing by the Managing Director, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation over the number of buildings presently owned by the OPF for OPF schools in the country along with provision of details about the staff/ teachers presently appointed thereof and non-functional schools, if any.
- Briefing by the Secretary Workers Welfare Fund on the establishment of two High schools and one Polytechnic Institute at District Zhob with provision of detailed PC-I of the Scheme, approval status, rented buildings and land acquisition details, appointed staff and vacant positions, reasons of non-approval of PC-I.
- Details regarding Mr. Zahir Hussain s/o Zar Khan (Passport No. ME6897331, CNIC No. 21202-0101733-5, Iqama No. 2327912446) arrested/detained in Saudi Arabia in a road accident case since 2012 vide Case No. 36105362 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2012 alongwith details of steps taken by Pakistan's Government for his release.
- Briefing by Managing Director OPF regarding degree verification process of the Officers/Officials of Overseas Pakistanis Foundation alongwith details of the action taken against the fake degree holders.
- Briefing by the Ministry on its first 100 days performance report.
- Briefing regarding complete details and particulars in the case of Mr. Zahir Hussain and all such cases of Overseas Pakistanis in the Middle East during past 5 years along with follow-up policy of the Ministry.
- Briefing by the Ministry of OP & HRD on New Zealand's incident alongwith Ministry's role in such cases.
- Briefing regarding welfare mechanism of Overseas Pakistanis Foundation.
- Detailed briefing on Mehran Town, Karachi's Plots allotted to Overseas Pakistanis in 1977 with their present status.
- Public Petition (2662) referred by the Hon.'ble Chairman Senate on 16-04-2019 regarding case of an imprisoned Pakistani, Mr. Abdul Rehman in Malaysia.
- Briefing by Secretary Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development on the criteria for issuance of license of Overseas Employment Promoter, total number of licenses, cancellation procedure and cancelled cases with reason.
- Update position of Tele Conference of Ministries of Foreign Affair, National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination with Saudi Authorities regarding rejection of

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Pakistanis Postgraduate Medical Degrees by Saudi Arabia / deportation of Pakistani Doctors. (As discussed in the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019).

- Briefing by Director General, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on the updated position regarding 400 human trafficking cases sent by Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development. (As discussed in the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019)
- Briefing by Chairman, Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) regarding Pakistan Real Estate Investment & Management Company (PRIMACO) owned and funded by EOBI along with complete details of its projects, investment, achievements with profit and losses position.
- Detailed briefing by Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding miserable conditions of Pakistanis imprisoned in Jungle Migrants Camp at Vucjak site of Bosnia (Herzegovina).
- Detailed briefing by Secretary, M/o Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development on job opportunities for Pakistani skilled labors in Japan.
- Compliance report by Director General, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on 400 human trafficking cases referred by M/o Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development along with details of FIRs lodged till to date.
- Detailed briefing by Secretary, M/o Foreign Affairs on the updated information of Jungle Migrants Camp at Vucjak site of Bosnia (Herzegovina) as was decided during the meeting of the Committee held 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.
- Briefing by Secretary, M/o Foreign Affairs regarding detention of a Pakistani National Wajahat Butt imprisoned at Liwan Detention Center in Guangzhou, China with details of steps taken for the assistance of detainee by the Ministry. (Raised by Senator Samina Saeed).
- Briefing by Pakistan International Airline (PIA), regarding non-payment of overtime allowances to an employee of PIA namely Syed Wazir Hussain, PHS Staff (local) posted at Dammam Airport, Saudi Arabia. (Raised by Senator Nighat Mirza).
- Consideration and report on the Resolution moved by Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi in the Senate on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 regarding "Reduction in the pension, being granted to retired and old aged workers by the Employees Old Age Benefit Institution, from Rs.8500/- to Rs. 6500/-.
- Briefing on the previous financial corruption / embezzlement cases in EOBI with details of its present status, recovered amount from the involved persons and criteria adopted for stoppage of this type of incidents in future.
- Detailed briefing regarding total investments and assets of EOBI, invested amount during last three years, income/losses details along with future investment plans.
- Contribution share of employer and employees of industrial and commercial organizations, number of organizations registered with EOBI future plans for registration of maximum number of industrial employees and welfare initiative for the employees of industrial and commercial organizations.

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- Briefing on the previous financial corruption / embezzlement cases in EOBI with details of its present status, recovered amount from the involved persons and criteria adopted for stoppage of this type of incidents in future.
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- Contribution share of employer and employees of industrial and commercial organizations, number of organizations registered with EOBI future plans for registration of maximum number of industrial employees and welfare initiative for the employees of industrial and commercial organizations.
- Discussion on the application addressed to Honorable Chairman Senate of Pakistan by Mr. Waseem Afzal Warriach, Ex-Director (BS-19) Workers Welfare Fund against his dismissal from service from Workers Welfare Fund (The matter was referred to the Committee for discussion and report back to Chairman Senate)
- Discussion on Public Petition No. 3352 pertaining to "plight of working class suffering at their workplace" referred by the Honorable Chairman Senate to the Committee for consideration and report.

#### **Recommendations made by the Committee**

5. The committee made a total of 40 recommendations to the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and HRD, during its tenure 2018-21. The same were forwarded to the Ministry for compliance and regular compliance Status from the Ministry was sought. Following are some of the most important recommendations by the Committee.

- The Ministry OP&HRD shall provide details and further practical steps to be taken for two High Schools and Polytechnic Institute in District Zhob, Balochistan.
- Steps should be taken to provide medical treatment to the registered EOBI workers / pensioners.
- The Committee unanimously and very strongly recommended that a way forward/solution must be found for getting an overseas Pakistani prisoner, Mr. Zahir Hussain released from Saudi jail after considering full details/merits of the said case in the next meeting of the Committee.
- The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development was directed by the Committee to provide full details and particulars of the case of Mr. Zahir Hussain and all such cases of overseas Pakistanis in the Middle East during past 5 years alongwith follow-up policy of the Ministry.
- The Committee unanimously directed the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development to adopt additional measures for ensuring maximum facilities to Pakistani diaspora abroad.
- The Committee also directed the said Ministry to forward the case of Mr. Zahir Hussain to Inter-Ministerial Committee and hold a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee urgently to find a solution regarding the case of Mr. Zahir Hussain. The said case should be taken up by the Ministry as a test case.

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- The Committee also directed the Ministry to take immediate steps for release of Rs. 400 million earmarked for 121 cases from the Ministry of Finance.
- The Committee strongly recommended that the procedure adopted for the Azad Visa should be strictly analyzed and monitored through very strong and effective coordination amongst all stakeholders.
- The Committee also recommended that Immigration Ordinance, 1979 should be amended to improve the present situation.
- The Committee unanimously recommended that an across the board system should be devised by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development on emergency basis to deal with situations like the New Zealand tragic incident.
- The Committee also recommended that a more comprehensive pre-departure briefing should be given to Pakistanis going abroad to update their knowledge about local laws of the country they are proceeding to in order to minimize jail cases and exploitation.
- The Committee decided to send an official letter on its behalf to the P.M. of New Zealand acknowledging and appreciating her noble stance towards victims of the attacks on Muslims in New Zealand.
- The Committee directed the concerned Ministry to ensure that officers from within Pakistani Missions should coordinate with Pakistani Community abroad in cases of incidents like New Zealand attacks.
- Chairman Committee directed to the DG Foreign office to submit the report regarding prisoners exchange agreement between China and Pakistan.
- Discussing the issues faced by stranded Pakistanis in the wake of Covid-19 and facilities being provided to them, the Committee expressed displeasure over the handling of the issue by the Government. The committee was of the view that the students should have been brought back and quarantined in schools and hostels that had been closed, and that only one special flight was needed to bring back 900 stranded students.
- The committee directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring complete information regarding 4000 imprisoned Pakistanis in jungle migrant's camp at Vucjak site of Bosnia Herzegovina.
- OPF must plan for the establishment of Cadet Colleges and up-gradation of existing 25 schools to the status of Cadet Colleges in different parts of Pakistan.
- That at the border areas of Pakistan with Iran, quarantine center may be established so that the Pakistani Zaireen coming from Iran may be kept in isolation.
- A letter should be written to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia about the ill-treatment and mishandling towards the Pakistani workers by the Kafuels in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Foreign Office and the OPHRD urgently take new initiatives for consoling the students in China and their parents in Pakistan.
- Helpline numbers may be increased to ensure easy communication between the complainants and the OPF authorities, in the wake of Covid-19, from all over the world.
- The OPF should contact the parents of the students to update them about their children availing facilities in Wuhan China and arrange a Conference with parents of students

*Ayed Bhatti*

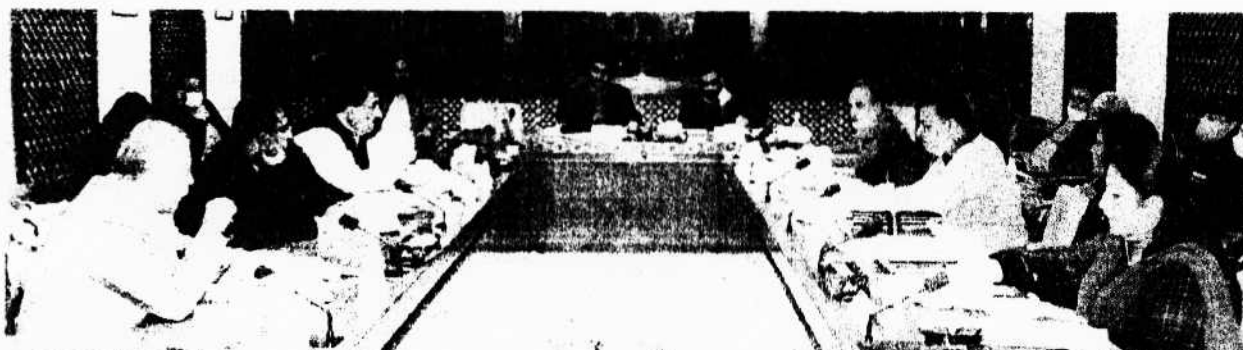


**Advice/Guidance for the Upcoming Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis  
and Human Resource Development (2018-2021)**

6. The Committee believes in institutional memory. In this regard, the Committee believes that the work done by the Senate Committee on OP & HRD during its tenure 2018-21 should be taken up by the upcoming Committee, from March 2021 onwards. I urge the upcoming Committee to maintain a follow up on the recommendations made by this Committee, and proactively address issues of concern to our Pakistani brothers the world over. Through this report, the Committee has shared the work it has done with the next committee and its Members so that it can pick up from where we left. This will prevent duplication of efforts and repetitions.

7. With these words, I thank all the members of the Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development for their continued support and insight. I would also like to thank the members of the Committee for electing me to the Chair of the Committee. I would especially like to thank the Ministry, its attached departments and its officers for their continued support to the Committee whenever called upon. I hope and pray that the work we have done will bear fruit. In the end I would like to thank the Secretary Committee Director Staff and Committee Branch of the Senate Secretariat for its continued logistical and technical support, enabling the Committee to hold its meetings at very short notices.

### SITTINGS OF THE COMMITTEE



SENATOR HILAL UR REHMAN, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JANUARY 29, 2021.



SENATOR HILAL UR REHMAN, CHAIRMAN SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PRESIDING OVER A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 1, 2019.

(SYED BILAL BOKHARI)  
Secretary Committee

(SENATOR HILAL UR REHMAN)  
Chairman Committee