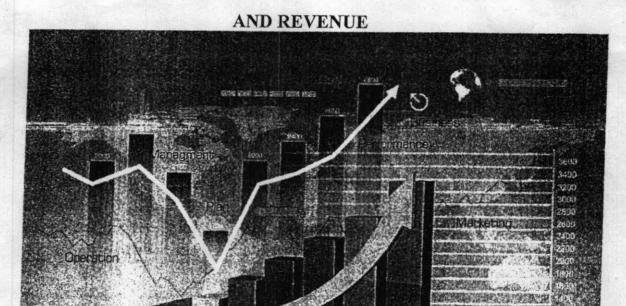
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SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE ON A STARRED QUESTION BY SENATOR SAIFULLAH SARWAR NYAZEE REGARDING STATUS OF ASSETS DECLARED BY OFFICERS OF INLAND REVENUE AND CUSTOMS

PRESENTED BY
SENATOR SALEEM MANDVIWALLA
CHAIRMAN

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE ON A STARRED QUESTION BY SENATOR SAIFULLAH SARWAR NYAZEE REGARDING STATUS OF ASSETS DECLARED BY OFFICERS OF INLAND REVENUE AND CUSTOMS

I, Senator Saleem Mandviwala, Chairman Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on a matter referred by the honourable Chairman Senate to the Committee regarding Starred Question by Senator Saifullah Sarwar Nyazee regarding status of assets declared by Officers of Inland Revenue and Customs.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:

| 1. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla | Chairman |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Senator Sherry Rehman | Member |
| 3. Senator Farooq Hamid Naek | Member |
| 4. Senator Musadiq Masood Malik | Member |
| 5. Senator Saadia Abbasi | Member |
| 6. Senator Zeeshan Khanzada | Member |
| 7. Senator Mohsin Aziz | Member |
| 8. Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman | Member |
| 9. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz | Member |
| 10. Senator Kamil Ali Agha | Member |
| 11. Senator Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari | Member |
| 12. Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood | Member |
| 13. Senator Dilawar Khan | Member |
| 14. Senator Manzoor Ahmed | Member |
| 15. Minister for Finance and Revenue | Ex-Officio Member |

3. The Committee took up discussion in its meeting held on 23rd August 2023. The following members attended the meeting.

| 1. | Senator Saleem Mandviwalla | Chairman |
|----|---------------------------------|----------|
| 2. | Senator Sherry Rehman | Member |
| 3. | Senator Saadia Abbasi | Member |
| 4. | Senator Faisal Saleem Rahman | Member |
| 5. | Senator Kamil Ali Agha | Member |
| 6. | Senator Dilawar Khan | Member |
| 7. | Senator Saifullah Sarwar Nyazee | Mover |

4. The Committee discussed the matter at length in the presence of Mover and Chairman Federal Board of Revenue. The Chairman FBR explained that each government servant is bound to declare their asset annually, failing which would lead to discontinuation of performance allowance and furthermore, those officers are also not considered for the promotion. Elucidating

the other mode the Committee was briefed that the FBR conduct random scrutiny of assets for the tax-payers and if the FBR officers falls under it, they also have to go through the inquiry. Apart from above two modes, the Committee was briefed that if a complaint is file against any officer, a thorough inquiry is initiated against the individual. During discussion the Committee observed that there is no separate mechanism for the scrutiny of the assets of the FBR employees. The Chairman stressed that being the revenue collectors, the officers of FBR should be subject to a considerable scrutiny and under the vigil to ensure the accountability leading to transparency. The Committee recommended that the FBR should not solely rely on complaints regarding assets beyond means of its officers. Instead, the institution should establish robust internal checks and balance, ensuring accountability for its own officials. The Committee recommended that the FBR should take measures to ensure that out of randomly selected individuals for audit purposes, around 1,000 should be from the FBR's employee.

- The Chairman Committee and Senator Saadia Abbasi being member of the Central Selection Board (CSB) pointed out that at the time of CSB meeting they witnessed that intelligence report of the officers to be promoted are shared with their Secretaries/ Chairmen few hours before the meeting and they astonished that prior to this sharing they knew nothing about the conduct of the officers. They suggested that such reports should be shared with the concerned Secretaries / Chairmen well before to filter the fact from perception and ascertain the authenticity of such reports.
- The Committee emphasized that in order to monitor assets of all government servants in general and FBR officers/official in particular; Establishment Division should evolve an effective mechanism to have a constant check at the assets of the government servants. The Committee further recommended that this matter could be included in the agenda of the Federal Cabinet, to make a decision about whether the assets and liabilities of officers having beyond means asset should be made available on demand or not.

7. After thorough discussion, the Committee disposed-off the matter.

(Iffat Mustafa) Secretary Committee

(Senator Saleem Manskriwalla)

Chairman Committee