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SENATE OF PAKISTAN

HOUSE OF THE FEDERATION

Report No. III of 2021-24



House of the Federation

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIES AND PRODUCTION ON SENATE STARRED QUESTION NO. 16, ASKED BY SENATOR SYED WAQAR MEHDI IN THE SITTING OF SENATE HELD ON 25TH JULY, 2023 REGARDING, (A) "THE NUMBER OF UTILITIES STORES ESTABLISHED IN THE COUNTRY WITH PROVINCE AND LOCATION WISE BREAK UP INDICATING ALSO THE OFFICIAL TIMINGS OF FUNCTIONING OF THE SAME" AND (B) "WHETHER ANY MECHANISM FOR CHECKS AND BALANCE OF THE SAID STORES HAS BEEN DEvised, IF SO, THE DETAILS THEREOF?" ASKED BY SENATOR SYED WAQAR MEHDI IN THE SITTING OF THE SENATE HELD ON 25TH JULY, 2023.

Presented by

Senator Khalida Ateeb

Chairperson

Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production

SENATE SECRETARIAT

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2023."

I, Senator Khalida Ateeb, Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production, has the honor to present on behalf of the Committee, this report on Starred Question No. 16, asked by Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi in the Sitting of Senate held on 25th July, 2023 regarding, (a) "the number of utilities stores established in the country with province and location wise break up indicating also the official timings of functioning of the same" and (b) "whether any mechanism for checks and balance of the said stores has been devised, if so, the details thereof?" asked by Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi in the sitting of the Senate held on 25th July, 2023 and referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.

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

1	Senator Khalida Ateeb	Chairperson
2	Senator Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani	Member
3	Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
4	Senator Faisal Saleem Rahman	Member
5	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
6	Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee	Member
7	Senator Hidayat Ullah	Member
8	Senator Imamuddin Shouqeen	Member
9	Senator Dr. Asif Kirmani	Member
10	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
11	Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri	Member
12	Senator Zeeshan Khanzada	Member

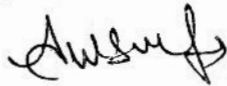
3. The Committee considered the question in its meeting held on 15th September, 2023

with following in attendance:

1	Senator Khalida Ateeb	Chairperson
2	Senator Fida Muhammad	Member
3	Senator Faisal Saleem Rahman	Member
4	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
5	Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee	Member
6	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
7	Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri	Member
8	Senator Zeeshan Khanzada	Member
9	Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi	Mover

4. The Senior General Manager Utility Stores Corporation (USC) gave a comprehensive presentation on Starred Question No. 16, asked by Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi in the Sitting of Senate held on 25th July, 2023 regarding, "(a) the number of utilities stores established in the country with province and location wise break up indicating also the official timings of functioning of the same" and (b) "whether any mechanism for checks and balance of the said stores has been devised, if so, the details thereof?" He briefed the Committee that there are a total of 4,999 stores in the country, with 2,852 in Punjab, 1,189 in KPK, 542 in Sindh, 252 in Balochistan, 84 in AJK, and 80 in Gilgit Baltistan. A detailed presentation was provided regarding the digitization of utility stores nationwide. Officials emphasized that all stores in the country have been digitized and integrated with the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). This linkage with BISP enables the USC to implement targeted subsidies across the country, ensuring transparency and monitoring through a centralized system. Committee members commended the efforts of the Utility Stores Corporation in digitizing the system. Senator Waqar Mehdi also raised concerns about reports of utility store products being sold in the market in Umerkot district of Sindh. Officials committed to provide a detailed report on the said incident. Senator Waqar Mehdi stated that the locations of the utility stores should be more access able that more people can be benefited from the target subsidies provided by the USC.

5. Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi expressed satisfaction over detailed response/ briefing by the Utility Stores Corporation (USC). The Committee accordingly disposed-off the matter of Starred Question No. 16 regarding, "(a) the number of utilities stores established in the country with province and location wise break up indicating also the official timings of functioning of the same" and (b) "whether any mechanism for checks and balance of the said stores has been devised, if so, the details thereof?" asked by Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi in the sitting of the Senate held on 25th July, 2023.



(MUHAMMAD ABUBAKAR SIDDIQUE)
Secretary Committee



(SENATOR KHALIDA ATEEB)
Chairperson
Senate Standing Committee on Industries and
Production