



House of the Federation

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CABINET SECRETARIAT

ON

**STARRED QUESTION NO.41, ASKED BY SENATOR FAWZIA
ARSHAD ON 10TH NOVEMBER, 2023 REGARDING "WHETHER IT
IS A FACT THAT THE BENEVOLENT FUND IS GRANTING
REIMBURSEMENT OF SEMESTER'S FEE UPTO UNIVERSITY
LEVEL TO THE DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES IF SO, THE DETAILS OF THE BS AND MS
PROGRAMMES WHICH WERE ALLOWED FEE
REIMBURSEMENT."**

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR SAADIA ABBASI

Chairperson

Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat

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I, Senator Saadia Abbasi, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat have the honor to present the report of the Committee on Starred question No.41, asked by Senator Fawzia Arshad on 10th November, 2023 regarding "whether it is a fact that the Benevolent Fund is granting reimbursement of semester's fee upto University level to the dependent children of Government employees if so, the details of the BS and MS programmes which were allowed fee reimbursement". The House in its sitting held on 10th November, 2023 referred the matter to the Committee for Consideration and report.

2. The Committee comprises of the following honorable Members:-

1. Senator Saadia Abbasi	Chairperson
2. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
3. Senator Muhammad Akram	Member
4. Senator Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti	Member
5. Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
6. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar	Member
7. Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi	Member
8. Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan	Member
9. Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee	Member
10. Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussian Shah	Member
11. Senator Naseebullah Bazai	Member
12. Senator Khalida Ateeab	Member
13. Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Member
14. Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Member
15. Minister-in-Charge Cabinet Division	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee considered the Bill in its meeting held on 20th February, 2024 at 02:00 pm, in Committee Room No. 4 Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the following Members:-

1. Senator Saadia Abbasi	Chairperson
2. Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
3. Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi	Member
4. Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan	Member
5. Senator Khalida Ateeab	Member
6. Senator Kamil Ali Agha	Member
7. Senator Fawzia Arshad	Mover
8. Mr. Murtaza Solangi	Ex-Officio Member

4. Senator Fawzia Arshad inquired on the above agenda item, where Special Secretary Establishment Division explained that Federal Employees Benevolent & Group Insurance Funds is paying reimbursement of semester/ annual fee up to a maximum of Rs.100,000/- per annum to every employee for professional education of his or her two children

in a year up to MS/MPhil levels (except Ph.D.). The disciplines for which reimbursement is allowed are as under:-


- a) Medical (MBBS & BDS)
- b) Engineering accredited by Pakistan Engineering Council
- c) Architecture
- d) IT (Computer Sciences, Software Engineering, Information Technology, Bio-informatics, Information System)
- e) D-Pharmacy
- f) Business Studies, (Business Administration, Accounting & Finance)

Furthermore, it was explained by Special Secretary Establishment Division that reimbursing of fee can be allowed to those whose children are enrolled in public sector universities, colleges and institutes duly recognized by Higher Education Commission and would have got admission on merit. Moreover, Senator Fawzia Arshad added that this is the time period of social media, where Media Studies have become a tool to earn for the livelihood, thus; Social Media studies must be included in reimbursement category, Including subjects related to media studies in the reimbursement category can broaden the scope of support provided by the fund and cater to individuals pursuing careers in media and communication. Furthering to this, Chairperson of the Committee recommended that a general criteria must be adopted, where merit and need-based policy be implemented to support more deserving candidates. Moreover, more subjects/disciplines be included in reimbursement category by increasing the rate of stipend and other grants. Responding to this, Special Secretary Establishment Division responded that currently there is a resource constraint and inclusions of more subjects have become bit difficult. However, the above recommendations shall be included in next Board Meeting of Benevolent Fund and shall be duly implemented. The following recommendations were made by the Senate Committee:

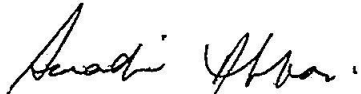
- a) Merit-Based Criteria: Evaluate candidates based on their academic achievements, extracurricular activities, professional experience, or other relevant merits.
- b) Need-Based Criteria: Consider the financial circumstances of candidates, including their family income, financial responsibilities, and any other relevant factors demonstrating financial need.
- c) Reimbursement Categories: Define specific categories of expenses eligible for reimbursement, including tuition fees, examination fees, study materials, and other related expenses.
- d) Inclusion of Media Studies: Recognize the importance of media studies by including it as an eligible subject for reimbursement, thereby supporting individuals pursuing education and careers in this field.

- e) Transparent Application Process: Establish a clear and transparent application process, including eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, and deadlines, to ensure fairness and accountability in the selection process.

The matter was disposed of.



(GHULAM MUHAMMAD SHAR)
Secretary Committee



(SENATOR SAADIA ABBASI)
Chairperson