

SENATE OF PAKISTAN

REPORT NO. 03 OF 2024



PARLIAMENTARY YEAR 2024-2025

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

ON

"CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE MOVED BY SENATOR SAMINA MUMTAZ ZEHRI ON 4TH JULY, 2024 REGARDING ALARMING STATISTICS REVEALED BY THE BALOCHISTAN MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER (BMERC) ACCORDING TO WHICH DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS OVER 46,000 ACCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED ON HIGHWAYS OF BALOCHISTAN DUE TO THEIR DETERIORATING CONDITIONS WHICH RESULTED INTO DEATHS AND INJURIES TO THOUSANDS OF COMMUTERS "

PRESENTED BY:

SENATOR PERVAIZ RASHID

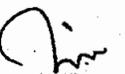
SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS ON CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE MOVED BY CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE MOVED BY SENATOR SAMINA MUMTAZ ZEHRI ON 4TH JULY, 2024 REGARDING ALARMING STATISTICS REVEALED BY THE BALOCHISTAN MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER (BMERC) ACCORDING TO WHICH DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS OVER 46,000 ACCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED ON HIGHWAYS OF BALOCHISTAN DUE TO THEIR DETERIORATING CONDITIONS WHICH RESULTED INTO DEATHS AND INJURIES TO THOUSANDS OF COMMUTERS

I, Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Communications have honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, the report on Calling attention notice moved by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on 4th July, 2024 regarding alarming statistics revealed by the Balochistan Medical Emergency Response Center (BMERC) according to which during the last five years over 46,000 accidents have occurred on highways of Balochistan due to their deteriorating conditions which resulted into deaths and injuries to thousands of commuters. The matter was referred to the Standing Committee for consideration and report.

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

i.	Senator Pervaiz Rahid	Chairman
ii.	Senator Dost Ali Jeesar	Member
iii.	Senator Jam Saifullah Khan	Member
iv.	Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
v.	Senator Muhammad Tallal Badar	Member
vi.	Senator Abdul Wasay	Member
vii.	Senator Sania Nishtar	Member
viii.	Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
ix.	Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro	Member
x.	Senator Muhammad Qasim	Member



3. The Committee placed the subject matter of calling attention notice on the agenda of its meetings held on 26th July, 20th August and 4th November, 2024. However, in the meeting held on 4th November, 2024 the report was finalized and the following members along with the mover attended the meeting:-

i. Senator Dost Ali Jeesar	Member
ii. Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir	Member
iii. Senator Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro	Member
iv. Senator Muhammad Tallal Badar	Member

4. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri showed her dissatisfaction on the brief received from the Ministry of Communication on the subject matter of her calling attention notice. Referring to the meeting of the Committee held on 20th August, 2024, she stated that her main concern was the dilapidated condition of N-25 especially the (Hub-Lasbela stretch of 180 Km), the PSDP allocations have been made in millions of rupees in the past 10 years as per the Auditor General's report for its rehabilitation and corruption took place in such funds resulting in huge number of accidents happening there. She further pointed out referring to Hub-Khuzdar project that existing projects never get completed and new projects starts rolling up. Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir also raised the same by stating that for the projects awarded by NHA in Balochistan, they are receiving meager fiscal releases resulting in delays in completion of projects. Hence, new projects shall not be announced till the completion of existing/ pending projects. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri also indicated mis-management of projects by NHA and payments being made to contractors who have not met the quality standards.

5. Chairman, NHA responded that limitation of funding is a genuine issue and it results in costs escalation. Specifically to N-25, he informed that N-25 (Karachi--Quetta-Chaman) has three approved development projects and the funding received in respect of all three projects is so nominal that only one of such projects may have been completed from those funds. He quoted example of Hub-Khuzdar, in which funds allocation is Rs. 5 billion for the current fiscal year which are so nominal that it cannot even cater for mobilization advance. Committee recommended that NHA must prioritize projects in Balochistan considering the funds allocated, financial constraints and security situations and new projects shall not be announced till the completion of existing/ pending projects. Chairman, NHA has also shared a 10 years funds spending history on N-25 with the Committee and a total of Rs. 26.5 billion has been spent on N-25 in the past 10 years. The Chairman Committee stated that even after spending so much condition of N-25 is still dilapidated. He asked



for provision of details of cases of embezzlement of funds, details of their beneficiaries, penalties given to officials as well as to contractors in due course of time.

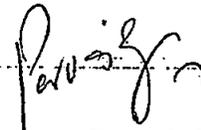
6. Senator SaminaMumtazZehri inquired as to steps taken to ensure safety of commuters and reduction of number of accidents on (Hub - Lasbela stretch of 180 Km). The Chairman Committee, by giving the example of salt range on M-2 motorway, added that if there is a particular stretch on N-25 where too many accidents are happening then appropriate measures shall be taken for the safe travel of commuters as were taken on the salt range of M-2. Chairman, NHA ensured that till the time the dualization of road is not being done, NHA has started road safety work e.g., signage boards, road lines/ markers etc. on all such dangerous patches. He further informed that Khuzdar – Quetta portion of N-25 is in progress while due to paucity of funds, Hub –Khuzdar projects is not still taken up. The Chairman Committee asked the IG, NH & MP to ensure that once signage boards, road lines/ markers etc., are installed on the specific patches of N-25 then overtaking and overloading in such dangerous patches on N-25 be strictly prohibited and offenders must be taken to the task in order to curtail the number of accidents happening on especially on Hub-Lasbella stretch of 180 km.

7. The Committee disposed of the calling attention notice of Senator SaminaMumtazZehri with recommendations that:

- a. NHA must prioritize projects in Balochistan considering the funds allocated, financial constraints and security situations and new projects shall not be announced till the completion of existing/ pending projects.
- b. Chairman, NHA to ensure that till the time the dualization of road is not being done, road safety work must be carried out e.g., signage boards, road lines/ markers etc. on all such dangerous patches of N-25 at the earliest.
- c. IG, NH & MP to ensure that once signage boards, road lines/ markers etc., are installed on the specific patches of N-25 then overtaking and overloading in such dangerous patches on N-25 be strictly prohibited and offenders must be taken to the task in order to curtail the number of accidents happening on especially on Hub-Lasbella stretch of 180 km.



(Qasim Omer)
D.S/ Secretary Committee



(Senator Pervaiz Rashid)
Chairman Committee