

# REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES



House of the Federation

“REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT  
TO TAKE EFFECTIVE STEPS TO CONTROL UNEMPLOYMENT IN  
THE COUNTRY, MOVED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA  
MAHMOOD, IN SENATE SESSION HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025”

*Presented by:*

SENATOR QURATULAIN MARRI

Chairperson

Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives

Report No. 7/2024-27

---

*Signature*

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

\*\*\*\*\*

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES ON THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE EFFECTIVE STEPS TO CONTROL UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COUNTRY, MOVED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MAHMOOD, IN SENATE SESSION HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2025 AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT

I, Senator Quratulain Marri, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, has the honor to present on behalf of the Committee, this report on the Resolution regarding the Government to take effective steps to Control Unemployment in the Country, moved by Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, in the Senate Session held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2025 and referred to the Committee for consideration and report

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

|       |                                                            |                   |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| i)    | Senator Quratulain Marri                                   | Chairperson       |
| ii)   | Senator Jam Saifullah Khan                                 | Member            |
| iii)  | Senator Shahadat Awan                                      | Member            |
| iv)   | Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai                                | Member            |
| v)    | Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan                               | Member            |
| vi)   | Senator Mir Dostain Khan Domki                             | Member            |
| vii)  | Senator Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari                           | Member            |
| viii) | Senator Atta ur Rehman                                     | Member            |
| ix)   | Senator Saadia Abbasi                                      | Member            |
| x)    | Senator Manzoor Ahmed                                      | Member            |
| xi)   | Senator Mashal Azam                                        | Member            |
| xii)  | Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives | Ex-Officio Member |

3. The Committee took up the Resolution in its meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 and again in its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2026.

4. Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Mover of the Resolution, attended the meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 and briefed the Committee on the background and underlying considerations of the Resolution.

5. The Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, thereafter briefed the Committee on the Resolution and informed that the unemployment rate had increased from 6.2% in FY 2020-21 to 7.1% in FY 2024-25, primarily due to slow economic growth, skills mismatches, restrictive regulations, and limited opportunities for overseas employment. The Ministry also outlined the Government's ongoing initiatives, including youth internship and training programmes aimed at enhancing skills and promoting the export of skilled labour.



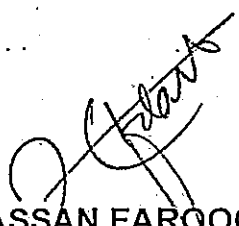
6. The Ministry further presented a set of recommendations to address unemployment, including achieving macroeconomic stability through increased exports, implementing regulatory reforms, promoting sector-based employment expansion—particularly in labour-intensive sectors, facilitating skills transformation towards AI-based competencies, managing overseas labour migration, pursuing effective diplomacy, and undertaking public sector governance reforms.

7. The Committee and the Mover engaged in a detailed discussion during the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 and expressed concern over the rising unemployment rate. The Committee also highlighted several contributing factors, including heavy taxation on exports, the requirement of multiple regulatory NOCs for establishing industries, the absence of long-term economic policies, insufficient specialized training to facilitate overseas employment and the lack of ease of doing business in the country.

8. The Committee observed that the issue of unemployment is multi-dimensional and cuts across the mandates of several Ministries and Divisions of the Federal Government, including, inter alia, the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, Industries and Production, Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Federal Education and Professional Training and Information Technology and Telecommunication, among others.

9. The Committee, thereafter, took up the matter in its subsequent meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> July, and 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2026. The Committee noted that the Mover of the Resolution failed to attend all three consecutive meetings in which the matter was taken up. Accordingly, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 2.23 (reproduced below), the Committee unanimously decided to dispose of the matter and submit its report to the House.

2.23 Where the mover whose legislative or non-legislative business is referred from the House to the Committee, fails to attend two consecutive Committee meetings in which his/her business is taken up on the agenda, the Committee may, if the mover absents himself from the third consecutive Committee meeting, despite telephonic intimations and Notices, the said matter may be taken up and disposed off in absence of the mover and a report in this context be laid in the House within the stipulated time period for which the matter was originally referred.

  
(HASSAN FAROOQ DAR)  
Section Officer/ Secretary  
Committee

  
(SENATOR QURATULAIN MARRI)  
Chairperson  
Senate Standing Committee on Planning, Development  
and Special Initiatives

Islamabad, the  
28<sup>th</sup> July, 2026