

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

to be asked at a sitting of the Senate to be held on

Wednesday, the 4th August, 2010

181. ***Dr. Muhammad Ismail Buledi:** (Notice received on 20-05-2010 at 08:40: a.m.)

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the location wise details of PTV and radio stations in the country?

Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira:

Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC)

There are 07 Nos. of PTV Production Centres/Stations throughout the country, 01 each at provincial capitals i.e. Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, 02 at Federal Capital Islamabad, and 01 at Multan. These centres primarily produce entertainment, education and information related programmes which are aired on various PTV channels. PTV also has a vast terrestrial network comprising of Ninety four (94) rebroadcast stations extending PTV transmission to around 90% population of Pakistan.

Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC)

There are 33 Radio Stations located all over the country. Detail is given below:

182. ***Begum Najma Hameed:** (Notice received on 24-05-2010 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of Railway engines and coaches in the country, if so, the estimated shortage thereof, and the steps taken by the Government to overcome this shortage;*
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to improve and modernize the Railway Stations in the country; and*
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government for protection of Railway passengers?*

Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour: (a) There is a shortage of 50-60 locomotives for freight operation.

The estimated shortage of coaches was 220 Nos. which has been reduced to 139 Nos. due to cancellation of various train services.

STEPS TAKEN

(I) Locomotives

- (i) A contract agreement for procurement/manufacture of 75 Diesel Electric Locomotives has been signed between the Railway Administration and M/s. Dongfang Electric Corporation, China. Out of 75 locomotives (ranging from 1500 to 3000 Horse Power) 25 locomotives will be procured in shape of Completely Built Units (CBU) whereas the remaining 50 will be manufactured in Pakistan Locomotive Factory, Risalpur.
- (ii) PC-I for 150 Diesel Electric Locomotives has been recommended by CDWP for ECNEC approval for the replacement of old age locomotives.
- (iii) A contract for maintenance of Chinese design Locomotives has been signed between Pakistan Railways and M/s. Dongfang Electric Corporation, China. After execution of this project, the availability and reliability of locomotives will be improved.

(II) Passenger Coaches

- (i) A Contract agreement amounting to US\$ 134.45 million for procurement of 202 Passenger Coaches has been signed between the Railway Administration and a Chinese Firm M/s. China Machinery Import & Export Corporation China. Out of 202 Passenger Coaches, 52 will be received as CBU whereas the remaining 150 will be CKD and manufactured at Carriage Factory, Islamabad.
 - (ii) The project for rehabilitation of 400 Passenger coaches, at a total cost of Rs.3434 million, is in progress at Carriage Factory, Islamabad. 241 coaches have been rehabilitated and put in service upto June 2010.
- (b) The improvement and modernization works of the following stations have been carried out / in progress:—
- (i) Major stations *i.e.* Lahore and Karachi have been provided modern facilities such as AC waiting halls and computerized reservation offices.
 - (ii) Computerized reservation facilities and all passenger amenities like waiting halls, neat and clean wash rooms are being provided/ improved at Rawalpindi, Shikarpur and Khairpur stations.

- (iii) 65 Railway stations which were burnt on the assassination of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto during December, 2007 are being repaired and renovated with all passenger facilities.
 - (iv) The work of renovation/up-gradation of Khudian Khas, Usmanwala and Kanganpur stations on Kasur—Pakpattan section is in advanced stage and will be completed shortly.
 - (v) An amount of Rs. 1032.620 million has been allocated during current financial year for renovation/ maintenance of the Railway stations.
- (c)
- (i) Electronic walk through gates have been installed at major Railway stations like Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Quetta & Sukkur to check the entry of unauthorized persons at station.
 - (ii) Sale of platform ticket has been stopped and only *bonafide* passengers are allowed to enter the platforms.
 - (iii) Night Patrolling of the Railway Track is being done to protect the safe movement of train and to avert any sabotage.
183. ***Begum Najma Hameed:** (Notice received on 25-05-2010 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names of cities where the NTC network has been established;*
- (b) *the details of call rates being charged by NTC; and*
- (c) *the number of new telephone connections provided by the NTC during the last three years with city-wise break up?*

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: (a) a. NTC has established network in 66 cities in four provinces of Pakistan including Islamabad Capital Territory. List of cities is attached at Annex-A.

The detail of call rates:

- (i) International Calls Annex-B
- (ii) Domestic Calls Annex-C.

(c) Total 34,833 new telephone connections have been provided by the NTC during the last three years. City wise break up is at Annex-D.

186. ***Begum Najma Hameed:** (Notice received on 01-06-2010 at 08:55 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) *the names of the journalists who were sent on official visits abroad during the present regime; and*

(b) *the criteria / procedure adopted for selection of those journalists for the said visits?*

Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira: (a) List of journalists included in entourage of the official visits abroad during the present regime.

188. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 03-06-2010 at 08:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state the names and designation of the officers in BPS-17 and above in the Ministry, its attached departments and subordinate offices who themselves or their spouses hold dual nationality indicating also the names of the countries of their nationality?

Reply not received.

190. ***Mr. Abdur Rashid:** (Notice received on 04-06-2010 at 10:50 a.m.)

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to regularize the services of those teachers who are working on fixed salary in Technical Education Institutions in FATA?

Mr. Najamuddin Khan: FATA Secretariat has intimated that the teachers working on fixed salary against Project posts in Technical Education in FATA have filed a petition in the Peshawar High Court for the regularization of their services. Till date no order has been passed by the Honourable Court and the matter is subjudice.

Under Presidential Order No.13 of 1972, recruitment against FATA posts is carried out by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the regularization Act of the Provincial Assembly does not cover persons appointed against P.C.I posts.

191. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 04-06-2010 at 11:05 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Interior be pleased to state the names of officers and officials of Passport Office found involved in cases of corruption and misappropriation during the last five years indicating also the details of action taken against them and the present status of their cases?

Mr. A. Rehman Malik: The details of officers and officials of Passport Office found involved in cases of corruption and misappropriation during the last five years indicating the action taken against them and the present status of their cases are at **Annex-“A”**.

192. ***Hafiz Rashid Ahmad:** (Notice received on 04-06-2010 at 11:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan be pleased to state that the details of foreign visits undertaken by the Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan since 2008 indicating also the name of country visited, duration and purpose of visit in each case?

Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo: As per our record, no tour has been undertaken by Federal Ministers for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad and no case *Ex-post facto* approval of foreign visits processed during the same period.

193. ***Hafiz Rashid Ahmad:** (Notice received on 09-06-2010 at 10:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for States and Frontier Regions be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no amount /fund has been allocated for civil dispensaries and civil health centers in the annual FATA development program 2010-11, if so, its reasons?

Mr. Najmuddin Khan: ●FATA Secretariat informed that annual FATA development program 2010-11 has not been prepared because FATA Secretariat has not received final communication of ADP size for FATA. However, they have been given assurance in the presence of selected Parliamentarians from FATA that ADP size would be **Rs. 15 billion**.

●At this earlier stage, reply may not be made unless ADP is finalized and approved by the Federal Government *i.e.* EAD.

194. ***Hafiz Rashid Ahmad:** (Notice received on 02-07-2010 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications be pleased to state the details of foreign visits undertaken by the Secretary Information Technology and Telecommunications since 2008 indicating also the name of country visited, duration and purpose of visit in each case?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: The following visits, mandatory in nature, were undertaken by the Secretary Information

Technology and Telecommunications, during the said period, as per approved policy, on the recommendation of Cabinet Division and with the approval of the Competent Authority, *Viz.* Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Islamabad :
The 3rd August, 2010.

RAJA MUHAMMAD AMIN,
Secretary.

Annex-A

LIST OF CITIES WHERE NTC NETWORK HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED

PCPPI—1110(10) Senate—3-8-2010—275.