

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Wednesday, the 5th September, 2012

DEFERRED QUESTIONS

Questions Nos. 9, 10 and 13 were originally set down for answering on 10th July, 2012 (83rd Session) but were deferred)

9. ***Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:** (Notice received on 24-05-2012 at 10:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state the details of roads, with lengthwise breakup, constructed by the National Highway Authority (NHA), during the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 in each Province, Federal Capital, FATA, Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK?

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: Total 1191 km roads were constructed by NHA in different provinces/regions during the years 2009-10 and 2010-11:—

<u>Region</u>	<u>Km</u>
i. Punjab	272
ii. Sindh	40
iii. Baiochistan	500
iv. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	302
v. Azad Jammu and Kashmir	43
vi. Capital Territory	4
vii. Gilgit-Baltistan	30
Total	1191

Note.—It may be relevant to add that road projects are linear in nature and different stages of construction activities such as land acquisition, removal/ relocation of utilities, preparation of embankment, subgrade, subbase, asphalt wearing course, etc, are undertaken in stages but over a considerable length. Therefore, length of constructed road at any particular time cannot be ascertained in exact terms. Actual work is carried out as per schedule of the contract which may be scattered ie execution of various activities concurrently and completion of road section in final stages.

10. ***Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:** (Notice received on 28-05-2012 at 14:10 p.m.)

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

- (a) *the names of software companies which applied for registration during the last three years, and*
- (b) *the names of the said companies registered, so far, along-with details thereof?*

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: (a) During, the last three years (2009-2011), 556 new software and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) companies have applied for and registered with PSEB. Since PSEB's registration process is straight forward and clearly defined, only qualified companies apply For the registration.

(b) The list of the said companies registered during the last three years, along-with required details is attached.

(Annexure has been placed on the Table of the House as well as Library)

13. ***Mr Amar Jeet:** (Notice received on 14-06-2012 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the telephone facility in Upper Swat was disrupted due to floods in 2010, if so, the steps taken for its rehabilitation?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: No NTC exchange breakdown occurred in Upper Swat area *i.e.* Saidu Sharif and Timergarh telephone exchanges during the floods in the year 2010. However, a 100 pair cable was damaged alongwith bridge in Timergarh area which was rectified through Aerial Cable.

29. ***Mr. Ahmed Hassan:** (Notice received on 13-07-2012 at 12:45 p.m.)

Will the Minister for information Technology' and Telecommunications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the residents of Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Malakand Division, are facing difficulties in getting landline telephone facility after privatization of PTCL, if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: Telephone connections are being provided to all the interested feasible customers within 48 hours. At present no pending demand exists in Upper Dir, Lower Dir and Malakand. It is further added that most of the area of aforementioned Districts is covered by PTCL Vfone network as well.

30. ***Mr. Ahmed Hassan:** (Notice received on 13-07-2012 at 12:45 p.m.)

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

- (a) *the year during which PTCL telephone 'connections were provided to village's Khazana, Tehsil Samar Bagh, village Khall and Bagh Dushkhail, Tehsil Timergarah, District Lower Dir; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that most of the said connections are not functional at present, if so, its reasons?*

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: (a) The phone connections were provided from the following exchanges during the period:

Timergara	Since 1994
Samarbagh	Since 1996
Khall	Since 1995
Bagh Dushkhail	Since 2003

(b) All the telephone connections fed from Samarbagh, Khail and Bagh Dushkhail exchanges are working normally, any complaint registered is rectified/addressed well in time. Whereas OSP Network of Khazana village fed from Timergara Exchange was fully damaged during 2008-09 flood. Rehabilitation of damaged network is in process.

31. ***Hafiz Hamidullah:** (Notice received on 13-07-2012 at 13:40 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *the names and location of roads under construction by the National Highways Authority, with province-wise break-up; and*
- (b) *the amount spent on those roads so far and that allocated in current budget?*

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: (a) At present, 52 development projects are under construction in different provinces. Relevant details are at **Annex-A**. Province-wise breakup is as under:—

<i>Province</i>	<i>Projects</i>
a. Punjab	14
b. Sindh	14
c. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	13
d. Balochistan	8
e. Gilgit Baltistan & Azad Jammu & Kashmir/Afghanistan	3
Total	52

(b) An amount of Rs 281.746 billion has been paid/utilized upto FY 2011-12 to different contractors. Relevant details are at **Annex-B**.

NHA's PSDP allocation 2012-13 includes Rs 24,602 (local currency component) & Rs 26,125 million (foreign currency component). Relevant details are at **Annex-C**.

(Annexures have been placed on the Table of the House as well as Library)

32. ***Eng. Malik Rashid Ahmed Khan:** (Notice received on 16-07-2012 at 12:50 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Education and Training be pleased to state the pay and allowances being drawn by the incumbent Chairman, Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad?

Shaikh Waqas Akram: Required details of pay and allowances drawn by the Chairperson, FBI SE, Islamabad for the month of June, 2012 payable on 1st July, 2012 are as under:—

Basic Pay	Rs.71200
Special Pay	Rs.450
Deputation allow	Rs.6000
Medical allow	Rs.35600
Orderly allow	Rs.3000
Entertainment allow	Rs.700
Sr.Post allow	Rs.1200
Ad.Relief allow 2010	Rs.22290
Ad.Relief allow 2011	Rs.6687
Ph.D. allow	Rs.5000
Total	Rs.152127

33. ***Eng. Malik Rashid Ahmed Khan:** (Notice received on 16-07-2012 at 12:50 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Education and Training be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that the incumbent Chairperson of the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education withdrew an amount of Rs. 280 million from the bank account of the board on the pretext of a housing scheme for the employees of the Board; and*

(b) *whether it is also a fact that the Chairperson has deposited back the said amount in the bank in violation of the Supreme Court's Orders of 2010, if so, the action taken in this regard?*

Shaikh Waqas Akram: (a) A Housing Project for the welfare of the FBISE employees was planned and executed through an agreement with duly registered Federal Employees Cooperative Housing Society (FECHS), Islamabad. The Project was launched

after due process and approval of Board of Governors (BOG) of FBlSE being the competent forum.

An amount of Rs.280 million as per the agreement was paid to the above referred Cooperative Housing Society after having been cleared by Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench who had earlier granted a stay in this matter on the complaint of five employees Of FBlSE (F/A). Those five individuals out of about 400 employees of the FBlSE who had challenged the Project in the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench, moved to the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the decision of Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench.

(b) The honorable Supreme Court gave a verdict against the Project on technical grounds and ordered refund of the amount paid to said Cooperative Housing society.

FBlSE, accordingly, approached officials of the said Cooperative Housing Society for refund of amount in light of the decision of the Supreme Court (F/B). However, FBlSE has also Filed a review petition in the court. The employees of FBlSE have also challenged the decision of the Supreme Court by becoming a party in the said case. The said Cooperative Housing Society has also gone to the court against the decision of Supreme Court.

The Proceedings are pending in the’’ honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan.

34. ***Mr. Hamza:** (Notice received on 19-07-2012 at 10:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

(a) *the completion date of M-3; and*

(b) *whether it is a fact that some portions of the said road have become bumpy and has broken down, if so, the action taken against the contractor?*

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: (a) The date of opening was Oct 4, 2003 whereas, the substantial completion certificate was issued in November 2003.

(b) Substantial completion date of Pindi Bhattian – Faisalabad Motorway Project (M-3) was November 2003 and expiry of defect liability period November 2006 and the Defect Liability Certificate was issued in 2007. Most of the defects cropped up after expiry of defect liability period during 2010-11.

An amount of Rs 13 million of the Contractor M/S Husnain Cotex Limited has been retained by NHA as decided by Member (Motorway) as per minutes of meeting dated December 12, 2007 on account of riding quality. Moreover, the draft final interim payment certificate (IPC) cannot be finalized till settlement of all issues including audit paras, etc. Detail is as under:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Rs. in Million</u>
a Total payable	85.56

b	Deduction	80.91
c	Net Payable	4.65

35. ***Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq:** (Notice received on 20-07-2012 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to refer to the Senate starred question No.14 replied on 10th July, 2012 and state:

- (a) *whether the proportional allocation of funds made by NHA for each province since 2008-09 was utilized in the province for which allocation was made, if so, the detail of that utilization and if not, the reasons thereof; and*
- (b) *the steps being taken by the Government to allocate project-specific budget with regard to its scope, funding appraisal and approval by taking into consideration proportional allocation of each province?*

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: PSDP releases are made to NHA lump sum as single line budget on quarterly basis. NHA utilizes the funds on PSDP funded projects considering their progress ensuring equitable (proportions distribution of resources among the provinces to the extent possible. Details of province-wise allocations/releases/utilization for the period FY 2008-12 is at **Annex-A**. Year-wise breakup:—

F/Year	Allocation (Rs in B)			Releases/Utilization (Rs in B)		
	FC	LC	Total	FC	LC	Total
i. 2008-09	10.066	26.434	36.500	7.928	24.348	32.276
ii. 2009-10	10.000	35.706	45.706	11.143	33.667	44.810
iii. 2010-11	7.218	37.419	44.637	6.677	21.652	28.330
iv. 2011-12	6.268	33.632	39.900	28.985	27.555	56.538
Total	33.552	133.191	166.743	54.733	107.222	161.954

NHA demands budget allocation based on physical progress achieved & importance of the project Planning Commission allocates funds in the PSDP keeping in view availability of resources after lengthy process. The PSDP is formulated by the Planning Commission in consultation with Ministries and the provinces. The program is considered by the Inter-Ministerial Priorities Commit and the Annual Plan Coordination Committee. On clearance by the APCC, the Planning Commission places a detailed summary before the National Economic Council (NEC), the highest decision-making body, chaired by the Prime Minister. Thereafter, the PSDP is integrated with the national budget consideration by the National Assembly.

While selecting projects for allocation, the points considered for assigning priority include one projects at a fairly advanced stage of implementation, foreign aided projects

with high national prior projects dealing with emergencies, such as flood relief, etc, and newly approved projects. Other fact which are given weightage by the Planning Commission for according priority include Internal financial economic rate of return, political & social objectives / importance and strategic importance.

36. ***Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq:** (Notice received on 20-07-2012 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Education and Training be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some cases of financial embezzlement, official mismanagement. and ghost schools have' surfaced in the Basic Education Community Schools Project of the National Education Foundation, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (b) the steps taken by the Government against the persons responsible for the said irregularities;*
- (c) the budget allocated for these schools during the last four years;*
- (d) whether the performance of' the schools was assessed during the said period, if so, the details thereof and*
- (e) the fate of the said Project after the 18th amendment in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan?*

Reply not received.

37. ***Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq:** (Notice received on 23-07-2012 at 09:05 a.m.)

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Telecommunication Corporation is planning to lay submarine cable between Pakistan and United Arab Emirates, if so, the estimated cost of the same and the head under which that cost will be met; and*
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan is already connected with three international fiber-optic cables, if so, the reasons for carrying out the said feasibility?*

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: (a) NTC is planning to lay a submarine cable between Pakistan and United Arab Emirates. The estimated cost has to be worked out by the Consultant in the proposed Techno-Commercial Study/feasibility. The source of funding is also sought in the study through Consultant.

(b) Yes. The reason for carrying out the said feasibility of fiber-optic cable is to examine the Technical and Commercial viability of the Project and have another option

of SMW3 & 4/other networks at Fujairah (UAE) through NTC Network Pakistan with Trans-Asia-Europe-Fiber-Optic-System (TAEFOS) for linking the Central Asian Countries through China and Iran.

37-A. ***Mr. Mukhtiar Ahmed Dhamrah Aajiz:** (Notice received on 01-08-2012 at 15:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to refer to the Senate starred question No.11 replied on 10th July, 2012 and state:

(a) the number of ambulances made available for medical facilities between Karachi and Hyderabad Highway out of 17 ambulances handed over to National Highway and Motorway Police in October 2009; and

(b) the details of rescue arrangements made to cope with any accident/emergency situation in the said stretch?

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: (a) There are 03 ambulances available in the South Zone, 01 ambulance in each sector. However, 01 ambulance has been given by National Highway Authority (NHA) and is available at Beat-34 Nooriabad round the clock for emergency purpose.

(b) The following rescue arrangements are available to cope with any accidents/emergency:

- (i) Ambulance (01 in each sector and 01 in Beat-34, Nooriabad)
- (ii) Hydraulic cutter (01 in each Beat)
- (iii) Fire Extinguisher (01 in each patrolling vehicle)
- (iv) First Aid Box (01 in each, patrolling vehicle)

38. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 02-08-2012 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for construction and repairing of national highways and motorways in the country during the fiscal year 2011-12; and

(b) the names of projects on which the said amount spent with project-wise details?

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: (a) Construction. NHA was allocated Rs 33,632 million (local currency component) & Rs 6,268 million (foreign currency component) in PSDP 2011-12.

Repair. An amount of Rs 6,421 million was allocated for repair & maintenance of NHA network in FY 2011-12.

(b) Construction. Project-wise utilization of funds for FY 2011-12 is at **Annex-A.**

Repair. Province-wise details of maintenance works carried out during FY 2011-12 is at **Annex-B**. Summary is given below:—

<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Contracts</i>	<i>Rs in M</i>
a. Routine	390	2239.45
b. Emergency	505	4089.25
c. Bridge/Culvert Structural	15	92.23
Total	910	6420.93

39. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on. 02-08-2012 at 09:15 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state the names and location of ongoing projects of National Highways Authority indicating also the name of contractor, date on which work started, original and revised completion date, original and revised cost, if any, and the amount paid to contractors so far, in each case?

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: NHA is presently constructing 54 development projects in different areas/ regions of Pakistan. List containing relevant details is at **Annex-A**.

An amount of Rs 281.746 billion has been paid/utilized upto FY 2011-12 to different contractors, relevant details is at **Annex-B**.

39-A. ***Mr. Nisar Muhammad:** (Notice received on 03-08-2012 at 09:30 a.m.)

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

(a) *the funds available with Universal Service Fund (UN') at present;*
 (b) *the details of projects launched under the USF during the last three years indicating also the estimated cost, name of contractors and present status of the projects in each case; and*

(c) *the criteria adopted for awarding contracts for the said projects?*

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: (a) Available USF funds amounting to Rs.50.9 Billion as on 27th August, 2012.

Rs.34.5 Billion – Invested.

Rs.16.4 Billion – Available in Accounts.

(b) List of projects and their current status is attached as Annex-A.

(c) Projects for each year are prepared in light of the USF Rules, 2006 and procedure duly approved by Government of Pakistan and approved by Board of Directors before formal launch of the projects.

Only USF contributors having valid licenses can participate in such projects. After Board's approval each project is launched for competitive bidding as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules. Single Stage two envelop bidding procedure is adopted for such projects whereby Technical and Financial bids/proposals are received in separate envelopes. Technical proposal is evaluated first as per requirements laid down in bidding documents. USF Auction Committee then recommends for opening of financial proposals of all such bidders who are declared qualified during technical evaluation.

After financial evaluation, USF Auction Committee scrutinizes these bids to determine lowest technically qualified bidder.

After such determination the matter is again presented to the USF Board of Directors and contract is awarded to the lowest qualified bidder, after Board's approval.

40. ***Mr. Muhammad Talha Mahmood:** (Notice received on 03-08-2012 at 09:40 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of toll plazas on National Highways and Motorways in the country indicating also the name of contractor, date of start and expiry of contract and amount of contract in each case; and

(b) the amount to be paid by the contractors to the Government in each case and steps taken to recover the same?

Dr. Arbab Alamgir Khan: (a) A total of 98 Toll Plazas are currently established on NHA network. Break-up is given below & details are Annexed:—

<u>Annex</u>	<u>Roads</u>	<u>Total</u>
A.	National Highways	63
B.	Motorways	35
	Total	98

National Highways. An amount of Rs 496.120 million is recoverable from different private Toll Operation & Management Contractors (O&MC). Details are at Annex-C. The figure was higher but Rs 1133 million (toll revenue) & Rs 29 million (tax) have already been recovered through negotiations and other measures.

The dues accumulate because the Toll O&MCs either on payment of toll revenue and seek rebate on varied pretexts such as overall economic & financial crunch, law & order situation, power/ gas load shedding, ban on NATO traffic to Afghanistan and disruptions caused by flash floods/ abnormal rains, etc.

It may be added that as a security, NHA retain one month installment in the shape of bank guarantee or cash under the contract to safeguard its interest in case of default.

Motorways (M-1, M-2 & M-3). An amount of Rs 5.75 billion is payable by M/s Frontier Works Organization. FWO is withholding NHA's revenue since Jul-2009 by linking this with outstanding payments of development projects (financed through PSDP by the government). This major gap in maintenance resource is seriously impacting NHA's ability to maintain its network.

41. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 03-08-2012 at 14:00 p.m.)

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

- (a) the details of investment made for research and development of information and computer technologies in the country during the last three years;*
- (b) the amount spent on various IT programmes for youth during the said period; and*
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for introduction of IT at primary school level and the amount spent in this connection during the said period?*

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: (a) Total investments in the form of grants disbursed to 53 R&D projects during FY 29009-10 to FY 2011-12 has been Rs.276.43 Million.

(b) Total investments in the form of grants disbursed under the PM National ICT Scholarship Program during FY 2009-10 to FY 2011-12 have been Rs.979 Million.

Total investments in the form of grants disbursed under the IT Industry Apprenticeship Program during FY 2009-10 to FY 2011-12 have been Rs.17.043 Million.

Total investments in the form of grants disbursed under the National ICT Grassroots Research Initiative Program during FY 2011-12 have been Rs.27 Million.

(c) In order to create awareness about the Basic IT Equipments and IT Education, Ministry of Information Technology, Government of Pakistan has already taken steps for the introduction of IT at Schools levels through different PSDP projects regarding the establishment of IT Labs at Federal and Provincial level. In this regard Federal Government has spent Rs 905.424 Million for the promotion of IT education at schools level.

41-A. ***Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 03-08-2012 at 14:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government has directed PTCL to issue 12% of its share to the employees, if so, the progress made in this connection so far?

Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications: Privatization Commission, Government of Pakistan is relevant body to provide response on the issue.

*ISLAMABAD :
The 4th September, 2012.*

IFTIKHAR ULLAH BABAR,
Secretary.