

SENATE SECRETARIAT

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**“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”**

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

**Thursday, the 14th March, 2013**

@21. \*Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq: (Notice received on 08-02-2013 at 13:15 p.m.)

*Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to refer to the Senate starred question No.52, replied on 13th December, 2012 and state the steps taken by the Government for promoting diverse, affordable and nutritious food in the domestic market and start food relating social protection schemes in order to reduce food insecurity from the country?*

**Mir Israrullah Zehri:** The steps taken by the Government for stable and affordable availability of food and food related social protection schemes in order to reduce food insecurity in the country are summarized as;

- i. Government is promoting Agriculture Research to enhance the productivity. Resultantly we are surplus in wheat, rice and sugar.
- ii. The Government has fixed attractive Support Price for wheat procurement to encourage the growers. The price fixed for next crop is Rs. 1200/ per 40 kg. Additionally the Government is subsidizing imported fertilizer.
- iii. Government has allowed PASSCO to offload 1 million ton wheat in the domestic market at reduced rate of Rs. 1050 to Rs. 1100 per 40 kg. This initiative has increased wheat availability and enhanced access of insecure households to food.
- iv. The Government has also provided 50,000 tons wheat to the World Food Programme (WFP) as a donation for distribution among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the country. Additionally,

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@ Deferred from 6th March, 2013.

Government plans to donate 150, 000 tons of wheat through WFP for distribution amongst the IDP's of FATA/KPK.



2010	8885	1225
2011	13146	616
<b>Total Tea Production 2002-12</b>	<b>90609</b>	<b>6036</b>

### **Steps taken for Enhancement for Tea Cultivation**

The adoptability trials and research part which include introduction/evaluation of the tea varieties, raising of tea plantation nurseries and development of production technologies have been completed successfully by PARC. However, promotional activities need to be under taken by the provinces. In this regard a project was initiated by the defunct MinFA with the cooperation of provinces and Government of AJ&K including the private sector. After the 18th Constitutional Amendment this project was closed and its execution was handed over to the provinces but since then no activities have been started by the provinces in this regard.

@24. **\*Mr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja:** (Notice received on 13-02-2013 at 10:45 a.m.)

*Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India is exploring minerals, oil and gas from the area of sir creek, if so, the objection, if any, raised by the Government of Pakistan on such activities?*

**Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar:** We do not have any such report of exploratory activities being carried out by India in the disputed area, in search of oil and gas. The area is under regular surveillance by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and Pakistan Navy. We have, however, referred the query to PMSA for its input. The response is still awaited.

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@ Deferred from 6th March, 2013.

70. **\*Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:** (Notice received on 18-02-2013 at 09:10 a.m.)

*Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:*

- (a) the number, location with staff position of Federal Government Guest Houses under the administrative control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;*
- (b) amount incurred on maintenance and renovation of the Guest Houses during the last three years; and*
- (c) the dignitaries entitled to use those Guest houses?*

**Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar:** (a) The State Guest House, Karachi and the State Guest House Lahore are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The staff appointed at the mentioned two State Guest Houses are as under:—

**State Guest House, Karachi**

S. No.	Name of Post	Number of post
1.	Comptroller	1
2.	Assistant	1
3.	UDC/Cashier	1
4.	Accountant Cum Store Clerk	1
5.	Pesh Imam	1
6.	Telephone operator	3
7.	Naib Qasid	2
8.	Cook	1
9.	Assit. Cook	2
10.	Steward	2
11.	Room Bearer	5
12.	Washerman	1
13.	Hammal (Porter)	3
14.	Farrash	4
15.	Masalchi (Dish Washer)	3
16.	Sweeper	5

**State Guest House, Lahore**

S. No.	Name of Post	Number of post
1.	Accountant	1
2.	Stenotypist	1
3.	Head Cook	1
4.	Asstt. Cook	1
5.	Head Bearer	1
6.	Bearer	9
7.	Driver	1
8.	Dhobi	1
9.	Misalchi	1
10.	Naib Qasid	2
11.	Sweeper	06

(b) The expenditure incurred on maintenance and renovation for the Guest Houses of Karachi and Lahore during the last three years are as under:—

**State Guest House, Karachi**

S. No.	Year	Expenditure
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1.	2009-10	Rs. 471,394/-
2.	2010-11	Rs. 399,703/-
3.	2011-2012	Rs. 334,987/-

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<b>Total:-</b>	<b>1,206,084/-</b>
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### State Guest House, Lahore

No expenditure was incurred on the Maintenance and renovation of State Guest House, Lahore as that is the responsibility of Pakistan Public Works Department (PPWD).

(c) The President, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Head of State/ Government of foreign countries and VIP foreign delegations being the State Guest of Pakistan are entitled to stay at the State Guest Houses.

71. **\*Mr. Muhammad Talha Mehmood:** (Notice received on 18-02-2013 at 09:10 a.m.)

*Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the present status for settlement of Kashmir dispute?*

**Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar:** Kashmir dispute has been the main catalyst of conflict and tensions between Pakistan and India since independence. The Kashmir dispute is central to Pakistan-India relations and holds the key to durable peace in South Asia.

During discussions with Indian authorities we have repeatedly emphasized the need to address the Kashmir dispute proactively and effectively and to address the human rights situation in IoK:

Under the second round of resumed dialogue, Foreign Secretary level talks on Jammu and Kashmir were held in New Delhi on 4-5 July 2012. Both the Foreign Secretaries agreed to continue discussion in a purposeful and forward looking manner with a view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar and the then Minister of External Affairs of India Mr. S.M. Krishna met in Islamabad on September 8, 2012, to review progress in the Dialogue process. The two Ministers held discussions on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and agreed to the need for continued discussions, in a purposeful and forward looking manner with a view to finding a peaceful solution.

Despite the negative and hostile statements issued by the Indian leadership and clear aggression by the Indian security forces inside Pakistan territory recently, Pakistan

has chosen to exercise restraints to keep on track the Pak- India peace process which is essential for normalcy in the region. We are ready to work with United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) to carry out an independent inquiry into the ceasefire violations.

We are of the view that dialogue can be sustainable if it respects the wishes of the Kashmiri people and Kashmiris must be associated with the dialogue process.

72. **\*Haji Mohammad Adeel:** (Notice received on 20-02-2013 at 18:30 p.m.)

*Will the Minister for Commerce be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether the service of the employees of National Tariff Commission is pensionable, if not, its reasons; and*
- (b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to make it pensionable?*

**Makhdoom Amin Fahim:** (a) No. At present the services of employees of National Tariff Commission (NTC) are not pensionable. However, retirement benefits in the form of Contributory Provident Fund (CPF) Scheme have been made available to the employees of NTC w.e.f. 01-01-2008. Prior to this date no benefit in the form of Gratuity or Pension were available for Commission's employee despite the provision of Pension, Gratuity and General Provident Fund in the Service Rules for NTC employees.

(b) At present, no proposal for grant of pension to the employees of NTC is under consideration by the Federal Government. However request for grant of gratuity to employees for the service period prior to 01-01-2008 is in process in Finance Division.

ISLAMABAD :  
*The 13th March, 2013.*

IFTIKHAR ULLAH BABAR,  
*Secretary.*