

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*

**Friday, the 13th December, 2013**

63. \* **Mr. Abdul Rauf** : (Notice received on 18-11-2013 at 09:00 am)

*Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the number of Pakistani students presently studying abroad in MBBS; and*
- (b) *whether it is a fact that foreign MBBS degree holder Pakistanis were required to undergo only one examination paper for issuance of equivalence certificate up to 2011 but thereafter the examination for that purpose is conducted in three stages and twice a year, if so, the reasons for this change?*

**Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar** : (a) Till to date PMDC has record of 954 Pakistani students who are studying abroad in MBBS/BDS.

(b) Yes, it is fact that Pakistani nationals of foreign MBBS degree were required to undergo only one examination paper till 2011 comprising of two steps (preclinical and clinical) However, after 2011 steps have been taking to improve the existing system of examination over a period of time. Now, as per Regulations. National Examination Board (NEB) is conducted twice a year in three steps. (Theory, Clinical, and Viva). It is further stated that to facilitate the students. PMDC is considering to conduct this examination thrice a year. This step is necessary for standardized / improvement in medical/ dental education system and is practiced around the world.

64. \***Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi**: (Notice received on 20-11-2013 at 09:30 am)

*Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that serious financial irregularities have been pointed out during the audit of the Employees Old Age Benefit Institution (EOBI) in the purchase of land in Lahore and Sukkur, purchase of commercial plots in I-8 Markaz, Islamabad, purchase of 388 official vehicles, award of contracts to various companies without*

*observing the PEPPRA Rules, if so, the action taken against the officers / officials involved in each of these financial irregularities?*

**Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi:** It is correct that the Audit of Employees' Old Age Benefit Institution (EOBI) has pointed out financial irregularities in the purchase of Land in Lahore and Sukkur, purchase of commercial plots in I-8, Markaz, Islamabad and purchases of 388 official's vehicles. The property in I-8, Markaz is subject of audit observations and Departmental Accounts Committee in its meeting held on 23-4-2013 has directed to keep the para pending till the satisfaction of audit by presenting a factual position.

As regards purchase of 388 vehicles, the Departmental Accounts Committee discussed the issue and dropped the para.

As regards action against the responsible officers, the FIA has initiated investigations into the purchase of Land in Lahore, and Sukkur. It has arrested the then Director General (Investment), Director (Investment) and the *Ex-Convener* of the Investment Committee.

The Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan has taken a *Suo Moto* Notice in multi billion Rupees scam in the EOBI during the purchase of properties. The FIA has also seized the relevant record for their investigation which is still going on. Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development is not in a position at this point of time to provide specific details. As and when the case is disposed off by the Honorable Supreme Court and record is retrieved from FIA the details will be provided.

65. **\*Mr. Abdul Nabi Bangash:** (Notice received on 20-11-2013 at 09:40 am)

*Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the details of clinical laboratories in the country approved / authorized by World Health Organization?*

**Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar :** There are no clinical laboratories in the country approved / authorized by the World Health Organization.

66. **\*Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi :** (Notice received on 22-11-2013 at 09:00 am)

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

- (a) *whether it is a fact that irregularities have been surfaced in the project of extension of optical fiber on the Coastal Highway, if so, the action taken against the persons found involved in the same and present status of the cases; and*
- (b) *the estimated cost, date of initiation and projected time frame for completion of the said project?*

**Mrs. Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan :** (a) Irregularities in the project of extension of Optical Fiber.

With respect to irregularities in the project of extension of Optical Fiber on the Coastal Highway, two fact finding inquiries were conducted. Based on these fact finding inquiries, on 11-10-2013 the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications approved regular proceedings under the Efficiency and Discipline Rules. An Authorized Officer in terms of the Government Servants (Efficiency and Discipline) Rules, 1973 has been appointed in this regard.

- (b) Estimated cost of the project: 627.137 M  
Date of initiation of project: 23-04-2004  
Project Completed 2008

67. **\*Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:** (Notice received on 22-11-2013 at 09:00 am)

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

- (a) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to construct a new link road to the new Benazir Bhutto International Airport, Islamabad, despite the fact that a road facility to that airport already exists, if so, the reasons for construction of the new road; and*
- (b) *the estimated cost of the said new road?*

**Minister for Communications :** (a) Yes, there is a proposal under consideration to construct a link road to New Benazir Bhutto International Airport (NBBIA) with Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

There does not exist any road facility which connects the new airport with the twin cities as yet. The connection comprises of a 4-lane facility from Islamabad to the airport. However, in order to provide additional linkages to new airport other options are also under consideration.

(b) To undertake the Project titled “Construction of (NBBIA) on Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis”, project cost quoted by M/ s Frontier Works Organization/Technical Associates (Pvt) Limited (Joint Venture) is Rs. 7,149 million.

68. **\*Mr. Abdul Haseeb Khan:** (Notice received on 25-11-2013 at 09:30 am)

*Will the Minister for Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that allocation for education sector has to be raised up-to seven percent of the GDP by the financial year 2015 as provided in Education Policy 2009, if so, the present position of the same?*

**Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman :** National Education Policy 2009 aimed at increasing public expenditure on education upto 7 percent of GDP by 2015.

The education expenditure amounted to 2% of Gross National Product (GNP) in 2011-12, 1.7 % of GNP in 2010-11, 2% of GNP in 2009-10. (Economic Survey of Pakistan 2012-13).

ISLAMABAD :  
*The 12th December, 2013.*

AMJED PERVEZ,  
*Secretary.*