

SENATE SECRETARIAT

“QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS AND THEIR REPLIES”

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

Tuesday, the 19th January, 2016

***Question No. 74. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**

(Notice received on 12-06-2015 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign awards conferred to Pakistanis during the last five years indicating also the names of the recipients, services / achievements for which the awards were conferred and names of countries / foreign organizations which conferred the same; and*
- (b) whether the names of the said persons were recommended/ forwarded for the said awards by the Government of Pakistan or otherwise?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs:

Foreign Awards Conferred to Pakistanis during last Five Years

(a) As per record available in the Protocol Division, the following Pakistani nationals were conferred Foreign Awards during last five years:—

(b) Whether names of the above persons were recommended/forwarded for the said awards by the Government of Pakistan or Otherwise?

The names of the persons listed above were recommended by the respective foreign countries and were approved by the Government of Pakistan as required under the Rules.

***Question No. 75. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**

(Notice received on 15-06-2015 at 09:50 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and locations of Federal Government Guest Houses in the country;*

- (b) *the names of guests who stayed in those guest houses during the last three years;*
- (c) *the number of persons working in the said guest houses indicating also the amount paid to them as salary, allowance and other fringe benefits during that period; and*
- (d) *the amount spent on maintenance and utility charges bills of those guest houses during that period?*

Minister for Foreign Affairs: (a) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has only two State Guest Houses (SGH) under its administrative control; one each at Lahore and Karachi. Since September 2013, SGH Karachi has been declared as Official Residence of the President of Pakistan.

- (b) List of guests who stayed at SGH Lahore in the last 3 years is as under:—

SGH Karachi is now official residence of the President of Pakistan. No foreign dignitaries stayed at SGH Karachi during the last three years.

- (c) The authorized strength of personnel working at SGH Lahore and Karachi is 23 and 25 respectively, as under:—

The guest house staff is supervised by the Deputy Chief of Protocol in Lahore.

The above individuals are paid salary as per the Government pay Scales.

- (d) The maintenance and the payment of utility charges other than the telephone charges, is the responsibility of the Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD). The details in this regard can be provided by the PWD, for which the relevant offices have been requested.

The amount paid in connection with telephone charges by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the last three years are as under:—

State Guest House Lahore- Rs. 151,000.00
State Guest House Karachi- Rs. 234,000.00

***Question No. 76. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood:**
(Notice received on 22-06-2015 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state:

- (a) *whether it is a fact that growers do not get reasonable price of their crops due to absence of a proper system for fixation of support prices of major crops in the country; and*

(b) *whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to evolve a proper system for fixation of support prices of all major crops in the country, if so, the details thereof?*

Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan: (a) Yes, it is a fact that the growers do not get reasonable price for their crops.

Federal Government fixes the price of wheat only. For rest of the major crops like cotton, paddy and sugarcane, it is the responsibility of the Provincial Governments to announce their prices since the 18th Constitutional Amendments.

(b) No.

***Question No. 77. Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**

(Notice received on 16-10-2015 at 11:55 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for cutting down old dry and hazardous trees on both sides of the National Highway road from Hasanabdal to Havalian and replacing the same with new trees, if so, when?

Minister for Communications: No, there is no such plan/proposal currently under consideration by NHA regarding cutting of old/hazardous trees on the national highway from Hasanabdal — Havalian (N-35).

Forest Department, however, has been requested for trimming of trees which are creating hindrance in smooth traffic flow.

***Question No. 78. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi:**

(Notice received on 27-11-2015 at 09:10 a.m.)

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the salient achievements of Tuberculosis and Malaria Control programmes in the country since 2013-14?

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar: The salient Achievements of Tuberculosis Control Programme since 2013-14 are as Under:—

The achievements of Directorate of Malaria Control, Islamabad since 2013-14 are as under;

- National & Provincial Strategic Planning/Policy; Reviewed and updated.
- Malaria Programmatic Review by International Consultants.

- Malaria Indicator Survey-2014.
- Policy documents & guidelines: on
 - (i) Malaria Case Management.
 - (ii) Vector Control.
 - (iii) Malaria Microscopy
 - (iv) Malaria Control in floods & Natural Disasters
 - (v) Quality Assurance in Diagnosis & National M&E Framework.
- Partnership building with National & International Organizations such as WHO, USAID, DFID, Merlin, NRSP, UNICEF, Medical Institutes & Provincial Malaria Control Programmes.
- Adaptation of new interventions: introduction of Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs), Artemesinine based Combination Therapies (ACTs) and Long Lasting Insecticide Treated bed Nets (LLINs).
- Legislation: Ban on monotherapies and adoption of Artemesinine based Combination Therapies (ACT) as 1st line treatment for confirmed uncomplicated falciparum malaria.
- Strengthening Surveillance System: Recording & reporting tools reviewed and introduced in high risk districts with GFATM support.
- Operation Research: Anti-Malarial drug efficacy monitoring & insecticide efficacy testing at sentinel sites.
- Cross-Border Coordination with Iran & Afghanistan for Malaria Control in high burden bordering districts.
- Following interventions were carried out in GFATM supported Districts of the country.

***Question No. 79. Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani:**
(Notice received on 09-12-2015 at 09:00 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination be pleased to state the number of persons presently working in the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination, its attached departments, corporations, subordinate offices and institutions etc. with grade-wise and province-wise breakup?

Mr. Riaz Hussain Pirzada: The number of persons presently working in main Ministry of IPC and other organization working under its administrative control, is as under:—

*Question No. 80. **Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani:**

(Notice received on 09-12-2015 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Foreign Affairs be pleased to state the number of persons presently working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its attached departments, corporations, subordinate offices and institutions etc. with grade-wise and province-wise breakup?

Minister for Foreign Affairs: At present 447 officers (BS-17 to BS-22) of the Foreign Service of Pakistan are working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its attached departments, corporations, subordinate offices and institutions. Their province-wise break up is as under:—

*Question No. 81. **Senator Agha Shahbaz Khan Durrani:**

(Notice received on 09-12-2015 at 09:30 a.m.)

Will the Minister for Ports and Shipping be pleased to state the number of persons presently working in the Ministry of Ports and Shipping, its attached departments, corporations, subordinate offices and institutions etc. with grade-wise and province-wise breakup?

Mr. Kamran Michael: The Sanctioned Strength of the Ministry of Ports & shipping (Main), Islamabad is 101 out of which 89 posts are presently filled while, 12 post are vacant which are under process of recruitment, Province wise detail of all posts in respect of Ministry of Ports & Shipping and its attached departments, Corporation, Subordinate offices are as under:—

- | | |
|---|------------|
| (a) Ministry for Ports & Shipping (Main) | Annex-I |
| (b) Directorate of Ports & Shipping, Karachi. | Annex-II |
| (c) Government Shipping Office, Karachi. | Annex-III |
| (d) Pakistan Marine Academy, Karachi. | Annex-IV |
| (e) Mercantile marine Department, Karachi | Annex-V |
| (f) Directorate of Dock Worker Safety, Karachi. | Annex-VI |
| (g) Marine Biological Research Laboratory, Karachi. | Annex-VII |
| (h) Port Qasim Authority, Karachi. | Annex-VIII |
| (i) Karachi Port Trust, Karachi. | Annex-IX |
| (j) Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, | Annex-X |

- Karachi
- (k) Gawader Port Authority. Gawadar. Annex-XI
- (l) Marine Fisheries Department, Karachi Annex-XII
- (m) Korangi Fisheries, Harbour Authority, Karachi Annex-XIII

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

*** Question No. 82. Senator Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar:**

(Notice received on 17-12-2015 at 02:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Higher Education Commission has launched a scheme under the Prime Minister's package to waive off the fee for M.A, MS/M.Phil and Ph.D. students belonging to less developed areas and FATA, if so, the details of students who are availing / have availed this facility while studying in universities of cities other than the districts of their own domiciles during the last two years.

Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman: Yes, Government of Pakistan has launched Prime Minister's Fee Reimbursement Scheme through Higher Education Commission, Islamabad to waive the fee for Masters, MS/M.Phil. & Ph.D. students belonging to less development areas.

Under the scheme, students with valid domicile/local certificate of approved areas enrolled in Masters, MS/M.Phil. programs in Public Sector University located in their respective Division or next closet Division [only in case of no Public Sector University in their respective District or Division] are eligible except for students of FATA who are eligible if studying in any Public Sector University of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Whereas, students of approved areas enrolled in Ph.D. programme in any Public Sector University of Pakistan are eligible under the scheme.

A total of **3142 Ph.D.** have benefitted from the scheme. Of these students, **1068** students are enrolled in Universities outside their domiciled province. The detail thereof are attached at **Annex-I.**

As regards FATA, 5125 students are enrolled in Public Sector Universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Masters, MS/M.Phil. and anywhere in Pakistan for Ph.D. Distribution of these students is as under:—

Masters	3550
MS/M.Phil.	1353
Ph.D.	222
Total :	5125

As regards Masters, MS/M.Phil. studies, over 80936 students have benefitted under the scheme during last three years. The details of such students who are studying outside their domiciled district are not readily available, and are being complied. These would be submitted for information of the House subsequently.

***Question No. 83. Senator Saleem Zia:**

(Notice received on 28-12-2015 at 02:00 p.m.)

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

- (a) the number of persons / students who qualified for Ph.D, M. Phil and Masters degree during the last five years; and*
- (b) the number of cases regarding obtaining the said degrees by using unfair means surfaced during that period?*

Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman: (a) Number of Students passed out having Master 16 years of Education and above during Last Five years from Universities Campuses and Affiliated Colleges including Distance Learning are tabulated below:—

Year	Grand Total (2010-11 to 2014-15)
Master (16 Years of Edu.)	592190
Master (17 Years of Edu.)	21439
MS/M.Phil. (18 Years of Edu.)	70028
Ph.D.	5536

No such case of obtaining degrees through unfair means has been reported to HEC during the last five years. However fake degrees are confiscated by the HEC when presented for attestation.

***Question No. 84. Senator Saleem Zia:**

(Notice received on 28-12-2015 at 02:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for National Food Security and Research be pleased to state:

- (a) the acreage of land in Islamabad on which Pakistan Agricultural Research Council is cultivating various crops; and*
- (b) the names of crops cultivated on the said land during the last five years indicating also the income earned and expenditures incurred on those crops with year-wise break-up?*

Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan: (a) ● 993 acres land of National Agricultural Research Centre is used as Experimental area.

- Cropping intensity at Centre is more than 100%.
- (b) ● Mother orchard blocks (Citrus, Olive, Peach, Pear, Grapes, Avocado, Kiwi, Guava, Fig, Loquat, Papaya, Pomegranate, Almond, Banana)
- Hybrid crop seeds (Sunflower, Canola, Maize, SS Hybrid)
- New crop varieties seeds (Pre basic, basic & certified seed production of Wheat, Barley, Pulses, Maize, Groundnut, Soybean and Fodder crops).
- Varieties/Hybrids Development (NARC 02 varieties per year)
- Certified and healthy vegetables & fruit nurseries.
- Fodder, forage and other range grasses, shrubs etc.

*Question No. 85. **Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**
(Notice received on 30-12-2015 at 03:31 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) *the details of contracts awarded for repairing of existing roads and construction of new ones by the National Highway Authority in the country during the last two years with province wise break up indicating also the name of contractors, original cost, date of start of work and present status of the project in each case; and*
- (b) *whether any escalation of cost has occurred in any of the said projects, if so, the increase in cost and reasons for the same?*

Reply not Received.

*Question No. 86. **Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi:**
(Notice received on 31-12-2015 at 12:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to connect Margalla road with Murree Expressway, if so, the estimated cost and proposed route of the project and the time by which work will be started on the same?

Minister for Communications: Mragalla Road falls under the jurisdiction of Capital Development Authority (CDA). The question may appropriately be referred to the authority.

*Question No. 87. **Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi:**
(Notice received on 31-12-2015 at 12:01 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to extend Murree expressway upto Muzaffarabad, if so, the estimated cost of the project and the time by which work will be started and completed on the same?

Minister for Communications: The proposed extension of expressway from Murree to Muzaffarabad is planned to be constructed into following two sections :—

a). EXTENSION OF EXPRESSWAY TO KOHALA (AJK) VIA CHIJANA TO SIRI BANDI

NHA has already taken up the feasibility Study and detailed design for extension of Expressway from Lower Topa to Kohala (4-lane) The proposed Lower Topa-Kohala Expressway (48 km) will be extension of already constructed Islamabad-Murree Dual Carriage-way. The project is expected to take off next year.

CONSTRUCTION OF EXPRESSWAY FROM KOHALA TO MUZAFFARABAD:

Under the instructions of Honorable Prime Minister, feasibility study of expressway from Muzaffarabad to Kohala and further to Mangla/Mirpur Expressway is completed. It is expected that it may be taken up in 2016. Various funding options are under consideration.

*Question No. 88. **Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati:**
(Notice received on 01-01-2016 at 02:45 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development be pleased to state whether the Government offers any monetary or other benefits to those overseas Pakistanis who send their money over 100,000/- US dollars per year through banks, if so, the details thereof and if not, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to offer them some benefits to encourage more foreign remittances through legal means?

Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi: Under the existing policy, the Government provides following incentives to those overseas Pakistanis who send their remittances through normal banking channels as follows:—

- ✓ Separate Counters for special handling at arrival and departure lounges at all International Airports in Pakistan.
- ✓ Free issuance and renewal of passport on urgent basis.
- ✓ Duty Credit from Rs.10,000 to Rs.100,000 is available to those overseas Pakistanis who hold following five categories of Foreign Exchange Remittances Cards (FERC) which are issued on remitting foreign currency equivalent to US\$ 25,000/- to US\$ 50,000 per annum as per following details:—

***Question No. 89. Senator Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai Advocate:**

(Notice received on 01-01-2016 at 04:00 p.m.)

Will the Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination be pleased to state the criteria laid down by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council for registration of medical graduates from Government and Private Medical Colleges in Pakistan and from foreign countries separately?

Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar:

PM & DC Criteria for registration of medical graduates from Government and Private Medical Colleges in Pakistan:

- As per PM & DC Registration Regulations 2008, every medical graduate has to apply with PM&DC on a prescribed form.
- Every application must be forwarded by the concerned Dean/ Principal along with following documents:
 1. MBBS Pass Certificate/Degree issued by affiliating University.
 2. Student Registration Certificate issued by the PM&DC.
 3. Copies of F.Sc. (Pre-medical) or equivalent/ Matric Certificate.
 4. Three Photographs and Copy of CNIC.

PM & DC Criteria for registration of medical graduates from foreign countries:

- Every medical graduate has to apply with PM&DC on a prescribed form.
- Every application must be supported with copy of MBBS degree, F.Sc. (Pre-medical) or equivalent/ Matric Certificate, CNIC/ Passport, Three Photographs.
- All applicants have to pass 03 steps of PM&DC NEB examination.

***Question No. 90. Senator Ahmed Hassan:**

(Notice received on 01-01-2016 at 04:05 p.m.)

Will the Minister for Communications be pleased to state:

(a) *whether it is a fact that a project for construction of Motorway from Peshawar to Kabul, Afghanistan, has been approved, if so, the date of approval and estimated cost of the same; and*

(b) *whether land for the said project has been acquired, if so, the details thereof?*

Minister for Communications: (a) Construction of Peshawar — Kabul Motorway has been undertaken by NHA through a PM Directive. National Highway Authority has completed the desk study of the project and compiled the PC-II for appointment of Consultants to undertake the Detailed Feasibility study and preliminary design. The procurement for hiring the consultants is under process. The cost of the project will be finalized after completion of feasibility study.

(b) No, the land has not been acquired yet.

ISLAMABAD :
The 18th January, 2016.

AMJED PERVEZ,
Secretary.