

**SENATE SECRETARIAT**

---

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

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

**Friday, the 9th August, 2024**

*[DEFERRED QUESTION]*

*[Questions No. 1 and 4 were deferred on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 (339<sup>th</sup> Session)]*

*(Def.)* \*Question No. 1 **Senator Kamran Murtaza:**

(Notice Received on 27/05/2024 at 11:23 AM) QID: 41963

*Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state:*

- (a) the number of employees presently working in the Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan on regular, contract and daily wages basis indicating also the expenditure incurred on their salary/allowances during the last five years with year wise break up;*
- (b) whether it is a fact that the said employees have not been granted 25% disparity allowance in the year 2021, 15% ad-hoc relief in 2022 and 35% ad-hoc relief in 2023 as announced in the annual budgets for Government employees, if so, the reasons thereof; and*
- (c) whether the Board of Directors of the said Corporation has deliberated the matter of granting the said allowances/ad-hoc reliefs to its employees, if so, the details thereof indicating also the time by which the same will be granted to them?*

**Rana Tanveer Hussain:** (a) The number of employees presently working in USC are as under:—

a. Regular	-	5417
b. Contract	-	3438
c. Daily Wager	-	<u>2984</u>
<b>d. Total:</b>	-	<b>11839</b>

Expenditure incurred on salary / allowances of USC employees during last five years, year-wise break up appended below:—

a. 2019	-	5.870 Million
b. 2020	-	5.947 Million
c. 2021	-	6.869 Million
d. 2022	-	7.894 Million
e. 2023	-	10.165 Million

(b&c) 25% & 15% disparity reduction allowance has not been granted/approved by the Board of Director due to the reasons that USC employees are not civil servant. As regards 30% and 35% adhoc allowance, the same was placed before the USC BOD in its 180th meeting held on 26th October 2023. The Board resolved to place before the relevant Board Committee. The meeting of HR & Nomination Committee is likely to schedule in next week wherein the same will be placed before the Committee for consideration on merit and making recommendations to the Board.

(Def.) \*Question No. 4 **Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 27/05/2024 at 12:25 PM) QID: 42032

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the denominations of various coins and rupee notes presently in circulation indicating also the reasons for discontinuation of coins and rupee notes; and*
- (b) *the total number of notes of various denominations in circulation at present?*

**Mr. Muhammad Aurangzed:** (a) The details of regular rupee banknotes and coins in circulation are given as under:—

Rupee banknotes	Rs. 10, Rs.20, Rs.50, Rs.100, Rs.500, Rs.1000 and Rs.5000
Coins	Rs. 1, Rs.2, Rs.5 and Rs.10

Regarding reasons of discontinuation of coins, it is informed that Banknotes and coins are primarily used to settle payments for goods and

services. Central banks and governments introduce various denominations to facilitate these transactions. Issuing authorities adjust coin denominations based on economic conditions and inflation. When the metal value of coin exceeds its face value, it becomes impractical to continue production. Therefore, the Government of Pakistan stopped issuing such coins and withdrew their legal tender status. Regarding reasons of discontinuation of banknotes, it is stated that the issuance of new series and denomination of the old design banknotes help central banks in checking counterfeiting and ensuring the integrity of banknotes in circulation.

(b) The total number of notes of various denominations in circulation is given as under:

Particulars	Pieces in Millions								Total Pieces
	Rs. 10	Rs. 20	Rs. 50	Rs. 75	Rs. 100	Rs. 500	Rs. 1000	Rs. 5000	
31-May-24	5,662	716	1,798	166	1,486	1,639	3,192	990	15,649

**\*Question No. 11 Senator Kamran Murtaza:**  
(Notice Received on 5/07/2024 at 4:47 PM) QID: 42157

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that the Government's borrowings in the last fiscal year i.e. FY 2023-24 have exceeded the combined figure of the two preceding fiscal years, if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that due to the said borrowing, during the last two years, the Government has spent its entire tax revenue on debt servicing, if so, the details thereof; and*
- (c) *the steps being taken by the Government to discourage the banks from investing in Government papers to earn risk-free easy money and also refrain from massive borrowings from the banks?*

**Mr. Muhammad Aurangzed:** (a) It is incorrect to say that borrowings in FY 2023-24 have exceeded the combined figure of the last

two fiscal years. A summary of net borrowing/increase in public debt from FY 2021-22 till FY 2023-24 is as follows.

<b>Net Increase in Public Debt in PKR trillion</b>		
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24R.E</b>
9.4	13.7	8.4

(b) It is incorrect to say that Government has spent its entire tax revenue on debt servicing. The comparison of Federal Tax Revenues and Interest expenses is as follows. The Federal tax revenue remained higher than the interest expense.

<b>Net Increase in Public Debt in PKR trillion</b>			
	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24R.E</b>
FBR Taxes	6.1	7.2	9.3
Interest Expense	3.2	5.7	8.3

(c) The Government has introduced the issuance of Shariah Compliant instruments through PSX to increase the investor base other than the Banking sector in this regard Rules have been amended so the individuals and investors other than primary dealers/banks can also participate in the auctions of Government securities to reduce dependence on banking sector.

**\*Question No. 12 Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hassan:**

(Notice Received on 8/07/2024 at 10:41 AM) QID: 42168

*Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to encourage the usage and gradual transition to electric vehicles in Federal Government departments, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?*

**Rana Tanveer Hussain:** For the promotion of E-Bikes, different subsidy programs are under consideration at the Federal Government however, no such Proposal, “to encourage the usage and gradual transition

to electric vehicles in Federal Government Departments,” is under consideration as per data/ information available with EDB/ Mol&P.

The policy for local manufacturing of E-vehicles has already been approved by the Federal Government and is part of the Auto Industry Development and Export Policy (AIDEP 2021-26). Approved incentives for EV manufacturing include incentives on new technologies like EVs and Hybrids, including Duty free import of plant and machinery for setting up plants for EV manufacturing. The Tariff for Motorcycles & Heavy Commercial Vehicles was implemented in Budget for FY 2020-21.

- The Tariff structure for cars, SUVs was also implemented from 2021 onwards.
- The major incentive is 1 Customs Duty on EV specific parts.

\*Question No. 13 **Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 8/07/2024 at 3:44 PM) QID: 42126

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the lending of commercial banks in the country at present indicating also the percentage lending to the Government, state owned enterprises and to the private sector out of the same separately?*

**Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb:** Total lending by commercial banks stood at Rs. 38,535.1 billion as of end-June 2024 (Table 1).

Table 1: Credit/Loans Classified by Borrowers	Outstanding amount in billion Rs			Share (%)	
	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24	Jun-23	Jun-24
1. Scheduled Banks Credit to Government Sector (Net)	14,658.2	18,540.6	27,246.3	62.9	70.7
2. Scheduled Banks Credit to Non Govt. Sector (I+II+III)	10,257.9	10,920.5	11,288.8	37.1	29.3
I. Credit to PSEs	1,707.2	2,212.0	2,139.8	7.5	5.6
II. Credit to NBFIs	282.5	426.0	372.5	1.4	1.0
III. Credit to Private Sector	8,268.3	8,282.5	8,776.4	28.1	22.8
<b>Total Scheduled Banks Credit (1+2)</b>	<b>24,916.1</b>	<b>29,461.1</b>	<b>38,535.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: State Bank of Pakistan

**Credit to Private Sector** stood at Rs. 8,776.4 billion as of end-June 2024, 22.8 percent of the total lending by commercial banks.

- Credit to private sector increased by Rs. 494.0 billion during FY24, registering 6.0 percent growth as compared to 0.2 percent growth during comparable period of last year.

**Credit to Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)** stood at Rs. 2,139.8 billion as of end-June 2024, 5.6 percent of the total lending by commercial banks.

- It shows retirement of Rs. 72.2 billion during FY24, a decline of 3.3 percent against 29.6 percent increase during comparable period last year,

\*Question No. 14 **Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani:**  
(Notice Received on 8/07/2024 at 3:48 PM) QID: 42172

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the estimated number of individuals, retailers, service providers, entities and companies to be brought into the tax net during the next five years with year wise and sector wise break up indicating also the procedure/ measures to be adopted for the same?*

**Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb:** Federal Board of Revenue has always been striving for enhancement of tax base through different initiatives. During tax year 2023, more than **3.5 Million** new taxpayers have been registered. Based on the above results, ongoing initiatives, measures taken both through policy interventions and operational enforcement, FBR expects an increase in number of new taxpayers during next five years as detailed hereunder;

<b>FY</b>	<b>Type of Taxpayer*</b>	<b>Estimated Increase</b>
<b>2024-25</b>	Individuals	3,689,512
	Entities/ AoPs	23,594
	Companies	9,540
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,722,646</b>
<b>2025-26</b>	Individuals	3,873,988
	Entities/ AoP	24,774
	Companies	10,017
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,908,779</b>
<b>2026-27</b>	Individuals	4,067,687
	Entities/ AoP	26,012
	Companies	10,518
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,104,217</b>
<b>2027-28</b>	Individuals	4,271,071
	Entities/ AoP	27,313
	Companies	11,044
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,309,428</b>
<b>2028-29</b>	Individuals	4,484,625
	Entities/ AoP	28,679
	Companies	11,596
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,524,899</b>

*\* taxpayers also include Retailers and Service Providers*

#### **Measures for achievement of BTB target**

- Policy interventions like differential taxation for filer, non-filers and late filers.
- Digitalization of tax system and processes, integration of data with third parties using technology and data analytics
- Strong nudging activity- Sending SMS/Whatsapp messages to high-profile Unregistered persons to file their returns

- Temporarily disabling of cell phones, gas and electricity connections of selected high net-worth non-filers as provided under section 114B of the I. Tax Ord. 2001
- Media Campaign to encourage the citizens to visit the Malomaat portal and file their returns
- Registration of new taxpayers and enforcement of returns from non-filers through DG (BTB) by recently established District Tax Offices (DTOs).

The Federal Board of Revenue(FBR) through above initiatives, plans to ensure the achievement of above projected target of broadening of tax base.

**\*Question No. 15 Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani:**

(Notice Received on 9/07/2024 at 11:43 AM) QID: 42177

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state:*

- (a) the measures being taken by FBR to broaden the tax base; and*
- (b) whether any mechanism has been devised by FBR to ensure implementation of these measures, if so, details thereof?*

**Mr. Muhammad Aurangzed:** (a) Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) through its field formations has been continuously striving for increasing the tax base with a number of initiatives aimed at adding potential new taxpayers.

- One hundred and forty-six (146) District Tax Offices (DTOs) have been established with specific task of registering new taxpayers and enforcement of returns from non-filers. Field formations submit monthly performance reports in this regard. In addition, it is continuously monitored through Dashboard.
- Federal Board of Revenue has initiated a simplified tax regime namely “**Tajir Dost Scheme**” to facilitate retailers in registration and payment of advance tax. So far more than **50,000 retailers** have registered under this scheme. Recently



FBR has also issued SRO No. 1024 of 2024 and has introduced fixed monthly payment depending on the indicative income at identified localities for shopkeepers and retailers in 42 cities.

- Cell Phone of more than **265,000** selected potential non-filers/stop filers have been temporarily disabled through TELCOs. Till date **103,337 SIMs** have been restored after filing of returns.

(b) So far **3,574,221** new taxpayers have registered themselves during FY 2023-24 and **1,780,406** new returns filed which are 55% and 69.8% more than new registration and new returns filed during corresponding period of last fiscal year.

**\*Question No. 16 Senator Kamran Murtaza:**

(Notice Received on 9/07/2024 at 2:34 PM) QID: 42179

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be please to state:*

- the details of Central Development Working Party (CDWP) meetings in which the widening and rehabilitation project of N-35 Highway was considered during the last ten years, indicating also the decisions taken in each meeting;*
- Whether it is a fact that PC-1 of said project has been returned by CDWP a number of times with observations, if so, the details thereof; and*
- whether the said project has been included in any PSDP during the last ten years, if so, the details thereof indicating also the measures, taken/being taken by the Government to accord priority to the said project in the PSDP?*

**Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudry:** (a) The project namely “Widening & Rehabilitation of Existing National Highway (N-35) in Abbottabad City by the Addition of One Lane from Kilometer 0 + 000 to Kilometer 06 + 860 including 03-number protected U-Turn, Package #01 (Length: 06.860-Kilometer)” was received twice, on 30-01-2017 and 22-04-2021

respectively. Following are the details of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) meeting/decisions:

*Minutes of the CDWP, on August 21, 2017*

**Annex-A**

- i. The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) returned all the three separate projects and directed to submit single PC-I for acquisition of land / building compensations and other PC-I for construction of civil works (for all three packages) after taking into the looking diversion of traffic from this road to the new CPEC Projects from Havelian to Thakot.
- ii. Third Party validation of Unit Costs will be carried out by Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform through M/s National Engineering Services Pakistan (NES-Pak) engaged under Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA). Funding will be arranged through Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform Project of “Research / Feasibility Studies and Workshop” appearing at Serial # 735 of PSDP-2017.
- \* The project titled **“Widening & Rehabilitation of Existing N-35 in Abbottabad City (17-Km)”** Annex-B along-with another project titled **“Land Acquisition, Building Compensation and Re-location of utility for widening and Rehabilitation of Existing N-35 Abbottabad City (17 Km)”** Annex-C was received in 2021. However, later on 24th May, 2021 the later project was withdrawn by Ministry of Communication Annex-D The project titled Widening & Rehabilitation of 17-Kilometer long and 04-lane wide dual carriageway of existing National Highway (N-35), in Abbottabad City, was considered in CDWP meeting held on 29th June 2022 and the decision is as follows:

*Minutes of the CDWP, on June 29,2022:*

**Annex-E**

“The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved the project in principle for inclusion in PSDP: 2022-2023 with the directions that the Ministry of Communications / National Highway Authority (NHA) shall rationalized the cost of the project in consultation with the

Member-Infrastructure & Regional Connectivity, Planning Commission and resubmit to the CDWP for approval within one-month time”.

(b) After CDWP decision dated 29th June 2022, PC-1 was returned by the Post-CDWP meeting, which was held on 04- 04-2023 (Annex-‘F’). The recommendation of Post-CDWP is as under.

- The Post-CDWP recommended that the PC-I is based on the Old Composite Schedule of Rate (CSR-2014) of National Highway Authority (NHA), which is no more valid therefore, the instant version of PC-I may be returned.

Further the PC-I of land Acquisition for the instant road, amounting to Rs 8.3 billion, **is yet to be approved by the CDWP / ECNEC**, therefore, after the approval and execution of the **Land Part**, an updated PC-I for the **Construction Part** may be submitted by the Ministry of Communications / National Highway Authority (NHA).

(c) The Project was reflected in PSDP: 2022-2023, with allocation of Rs 500 million. However, due to non-compliance of Post-CDWP recommendations by the Sponsors, neither authorization was issued nor any funds could be released.

*(Annexures have been placed in library and on Table of the mover/concerned Member)*

\*Question No. 17 **Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani:**

(Notice Received on 10/07/2024 at 2:05 PM) QID: 42187

*Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to promote industries and industrialization in Less Developed Areas of Pakistan?*

**Rana Tanveer Hussain: Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC)**

### **Formation of PASDEC**

Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC) was established in 2006 under section 42 of Companies Ordinance 1984 (now Companies Act 2017) working under the auspices of the Ministry of Industries and Production (MoI&P). The Company status is Autonomous Body.

The mandate of the company is to develop the Marble and Granite sector of Pakistan in line with the best international industrial practices. Upon formation, the Company was provided with the operational funds of Rs.211 Million by Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC).

A project “**Development of Marble and Granite Sector**” was later on recommended by CDWP and approved by ECNEC in 2007 for demonstration of latest quarrying and processing techniques and technology in the industry, primarily to discourage mining by blasting , reduce wastages, enhance production of square blocks, facilitate in quarrying equipment and cluster development.

The total cost of the project was Rs. 1,980 million, which was later on appropriated to Rs. 2,276.88 million. Since inception, a total of Rs. 1,830 million has been released against the approved PSDP funds of Rs. 2,276.88 million.

#### **PASDEC’s Contribution in development of the sector:**

In order to promote the sector on modern mining methods, the Company has carried out the following projects:

- a. **Model Mechanized Quarries:** For the demonstration of latest quarrying techniques, 14 mechanized quarry projects have been initiated in the country. Wherein latest quarrying practices have been demonstrated and training has also been provided to locals on use of latest quarrying techniques and technology. After the development of quarries on modern lines the production capacity and quality of product has improved. Furthermore, the Company has also conducted 300 technical studies of marble and granite quarries across the country to analyze the reserves and quality.
- b. **Machinery Pool:** PASDEC has established two Machinery Pools for providing latest mechanized mining equipment to the lease holders/mine owners on subsidized rental basis. These Machinery Pools are located at Gaddani and Risalpur to cater south and north region of the country respectively. The Machinery Pools have facilitated over 100 mines in adopting mechanized mining practices through deployment of state of the art machines.

- c. **Marble Cities:** To attract investment and foster industrializations in less developed areas of the country, dedicated marble cities were planned. In this regard, Marble City Risalpur has been established on an area of 185 acres. 75 factories are operational at the project. Another Marble City has also been developed at FATA, PASDEC's role in the said project was of a Management Consultant.
- d. **Skill Development:** PASDEC has provided training to more than 600 quarry operators and mining professionals on use of latest quarrying techniques. In addition, 1262 females have been trained on mosaic, inlay and handicraft making for value addition while using wastage.
- e. **Common Facility Training Centers (CFTC):** The Company has also planned to establish CFTCs to facilitate SME's with latest processing/ cutting machinery on rental basis. Development work on two CFTC is in progress at Gaddani and Risalpur respectively. After the establishment of CFTC's, quality and production capacity of the processing industry will be expected to further improve.

#### **Impact of the above interventions:**

Despite non-release of PSDP funds since 2014-15, the company has depicted considerable improvement through effective utilization of available resources and good governance. The Company has managed all its expenses through the income generated from its own sources which mainly include rental revenues from deployment of machines. Furthermore, the Company has also rationalized its operational expenses. The Company is self-sustainable for the last five years.

The above mentioned projects have positively impacted the sector and summary of such impact is as follows:

- **Acceptance of mechanized mining** -The Company through demonstration of mining machines has created awareness on the modern methods and techniques of mechanized mining. As a result the sector which lacked the know-how and was reluctant to adopt mechanized mining is adopting the modern methods. This approach has resulted in production of "Square Blocks" as per the requirement of the international market.

- **Reduction in wastage** -The demonstration effect of the PASDEC's projects have encouraged more investment in machinery and better prospecting which has helped in bringing the wastage down from a staggering 73% due to indiscriminate blasting to 55% on the mechanized mines being operated in country.
- **Export Development** - PASDEC is mandated to develop the complete value chain i.e.; from mine to market for the Marble & Granite sector. The average exports from Pakistan of last five years is US\$ 37M.
- **Foreign Direct Investment** - The Company has undertaken different projects in collaboration with international/local donor organizations. Total volume of such investment is Rs. 1.16 billion, which includes funds for establishment of Machinery Pools and training & development etc.
- **Promotion of Less Developed Areas** - PASDEC has played an important role in the development of less developed districts across the country including recently merged areas of FATA. These projects include Machinery Pools and Quarry Upgradations, being established by PASDEC which have contributed to poverty alleviation, employment generation and livelihood development of the people of these areas.
- **Employment Generation** - PASDEC has created 225 direct and more than 600 indirect job opportunities in marble & granite sector for the technical and non-technical manpower like Loader Operators, Mining Engineers, Electricians, Wire Saw Operators, Chainsaw Operators etc.

- **Access to Finance (Financial Inclusion)** - Matter of access to finance to the sector has been taken up with the State Bank of Pakistan/ Financial sector of the country to devise a mechanism to extend financial facilities to stakeholders for further development of the sector. A MoU has been signed with the National Bank of Pakistan regarding facilitation in access of finance to the sector.

### **Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Development Company (PGJDC)**

- PGJDC is mandated to develop and promote Gems and Jewelry Industry through Skill Development, Technology Up-Gradation, Quality Assurance and Marketing/Branding. The Company is currently under revival phase, and its initiatives such as training centers, gem labs and assaying and hallmarking centers including those in less developed areas of the Country, are being revived.
- Training Center at Peshawar is being operated through collaboration with KP-TEVTA, training Center and Gem Lab at Gilgit is being operated through collaboration with MICL Gilgit whereas training center and gem lab at AJK is being operated through collaboration with AJK-TEVTA. Training programs are being offered at these centers and gem certification is being done for promotion of this industry.
- A proposal has been submitted to EDF for revival of assaying and hallmarking and marketing components through which the centers at Peshawar and Quetta will be revived and this industry will be promoted extensively.
- The Company has submitted proposal for Establishment of Gemstone Processing Units at Quetta, Gilgit, Muzaffarabad, Peshawar and Karachi for promotion of value added gemstone products.
- The Company intends to organize an international Gems and Jewelry Exhibition to promote the Gems and Jewelry Industries from all across the Country including KPK, Gilgit Baltistan, Balochistan and AJK.

**Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA)**

- i. **Business Skill Development Center for Women, D.I Khan:** The project aims to accelerate the successful development of women entrepreneurs and promoting industrialization and an entrepreneurial culture amongst women in Dera Ismail Khan.
- ii. **1000 Industrial Stitching Units:** It provides matching grants for setting up industrial stitching units to boost value addition in textile garments industrial sector across Pakistan.
- iii. **Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) Project:** It aims to support gender inclusive income and employment generation opportunities in under developed districts in Sindh and Balochistan by making improvements at all levels of the value chain. This provides them with technical trainings, opportunities to develop business linkages and grants to promote value addition and industrialization in marginalized communities of Less Developed Areas.
- iv. **“Bananas in Pakistan's Bio-economy: Transforming Waste into Textile” Project.** SMEDA is working with FAO to promote circular/green economy through utilization of banana waste in textile and allied sectors in the banana growing districts of Sindh.
- v. **SME Fund:** An allocation of Rs. 5.00 billion has been made for promotion of SMEs including industrial and exporting businesses.
- vi. **Agro Food Processing Facilities (AFP), Multan:** A common facility center for pulp extraction of various fruits in Multan and its adjoining less developed areas and promotes industrialization by value addition of products through fruit and vegetable processing techniques. 7 similar facilities have been installed in South Punjab region as a replication effect leading industrialization and value addition.
- vii. **Over the Counter Products & Business Development Services by SMEDA.** These services are available free of cost at SMEDA offices and website. These include SME



Facilitation, Pre-Feasibility Studies, Commercial Contract Templates, Regulatory Procedures, Trade analysis series and publications, Training programs for skill development, Technical Support Services (Energy Efficiency, Productivity & Quality).

## **AGRO FOOD PROCESSING (AFP) FACILITIES MULTAN**

### **Brief Introduction**

Established on July 09, 2012 and incorporated in SECP as a Section 42 Company. Jointly executed by MoIP / SMEDA and Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) through a Board of Directors.

### **Functions**

- Pulping, grading and cold storage of fruits i.e. Mango, guava, peach etc.
- To provide consultancy services on latest manufacturing, processing techniques and Information on latest technology
- To promote and support agro food sector by providing processing facilities and value addition of their products

### **Shareholding**

- Rs.207.730 million (64.54%) from Federal Government (PSDP)
- Rs.114.159 million (35.46%) from Punjab Government (ADP)

### **Cabinet's Decision**

- Declared as autonomous body vide Cabinet's decision dated 14-04-2020.

### **Employees' Strength**

Total 28 employees

### **Present Board Status**

- Renewal of Board is under process.

**\*Question No. 18 Senator Saifullah Abro:**

(Notice Received on 10/07/2024 at 4:02 PM) QID: 42192

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be please to state the foreign and domestic loans obtained by the Government since 2008 indicating also the utilization of the same with year wise break up?*

**Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb:**Public debt is mainly obtained/ utilized for the financing of the fiscal deficit. There are two main sources of borrowing i.e., (i) Domestic borrowing; and (ii) External borrowing.

- The domestic borrowing is carried out through issuance of government securities (T-Bills, Pakistan Investment Bonds, Sukuk etc.) and National Saving Schemes.
- The external borrowing is mainly obtained from multilateral & bilateral development partners and commercial sources which include bank loans and Eurobonds.
- As of end March-2024, the total public debt was PKR 67.5 tr, of which PKR 43.4 tr (64%) was domestic debt and PKR 24.1 tr (36%) was external debt.

The increase in public debt over a period is primarily due to: (i) fiscal deficit (primary deficit + interest expense); and (ii) exchange rate movement / accounting treatment etc.

During the period June 2008 to Mar 2024, net increase in Public Debt was PKR 61.4 trillion details of which are presented below:

<b>Public Debt (PKR trillion)</b>			
	<b>Jun-08</b>	<b>Mar-24</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>Public Debt</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>61.4</b>
- Domestic Debt	3.3	43.4	40.2
- External Debt	2.9	24.1	21.2
<b>Reasons for increase</b>			<b>61.4</b>
- Primary Deficit			10.2
- Interest Expense			32.3
- Other (ER/Accounting etc.)			18.9

Yearly increase in Public Debt is presented as **Annex-A**.

## Annexure-A

Public Debt (PKR trillion)						
Year	Stock			Annual Increase		
	Public Debt (A+B)	Domestic Debt (A)	External Debt (B)	Public Debt (A+B)	Domestic Debt (A)	External Debt (B)
FY08	6.1	3.3	2.9	-	-	-
FY09	7.7	3.9	3.9	1.6	0.6	1.0
FY10	9.0	4.7	4.4	1.3	0.8	0.5
FY11	10.8	6.0	4.8	1.8	1.4	0.4
FY12	12.7	7.6	5.1	1.9	1.6	0.3
FY13	14.3	9.5	4.8	1.6	1.9	(0.3)
FY14	16.0	10.9	5.1	1.7	1.4	0.3
FY15	17.4	12.2	5.2	1.4	1.3	0.1
FY16	19.7	13.6	6.1	2.3	1.4	0.9
FY17	21.4	14.8	6.6	1.7	1.2	0.5
FY18	25.0	16.4	8.5	3.5	1.6	2.0
FY19	32.7	20.7	12.0	7.8	4.3	3.4
FY20	36.4	23.3	13.1	3.7	2.6	1.1
FY21	39.9	26.3	13.6	3.5	3.0	0.5
FY22	49.2	31.1	18.2	9.4	4.8	4.6
FY23	62.9	38.8	24.1	13.6	7.7	5.9
FY24 (Mar)	67.5	43.4	24.1	4.6	4.6	0.0
<b>Total</b>				<b>61.4</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>21.2</b>

Fiscal Year	Change in Total Public Debt	Reason for Increase in Debt		
		Primary Deficit / (Surplus)	Interest Expense	Other (ER/Accounting etc.)
FY09	1.6	0.0	0.6	1.0
FY10	1.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
FY11	1.8	0.6	0.7	0.4
FY12	1.9	0.4	0.9	0.6
FY13	1.6	0.9	1.0	(0.3)
FY14	1.7	0.4	1.1	0.1
FY15	1.4	0.2	1.3	(0.2)
FY16	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.7
FY17	1.7	0.5	1.3	(0.1)
FY18	3.5	0.7	1.5	1.3
FY19	7.8	1.5	2.1	4.1
FY20	3.7	1.0	2.6	0.1
FY21	3.5	1.0	2.8	(0.3)
FY22	9.4	2.4	3.2	3.8
FY23	13.6	1.0	5.7	7.0
FY24 (Mar)	4.6	(1.2)	5.5	0.3
<b>Total Change</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>18.9</b>

**\*Question No. 20 Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 19/07/2024 at 3:09 PM) QID: 42212

*Will the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives be pleased to state:*

- (a) *the amount of international aid received so far in respect of floods, 2022 especially after the pledges made at Geneva Convention held on 9th January, 2023 indicating also the distribution of the same, with province wise breakup; and*
- (b) *the current status of rehabilitation of the flood affected areas of the country?*

**Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudry:** (a) Total Pledges committed for post-flood reconstruction during the Geneva Conference were USD 10.96 Billion. The total amount committed is in the form of project financing and oil financing. A detailed breakdown of the pledges as received from the Economic Affairs Division is at **Annex-I**.

(b) The M/o PD&SI is the Ministry where the Recovery and Reconstruction Unit (RRU) is housed for coordination of post-flood reconstruction activities. The main function of the RRU is coordination for the 4RF projects and donor funding.

Therefore, the M/o PD&SI keeps a record of the overall summary of financial and physical progress of projects (in %) under 4RF. A list of flood reconstruction projects and relevant data on post-flood reconstruction is in **Annex II**.

Out of this Sindh has the highest portfolio amounting to **US\$ 2186.69** and the cumulative spending in Sindh till date is **US\$ 948.59** million which is the highest across the country.

The second most affected province was Balochistan and the total signed portfolio to date amounts to **US\$ 494.35** Million with cumulative spending of **US\$ 30.81 million**.

The total signed portfolio in KP amounts to **US\$ 554.16** and the cumulative spending is **US\$ 25.34** million.

The total signed portfolio in Punjab amounts to **US\$ 2.8 Million** and the cumulative spending is **US\$ 2.8 million**.

**US\$ 223.14 Million** was allocated to the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) initially after the floods which were directly distributed amongst its beneficiaries, (details of these could be obtained from BISP).

The relevant data is accessible online on M/o PD&SI's dedicated portal at: [www.4rf.pc.gov.pk](http://www.4rf.pc.gov.pk)

### Annex-I

S/No	Development partner	Pledged Amount (US\$ Mn)	Amounts Realized (US\$ Mn)	Disbursement (US\$ Mn)		
				Actual	Projected	
				Up to June 2024	FY 2024-2025	1 <sup>st</sup> Q FY 2024-2025
<b>Project Financing</b>						
1	World Bank	2,199.94	2,199.94	1,184.14	287.07	86.00
2	ADB	1,561.28	1,561.28	144.67	249.18	-
3	AHIB & China US\$ (250+ 750 + 100) Mn	1100.00	830.00	250.00	6.26	6.26
4	IsDB	600.00	410.70	64.70	111.07	60.00
5	Paris Club Countries*	798.69	773.79	100.38	73.78	14.194
6	USA/USAID	100	100	68.00	32.00	13.00
7	Non-Paris Club Countries (Qatar)	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total (A)</b>		<b>6,384.91</b>	<b>5,705.71</b>	<b>1,811.89</b>	<b>759.36</b>	<b>179.45</b>
<b>Oil Financing</b>						
8	IsDB	3,600.00	250.00	250.00	500.00	100.00
9	KSA/SFD	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total (B)</b>		<b>4,600.00</b>	<b>1250.00</b>	<b>1250.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
11	Cash Deposited in PMFRF (C)	2.10	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00
<b>Grand Total (A+B+C+D)</b>		<b>10,987.01</b>	<b>7,127.81</b>	<b>3,063.99</b>	<b>1,259.36</b>	<b>279.45</b>

\* Out of US\$ 798.69 Mn pledges of Paris Club Countries, US\$ 233.109 is off Budget

**4R- National Portfolio Summary** Donor Funding \$3,367.28 Million Local Funding \$364.09 Million Report Prepared on July 29, 2024 / V. 6.0

Sr. No.	Province / Org.	Projects	Sector	Dev. Partner	Donor Funding	Donor Funds Allocation	ADPI / PSDP Share	Approving Authority	Approval Date	Physical Progress %	Cumulative Spending 20.07.2024	Financial Progress %
<b>Sindh</b> US\$ Million												
1	Sindh	Sindh Flood Housing Reconstruction (New)	Housing, Infra	WB	500.00	500.00	227.27	ECNEC	04.01.2023	64.0%	414.42	82.9%
2	Sindh	Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (Irrigation Component \$212m)	Irrigation, Water	WB	500.00	712.00	0.00	ECNEC	06.12.2022	95.0%	198.22	92.6%
		Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (P&D Component \$270m)	Transport & Com, Municipal Serv.			270.00	30.00		06.12.2022	65.0%	180.09	60.0%
3	Sindh	Sindh Water & Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) Project	Water	IDA + WB	98.00	98.00	0.00	ECNEC	06.12.2022	93.0%	74.80	76.3%
4	Sindh	Sindh Integrated Health and Population Program	Health	IsDB + WB	250.00	250.00	30.00	ECNEC	04.01.2023	8.5%	9.77	3.9%
5	Sindh	Sindh School Rehabilitation Project Under Flood Restoration Program (ADB Emergency Assistance)	Education	ADB	275.00	275.00	27.50	ECNEC	11.12.2023	0%	0	0%
6	Sindh	Sindh Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Project (2015 - Repurposed to Flood)	Agriculture	WB	8.30	7.863	0.00	PDWP	01.09.2022	100%	7.86	100%
7	Sindh	Competitive & Livable City of Karachi (2019 - Repurposed)	Governance	WB	27.00	27.00	0.00	GoS	08.09.2022	100%	27.00	100%
					<b>Total A</b>	<b>\$ 1,658.30</b>	<b>\$ 1,639.86</b>	<b>\$ 314.77</b>			<b>\$ 910.16</b>	<b>49.0%</b>
<b>Balochistan</b> US\$ Million												
8	GoB	Emergency Flood Assistance Project (Balochistan Urgent Response for Food Security)	DRR	ADB - JFFR	8.00	5.00	0.00	ECNEC	16-12-2022	100%	5.00	100%
	NDMA					3.00	0.00			100%	2.97	99%
9	Balochistan (Federal)	IFRAP: Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project (Post-Flood 2022 Reconstruction Program: Resilience Enhancement and Livelihood Diversification in ...)	Rehabilitation, Livelihoods	WB	400.00	400.00	0.00	ECNEC	04.01.2023	0.19%	0.31	0.1%
					<b>Total B</b>	<b>\$ 408.00</b>	<b>\$ 408.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>			<b>\$ 8.28</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</b> US\$ Million												
10	Gov. of KP	Access to Clean Energy (49059-002)	Power	ADB	47.00	47.00	0.00	PDWP	18.10.2023	-	5.30	11.3%
11	KP	KP Rural Accessibility Project	Rural Dev.	WB	300.00	300.00	10.00	ECNEC	31.05.2023	5.0%	13.04	4.3%
12	KP	KP Irrigated Agriculture Improvement (2020 Repurposed)	Agriculture	WB	11.70	11.70	0.00	ECNEC	15.09.2022	89.8%	4.375	37.4%
13	KP	KP Integrated Tourism Development (2019 Repurposed)	Tourism	WB	2.00	2.00	0.00	PDWP	Aug. 2023	83.0%	1.62	81.0%
14	KP	KP Human Capital Investment - Education Component (Repurposed to Flood Rehabilitation)	Education	WB	25.06	15.00	0.00	ECNEC	11.12.2023	0%	0.129	0.5%
						KP Human Capital Investment - Health Component (Repurposed to Flood Rehabilitation)	Health		10.06	0.00	21.01.2021	0%
15	KP	Food Security Support Project	Agri. Food Security	ADB	83.00	83.00	5.00	ECNEC	11.12.2023	0%	0	0%
					<b>Total C</b>	<b>\$ 468.76</b>	<b>\$ 468.76</b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>			<b>\$ 24.46</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
<b>Punjab</b> US\$ Million												
16	Punjab	Punjab Tourism for Economic Growth (Repurposed to Rehabilitation)	Tourism	WB	2.80	2.80	-	PDWP	24.01.2022	100%	2.80	100%
					<b>Total D</b>	<b>\$ 2.80</b>	<b>\$ 2.80</b>	<b>\$ -</b>			<b>\$ 2.80</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Cross-Provincial</b> US\$ Million												
17	GoB	Emergency Flood Assistance Project (EFAP) — on Farm Water Management	Water, Infra, Civil works	ADB	475.00	65.00	7.79	ECNEC	11/06/2022 to 11/11/2022	22.0%	11.00	16.1%
	GoS					199.90	20.10	ECNEC	15.12.2022	-	27.61	13.9%
	GoKP					59.85	6.43	ECNEC	-	-	0.87	1.3%
	NHA					150.25	-	-	-	-	-	0%
18	GoB	DRR Project for Rehabilitation / Reconstruction	DRR	ADB / NDRMF	31.28	13.56	0.00	PDWP	10.05.2023	87.0%	11.53	65.0%
	KP					4.12	0.00	PDWP	-	-	-	0%
	Sindh					12.06	-	MoPDSI	14.10.2023 to 20.09.2023	100%	10.43	65.0%
19	GoP	Pakistan Hydromet and Climate Services Project (2020 Repurposed to BISF)	Climate	WB	150.00	150.00	-	ECNEC	25.05.2021	100%	150.00	100%
20	GoP	Crisis Resilience Institutions for Social Protection (CRISP) Program (Repurposed to BISF)	Social Protection	WB	73.14	73.14	-	ECNEC	-	100%	73.14	100%
21	Federal	Polio Eradication Program (Phase IV)	Health	IsDB	100.00	100.00	-	ECNEC	04.09.2023	-	-	0%
					<b>Total E</b>	<b>\$ 829.42</b>	<b>\$ 827.88</b>	<b>\$ 34.32</b>			<b>\$ 284.57</b>	<b>33.0%</b>
					<b>Grand Total (A+B+C+D+E)</b>	<b>\$ 3,367.28</b>	<b>\$ 3,347.30</b>	<b>\$ 364.09</b>	<b>4RF Cumulative Spending</b>		<b>\$ 1,230.3</b>	<b>33.1%</b>

**\*Question No. 21 Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan:**

(Notice Received on 23/07/2024 at 4:09 PM) QID: 42232

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

- (a) *the names, names of parent departments, place of domicile and place of present posting of the officers working as trade councilors / commercial attaches at Pakistan Embassies Abroad;*
- (b) *the procedure adopted for selection / appointment of the said officers; and*
- (c) *the performance of those commercial attaches and trade Councilors regarding increasing of exports of the country and signing of trade agreements with countries of their posting during the last five years?*

**Mr. Jam Kamal Khan:** (a) A total of **Fifty-Seven (57)** Trade and Investment officers are posted at Pakistan's Trade Missions across the globe. Details w.r.t. the names, names of parent departments, place of domicile, and place of present posting of the Officers working as Ministers Trade/Trade Counsellors/Commercial Attaches at Pakistan Embassies abroad are placed as **Annex-I**.

(b) As regards the procedure adopted for selection/appointment of the Trade & Investment Officers (TIOs), it is stated that the Ministry of Commerce ensures that the selection process is completely transparent and absolutely merit based. During the selection process of the Officers currently posted-as TIOs, it was also ensured that transparency and merit is clearly visible from the processes, procedures and practices that were adopted for selection.

It is further stated that the selection process was made strictly in accordance with the **"Policy Guidelines for Selection, Appointment and Posting of Trade & Investment Officers (BS-18 to 21) in Pakistan Trade Missions abroad"** duly approved by the Prime Minister. Copy of the Policy Guidelines is placed at **Annex-II**. The salient features of the Policy Guidelines are as follows:

- a. Selection for the posts of Trade and Investment Officers except Ambassador 'WTO-Geneva (BS-21/22), Economic Minister-Brussels (BS-20), two posts of Trade and Investment Counsellors (TIC)-WTO, Geneva (BS-19) and Director (ECO)-Tehran (BS-19) was done through a competitive process where in the Tests were conducted by LUMS/ IBA and interviews of the qualified/eligible candidates were conducted by the Special Selection Board. Further, the selection process for Ambassador WTO-Geneva (BS-21/22), Economic Minister-Brussels (BS-20), two posts of Trade and Investment Counsellors (TIC)-WTO, Geneva (BS-19) and Director (ECO)-Tehran (BS-19) was undertaken through Special Selection Board (SSB) after due scrutiny of the applicants/aspiring candidates.
- b. After receipt of applications subsequent to the Advertisement of the posts, short listing for all applicants was done by a Committee constituted by the Secretary, Ministry of Commerce according to the eligibility criteria laid down in the above- mentioned Guidelines for Selection of TIOs.
- c. The shortlisted candidates appeared in a Specialized Test having following components:
  - i. Written Test of 100 marks related to academic background, professional knowledge and analytical skills.
  - ii. Psychometric test of the candidates qualifying written test. Separate marks were not awarded for the psychological assessment. The psychometric reports were placed before the Interview Board for consideration.
  - iii. The Written as well as psychometric tests were conducted by LUMS/IBA in selected cities of Pakistan and designated Pakistan's Missions abroad (for Pakistani Diaspora) as decided by MoC. The Overall weightage of the written test/ assessment is 60% and passing marks will be 60%.



- d. The final evaluation of qualifying candidates was done through an interview by the Interview Board headed by the Minister for Commerce, constituted with approval of the Prime Minister. In case of Government servants, evaluation reports of mandatory trainings (MCMC, SMC, NMC/NDU) were also placed before the Interview Board. The composition of the Interview Board is given as follows:
- i. Commerce Minister / Advisor on Commerce (Chairman)
  - ii. Secretary Commerce
  - iii. Secretary Foreign Affairs
  - iv. Secretary Establishment Division
  - v. Secretary Board of Investment
  - vi. Chief Executive TDAP
  - vii. An expert from private sector appointed by Ministry of Commerce

(c) It is difficult to precisely quantify the exact quantum of the contribution of the Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) as they don't know "directly" generate exports (the specific role in increasing or decreasing exports depends on specific circumstances of each country).

Pakistan's Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) play an important role in driving export growth by providing support to the exporters. Their role and major achievements are placed at **Annex-III**.

To further improve their performance, their Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have recently been revised (**Annex-IV**). These KPIs will be used for the performance evaluation of the TIOs. The same given as under:

- (a) Increase in Pakistan's Exports
- (b) Trade Promotion
- (c) Trade Diplomacy
- (d) Market Intelligence Reports
- (e) Trade Dispute Resolution, Individual Firm Support
- (f) Intellectual Property, Branding
- (g) Support for SIFC Initiatives and Investment

Details of Stations where Exports Increased over a period of 5 years are placed at **Annex-V**.

*(Annexures have been placed in Library and as table of the mover/concerned Member)*

**\*Question No. 22 Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan:**  
(Notice Received on 23/07/2024 at 4:10 PM) QID: 42231

*Will the Minister for Industries and Production be pleased to state the number of industrial units working under the administrative control of the Federal Government indicating also the present production of each unit?*

**Rana Tanveer Hussain:** The number of active and defunct industrial units working under administrative control of Industries and Production Division is as under:

**1. SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SMEDA)**

Sialkot Industrial Development Center (SIDC) is functioning as Common Facility Center (CFC) to support SMEs, engages in industrial activities for non-commercial purposes.

In FY 2023-24, SIDC manufactured 2,503,906 units including bladders thermo footballs, basketballs, rugby balls, and volleyballs, all meeting international standards.

**2. AGRO FOOD PROCESSING (AFP) FACILITIES**

Agro Food Processing (AFP) Facilities Multan has an industrial unit for fruit processing since 2009. Till date AFP has made following production:

Pulp produced	=	46,024,102kg
Fruit processed	=	92,048,204kg
Fruit grading	=	2,562,127kg

However, the detail of defunct industrial units is as follows:

Sr#	Company Name	Defunct Since
1.	Pakistan Engineering Company (PECO)	2021
2.	Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM)	2015
3.	Sindh Engineering Limited (SEL)	2007-08
4.	Pakistan Automobile Corporation (PACO)	2007
5.	Republic Motors Limited (RML)	2003
6.	Morafco	1991

**\*Question No. 23 Senator Fawzia Arshad:**

(Notice Received on 24/07/2024 at 4:10 PM) QID: 42236

*Will the Minister for Science and Technology be pleased to state whether it is a fact the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has allowed F.Sc pre-medical students to pursue engineering degrees, if so, the reasons/justification thereof?*

**Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui:** Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Vice Chancellor Committee (VCC) in its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting held on June 21, 2024, recommended the amendments in Article-2a(i) of PEC Regulations for Engineering Education in Pakistan. The same was endorsed by PEC Governing Body in its 49<sup>th</sup> meeting held on June 28, 2024 to allow the students having HSSC (Pre-Medical) qualification to be considered for admission in all engineering programs, after studying 8 weeks condensed program to compensate for deficient courses of Mathematics. The notification is attached as **Annex-A**.

Justification (s):

- i. The decision to consider FSc. Pre-Medical students for admission in engineering programs, was taken in the wake of serious decline in the intake, as well as aligning it with the international practice of O/A-level (Cambridge System etc.)
- ii. A number of international universities offer zero/foundation semester to cover such gaps before entering regular semester of program.



## Pakistan Engineering Council

(Constituted under Pakistan Engineering Council Act, 1976 enacted by the Parliament)

Engineering Accreditation Department

Ataturk Avenue (East),  
G-5/2, Islamabad  
July 11, 2024

PEC/EAD/49-GB/004/2024

All Vice Chancellors/ Rectors/ Heads  
of HEIs in Pakistan

Subject: Policy Decision - Amendments in Article 2(a)(i) of PEC Regulations for Engineering Education in Pakistan

It is to inform that PEC Governing Body in its 49<sup>th</sup> meeting held on June 28, 2024, decided to allow the students having HSSC (Pre-Medical) qualification to be considered for admission in all engineering programs as per Article-2(a)(i) of PEC Regulations for Engineering Education in Pakistan. In this regard, the HEIs are advised to adhere the following approved guidelines/ SOPs for admissions of all such students:

- i. Entry Test mechanisms/ regimes, be moderated to include above qualification and its weightages for admission eligibility.
- ii. Conduction of 8 weeks condensed program to compensate for deficient courses viz. Mathematics, prior to become eligible for admission in engineering programs. This may be considered as provisional admission for foundation courses to qualify to be eligible for admission through entry test.
- iii. The university conducting 8 weeks program would be responsible to develop condensed program and to ensure quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment.
- iv. Students will be admitted in accordance with the admission admissibility criteria as per discipline's merit and student preference.
- v. 40% seats within the total allowed intake for each batch of the respective programs may be filled with the background qualification of HSSC (Pre-Medical) for those students who have successfully completed the aforementioned condensed program.
- vi. The university will conduct an entry test for students qualifying the condensed program separately for determining the merit for admission.
- vii. The university admissions cycle may vary in accordance with regional requirements for the commencement of the academic year.
- viii. The requirement of 60% in HSSC is mandatory for admission in engineering programs as per Article 2(a)(i) of PEC Regulations for Engineering Education in Pakistan.

2. The SRO for the amendment in PEC Regulations is under process and will be shared shortly.

Forwarded for your information and compliance, please.

With Regards,

  
Engr. Niaz Ahmed  
Sr. Addl. Registrar/ HoD EAD

Copy to:

- a. The Convener, PEC EAB
- b. PS to Chairman/ Registrar, PEC
- c. Head-Engineers Registration Department, PEC
- d. Head-Legal Department, PEC

Direct: 051-9204466, Fax: 051-9219050, 9214488

Website: <http://www.pec.org.pk> Email: [engrniazahmed@pec.org.pk](mailto:engrniazahmed@pec.org.pk)

**\*Question No. 24 Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur:**  
(Notice Received on 25/07/2024 at 2:28 PM) QID: 42240

*Will the Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state the conditions of IMF for recent loan agreement with Government of Pakistan indicating also the policy devised by the Government for repayment of the same?*

**Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb:** The Government of Pakistan (GoP) initiated an economic and financial reforms agenda through the 2023 Stand By Arrangement (SBA), which was successfully completed in April 2024.

To continue the reforms process and to put Pakistan on a path of sustainable economic growth, the GoP requested the IMF for a home-grown fund supported economic reforms agenda. Accordingly, GoP and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached a Staff Level Agreement on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 for a 37 month long, 7 billion dollar fund supported programme. The agreement is subject to approval by IMF Executive Board.

The Government's reform agenda will be focused on the following areas:

1. Achieving a Primary Balance of 1% of GDP in FY 2024-25.
2. Expansion of tax base and removal of exemptions
3. Digitization of FBR
4. Reduction on Federal Government's Expenditure through "right sizing"
5. Restoring energy sector's viability.
6. Improve the governance of SoEs
7. Rebalancing the Federal and Provincial Spending in line with 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment
8. Increase in Provincial revenues

The reforms initiated under the new proposed programme will result in reduction of fiscal and current account deficits. Furthermore, the Government is also committed to achieving an increase in revenues by 3% of GDP by FY 2026-27. Consequently, with reduction in Federal Government's expenditures, the fiscal space is expected to increase. This will help the GoP repay its loans as well increase spending in other priority sectors.

ISLAMABAD,  
*the 8th August, 2024*

SYED HASNAIN HAIDER,  
*Secretary.*