

**(345th Session)**

**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*

**Tuesday, the 28th January, 2025**

**DEFERRED QUESTIONS**

*[Question Nos. 27 and 31]  
were deferred on 15th January, 2025 (345th Session)*

*(Def.)* \*Question No. 27 **Senator Shahadat Awan:**  
(Notice Received on 11/12/2024 at 3:00 PM) QID: 42371

*Will the Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division be pleased to state:*

- (a) the details of criteria devised by Pakistan Telecommunications Authority to deal with the roll-out obligations by the licensees in absence of any regulation / framework made for Right of Way; and*
- (b) whether it is a fact that licensees have to fulfill the roll-out obligation in the uninhabited areas despite being included in the region for which the license has been granted, if so, the details thereof?*

**Minister Incharge of the Cabinet Division:** (a) 1. In line with Government’s policies, PTA issues licenses to Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) through open auction and all terms and conditions related to rollout obligations are included in licenses. Such details are also published through an Information Memorandum (IM) whenever the new licenses are awarded. For reference, the current roll out targets for CMOs focuses on 3% increase in population coverage, which can be targeted through site addition, which varies for each province depending upon variable Radio Frequency (RF) conditions, terrains, already covered population etc. The

minimum yearly BTS site count/target for each province per operator, to fulfill rollout obligations is as under:

- a. 245 BTS sites for Punjab.
- b. 105 BTS sites for Sindh.
- c. 65 BTS sites for KPK.
- d. 30 BTS sites for Balochistan.

2. Specifically, to address Right of Way (RoW), the same is governed under Section 27 (A) of Pakistan Telecom Re-Organization Act, 1996 (“Act”), in this regard Ministry of IT and Telecom (MoIT&T) has also issued a “Public & Private Right of Way Policy Directive” dated 9th Oct, 2020. This policy is aimed to facilitate the development and expansion of telecommunications infrastructure by streamlining the process for telecom operators to acquire Right of Way. Furthermore, MoIT&T is also in process of developing an automated online system for streamlining Right of Way NOC processes.

(b) 1. CMOs are issued licenses for a period of 15x years. From 2021, population-based coverage obligations have been enhanced. These obligations mandate the operators to increase network coverage in terms of targeting population each year, in each province. This ensures a continuous expansion of telecom services, particularly in under-served regions.

2. For underdeveloped and underserved areas, including uninhabited regions, the Universal Service Fund (USF) Company plays a crucial role. In accordance with the Pakistan Telecom (Re-Organization) Act, USF is responsible for facilitating coverage expansion in such areas through targeted projects.

3. PTA has also issued specific licenses for Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), with distinct rollout targets for both urban and rural areas. These targets are designed to ensure equitable access to telecommunication services across various regions.

(Def.) \*Question No. 31 **Senator Quratulain Marri :**

(Notice Received on 27/12/2024 at 10:38 AM) QID: 42760

*Will the Minister for Aviation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Day Care Centers are not available at all airports in Pakistan as required under Day Care Centers Act, 2023, if so, the reasons thereof indicating also steps taken or being taken to establish such facilities?*

**Khawaja Muhammad Asif:** It is apprised that Day Care Center Facility at International Airports i.e. IIAP, Islamabad, AIIAP Lahore, MIAP Multan, FIAP Faisalabad and HQ PAA Karachi is available and functional. Whereas, establishment of similar facility at BKIAP Peshawar is under process. Remaining airports have also been directed to arrange for the establishment of this facility on priority basis.

\*Question No. 99 **Senator Dost Muhammad Khan :**

(Notice Received on 7/01/2025 at 10:44 AM) QID: 42832

*Will the Minister for Housing and Works be pleased to state:*

- (a) *whether it is a fact that there is water shortage issue in the Life Style apartments, G-13, if so details thereof; and*
- (b) *whether it is also a fact that soil testing survey was not conducted before the start of the said project, if so, the reasons thereof and if conducted indicate details of such test along with dates and report?*

**Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada:** (a) It is a fact that there exists shortage of water issue in Sector G-13. Life Style Residency apartments project are located in sub-sector G-13/1 & G-13/14, where extensive studies with regard to hydrological investigations to install Tube wells for Life Style Residency project in sector G-13 were carried. It is also stated that soil testing surveys have been carried out before start of projects and during execution of work stages as per below details.

I. Before start of project, M/s NESPAK, Islamabad office have conducted detailed surveys of sector G-13 during July, 2011 with the objectives to assess the impact of construction of flats on water supply and Sanitary Sewerage of Sector G-13. As per M/s NESPAK feasibility study reports, the existing systems (both storage reservoirs and the network) are

not capable to carry the loads of revised number of flats. Hence, it had been suggested to lay an exclusively separate filling line from the CDA main to the flats.

II. Moreover, during execution of work, EHFPRO had further carried out two Electrical Resistivity Surveys for Hydrological investigations to install Tube wells for Life Style Residency apartments in sector G-13. Both survey reports conclude shortage of underground water to install permanent tube wells according to requirement of Life Style apartments and its water load vide:

- a. Report of Dr. A. D Khan dated: Feb-2017.
- b. Report of Dr. M. Gulraiz Akhtar Professor dated: July-2019.

III. It is further stated that Director (Maintenance), FGE Housing Authority had enquired from EHFPRO during August, 2022 about the requirement of water for Life Style Residency in order to prepare a separate PC-1 for Life Style Residency project and FGEHA existing and upcoming projects. Accordingly, EHFPRO had provided its requirement by mentioning that it is 0.92 MGD for both projects on 11. 08. 2022.

IV. To resolve the issue of water supply of the sectors on permanent basis, FGE Housing Authority has decided to get one MGD water from CDA Shah Allah Ditta reservoir. With mutual understanding of CDA and FGEHA, PC-I of the project amounting to Rs. 354 million for missing portion connectivity of water supply line of Sector G-13/G-14 from CDA Shah Allah Ditta Reservoir has been approved and an amount of Rs.200 million in two transactions have been transferred to CDA. CDA has started the work, work assigned to three Contractors/Firms and progress of project is as under:

S. No.	Name of Work & Contractor	Progress of Work
1.	Providing / laying 48" Dia pipe at missing portions of sector D-12, E-12, Islamabad. (M/S Hizbullah Khan & Sons)	75%
2.	Providing / laying 36" dia pipe at missing portions of sector F-12, Islamabad. (M/S RZS Construction Company)	33% payment made against material stocked at site.
3.	Providing / laying 30" Dia pipe at missing portions of sector G-13 & G-14, Islamabad. (M/S Al-Feroz & Sons)	82%

As soon as work on said line completed. Water issues will relatively be addressed.

(b) Not true. A soil testing survey has been carried out before start of project during Dec, 2010. According to this report, the allowable bearing pressure of soil is 200 kpa or 1.8647 tons/sq.ft.

**\*Question No. 100 Senator Falak Naz:**

(Notice Received on 8/01/2025 at 4:15 PM) QID: 42848

*Will the Minister for Aviation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that flight from Islamabad to Chitral (to and from) are not operational, if so, details thereof also indicating when such flights will resume?*

**Khawaja Muhammad Asif:**

Chitral Airport is fully operational, but its runway can only accommodate ATR aircraft.

PIACL is the sole operator of these aircraft on the Islamabad-Chitral-Islamabad route. PIACL has temporarily suspended flights due to fleet constraints. PIACL currently has 3xATR42 aircraft out of which 1 is grounded.

Currently, spare parts are not available in the market. PIACL will resume its flights on Islamabad-Chitral-Islamabad route as soon as ATR aircraft is recovered.

**\*Question No. 101 Senator Mohsin Aziz:**

(Notice Received on 10/01/2025 at 3:12 PM) QID: 42856

*Will the Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications be pleased to state the year-wise details of IT exports, indicating also any decrease in the such exports and reasons thereof?*

**Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja:** Pakistan's IT & IT-enabled Services (ITeS) sector is making significant contribution to exports and foreign exchange earnings. During FY 24, ICT exports remittances inflow surged to US\$ 3.223 billion, the highest among all Services at 41.3% of total export of services.

Trade surplus of US\$ 2.827 billion (87.71% of total ICT export remittances) was delivered by the ICT Industry during FY 2023-24 to meet the foreign currency crunch faced by the country at the time, an increase of 22.31% as compared to trade surplus of US\$ 2.297 billion during the previous FY 2022-23. In comparison, the Services sector had recorded a trade deficit of US\$ 2.313 billion during FY 2023-24.

Over that past 5 years, Pakistan's IT & ITeS exports have achieved a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 22%, the highest growth rate in comparison to all other local industries in Services. Pakistan's ICT export figures as reported by SBP are as under:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>IT Remittances (US\$)-Billions</b>
2019-20	1.440
2020-21	2.108
2021-22	2.619
2022-23	2.596
2023-24	3.223

MoITT is extending maximum support to IT Industry and accordingly all possible steps are being taken to facilitate industry growth and implement industry confidence building measure, the sector's potential and is implementing policies to foster growth, including tax incentives and infrastructure development.

This effectiveness of the government measures is evident from a stellar 24% increase in exports. In comparison to IT & ITeS export remittances of US\$ 2.596 billion during the 2022-23, the export remittances in FY 2023-24 surged by US\$ 627 million, an increase of 24.15%. Furthermore, ICT delivered the largest trade surplus across all Services sector in Pakistan's economy during FY 2023-24.

Pakistan's ICT exports remittances inflow contributed over 10.5% to Pakistan's export's value during FY 2023-24. It is worth noting that Pakistan total exports grew by 10.5% during FY 2023 24 while Pakistan's ICT exports grew by over 24% during the same period thus signifying the increasing importance of Pakistan's ICT industry in the economy.

The increase in ICT exports underscores the government's commitment to enhancing the IT landscape, supported by strategic initiatives aimed at fostering innovation, improving; infrastructure, and facilitating ease of doing business within the sector. This is evident by stellar growth in ICT exports during the first half of FY 2024-25 (July-Dec) as ICT export remittances surged by a significant 28%, reaching US\$ 1.86 billion (1,864 million), compared to US\$ 1.45. billion (1,456 million) in the same period last year (FY 2023-24).

In Dec 2024, the remittances from ICT services export amounted to US\$ 348 million, a 14.8% increase over US\$ 303 million in Dec 2023. ICT exports increased by 12.2% over the last month (Nov 2024) in which remittances were US\$ 310 million.

This robust performance underscores the growing significance of the ICT sector in Pakistan's economic landscape.

MoITT's comprehensive approach integrates workforce development, modern infrastructure business-friendly policies, and aggressive global marketing. These initiatives, combined with strong milestones, are set to position Pakistan as a thriving player in the global IT landscape achieving sustainable growth and increased exports.

**\*Question No. 102 Senator Kamran Murtaza:**  
(Notice Received on 15/01/2025 at 12:43 PM) QID: 42868

*Will the Minister for Aviation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that PIA has commenced International flight operations on certain routes which were previously non-operational, if so, details*

*of new routes indicating also the duration for which said routes remained non-operational?*

**Khawaja Muhammad Asif:** PIA has recently resumed flight operation to different International routes, following the availability of aircraft and lifting of the EASA ban. Details of resumption of routes are attached at **Annex-I**.

**Annex-I**

Route	Date of Suspended	Date of Resumption	Non-Operation Duration	Aircraft	Reason
Islamabad - Paris – Islamabad	Jul-20	Jan-25	4 Years & 5 Months	B-777	EASA Ban
Turbat-Sharjah-Turbat	Aug-24	Jan-25	4 Months	ATR-42	Lack of availability of fleet and commercial viability
Turbat- Al Ain-Turbat	Jul-24	Jan-25	5 Months	ATR-42	
Gwadar - Muscat – Gwadar	Nov-23	Jan-25	1 Year & 1 Month	ATR-42	
Quetta - Jeddah – Quetta	Mar-21	Aug-24	3 Years & 4 Months	A-320	
Faisalabad - Jeddah – Faisalabad	Mar-21	Aug-24	3 Years & 4 Months	A-320	
Faisalabad - Madina – Faisalabad	Mar-21	Aug-24	3 Years & 4 Months	A-320	
Lahore - Kuwait – Lahore	May-24	Jan-25	7 Months	A-320	

Islamabad,  
*the 27th January, 2025*

SYED HASNAIN HAIDER,  
*Secretary.*



**(345th Session)**

**SENATE SECRETARIAT**

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**“UN-STARRED QUESTION AND ITS REPLY”**

**For Tuesday, the 28th January, 2025**

**Question No. 5 Senator Haji Hidayatullah Khan:**  
(Notice Received on 1/01/2025 at 11:17 AM) QID: 42787

*Will the Minister Incharge of the Establishment Division be pleased to state details of Grade 19 and 20 officers belonging to the Pakistan Administrative Service posted in Punjab, indicating their names, designation, and tenure of posting during the last 5 years with year wise breakdown?*

**Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema:** The requisite information in respect of PAS officers in BS-19 & 20 posted in Punjab during the last 5 years is attached at **Annex-I**.

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

Islamabad,  
*the 27th January, 2025*

**SYED HUSNAIN HAIDER,**  
*Secretary.*