



**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
CABINET DIVISION**

**REPORT
ON
OBSERVANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF
PRINCIPLES OF POLICY
IN RELATION TO
THE AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERATION
2013-14 TO 2017-18**

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PREFACE

The Principles of Policy are laid down in Chapter 2 of Part-II of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from Articles 29 to 40. The Cabinet Division, Government of Pakistan, is entrusted by the Rules of Business, 1973 with the responsibility to prepare the report on implementation and observance of these Principles in relation to affairs of the Federation. Article 29(3) of the Constitution requires that the said report be prepared and laid before the Parliament.

2. In discharge of the Constitutional obligation, the Report on Implementation and Observance of Principles of Policy in relation to Affairs of the Federation for the years 2013-14 to 2017-18 has accordingly been prepared with inputs from the Federal Ministries, Divisions and the Attached Departments.

(Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera)
Cabinet Secretary

CHAPTER-1

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

REGARDING

PRINCIPLES OF POLICY

The Constitutional provisions relating to the Principles of Policy are as under:

Article 29: Principles of Policy.—(1) The Principles set out in this Chapter shall be known as the Principles of Policy, and it is the responsibility of each organ and authority of the State, and of each person performing functions on behalf of an organ or authority of the State, to act in accordance with those Principles in so far as they relate to the functions of the organ or authority.

(2) In so far as the observance of any particular Principle of Policy may be dependent upon resources being available for the purpose, the Principle shall be regarded as being subject to the availability of resources.

(3) In respect of each year, the President in relation to the affairs of the Federation, and the Governor of each Province in relation to the affairs of his Province, shall cause to be prepared and laid before each House of *Majlis-e-Shoora* (Parliament) or, as the case may be, the Provincial Assembly, a report on the observance and implementation of the Principles of Policy, and provision shall be made in the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly and the Senate or, as the case may be, the Provincial Assembly, for discussion on such report.

Article 30: Responsibility with respect to Principles of Policy.—(1) The responsibility of deciding whether any action of an organ or authority of the State, or of a person performing functions on behalf of an organ or authority of the State, is in accordance with the Principles of Policy is that of the organ or authority of the State, or of the person, concerned.

(2) The validity of an action or of a law shall not be called in question on the ground that it is not in accordance with the Principles of Policy, and no action shall lie against the State, any organ or authority of the State or any person on such ground.

Article 31: Islamic way of life.—(1) Steps shall be taken to enable the Muslims of Pakistan, individually and collectively, to order their lives in accordance with the fundamental principles and basic concepts of Islam and to provide facilities whereby they may be enabled to understand the meaning of life according to the Holy Quran and *Sunnah*.

(2) The State shall endeavour, as respects the Muslims of Pakistan,—

- (a) to make the teaching of the Holy Quran and Islamiat compulsory, to encourage and facilitate the learning of Arabic language and to secure correct and exact printing and publishing of the Holy Quran;
- (b) to promote unity and the observance of the Islamic moral standards; and
- (c) to secure proper organization of *Zakat/Ushr*, *Auqaf* and Mosques.

Article 32: Promotion of local Government institutions.—The State shall encourage local Government institutions composed of elected representatives of the areas concerned and in such institutions, special representation will be given to peasants, workers and women.

Article 33: Parochial and other similar prejudices to be discouraged.—The State shall discourage parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices among the citizens.

Article 34: Full participation of women in national life.—Steps shall be taken to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life.

Article 35: Protection of family, etc.—The State shall protect the marriage, the family, the mother and the child.

Article 36: Protection of minorities.—The State shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities, including their due representation in the Federal and Provincial services.

Article 37: Promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils.—The State shall—

- (a) promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of backward classes or areas;
- (b) remove illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within minimum possible period;
- (c) make technical and professional education generally available and higher education equally accessible to all on the basis of merit;
- (d) ensure inexpensive and expeditious justice;
- (e) make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work, ensuring that children and women are not employed in vocations unsuited to their age or sex, and for maternity benefits for women in employment;
- (f) enable the people of different areas, through education, training, agricultural and industrial development and other methods, to participate fully in all forms of national activities, including employment in the service of Pakistan;
- (g) prevent prostitution, gambling and taking of injurious drugs, printing, publication, circulation and display of obscene literature and advertisements;
- (h) prevent the consumption of alcoholic liquor otherwise than for medicinal and, in the case of non-Muslims, religious purposes; and
- (i) decentralize the Government administration so as to facilitate expeditious disposal of its business to meet the convenience and requirements of the public.

Article 38: Promotion of social and economic well-being of the people.—The State shall—

- (a) secure the well-being of the people, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, by raising their standard of living, by preventing the concentration of wealth and means of production and distribution in the hands of a few to the detriment of general interest and by ensuring equitable adjustment of rights between employers and employees, and landlords and tenants;

- (b) provide for all citizens, within the available resources of the country, facilities for work and adequate livelihood with reasonable rest and leisure;
- (c) provide for all persons employed in the service of Pakistan or otherwise, social security by compulsory social insurance or other means;
- (d) provide basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief, for all such citizens, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, as are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment;
- (e) reduce disparity in the incomes and earnings of individuals, including persons in the various classes of the service of Pakistan;
- (f) eliminate *riba* as early as possible; and
- (g) ensure that the shares of Provinces in all Federal services, including autonomous bodies and corporations established by, or under the control of, the Federal Government, shall be secured and any omission in the allocation of the shares of the Provinces in the past shall be rectified.

Article 39: Participation of people in Armed Forces.—The State shall enable people from all parts of Pakistan to participate in the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

Article 40: Strengthening bonds with Muslim world and promoting international peace.—The State shall endeavor to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity, support the common interests of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, promote international peace and security, foster goodwill and friendly relations among all nations and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

* * *

CHAPTER-2

ISLAMIC WAY OF LIFE

(ARTICLE-31 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

- (1) *Steps shall be taken to enable Muslims of Pakistan, individually and collectively, to order their lives in accordance with the fundamental principles and basic concepts of Islam and to provide facilities whereby they may be enabled to understand the meaning of life according to the Holy Quran and Sunnah.*
- (2) *The State shall endeavour, as respects the Muslims of Pakistan,—*
 - (a) *To make the teaching of the Holy Quran and Islamiat compulsory, to encourage and facilitate the learning of Arabic language and to secure correct and exact printing and publishing of the Holy Quran;*
 - (b) *To promote unity and the observance of the Islamic moral standards; and*
 - (c) *To secure proper organization of Zakat, Ushr, Auqaf and Mosques.*

In the light of the guiding principles of Islam as mentioned in the Preamble and in Article 31 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the Federal Ministries, Divisions and Departments pursue policies and measures for promotion of the Islamic way of life.

Inculcation of Islamic Values

2. The Federal Ministries encourage the Islamic way of life as defined in the Constitution of Pakistan. Necessary facilities are provided to the employees for collective and individual prayers in the offices with separate prayer areas for the female officers/staff. Moreover, the office timing during the holy month of Ramadan is also adjusted to provide maximum facilitation to the employees. Programmes on different Islamic festivals, like *Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)*, are organised regularly. Promotion of unity, self-respect and Islamic moral standards is the foremost objective. Social aspects of Islamic way of life, like cleanliness, punctuality, discipline, etc., are observed. A break for the Friday Prayers is observed as per Government instructions in the Ministries. In

addition, public holidays on all Islamic festivals, etc., are also observed as per Government instructions.

Provision of facilities for Hajj

3. The Ministry of Religious Affairs took steps for bringing improvements in the facilities for Hajj-2014. The Government, for the first time, took the initiative of provision of cooked meal to *Hujjaj* in their buildings three times a day through Saudi catering companies. In this regard, the Hajj Wing played an important role in conducting the Hajj operation in consultation with all the stakeholders including various Ministries/organizations of Saudi and Pakistani Governments, banks, airlines, Hajj group organizers, scholars, prominent figures and Members of the Parliament. The efforts to improve the Hajj facilities continued throughout the period under review and the following steps were taken in collaboration with the Saudi authorities, airlines and other stakeholders:

- a) Express Clearance Services to *Hujjaj* at Jeddah and Madina.
- b) Provision of up-model buses from airport to the residence of *Hujjaj*.
- c) Provision of accommodation in Madina
- d) Provision of three-time cooked meals in *Mashair* (Mina, Arafat and Muzdalfa)
- e) Provision of wide mattresses in Mina.
- f) Provision of filtered water and effective cooling system in each *Maktab* in Mina.
- g) Provision of fireproof tents at Arafat.
- h) Separate washrooms for the disabled in Mina, Muzdalfa.

4. The *Hajj* applications under the Government Scheme were earlier considered on “first come first served” basis, but with the increasing number of applications, Hajj balloting for the Government Hajj Scheme was conducted by a third party, i.e., the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) in order to ensure transparency. The increasing number of applications reflected the confidence of general public in Government Hajj arrangements. No special quota was reserved for any agency, office or individual. The Saudi Hajj Ministry allocates a quota for Hajj which was distributed between the Government Scheme and Hajj Group Organizers as detailed below:

Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Applications for Government Scheme	127,586	269,384	280,617	338,969	374,897
Successful Applicants	57,672	56,684	71,684	107,526	107,526
Private Hajj Group Organizers Scheme	85,539	86,684	71,684	71,684	76,684
Total Hajj Quota	143,211	143,368	143,368	179,210	184,210

5. The Hajj Package cost for Hajj 2017-18 was as under:

North Region Rs. 280,000/-
South Region Rs. 270,000/-

6. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has prepared a book entitled “Rahnuma-e-Hajj” in order to facilitate the pilgrims in their holy journey. Its annual review is done by the Research and Reference Wing of this Ministry. The book is distributed among all the pilgrims before *Hajj*.

Disbursement of Zakat

7. Zakat is one of the important pillars of Islam which has a vital role in poverty alleviation and has contributed to economic uplift of the poor in the society. Zakat is being collected by the banks/institutions at national level in pursuance of the Zakat and Ushr Ordinance, 1980 and disbursed to the provinces as per their share in the NFC award. Zakat funds are utilized for assistance of the needy, indigent, poor, orphans, widows, handicapped and disabled persons for their subsistence or rehabilitation. These poor segments of society are provided Zakat funds either directly through respective local Zakat Committees or indirectly through institutions i.e. educational, vocational, social institutions, hospitals, etc.

8. Zakat is deducted from the bank accounts by the scheduled banks all over the country on the 1st Ramadan as per ceiling announced by the Government. The disbursement of Zakat funds amongst all four provinces, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Gilgit-Baltistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas increased from Rs Rs.4053.57 million in 2013-14 to Rs.7570.910 million in 2016-17. A full-fledged and properly staffed Zakat and Ushr Department has been established at FATA Secretariat and Agency Zakat Councils have been established in the

Agencies to promptly and efficiently dispose of business related to Zakat and Auqaf. 500 Zakat Committees were established all over FATA and an amount of Rs.131.348 million for the year 2014-15 was released by the Ministry of Religious Affairs to *Mustehqeen* (deserving) in accordance with the criteria laid down in Zakat and Ushr Ordinance, 1980. The previous funds available with Z&U Department could not be distributed during 2015-16 due to non-constitution of FATA Zakat Council/Agency Zakat Committee /Local Zakat Committees as law & order situation in the FATA was not normal. However, an amount of Rs. 305.387 million was distributed during the year 2016-17.

Ramadan Relief Package

9. In order to ensure availability of essential items at affordable prices during the Holy month of Ramadan, the Federal Government provides subsidy under the “Ramazan Relief Package” through Utility Stores Corporations (USC) outlets. During the FY 2016-17, an amount of Rs.700 million was released for the Ramzan Relief Package.

Elimination of *Riba* and Promotion of Islamic Banking

10. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), being regulator of the banking sector, has been playing a pivotal role not only in strengthening the regulatory and *Shariah*-compliant framework for the Islamic banking industry but has also been promoting Islamic Banking among the masses including the academia, business community, financial industry and general public. Following are some of the key initiatives taken by SBP for the promotion of Islamic banking industry.

Licensing

- i. The SBP allowed three types of Islamic banking institutions to operate in the country i.e. (i) Full-fledged Islamic banks, (ii) Islamic banking subsidiaries of conventional banks, and (iii) Stand-alone Islamic Banking Branches (IBBs) of conventional banks. Criteria have also been issued for the conversion of conventional banking branches into Islamic banking branches. This approach was quite successful and by 2016-17 the Islamic banking industry assets base constituted 11.4 percent of the overall banking system in the country with 22 Islamic banking institutions, including five full-fledged Islamic banks, one Islamic banking subsidiary of a

conventional bank and 16 conventional banks offering Islamic banking through their 2082 Islamic banking branches in Pakistan. The Islamic Banking branches of the National Bank of Pakistan increased from 79 to 118 branches from January to December 2016 and from 118 to 134 branches January to June 2017, when the NBP became the second largest Islamic banking window amongst the conventional banks.

- ii. For encouraging Islamic Microfinance, the SBP has also allowed establishment of full-fledged Islamic Microfinance banks, Islamic Microfinance Divisions of conventional Microfinance Banks, Islamic Microfinance services by full-fledged Islamic banks and Islamic Microfinance services by conventional banks.

Formation of Steering Committee for Promotion of Islamic Banking

11. A high-level Steering Committee for promotion of Islamic banking was set up by the Federal Government in December 2013 under the chairmanship of Deputy Governor SBP. Some of the key outputs resulting from the Committee's recommendations include:

- i. Strengthening of legal framework for Islamic banking
- ii. Rationalization of Minimum Capital Requirement (MCR) for Islamic banking subsidiary
- iii. Development of liquidity management framework for Islamic banking industry
- iv. Commencement of Open Market Operations for Islamic Banking Institutions (IBI)
- v. Creation of Centre of Excellence to develop human resources for Islamic banking.

12. The Federal Government, through the Finance Act 2016, introduced a tax reduction of two percent for Shari'ah-listed companies on the suggestion of SECP. The tax rebate was part of the reforms being instituted by the SECP to eliminate *Riba* and to promote and develop the Islamic capital market.

Promotion of Islamic Financial Institutions

13. The last decade saw tremendous growth in the Islamic financial institutions. Business appeal of Islamic finance stems from its inherent ability to promote economic maximization and social welfare opportunities. This high potential of Islamic finance is being unleashed with more distinct recognition of its different dimensions and the financial innovation it offers. In 2015-16, the Islamic finance global volume had exceeded \$2 trillion, which was progressively increasing with each passing year. The Islamic finance volume in Pakistan had exceeded \$6 billion and was increasing at a progressive rate.

14. The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has set up the Islamic Finance Department (IFD) which is determined to contribute to the growth of this sector considering its religious and national responsibility. During the year 2015-16, IFD's major activities were as follows:

i. Launching of All-Share Islamic Index

On November 18, 2015, the Finance Minister inaugurated the All-Share Islamic Index. The Index has been developed by a panel of experts representing the State Bank of Pakistan, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan, Meezan Bank Limited and Pakistan Stock Exchange. This Index is providing criteria of listing for the Shari'ah-compliant listed companies on the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

ii. Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) membership

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) became a member of the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB), which serves as an international standard-setting body of regulatory and supervisory agencies that want to ensure the soundness and stability of the Islamic Financial Services Industry (IFSI). The SECP will benefit from cooperation among IFSB members in developing the Islamic financial services industry in Pakistan and avail itself of the IFSB's training facilities.

iii. Adoption of Shari'ah standards

In line with its efforts to bring about standardization and harmonization in Shari'ah-related matters of Islamic financial institutions (IFIs) under its regulation and supervision, the SECP adopted, with minor amendments, Shari'ah standards numbers 3, 8, 9 and 13 issued by the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions.

iv. Shari'ah Advisory Board

A four-member Shari'ah Advisory Board (SAB) was set up at the SECP in 2015 so as to give its opinions on the laws, rules, regulations, agreements and documents, put to it for the purpose. During the year, five SAB meetings were held. The SAB reviewed and approved (i) Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) Commodity *Murabahah* Transaction; (ii) the Diminishing *Musharakah* as a mode of housing finance for the SECP employees (Employees Housing Scheme); (iii) Draft Standardized Offering Document for Islamic Mutual Funds; and (iv) Draft Standardized Trust Deed for Islamic Mutual Funds.

Modarbas

15. The *Modarabas* are the pioneering Islamic financial institutions in Pakistan. The Finance Division, in order to harmonize the Shari'ah interpretations to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory oversight of the *Modaraba* sector, nurtures a pool of competent Shari'ah advisors. The SECP issued a Shari'ah Compliance and Shari'ah Audit Mechanism for *Modarabas*. The mechanism would ensure achievement of the objectives of *Halal* business as enshrined in the Shari'ah.

16. The *Modaraba* sector facilitates investment in accordance with the Islamic principles. During the last three decades, notwithstanding the challenges of already deeply entrenched interest-based financing system and resource mobilization constraints, the sector has performed reasonably well and shown a steady growth. It is worth mentioning that despite the financial and economic hardships, most of the *Modarabas* continued to perform well and record profits also. In the financial year ending on June 30, 2014, the performance of the *Modaraba* sector was fairly satisfactory. Out of 27 *Modarabas*, 17 had declared cash dividends for the year ending

on June 30, 2013; whereas, for the year ending on June 30, 2014, 18 *Modarabas* declared cash dividends to their certificate holders. During the year, 4 new *Modaraba* management companies were registered under the *Modaraba* Ordinance, 1980. Similarly, one new *Modaraba* was floated and listed on the stock exchange.

17. In 2015-16, 37 *Modaraba* companies were in existence and the total number of operational *Modarabas* was 26. During 2015-16, two new companies were registered as *Modaraba* companies whereas one *Modaraba* was floated under the *Modaraba* Ordinance, 1980. During the year, the *Modaraba* sector showed growth in terms of total assets. The sector declared dividends up to 90%. Hence, the certificate holders were able to earn *halal* profits on their investments. As per unaudited financial statements of 26 operational *Modarabas* till April 30, 2016, the aggregate equity of the *Modaraba* was Rs.19,852 million and total assets of the *Modaraba* sector stood at Rs.35,958 million.

Regulatory Reforms

- i. To improve the *Modaraba* regulatory framework and to remove the practical difficulties, a comprehensive review of the *Modaraba* Companies and *Modaraba* Rules, 1981 and Prudential Regulations for *Modaraba* was carried out.
- ii. In addition to the existing two Islamic Financial Accounting Standards, a third Islamic Financial Accounting Standard-3 for “Profit and Loss Sharing on Deposits” was issued for Islamic financial institutions in the period under review.

Training programme for creating awareness on *Modarabas* and Islamic financial products

18. In order to promote Islamic finance business and to enhance the capacity-building of Islamic financial institutions, the SECP conducted a two days' training workshop on Islamic Financial Products and Risk Management in 2013 at Karachi in collaboration with the Islamic Research & Training Institute, a subsidiary of the Islamic Development Bank.

Takaful

19. The word *Takaful* comes from the *Arabic* root word *Kafala*, meaning “guarantee”. *Takaful* is the practice whereby individuals in the

community jointly guarantee themselves against loss or damage. It was first established in the early Islamic era with the purpose of promoting mutual solidarity and cooperation among the Muslim community. In *Takaful* the elements of *Riba* (interest), *Maisir* (gambling), *Gharar* (uncertainty) are removed from the operations.

20. The *Takaful* Rules were introduced in 2012 by the SECP, allowing conventional insurers to obtain authorization under these rules before starting their window *Takaful* operations, enabling conventional insurers to offer Sharia-compliant products through these windows in addition to the conventional products, subject to the condition that window operations were segregated in all respects, including the capital. The SECP granted window *Takaful* licenses to five non-life and two life conventional insurers during 2015-16 when there were forty-two (42) non-life insurers operating in the market, including three (3) general *Takaful* operators and one state-owned insurer.

Strategic Trade Policy Framework

21. The Strategic Trade Policy Framework 2012-15 of the Commerce Division is in line with Islamic ideology and principles, and no provision of the Import and Export Order is in conflict with the injunctions of Holy Quran, Sunnah and the Islamic way of life. Import and export of translation of Holy Quran without the Arabic text, anti-Islamic, obscene, and subversive literature, poppy, cannabis, opium, alcoholic beverages and other narcotic substances are banned. The Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with the Ministry of Science & Technology, established the Pakistan *Halal* Product Development Board under the administrative control of Ministry of Science & Technology.

National Seerat Conference & Book Competition

22. In the year 2013-14, the National Seerat Conference was arranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs on 14th January, 2014. The President of Pakistan chaired the inaugural session and the concluding session was chaired by the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony also organizes a Seerat Book Competition every year. Books and articles written on the topic announced by the Ministry are invited from all over Pakistan. Prize winners are given cash prizes, souvenirs and certificates. Positions are announced during the inaugural session of National Seerat

Conference. In the category of books 20 prizes were conferred out of 45 books.

23. The National Seerat Conference 1436 AH/2015 was arranged on 4th January, 2015 at Pak-China Friendship Centre, Islamabad. In the category of books, 18 prizes were conferred by the President of Pakistan in the inaugural session and 31 prizes were conferred by the Federal Minister in the concluding session. Turkish and Omani delegations also participated in the Conference. A total of 700 copies of *Maqalat-e-Seerat* were distributed during the National Seerat Conference and 300 were distributed among the libraries.

24. The National Seerat Conference 2016 was arranged on 24th January, 2016 at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad. The Mufti of Istanbul, Turkey also participated in the Conference and expressed his feelings about the important occasion of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal and the Pakistan-Turkey friendship. This year, 56 prizes were conferred by the Federal Minister on the prize winners of Seerat Book Competition, 1437 A.H. In the category of books, 22 prizes were awarded while in the category of *Maqalat-e-Seerat* 34 prizes were conferred.

25. The National Seerat Conference 2017 was arranged by the Ministry on 2nd December, 2017 at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad. More than 3000 persons from all walks of life including diplomats, politicians and other prominent personalities attended the conference. The President of Pakistan chaired the conference and conferred prizes on the position holders of Seerat Books competition. This year 57 prizes were conferred by the President amongst the winners of Seerat Book Competition 1439 A.H. In the category of books 21 prizes were given while in the category of *Maqalat-e-Seerat* 36 prizes were conferred.

Printing and Distribution of *Maqalat-e-Seerat*

26. A total of 1000 copies of *Maqalat-e-Seerat* of 2015-16 were printed and 800 copies distributed amongst the libraries/institutions and desirous persons and the remaining 200 among the Ministries. The number of annually printed copies of *Maqalat-e-Seerat* was raised to 2000 from 2016/1438 AH onwards.

Promotion of Islamic Culture

27. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) provides opportunities to promote Islamic culture at all the airports as well as at its headquarters and

other field offices. Subjects of Islamic studies and Pakistan studies are part of the syllabi for all promotion courses. Moreover, Airport Security Force (ASF) staff at all airports assembles for a briefing which commences with recitation of the Holy Quran and its translation in Urdu followed by lecture of the Company Commander on the Islamic way of life and religious harmony.

Provision of Mosque Facility

28. Mosques are an integral part of the CAA structures, at airports as well as other offices. Extra arrangements are made on special occasions like the Hajj Operations, *Eid Milad-un-Nabi*, etc.

29. The Pakistan Railways have also constructed mosques in the vicinity of offices and Railways colonies. On the eve of *Eid Milad-un-Nabi*, Seerat Conferences are held in the Headquarters and Divisional Offices on regular basis to commemorate the occasion and spread teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), so that every individual can spend his life according to the fundamental principles of Holy Quran and Sunnah.

30. The mosque constructed in the Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad, is being utilized by sportsmen and employees of the Pakistan Sports Board and the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination. In the Fatima Jinnah Hostel of Pakistan Sports Board, adequate arrangements have been made for female athletes to offer prayers.

31. There is a mosque in the campus of NAPA where trainee officers/staff of NAPA, District Jail and Punjab Inspectorate of Prisons, offer prayers. Teaching of the Holy Quran to the children of Punjab Prisons Department residing in the adjoining colony is also a regular feature of the mosque.

Teaching of Islamic Values

32. The Federal College of Education, Islamabad, provides quality education to future teachers and special emphasis is given to Islamic education. The Directorate General of Special Education is giving due importance to the education, vocational training and rehabilitation of children with disabilities whereby *Islamiyat* is being taught as a subject and efforts are being made to improve the lives of children according to the Islamic values.

33. In the network of schools working on the premises and administrative control of Pakistan Railways, teachers promote the teaching of Islam and help to enhance moral and spiritual values of students.

Emphasis on Islam in Training Process

34. During training courses at the Federal level, Quranic verses are frequently quoted to enhance the understanding of concepts of justice and rule of law. The training process has been devised in the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) of Establishment Division in such a manner that the modules for pre-service and in-service courses i.e. Common Training Programme (CTP), Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC), Senior Management Course (SMC) and National Management Course (NMC), contain a significant component of Islamic ethics to enhance familiarity and awareness with the true spirit of Islam and its implications in our daily lives. In all the institutions of the NSPP, as a daily routine, the course deliberations commence with recitation of the Holy Quran and its Urdu translation. Copies of the Holy Quran have also been placed in libraries and hostel rooms. Besides lectures, panel discussions are held in every course encompassing religious, social and cultural history of Islam with special reference to the sub-continent. Employees of the NSPP have also been provided all possible facilities and opportunities to lead their lives in accordance with the Islamic way of life.

35. The Establishment Division promotes the basic values of Islam and urges people to follow the spirit of Islamic law in all its forms. During management trainings Quranic verses and other Islamic material are frequently quoted to enhance the understanding of the concepts of justice and rule of law. The topic of 'Gender and Islam' is thoroughly discussed in the gender-based governance trainings being conducted at PIM in collaboration with the UNDP, Government of Pakistan, the Punjab and the Sindh Governments.

36. The Staff Welfare Organisation of Establishment Division is running 17 Ladies Industrial Homes (LIH) and 12 Trade Training Centres and Vocational Training Centres (VTC). Appropriate measures have been taken to provide fundamental teachings in accordance with the principles and basic concept of Islam at the start of LIH and VTC classes on a daily basis. The students are taught how to lead their lives in accordance with the principles of Holy Quran and Sunnah in addition to their regular courses. In addition:

- i. A facility for recitation of the Holy Quran has been provided to the dependents of Federal Government employees at Staff Welfare Organisation functional premises.
- ii. To encourage *Hifz-e-Quran*, Staff Welfare Organisation awards a cash prize of Rs.8,200 to those who complete *Hifz* upto the age of 20 years.
- iii. Seminars on religious topics as well as religious functions are organized as a regular feature of Staff Welfare Organisation.

37. It has been made compulsory for participants of the training courses at Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), under the Establishment Division, to recite a few verses from the Holy *Quran* and present the translation on a daily basis. Faculty members and guest speakers make frequent references in their lectures to the Islamic teachings. Lectures on different Islamic topics have been included in training courses. Each training module comprises topics elaborating the Islamic perspective, ideology and concepts as well as the practical way of dealing with the issues in focus.

38. *Nazira Quran* facilities have been provided for girls at the Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD) campus where a large number of girls regularly learn the Quran and get religious education. Two mosques exist on the PARD campus: one is situated in the residential colony and the other inside office premises for staff and participants of various training courses.

39. The National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) is a training institution where teaching of the Holy Quran and *Islamiyat* is part of the syllabi in different courses to encourage and facilitate learning and to promote observance of the Islamic moral standards.

40. According to the Constitution, *Islamiyat* and Pakistan Studies are treated as compulsory subjects for Pakistani nationals and Muslim students at SSC level. Non-Muslims are required to pass the subject of Ethics in lieu of *Islamiyat*. However, Pakistan Studies is compulsory for non-Muslims as well. *Islamiyat* has also been prescribed as a compulsory subject of 100 marks for the CSS Examination.

Role of Electronic Media

41. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting promotes Islamic teachings, moral standards and the teaching of Holy Quran through print & electronic media. Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC) and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) are broadcasting various programmes for the propagation of Islamic way of life.

42. Apart from these national media channels, private channels are also playing their role in the propagation of Islamic values through their programmes. The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) is playing a vital role for promotion of Islamic values and implementation of the Principles of Policy. Licence is issued for new TV channels under Section 20 of PEMRA Ordinance 2002, as amended in 2007, which says:

43. “Any person who is issued a licence under the Ordinance shall:
- a. Ensure preservation of the national, culture, social and religious values and the principles of the public policy as enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
 - b. Ensure that programmes and advertisements do not contain or encourage violence, terrorism, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, sectarianism, extremism, militancy, hatred, pornography, vulgarity or other material offensive to the community’s accepted standards of decency.
 - c. Comply with the codes of programmes and advertisements approved by the Authority and appoint an in-house monitoring committee, under intimation to the Authority, to ensure compliance.”

Islamic Programmes

44. The following religious programmes were broadcast during the period under review:

- i. In 2013-14 *Saut-ul-Quran* Channel daily broadcast 3-hour transmission of *Tilawat-e-Kalam-e-Pak* with translation and one-hour recitation without translation from six stations (Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and

Hyderabad). This was increased by 2017-18 to daily broadcast of 19 hours transmission of *Telawat-e-Kalam-Pak* with Urdu translation from Medium Wave transmitters of the National Current Affairs Channel as well as from five channels of FM-93.5 i.e. Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Narowal, from 5.00 a.m. to 12.00 am.

- ii. A daily religious programme entitled "*Haya Alal Falah*" was also broadcast on the National hookup. All Stations of PBC close their daily transmission with a religious segment entitled "*Deen Duniya Ki Bhalai*".
- iii. Special transmissions on different religious occasions i.e. Ramzan, Eid ul Fitr, Hajj are telecast on PTV as well as special programmes on Moharam-ul-Haram, Rabi-ul-Awal, Shab e Meraj, Shab e Barat. One hour "*Al- Quran ul Hakeem*" (telawat and tarjuma) and "*Al-Quran*" a 15-minute Quranic learning programme, *Azan-e-Isha*, *Dua* and *Darood* are televised daily and two programmes of one hour each i.e. *Tazkiya* and *Roshni Ka Safar* are telecast weekly.
- iv. "*Tazkia*": this programme creates awareness amongst the masses about the Quran and its teaching through spiritual lectures by Baba Irfanul Haq.
- v. "*Kainaat*": this programme is disseminating a better understanding and perception of Islam among individuals and groups, regarding social behavior and issues, in different contents, formats and designs.
- vi. "*Meezan*": A weekly show that deals with the current issues through questions and answers about miscellaneous issues. Philosophy, history, and *Sharia* (law) of Islam are taught in this programme by different scholars.
- vii. *Roshni ka Safar*: This religious programme is a regular feature on PTV. Islamic principles and values are highlighted in this programme.
- viii. *Natia Mushairah* are telecast regularly.
- ix. Hajj awareness programmes are also televised to create awareness amongst the *Hujjaj*. The PTV televises special documentaries/ programmes on Hajj to educate the people for Hajj rituals in accordance with the Sunnah.

- x. Special transmissions to mark the special occasions such as *Rabi-ul-Awal*, *Jashn-e-Istaqbal Ramzan*, *Rooh-e-Ramzan Sehri and Ifiaar*, *Eid-ul-Azha* and *Muharram-ul-Haram* were arranged.
- xi. Private TV channels were also playing their role in the propagation of Islamic values and the propagation of *Quran* and *Sunnah* with programmes like *Quran Suniye aur Sunaiye*, *Al-Furqan*, *Ahkam-e-Shariat*, *Rah-e-Nijat*, *Anwar ul Hadees* and *Akhlaaq-e-Muhammadi (SAW)*.
- xii. Thirty Days Ramzan Transmission is studied with religious lectures, quiz programmes, *Mehfil-e-Milad*, *Mehfil-e-Musalma*, *Naat* and *Qirat* competition, discussion programmes, live *Sehri* and *Aftari* transmissions and *Mehfil-e-Shabeena*.
- xiii. Specially designed programmes for children, youth, women and general masses are televised from the 1st to 10th Muharram-ul-Haram to commemorate the occasion.
- xiv. Specially designed programmes on different subjects such as Quiz on *Seerah*, *Qirat* and *Naat* Competition, discussion programmes, talk shows are televised from 1st to 12th *Rabi-ul-Awwal*.
- xv. Various Religious broadcasts/programmes on SRBC's ATV/Shalimar FM Radio Network make the learning of Islam easily understandable for masses and motivate them to act upon the teachings of Islam by special Ramadan Transmission, Quran Online, Recitation of Holy Quran, Naats, Prayer Timings, Hadith, quotes and speeches of Muslim scholars such as Maulana Tariq Jameel.

Messages of President/Prime Minister

45. Messages are drafted on the following six specified occasions for issuance to the nation on behalf of the President/Prime Minister of Pakistan:

- i. Beginning of the *Hajj*
- ii. 10th of *Muharram-ul-Harram (Youm-e-Ashur)*
- iii. 12th *Rabi-ul-Awwal*
- iv. Beginning of *Ramazan-ul-Mubarak*

- v. *Eid-ul-Fitr.*
- vi. *Eid-ul-Azha.*

Unified Timings of Azan and Prayer

46. The Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony desired to unify the timings of Azan and Prayers at Islamabad level. In this regard, meetings were arranged with Ulema of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The Minister announced unified timings of *Azan* and prayers for ICT on the occasion of *Jumat-ul Mubarak* on 1st May, 2015 at Faisal Mosque Islamabad in the presence of *Imam-e-Kaba*. A calendar of unified timings of *Azan* and prayers has been printed in the light of decisions of the *Nizam-e-Salat* Committee set up for the purpose. The said committee consisted of members from all schools of thought. The calendar was distributed in all mosques of Islamabad. A large number of table and wall calendars for implementation of *Nizam-e-Salat* were distributed among Federal Ministers, Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Provincial Chief Secretaries.

Sanctity of Ramadan

47. The *Ehtram-e-Ramzan* Ordinance 1981, inter alia, prohibits eating and serving of eatables at public places, prescribes closure timings for cinema houses, theaters and other establishments as well as steps for observing due sanctity of the holy month of *Ramazan ul Mubarak*. The ICT Administration is the implementing agency in this regard.

Celebration of Islamic Festivals

48. To avoid differences in the celebration of Islamic festivals and start of Islamic months, meetings of Central, Zonal and District *Ruet-e-Hilal* Committees are held regularly for sighting the moon on the 29th of each lunar month. The Central *Ruet-e-Hilal* Committee meets on four important occasions each year to sight the moon for *Muharam*, *Ramazan*, *Eid ul Fitr* and *Eid-ul Azha* which are of great public importance. For rest of the year its members join the meetings of Provincial/District *Ruet-e-Hilal* Committees at their respective places.

Error-Free Printing of the Holy Quran

49. In order to ensure error-free printing of the text of Holy Quran and its *Ayats* in other books/literature, Research and Reference Wing of the Ministry of Religious Affairs examines copies of the Holy Quran and other literature which contain Quranic *Ayats*, under the publication of

Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 1973. The Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony held various meetings with the Provincial Ministers/Secretaries to discuss enforcement of the Quran Act at the Federal and Provincial levels. In compliance of decision in the meetings, Governments of the Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan enacted the Quran Acts in these Provinces. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony also prepared an official bill entitled “The Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendments) Act, 2018” for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) which had been approved by the Cabinet and was being placed before the Parliament for enactment in the period under review. The Quran Committee was constituted at the Federal level under Section 4 of the Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing Errors) Act, 1973 (Act No.LIV of 1973) to authenticate a copy of the Holy Quran for keeping in the archives for safe custody, and to look after proper disposal of pages and copies of the Holy Quran.

National Security Policy

50. The National Security Division, as part of its ten-point mandate, is engaged in formulating Pakistan’s first National Security Policy. The National Security Policy draft would include a section on the national vision defining how Pakistan views itself as a nation state in accordance with the Quranic principles, Constitution and statements of the Quaid. The Islamic way of life forms an integral element of this vision.

Human Rights Sensitization

51. A seminar on “Human Rights Sensitization for Promotion of Peace and Tolerance through Inter-Faith Harmony” was organized in Lahore by the Ministry of Human Rights on 9th June, 2017.

Promotion of Understanding of Quran

52. In order to facilitate the Comsats Institute of Technology employees in better understanding of the Quran, sessions entitled “Understanding Quran” were arranged for the faculty and staff in Islamabad free of cost in April 2017. A two weeks course on “Spoken Arabic” was arranged for the faculty and staff of Comsats from July 25 to August 5, 2016. Also, in order to provide the employees with an opportunity to perform Hajj and Umrah, the Institute sponsors their holy journey. In this regard, the 2nd draw was held on June 23, 2017.

Recommendation for Civil Award

53. A committee was constituted for finalizing nominations for conferring the Civil Award on the Independence Day 2017 under chairmanship of Senior Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony. The Committee recommended the name of Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sarfaraz Naeemi for the award.

Countering Anti-Islam, Obscene and Immoral Material on the Internet

54. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony devoted a Section for countering anti-Islamic, blasphemous, obscene, sectarian or immoral data in either written or pictorial form on the Internet. Any such material reported was blocked through the e-portal maintained by PTA.

Mainstreaming of Madressas

55. The project entitled “Mainstreaming of Madrassas” remained in progress during the year 2017-18. It was being implemented by the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, Islamabad.

CHAPTER-3

PROMOTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS (ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall encourage local Government institutions composed of elected representatives of the areas concerned and in such institutions, special representation will be given to peasants, workers and women.

Article 32 of the Constitution makes the State responsible for encouraging local government institutions. In terms of Article 7 of the Constitution, the State means the Federal Government, the Parliament, a Provincial Government, a Provincial Assembly and such local or other authorities in Pakistan as are by law empowered to impose any tax or cess.

2. After the passage of Eighteenth Amendment Act 2010, Local Government is the subject of Provinces, and it is their responsibility to encourage the Local Government institutions to observe and implement the principles of policy. Through the addition of Article 140(A), the 18th Amendment states: “Each Province shall, by law establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative, and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the local governments”. Each province has its own Local Government system with District and Metropolitan corporations at the highest level.

3. However, the departments of the Federal Government are supporting and promoting the local government systems of the provinces. The Federal Government continues to encourage participation of Local Government Institutions in all of its training programmes for civil servants in order to inculcate among them the importance of service delivery and true concept of public service. For facilitation of the local government system in Islamabad and the provinces, the Federal Ministries and Divisions are playing their due role which is reported as under:

Local Government System in Federal Capital

4. The Federal Government introduced the Local Government system in the Islamabad Capital Territory in pursuance of Article 32 of the Constitution. The National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics unanimously approved the proposed Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Bill 2013, which stated that the federal capital will

have its own metropolitan corporation headed by an elected mayor. The city council will comprise members directly elected from the union councils and the wards:

- (a) The elections have to be held both in rural and urban areas and there should not be any distinction between these areas in this regard. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) includes a metropolitan corporation and union councils. A union council shall consist of a directly elected chairman, vice chairman and six general members, and reserved seats for two women, one peasant or worker, one youth and one non-Muslim.
- (b) The entire union council shall be the constituency for the elected and reserved posts, while the metropolitan corporation shall consist of the chairmen of all union councils and the indirectly elected members including women, workers, technocrats, youths and non-Muslims. The mayor and deputy mayor shall be elected as joint candidates by chairmen of all the union councils and members on the general as well as on reserved seats.
- (c) The local government of Islamabad Capital Territory will be able to collect direct taxes to run expenditures. The term of the local government shall be five years from the date of its first meeting and the mayor may be removed from office by a two-third majority of the members.

5. The Bill was passed in both houses of the Parliament and promulgated as the “Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act 2015”. The aim and object of the said Act was to devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of Local Government. The ICT Local Government Act 2015, subsequently amended in the year 2016, provided constitution of the following Government system in the ICT:

- a. Metropolitan Corporation for Islamabad Capital Territory headed by Mayor.
- b. 50 Union Councils for ICT including Rural/Urban areas

6. Elections were held under the ICT Local Government Act 2015 and the new system started functioning. It is pertinent to mention that 27 seats have been reserved for women, peasants/workers, technocrats, youths and non-Muslims.

Local Government in Merged Areas

7. The Merged Areas had a special status under Article-247 of the Constitution as the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and the Local Government Ordinance was not extended to these areas. The Merged Areas Local Government Regulation 2016 was prepared and shared with the Ministry of SAFRON for its approval and promulgation by the President of Pakistan. After the extension of this Regulation to the Merged Areas under the Proviso (6) of Article 247 of the Constitution of Pakistan, Local Government Institutions composed of elected representatives would be established in each Agency/Frontier Region with a special representation of women.

Federal Ministries' Support for Local Government System

8. The Federal Ministries/Divisions are playing their role in promotion of local government institutions by collaborating with different national and provincial institutions in order to carry out their mandate for strengthening of local bodies/institutions.

Local Government Elections

9. The elections were arranged by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) all over the country as per convenience of the provinces in the light of the Constitution. The Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR), one of the allied organizations of Ministry of Science and Technology, assisted the ECP by manufacturing/supplying election material *i.e.* standardized ink stamp pads, indelible ink vials etc.

Promotion through Media

10. The local government system was promoted through print and electronic media by the Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage Division. The Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC) and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) gave wide coverage to the local government elections. The programmes before the elections were specially designed for creating awareness amongst the masses about the benefits of local government system.

Training Platform for Governance

11. The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) interacted with the local government institutions through educational institutions, training academies and other allied organizations from time to time. The National School of Public Policy (NSPP) of Establishment Division continued to

provide a training platform for governance at operational and conceptual level, including working of the local governments. This objective was achieved through lectures, tutorials and simulation exercises.

12. To help the local government organizations in introducing the concepts of delegation and devolution of powers, officers from various local government institutions are given benefit of the various trainings and professional diplomas being run by Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM) under the Industries and Production Division, where the concepts of delegation/devolution of power are thoroughly discussed and debated.

13. Representatives of the Local Government institutions of the country, including the Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan were invited to almost all training activities at the Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development and encouraged to participate and share their experiences with the rest of the departments.

14. The Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources also involved officials of local governments in training, workshops and seminars on various issues.

Provision of Data for Local Government

15. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) of the Statistics Division regularly collects and provides data through various censuses/ surveys and statistical series such as Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey, Labour Force Survey, Pakistan Demographic Survey, Population and Housing Census and Agriculture Censuses etc., to facilitate the Government's agencies, including the local government institutions, in planning and monitoring their developmental activities. Besides, the same data is being used by different data users for policy and decision-making and research purposes, especially to measure socio-economic development in the country. The PBS has also started collecting statistical data at the district level.

Sixth Population and Housing Census-2017

16. The 6th Population and Housing Census-2017 was conducted to provide data for various socio-economic indicators at district level. The updated data is essential for planning and monitoring of various interventions made to improve the Local Government system. Moreover, data collected during census will be useful for the representatives of Local

Government Institutions for informed decision-making for socio-economic development of the community.

Technical Assistance

17. Technical Assistance was provided to local government institutions as follows:

- i. The Agriculture Policy Institute (API) is mandated to suggest support prices for wheat, sugarcane, seed cotton and rice paddy to the Federal Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Islamabad. A prominent feature of the API is primary data collection from the field on cost of production of agricultural crops, marketing of crops seed/fertilizer availability and rural credit etc. In this endeavour, API staff frequently visits the local government officials at district, Tehsil and grass roots levels. The local government institutions are appraised of the farmer problems prevailing at the local level. This enables the local government institutions to improve their working related to the farmers and farmer representative bodies. In this way the API performs as a link between farmers and local government institutions to combat exploitative elements.
- ii. Businessmen in the private sector were provided information by the Livestock Wing regarding services offered by the Local Government institutions and the provincial livestock departments in livestock farming, vaccination disease diagnosis etc.
- iii. The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority interacts with local government institutions through its 4 Provincial Offices and Regional Business Centres located in 25 cities across the country.
- iv. The Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre has established a joint venture with the Punjab Skills Development Foundation, Government of Punjab, to promote and facilitate technical education and economic interests of backward classes and areas of southern Punjab etc., free of cost. Local government officials/officers benefit from the technical and managerial courses arranged by this Centre.

- v. The Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination (NHSR&C) and departments/ organizations/ entities working under its administrative control also support the local government institutions.

Audit Coverage

18. The office of the Auditor General of Pakistan has put in place a comprehensive setup to ensure audit coverage of all District Governments under Section 115 of the Local Government Ordinance 2001. This setup comprises the offices of Directors General, District Audit and Directors General Audit, Local Council, at the erstwhile Divisional Headquarters throughout Pakistan. The certification of Appropriate/ Financial Statements of Federal, Provincial and Departmentalized Accounts was completed in the period under review.

CHAPTER-4

PAROCHIAL AND OTHER SIMILAR PREJUDICES TO BE DISCOURAGED

(ARTICLE 33 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall discourage parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices among the citizens.

The Federal Ministries/ Divisions follow merit-based policies and discourage all forms of prejudice. All-out efforts are made to ensure that no disharmony along parochial lines exists in the Ministries, Divisions and Departments. The employees pertaining to different provinces, races, color and religions work in the Ministries, Divisions and Departments and all kinds of prejudice on such basis is completely discouraged. In the light of this vision and objectives, the Federal Government has pursued policies and measures to discourage parochial and other similar prejudices which are detailed as under:

Administrative measures to strengthen and enhance Federation

2. Consequent upon the passage of the Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment in April 2010, important subjects relating to the Federation have been placed in the Federal Legislative List (Part-II) for consideration of and decision by the Council of Common Interests (CCI). This has strengthened the concept of participative management both by the Federation and the Federating Units through the forum of CCI. In case of differences among the provinces the CCI decides the matter. The relevant articles of the Constitution guide the Federation and the Federating Units in resolving the issues sans prejudice:

- i. Articles 153 and 154 of the Constitution deal with the constitution/composition and functions of the CCI. In accordance with Article 154, the Council is responsible for formulating and regulating policies in relation to matters enumerated in Part-II of the Federal Legislative List and exercise supervision and control over the related institutions. In terms of Article 154(3) of the Constitution, it is mandatory for the Council to meet at least once in ninety days. The decisions of the CCI are appealable in the joint session of the Parliament.

- ii. Article 155 of the Constitution extends the purview of the CCI on resolution of a dispute among the Federation and the Federating units or areas' governments regarding their rights on water from any natural source, and authorizes the Federal or the Provincial Government concerned to make a complaint to the CCI. The CCI can either decide or recommend to the President to set up a Commission consisting of persons having knowledge and experience in irrigation, engineering, administration, finance and law under the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1956.
 - iii. As regards electricity, Article 157, while authorizing the Federal Government to construct a hydro-electric or thermal power installation in any province in consultation with that province, also authorizes the Provincial Governments to draw bulk supply from the National Grid for transmission and distribution within the province, levy taxes on consumption, construct power houses and grid stations, lay transmission lines and determine electricity tariff within the Province. In case of any dispute in the matter, the Federal or the Provincial Government can approach the CCI for resolution of the dispute.
3. Although points of difference among the Federating Units or Ministries/Divisions do arise, these are amicably resolved in the Standing Committee of the CCI. The following issues among the Federating Units and different Ministries were discussed and decided in the meetings during 2013-14:
 - i. The issue of provincial representation in the Federal Entities established under Entry No.3 of the Federal Legislative List (Part-II). The CCI forwarded a list of the Federal Entities to the Provincial Governments. The stakeholders were taken into confidence regarding the matter.
 - ii. Many issues of the post-devolution period have been resolved in the respective provinces. On the issue of holding of the 6th Population and Housing Census, it was agreed in the CCI meeting that the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) will coordinate with the Chief Minister, Baluchistan, on the law & order situation and the presence of Afghan refugees in the perspective of the 6th Census.

- iii. Regarding harmonization of the Agriculture Income Tax Policy in the provinces, the Finance Division has received data from the Government of Sindh while other provinces are yet to provide data on the subject matter.
 - iv. Differences of opinion on allocation of Micro-Finance Department (MFD), Korangi Fish Harbor and office of Fisheries Development Commissioner under the Ministry of National Food Security and Research were resolved by the CCI.
 - v. The thorny issue of amendments in the Gawadar Port Authority Act relating to the chairmanship and 50% membership of Baluchistan on the Board of Governors was resolved amicably by the CCI.
4. During the year 2014-15, the CCI convened a meeting on March 18, 2015. The cases considered and decided by the Council of Common Interests are listed below:
- i. Status review of important decisions of the CCI meeting held on May 29, 2014;
 - ii. Allocation of water for Islamabad/Rawalpindi;
 - iii. Inquiry into corruption charges of *Kacchi Kanal*;
 - iv. Purchase of up to 20% of the share rights of PPL, OGDCL and SSGCL at face value under the *Aghaz e Haqooq e Balochistan*;
 - v. Sixth Population and Housing Census;
 - vi. Permanent absorption of Federal employees transferred to Provincial Governments in the wake of 18th Constitutional Amendment;
 - vii. Public Debt Management and Supervision Policy.
 - viii. Pakistan Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Bill, 2014;
 - ix. Amendment in the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 for Restoration of Executive Magistracy;
 - x. Power Generation Policy, 2015;

- xi. Pakistan Oil (Refining, Blending, Transportation Storage and Marketing) Rules;
- xii. Amendment in Petroleum Policy 2009 and 2012 and Model Petroleum Concession Agreement.
- xiii. Draft Bill for the Establishment of Pakistan *Halal* Authority, 2014;
- xiv. Short Supplies of Water in Pat feeder and *Khirther Canals*;
- xv. Matters pertaining to higher education in the post-Eighteenth Amendment Scenario;
- xvi. Amendment in Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Act, 1992;

5. The Council held two meetings during the year 2015-16, on February 29, 2016 and March 25, 2016; one meeting in the year 2016-17, on December 16, 2016; and seven meetings in the year 2017-18 as follows:

S.N.	CCI meeting	
1.	August 25, 2017	32 nd Meeting of CCI
2.	November 13, 2017	33 rd Meeting of CCI
3.	November 24, 2017	34 th Meeting of CCI
4.	February 26, 2018	35 th Meeting of CCI
5.	March 27,2018	36 th Meeting of CCI
6.	April 24,2018	37 th Meeting of CCI
7.	May 27,2018	38 th Meeting of CCI

6. The Council deliberated upon vital issues and took decisions in matters relating to the Federation, with full participation of the provinces:

S. No.	Activities	Year 2016-17	Year 2017-18
1.	Number of CCI meetings	01	07
i.	Number of Agenda Items discussed	09	36
ii.	Agenda Items related to Ministries	09	24
iii.	Agenda Items related to Provincial Governments	-	12

Training Courses for Employees

7. Training programmes are initiated by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and implemented by the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) for every citizen of Pakistan without parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices. The NAVTTTC training enabled the participants to start their own businesses and improve their technical skills for participation in all forms of national activities, including employment. The programme's features are given below:

- a. To enable the people of different areas to avail themselves of training facilities, various technical courses were launched all over Pakistan.
- b. Since NAVTTTC started functioning, the participation of women in national life has been considered as very important. Training of women has also been given due importance.
- c. In Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme, 34% quota was allocated for women.
- d. NAVTTTC ensures vocational & technical training of the less educated and deprived segments of society to help them to participate in the economic growth of the country.
- e. NAVTTTC ensures that all citizens of Pakistan have access, and equal opportunities to quality technical and vocational education and training.
- f. The target group for all training programmes is mostly school/college dropouts.
- g. For eradication of social evils, 25,000 youths were trained across the country in the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme (Phase-I), even in the far-flung and war-affected border areas. In the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme (Phase-II) another 25,000 youths will be trained in short and long-term technical & vocational education and training courses.
- h. NAVTTTC supports all the Provinces in eradicating fraudulent practices to ensure quality of labour force and to earn dignity, respect and recognition for Pakistani labour in the country and abroad.

Nation-Building

8. All participants of various courses of Secretariat Training Institute (STI) of the Establishment Division are treated on equal terms, irrespective of cast, creed and social status. The participants of various courses at STI represent all areas of Pakistan. Therefore, they were provided awareness regarding sentiments of nation-building in disregard of any parochial bias. This aspect was emphasized through provision of information in the relevant training courses. During 2016-17, 77 courses were conducted with 3101 participants.

9. The trainees come from all the four provinces as well as the AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. Inter-provincial harmony is fostered by positive discussions on core national issues. The participants are provided the opportunity to share the experience of their respective provinces. The field visits make possible a close interaction between people from diverse backgrounds and areas which serve to reduce prejudice and bias. No discrimination is shown towards employees due to race, sect or creed.

Inland Study Tours

10. The courses modules in the constituent units of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) of Establishment Division have been developed in accordance with the provisions of the principles of policy to promote inter-provincial, inter-racial and inter-faith harmony. The inland study tours conducted by the constituent units of the NSPP are also planned with the same objective to make possible a close interaction among people from diverse backgrounds and areas.

Regional/Provincial Quota

11. The Ministry of Interior has several wings and attached departments where employees belonging to different castes/creeds are working together without parochial, racial sectarian and provincial prejudices. Grievances from the general public are being entertained irrespective of caste and creed. Regional/Provincial quota is strictly observed during the process of recruitment.

a) National Police Academy

Training facilities are offered to police and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) on national basis and recruitments are made in accordance with the provincial quota earmarked by the

Government. NPA employees are provided trainings without parochial, racial tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices.

b) Federal Investigation Agency

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) employees belonging to different castes/creeds and sects are equally treated in discharge of their duties without any prejudice. The general public approaching the FIA for assistance in connection with redressal of their grievances are extended full cooperation irrespective of caste and creed. Regional/Provincial quota is strictly observed during the process of recruitment.

c) Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts

Troops of Gilgit-Baltistan are enrolled and trained without parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and ethnic prejudices.

d) National Academy for Prison Administration

NAPA discourages parochial, racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudices among the participants of different courses. In NAPA faculty staff has representation from Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan, and there is complete harmony amongst the staff members.

Merit-based Recruitment

12. The Federal Public Service Commission under the Establishment Division believes in the Islamic principles of equality and justice. Quota system is observed for selection of candidates from each Province. The Commission follows a fair, transparent and merit-based system of selection of candidates on posts in BS-16 and above. No one is discriminated on the basis of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth. However, the Commission has taken special measures to mainstream the under-represented regions/people and also observes the quota in line with the constitutional provision.

13. The Commission achieved the assigned objective by providing jobs to youth, females, and people with special needs. In the financial year 2017-18, the Commission recommended 2413 candidates for appointment against ex-cadre posts, which was the highest in 10 years. Moreover, in

light of the Lahore High Court Judgment in W.P. No. 7572/2016 dated 14.01.2017 and the Cabinet decision dated 26.09.2017, the Commission made changes in the Rules so that under Rule 9(ii), special candidates would be allowed to compete against all Occupational Groups/Services in the Competitive Examination.

Equality of Rights

14. In the Emigration Ordinance, 1979, the word “Emigrant” is used for every Pakistani who proceeds abroad for the purpose of employment. The Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Division deals with every individual who proceeds abroad for the sake of employment as a Pakistani, without discrimination among the emigrants as to whether they are Muslim, Non-Muslim, rich or poor or to which tribe they may belong.

Education

15. In the education sector, Scholarships are provided to students belonging to the Scheduled Caste of District Tharparkar. For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 0.60 million was disbursed among the scheduled caste students during 2016-17 through a committee constituted under the Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar.

16. During the year, Pakistani students were nominated for scholarships for different countries as per following detail:

S.No.	Country Name	Number of Pakistanis Nominated
1.	United Kingdom	40
2.	China	118
3.	Egypt (for Deeni Madaris)	11

Pakistan Engineering Council

17. The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) provided the following data for 2016-17:

Engineers Registered by PEC in 2016-2017	
Region	Number of Engineers
Punjab	16204
Sindh	8593
KPK	5451
Balochistan	1119

AJ&K	822
FATA	659
Federal	600
Gilgit Baltistan	369
Foreign	76
Constructors registered from PEC in 2016-2017 (Region Wise)	
Punjab	1361
Sindh	700
KPK	865
Balochistan	312
AJ&K	40
FATA	34
Federal	455
Gilgit Baltistan	153
Operators registered from PEC in 2016-2017 (Region Wise)	
Punjab	12
Sindh	8
KPK	2
Balochistan	1
FATA	1
Federal	10
Consultants registered from PEC in 2016-2017 (Region Wise)	
Punjab	39
Sindh	39
KPK	19
Balochistan	7
Federal	23

National Education Policy

18. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2009 proposes educational facilities for all citizens of Pakistan without discrimination to reduce the regional gaps in this regard. Different projects of construction of schools and colleges are in progress. The project entitled: “Capacity-Building of Education Managers for Teachers Training” was under implementation in the period under review.

19. The National Endowment Scholarships for the Talent (NEST) remained in process in the year 2017-18 under the sponsorship of Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms Islamabad with a total estimated

cost of Rs.10,000 million to provide scholarships to the talented but needy students at the national level through a transparent selection process.

Sustainable Development Goals

20. To promote the socio-economic well-being of masses at grass roots level, resources were allocated to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Besides the Federal SDGs Unit, such units were established in all provinces for incorporation of SDGs in the national, provincial and local plans and policies as well as for data collection/coordination.

Promotion of Interfaith Harmony

21. The Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony made efforts for promoting interfaith harmony among all religious communities in the country to bring peace, equality and justice in the society. The Ministry held various functions to celebrate the religious festivals of different minorities at the official level to discourage religion-based prejudices in the society. The Ministry arranged the following functions in this regard during the period under review:

- i. Dewali-2013 was celebrated on 4th November, 2013 at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), Islamabad.
- ii. Christmas-2013 was celebrated on 26th December, 2013 at *Aiwan-e-Sadr*, Islamabad.
- iii. Holi-2014 was celebrated at the official level on 18th March, 2014 at the PNCA, Islamabad.
- iv. Eid-e-Ridvan-2014 of the Bahai community was celebrated at the official level on 24th April, 2014 at the PNCA, Islamabad.
- v. Easter-2014 was celebrated on 6th May, 2014 at the PNCA, Islamabad.
- vi. Minorities Day-2015 was celebrated on 11th August, 2015 at *Aiwan-e-Sadr*, Islamabad
- vii. Dewali-2015 was celebrated on 12th November, 2015 in Karachi.
- viii. Christmas-2015 was celebrated on 21st December, 2015 at *Aiwan-e-Sadr*, Islamabad.

- ix. Eid-e-Ridvan-2016 was celebrated at the official level on 29th April, 2016 at Aiwan-eQuaid, F-9 Park, Islamabad.
- x. Dewali-2017 of Hindu community was celebrated on 24th October, 2017 at PNCA, Islamabad.
- xi. Eid-e-Ridvan-2018 was celebrated at the official level on 16th May, 2018 at PNCA, Islamabad.
- xii. Holi-2018 of the Hindu community was celebrated on 28th February, 2018 at PNCA, Islamabad.

Conferences on Interfaith Harmony

22. The National Conferences on Interfaith Harmony titled *Deen ka Hussan, Aman, Bardasht aur Sabr-o-Tahammul* were arranged on 28th July, 2015 at Karachi, on 25th August, 2015 at Peshawar and on 1st December, 2015 at Quetta.

Promotion of Sectarian Harmony

23. In order to promote sectarian harmony in the country and to end divisiveness in the society, the National Ulema and Mashaikh Council was constituted in the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony. It was assigned the duty to promote religious harmony, control sectarianism and remove hate literature from the curriculum of Madaris. TORs of the Council were as under:

- i. To review the existing recommendations to contain fanatical attitudes and prejudices and to suggest ways and means for effective implementation of the same.
- ii. To suggest a code of ethics for Ulema, scholars and leaders of politico-religious parties as well as the press to avert possible threats to inter-communal/inter-sectarian harmony and national solidarity.
- iii. To suitably amend its TORs so as to ensure achieving the overall goal of interfaith/sectarian harmony.

24. The Council has representation from all Wifaqs, all school of thought and all the provinces including the Religious Affairs and Auqaf Ministers from the provinces. Mashaikh have also been given representation in the Council.

25. Several meetings of the Council were held. 45 recommendations passed by the Council were in process of implementation during the period under review. It was also decided that similar Councils would be established at provincial and district levels to widen the scope of the Council. In this regard, meetings were held with the provincial governments.

26. Two committees were established under the Council: Steering Committee and Curriculum Committee. It was also proposed by the Council that an Ulema Board may be established at the national level to monitor hate literature and speech and to recommend legal action against such material.

27. In the province of Punjab, Mutahidda Ulema Board was established to recommend banning of hate literature while the Home Department took the administrative decisions in this regard. Other provinces were also requested to constitute such boards.

Interaction with Muslim World and International Bodies

28. In the current global scenario, many societies are faced with problems of extremism and cultural and religious intolerance. This necessitates international cooperation and collective efforts to combat all forms of hatred, intimidation, incitement, persecution and acts of violence motivated by intolerance based on religion and belief. There is need to work together to promote genuine dialogue, cooperation and understanding between all cultures, faiths and civilizations. People of all religions and civilization bear equal responsibility to promote this objective. Cooperation, not confrontation, is the way forward. Tolerance in society is to be promoted through all medium and in all domains. For this reason the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony interacted with other Muslim States and International Bodies. Exchange of delegations of Ulema and religious scholars was given special regard.

Discouragement of Parochial Feelings

29. Internet being the pervasive medium for free access to information, its misuse provides the potential for promoting parochial feelings and communal discord. To mitigate such possibilities the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Evaluation of Website content, set up in 2006, continued its work during the period under review, and on instruction of this multi-stakeholder forum, the PTA blocked access to websites with malicious

(including blasphemous and pornographic) and illegal content detrimental to this Principle of Policy.

Inculcation of *Pakistaniyet*

30. People from all over the country have migrated to the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) where most of them have settled down in connection with their jobs/business activities etc. Therefore, the ICT has become a hub of political, economic, business, trade and social activities. No racial, tribal, sectarian and provincial prejudice etc. is allowed by the office of Chief Commissioner Islamabad. The residents of ICT belong to various provinces/parts of the country and they are treated equally without racial/provincial prejudice. The employees of ICT administration also belong to all the provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and FATA. The ideology of Pakistan and *Pakistaniyet* is inculcated among the employees as a matter of faith and policy.

CHAPTER-5

FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN NATIONAL LIFE (ARTICLE 34 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

Steps shall be taken to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan through Article 25 ensures that women play an active role in nation-building. Women are given due representation in all federal institutions and the implementation of 10 percent women quota in employment is observed in the government departments. The Government of Pakistan is sensitive and committed to safeguarding the rights of women and their social, political, economic and legal empowerment.

2. Pakistan has adopted a number of key international commitments to gender equality and women's rights: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Beijing Platform for Action, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, and Sustainable Development Goals. National commitments in place include the National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women, Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act and the National Plan of Action on Human Rights.

3. The sixth Population and Housing Census carried out by the Government in 2017 revealed that Pakistan's population had increased by 57 per cent from 132.3 million in 1998 to 207.7 million. The Census also showed that men had outnumbered women, as men were 51 per cent of the total population and women were 49 per cent.

4. For their full participation in national life, women are encouraged to apply for recruitment against vacant posts on merit without any gender discrimination. The 10% quota reserved for women is implemented across the board in recruitments made against various posts in the Ministries. Similarly, the policies facilitating the women in service, like maternity leave etc., are strictly adhered to. Steps are taken to provide a safe, secure and professional work environment to the female employees.

5. There are adequate reserved seats for women in the National Assembly, Senate and Provincial Assemblies under Articles 51, 59 and 106 respectively. Women can also contest election on general seats.

Legislation for Women Empowerment

6. Necessary legislation for women empowerment and protection was introduced in the Parliament. Both Houses also adopted unanimous resolutions on the issue:

(a) Legislation made in National Assembly

S. No.	Title of Bill	Purpose	Mover
i.	The Torture and Custodial Death and Custodial Rape (Prevention and Punishment) Bill, 2014	Pakistan signed the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2008, and thereafter ratified it in 2010. Under the circumstances, it is necessary after the ratification of the Convention that domestic laws of our state are brought in conformity with the convention.	Ms. Maiza Hameed, MNA

(b) Resolutions adopted by National Assembly for promoting Women Rights

S. No	Resolution adopted	Moved by (with date)
i.	“National Assembly appreciates Minorities Role in Nation-building”	Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Minister for Religious Affairs, and 14 other MNAs (11-08-2014)
ii.	“The Government should take steps to establish Women University in Swat”	Sahibzada Tariq Ullah and three other MNAs (24-03-2015)
iii.	To commemorate 25 th November as the International Day for elimination of violence against women	Mr. Zahid Hamid (Minister for Climate Change) (25-11-2015)
iv.	The Government should take steps to provide accommodation to all female students in the hostels	Sahibzada Tariq Ullah and other MNAs (15-03-2016)

v.	The Government should establish separate counters for women in Passport and NADRA Offices	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan (24-03-2016)
vi.	To condemn brutal attacks on women in various cities	Mr. Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education & Professional Training (13-05-2016)
vii.	To express concern over the escalation in violence against women and men on the pretext of honour.	Ms. Anusha Rehman Khan Advocate, Minister of State for Information Technology & Telecommunication (22-06-2016)

c) Legislation made in Senate pertaining to Women Empowerment

S. No.	Bill	Moved by	Objective
i.	The Torture and Custodial Death (Punishment) Bill, 2014.	Mr. Farooq Hamid Naek and Dr. Abdul Qayoom Soomro	The Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 9th December, 1975 (Resolution 3452 MOM). Pakistan signed the Convention in 2008 and thereafter ratified the Convention in 2010. Ratification of the Convention requires enabling legislation to reflect the definition and punishment for "torture". Although some provisions relating to the matter exist in the Code yet they neither define "torture" as clearly as in Article 1 of the said Convention nor make it a criminal offence as called for by Article 4 of the said Convention. In the circumstances, it is necessary for the ratification of the Convention that domestic laws of our country are brought in conformity with the Convention.

(d) Resolutions passed by Senate pertaining to Women Empowerment

The Senate of Pakistan adopted various resolutions for promoting women rights:

S.No	Resolution	Moved by, with date
i.	“The Senate of Pakistan condemns in the strongest terms the continuing genocide of the people of Gaza more particularly the children and women.”	Senator Mian Raza Rabbani (8 th August, 2014)
ii.	“The Senate of Pakistan Resolves to bring women in all spheres of life up to par with men, eliminating gender discrimination and ensuring equality of status in society for fulfilling and promising opportunities on the occasion of International Women's Day 2015.”	Senator Mrs Nuzhat Sadiq and others (9 th March, 2015)
iii.	“The Senate of Pakistan strongly condemns the barring of women from casting their votes in the By-Election of PK-95, Lower Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, held on 7th May, 2015 which is blatant violation of the Constitution and basic human rights.”	Senator Naseema and others. (18 th May, 2015)
iv.	“The Senate of Pakistan, recalling the Shahadat of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, pays tribute to her memory, especially her contributions to Pakistan's struggle for democracy and for protecting the oppressed sections of society”.	Senator Khalida Parveen. (23 rd December, 2015)
v.	“The Senate of Pakistan pays tribute to the legendary singer Malika-e-Tarannum Noor Jehan”	Senator Mushahid Hussain (23 rd December, 2015)
vi.	“The Senate of Pakistan resolves to bring women in all spheres of life up to par with men, eliminating gender discrimination and ensuring equality of status in society for fulfilling and promising opportunities on the occasion of International Women's Day 2015.”	Senator Mrs. Nuzhat Sadiq and others (9 th March, 2015)

vii.	“This House recommends that the Government should take necessary steps to Depute female staff in all departments of Gynecology, breast cancer and mammogram in all Government hospitals in the Federal Capital.”	Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi (18 th January, 2016)
viii.	“This House offers its heartiest congratulations to Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy for bringing laurels to Pakistan. She made the whole nation proud. We all also salute all those brave women rights activists of political parties, civil society issues, rights and development by highlighting the causes and solutions thereof.”	Senator Nasreen Jalil (2 nd March, 2016)
ix.	“This House recommends that the women should be given adequate representation in the Council of Islamic Ideology and the relevant law / rules should be amended for this purpose, if required.”	Senator Sehar Kamran. (21 st November, 2016)
x.	“This House recommends that separate counters should be established for women in all regional passport offices in the country”	Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi (13 th February, 2017)
xi.	“This House expresses its profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of famous Pakistani Novelist, Playwright and Short Story Writer Bano Qudsia, who was also known as Bano Appa”.	Senator Syed Shibli Faraz (13 th February, 2017)
xii.	“This House expresses its profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of former Education Minister for Sindh, Dr. Hamida Khuhro, the historian, politician, professor and writer. Khuhro twice served as Provincial Minister for Education.”	Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Leader of the House. (13 th February, 2017)
xiii.	On the occasion of International Women’s Day “This House acknowledges the contributions of Pakistani women from every walk of life – our homemakers, farmers, domestic helpers, labourers, filmmakers, educationists, artists, doctors, writers, poets, media persons, legislators and pays tribute to relentless efforts of Pakistani women for the development	Moved by Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Leader of the House & others (8 th March, 2017)

	and progress of the country, and salute their struggle for standing against dictators for the democratic rights of the people of Pakistan. The House reaffirms its commitment to protect the constitutional rights of women and ensure to promote their safety and welfare.”	
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Representation of Women in National Assembly

7. Following was the representation of women in the National Assembly during the period under review:

i. Women elected on General Seats	09
ii. Women elected on Reserved Seats	59
iii. Women elected on Non-Muslim Seats	01

Representation of Women in Senate

8. The requirement of Article 59(1)(c)(d) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan is fulfilled in the Senate as four (04) women from each Province and one (01) from the Federal Capital are elected.

Chairpersons of Standing Committees

9. Women Senators are also Chairpersons of the following Standing Committees of the Senate:

S.No.	Ministries/Divisions/Departments	Names of the Chairperson
i.	Federal Education and Professional Training	Rahila Magsi
ii.	Foreign Affairs	Nuzhat Sadiq
iii.	Human Rights	Nasreen Jalil
iv.	Senate Library Committee	Nuzhat Sadiq

Protection and Promotion of Women’s Status

10. The Government established the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) for promotion of social, economic, political and legal rights of women. The Commission has been made functional by the appointment of its Chairperson and Members. All Members of the Commission are women. It shall, inter alia, examine the policy, programmes and other measures taken by the Federal Government for

gender equality, women's empowerment, political participation and representation, assess implementation and make suitable recommendations to the concerned authorities. Moreover, it shall review all the Federal laws, rules and regulations affecting the status and rights of women and suggest repeal, amendment or new legislation essential to eliminate discrimination, and safeguard and promote the interests of women and achieve gender equality before law in accordance with the Constitution and the obligations under international covenants and commitments.

11. During the year from July 2015 to June 2016, the Commission took the following major actions for protection and promotion of the status and rights of women:

- i. Standardized Indicators in Violence against Women (VAW): The NCSW has developed standardized indicators on violence against women for use in micro and macro-level researches to facilitate cross-institutional analysis at national and international levels. While reviewing the work done on violence against women, the Commission noted that the large volume of work done on the subject in the country was not comparable and did not provide a comprehensive picture of the prevalence and types of violence and its location. Therefore, the NCSW undertook the process of developing 'Standardized Indicators on Violence against Women in Pakistan'. These standardized Indicators translate the global VAW indicators into a country-specific set of indicators, drawing on the UN Guidelines on VAW statistics and national and regional studies. The key categories of indicators on VAW include physical, sexual, economic, psychological violence, violence in the political arena and culturally harmful practices. This document is designed as a resource guide for researchers, organizations and individuals working on VAW. It is expected that the indicators can help strengthen data collection processes and systems in the country, provide key trends on prevalence as well as inform evidence-based policy action and design of effective policies for VAW prevention and response measures.
- ii. Jirga Law: The NCSW filed a petition in Supreme Court against the role of Jirgas in awarding punishments to women for alleged violations of family honour. On the directions of

Supreme Court, the NCSW in collaboration with Ministry of Human Rights drafted a bill to criminalize an unlawful assembly, such as Jirga. It also eradicates the criminal outcomes of the decisions of Jirga/Panchayat. It includes amendments of Section 498-A against depriving a woman from inheritance. Section 498-B for prohibition of forced marriage, 498-C against prohibition of marriage with the Holy *Quran* and Section 310-A against giving women in marriage in *Badla e Sulh*, *Wanni* or *Swara* in the PPC, to make the offences cognizable.

- iii. Pro-Women Laws: The NCSW entered into an MoU with the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) to launch nationwide campaigns to create awareness about pro-women laws through seminars, TV, radio, social media, and print media. It jointly organized launching ceremonies on the occasion of Sixteen Days of Activism for Elimination of Violence against Women in November 2015 in Islamabad in which the Government officials, social activists, legislators, diplomats and representatives of media and civil society participated. The launches were followed by 2-week campaigns on the laws, and a plan was drawn to continue the campaign over the year with TV & radio spots and posters for awareness and proper implementation of pro-women laws.
- iv. Awareness-Raising through Radio Campaign: The National Commission on the Status of Women ran a series of programmes called *Men Awaz* on the issue of violence against women and specifically domestic violence as part of its campaign related work on VAW on FM Radio. Women's rights activists, psychologists, legal and technical experts and Government officials were interviewed and oral testimonies from women survivors in the programmes provided detailed information on this issue and its prevalence, impact on women, children and the family, the laws put in place to combat domestic violence by the Government as well as other Government efforts and support mechanisms for women survivors.

12. Research and Publications by the NCSW paved the way for future action and strategy. The following researches were undertaken during 2015-16:

- i. Review of Research Studies on Violence Against Women: The objectives of the review are to collect and establish a repository of the researches/reports published on the issue of violence against women in Pakistan. The review strives to identify types, prevalence, location and severity of such violence.
- ii. Women, Violence and Jirgas: A desk review was conducted focusing on Jirgas/Panchayats' handling of cases of violence against women and the verdicts given in cases concerning women.
- iii. Access to Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault: This research is intended to examine the cases of sexual violence with regard to the Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act, 2006 and how superior courts judgments have treated these cases. In addition, the objective of this exploratory pilot study is to track the evolution of cases under this Act. The starting point will be the cases that have been adjudicated upon at the higher courts' level.

Criminal Law (Prohibition of Jirga/Panchayat) Amendment Act, 2016

13. The Ministry of Human Rights, in order to address the role of Jirga/Panchayat, drafted the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2015 for criminalizing the illegal orders and acts of Jirga/Panchayat or similar bodies by prescribing punishment. The Bill was referred to the Law Reforms Committee in the period under review.

61st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

14. The 61st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was held from 13-24 March, 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Session focused on women's empowerment in the changing world of work. The event was attended by representatives of Member States, UN entities, and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)-accredited Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world. A high-level delegation from Pakistan attended the subject session which provided an opportunity to highlight the initiatives taken by the Government to promote women's

development and its link to the empowerment of women in the changing world of work. A number of Joint Sessions, parallel events, sideline events, panel discussions, organized by different Members States, were also attended by members of Pakistan's delegation.

Protection of Human Rights

15. The UN Member States are under obligation to establish independent human rights institutions in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 48/134 of 20th December 1993. Pakistan is a signatory to a number of treaties and covenants and it stands committed for the establishment of institutions for protection of human rights.

16. The Government promulgated the National Commission for Human Rights Act 2012 for promotion and protection of human rights. Among nine Members of the Commission, there shall, at least, be one woman. It shall by suo moto notice or on a petition presented to it by a victim or any person on his behalf, inquire into complaints of violation of human rights or abetment or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant.

Third Universal Periodic Review Report

17. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights record of all 193 UN Member States. It basically provides an opportunity for Pakistan to declare what actions we have taken to improve the human rights situations in our country. Provincial and national consultative meetings to finalize the Pakistan's Third Universal Periodic Review Report were held at provincial headquarters and Islamabad in May and July 2017 under the chairmanship of Secretary to the Ministry of Human Rights. A large number of stakeholders representing the Federal and Provincial Governments as well as representatives of Civil Society Organizations attended the consultations. After deliberate consultations and information gathering, the report was submitted in the Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR), Geneva, Switzerland on 7th August 2017.

SAARC Gender Policy Advocacy Group's Meeting

18. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights hosted the first SAARC Gender Policy Advocacy Group (GPAG) meeting on 26-27 July, 2015 in Islamabad. The meeting was the result of the conviction of the SAARC countries' commitment to work together for the rights of women

in South Asia. Barrister Zafarullah Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Cabinet/ State Minister graced the launching ceremony as Chief Guest. The GPAG has been established in the wake of Addu Declaration adopted by the 17th SAARC Summit in November 2011. The Addu Declaration endorsed the convening of an Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting to discuss the establishment of a regional mechanism for empowerment of women and gender equality in the region.

Sixth OIC Ministerial Conference on Role of Women in Development

19. The Minister of Family and Social Policy, Republic of Turkey, organized the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States from the 1st to 3rd November 2016. The event was attended by representatives of OIC Member States from all regions of the world. Agenda of the conference included review of the OIC Action Plan on the Advancement of Women (OPAAW). The theme of the forum was "Advocacy and Solidarity among Muslim Women for Women's Empowerment in the OIC Member States". The conference provided an opportunity to discuss the measures that could be adopted to empower women in terms of health, employment, education, participation in decision-making and combating violence against women.

Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

20. Pakistan ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1996. The Government of Pakistan's fourth periodic report on CEDAW was submitted before the United Nations' CEDAW Committee in February 2013. Protection against Harassment at Workplace (Filing and Disposal of Complaints) Rules, 2013 were notified.

21. The fifth periodic report was due in 2017. The Ministry of Human Rights sought information from relevant Federal and Provincial stakeholders and prepared a draft report and disseminated it among the relevant stakeholders for their comments. The Ministry also organized provincial and national consultations to finalize the fifth periodic report and after incorporating all available information, the draft report was forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

22. After the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the Ministry of Women Development and the subject were devolved to the provinces. One of the

functions of the devolved Ministry i.e. representing Pakistan at international and bilateral level on all gender-related matters, was transferred to the former Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights. A working group was constituted to finalize the 5th periodic report on CEDAW.

23. On the request of Ministry of Human Rights (former Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights), Provincial CEDAW Implementation Committees were reconstituted/revitalized to address the issues of women.

Protection against Harassment of Women

24. As per Government’s instructions issued from time to time, participation of women in all related fields is ensured. The Government of Pakistan has enforced the “Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010” as part of its Human Resource policies in line with the direction of the Establishment Division.

25. Focal persons and committees have been established in all Federal Departments for the implementation of protection against harassment of women at the workplace. Women are also being included in membership of various Boards of attached institutions.

Establishment of Family Protection and Rehabilitation Centre

26. In order to eliminate discrimination and combat violence against women a Family Protection and Rehabilitation Center and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Centers for Women are working, which undertook the following actions in 2013-14:

Indicators	Target	Actual	Original Budget (Rs.)	Final Budget (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
Registered cases of violence against women.	400	482	8,000,000	9,609,000	8,683,718
Provision of medical, legal aid, counseling,		12,449 (Number of female & children)			

shelter and others services.		beneficiaries)			
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National Judicial Policy

27. The National Judicial (Policy-Making) Committee formulated a National Judicial Policy wherein various policy recommendations are related for protection of the rights of women. Some of the recommendations and initiatives are as under:

- i. Provision of legal protection to female folk and gender-friendly legislation for women working in judiciary.
- ii. Liberalization of bail policy in favour of female prisoners and the women accused in criminal cases.
- iii. Release of women convicts on probation and parole.
- iv. Availability of Lady Doctor in prisons where female prisoners are detained.

Model Policy on Violence against Women and Girls

28. The Model Policy on Violence against Women and Girls has been drafted with the aim to highlight the different forms of violence against women during different stages of life and to consider preventive measures.

Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2016

29. During the period under review the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights was in consultation with relevant stakeholders to process the Bill against domestic violence. According to the Bill, aggrieved person means any women, child or any vulnerable person who is or has been in a domestic relationship with the respondent.

Women Rights Awareness through Media

30. The Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage encourages full participation of women in the national life and believes that the role of women is important for the development of Pakistan.

- (a) Hamari Duniya: The programme includes segments on social justice, women and children rights, education, health and civic sense, especially legal advice on women's emancipation.

- (b) *Morning with Jugan*: This programme provides a forum for discussing family matters and the problems being faced by women in the society.
- (c) Special Transmission on International Women Day: It helps in creating awareness about women rights.
- (d) *Sukhi Ghar*: This programme is broadcast for an hour on the national hook-up on all FM/MW/SW networks of PBC. During the Defense Day special transmissions, PBC highlighted the sacrifices of women in war times as well as in peace.

Observance of International Women’s Day]

31. On the occasion of International Women’s Day, the National Assembly of Pakistan congratulated the women parliamentarians for actively and substantively performing their legislative oversight and representative roles, and working collectively for women’s socio-economic and political empowerment. The National Assembly of Pakistan also appreciated the role of the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus in bringing together the women parliamentarians on one platform.

Women’s Economic Empowerment

32. The first Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on “Women’s Economic Empowerment: creating Opportunities in the World of Work” was held on 25-26 May, 2017 at Vilnius, Lithuania under the patronage of H.E. Ms. Dalia Grybauskaite, President of the Republic of Lithuania and Chairperson of the Council of Women World Leaders. The Session focused on women’s empowerment in the changing world of work. The event was attended by the Governments of ASEM countries, international organizations such as the UN, OCED, World Bank, academia, civil society organizations and business communities. Senator Kamran Michael, Minister for Human Rights, represented Pakistan during the conference and highlighted successful policies, legal provisions, institutional mechanisms to ensure equality in political, economic, corporate and public life, as well as women achievers who empower other women, work life reconciliation policies, new technologies enabling gender equality, sharing of unpaid work at home, tackling occupational segregation and advanced education for women including women’s financial literacy and IT skills.

Model Women Empowerment Package

33. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights finalized a uniform Women Empowerment Package for Pakistan in line with the international commitments. The package includes legal reforms, addresses issues of women, particularly working women, and covers provision of basic services which include day care centre, age relaxation, support against the offence of acid throwing, bank loans, small and medium business plans, availability of shelter in case of any mishap, educational and health facilities and political empowerment. In line with directions of the Prime Minister, a high-level Committee was constituted to prepare a comprehensive package. The Committee finalized the women empowerment initiatives and submitted the proposals through Cabinet Division, for approval of the Prime Minister in March 2016.

Women Business Development Centers

34. To increase the economic empowerment of women, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) established Women Common Facility Centres in 5 major cities of Pakistan. SMEDA also established Women Business Development Centers at Mingora, Swat. During 2016-17, SMEDA prepared PC-1s on business skill development centres at Bahawalpur and D.I. Khan to provide business development services for women entrepreneurs. SMEDA is an equal opportunity employer and encourages women to apply. SMEDA had 17 female employees (around 16% of the total staff) in the period under review.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

35. The “ICTs for Girls” programme is aimed at spurring the socio-economic uplift of girls through Digital Learning. As part of this programme, 150 digital labs are being established throughout Pakistan at the Women Empowerment Centers at a cost of Rs300 million. Through this programme thousands of girls are being trained at state of the art computer labs under the coaching and training programme of Microsoft that include computing, coding, and communication skills with coaching from industry experts. The second wave of this programme, at a cost of Rs600 million, is being launched to train over 110,000 girls per year at 245 girls schools of Islamabad. Through this mega project, the ultimate objective is to increase the employability potential of this economically vulnerable section of society.

National Incubation Centers

36. In order to provide opportunities to young entrepreneurs and talented youth of Pakistan and equip the local IT industry with infrastructure, mentorship and all allied facilities, National Incubation Centers (NICs) are being established by the Ministry of IT and Telecom. The primary goal of the project is to transform innovative ideas of talented young teams into viable and self-sustainable startup companies by providing the necessary training, mentorship and facilitation. In this programme a special quota is reserved for women to encourage their participation.

Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Programme

37. Since the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) started functioning, the participation of women in national life has been significant. NAVTTTC encourage women to take admission in its funded projects and allocates to them a minimum of 25% quota in the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme. Moreover, female-oriented crafts like fashion designing, pattern drafting, beautician, traditional embroidery, information technology and numerous others have been introduced specifically for women. Non-traditional courses are further planned to benefit women all over Pakistan. Participation of women is fully appreciated in pre-service and in-service training programmes of NAVTTTC.

“She Trade”

38. The International Trade Centre (ITC) has launched an initiative called, “She Trade” to connect one million women entrepreneurs to provide them access to domestic, regional and international markets and to create inter-connected global economy. Executive Director ITC, Ms. Arancha Gonzalez launched this initiative in Pakistan during the SheTrade Seminar, arranged by WTO wing, Ministry of Commerce, on 1st February, 2017.

39. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and all Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also been requested to encourage women entrepreneurs to register themselves to “She Trade” to get connectivity to national and international economy.

Khawateen Rozgar Scheme

40. In order to empower the rural women to play a significant role to increase family income and contribute towards GDP, this scheme has been introduced in all branches of the Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited. All creditworthy women with technical knowhow and capacity to pay are eligible to get financing for farming, textile and clothing, bamboo cane and related products, etc. Under this scheme the rate of mark-up is charged as per prevailing rate. The maximum loan limit is Rs.200,000 per borrower/party. The borrower's contribution is 10% of the loan amount. The loan is sanctioned by the branch manager. Production & development loans are recoverable within 18 months and 5 years respectively in half-yearly instalments. Strict monitoring is being exercised by ensuring checking of utilization by the Mobile Credit Officers (MCOs) in 100% cases and sample checking of utilization by the Manager, Zonal Manager, Recovery and Internal Auditors of the Bank. During the fiscal year 2016-2017, the Bank disbursed an amount of Rs.16.365 million in 98 loan cases under Khawateen Rozgar Scheme. The Bank also disbursed an amount of Rs.5741.603 million to women in 22,905 loan cases under general credit.

Promotion of Gender Equality

41. Education is the most important factor which paves the way to development in all areas of life and in turn leads to gender equality and women empowerment. Gender parity is at the core of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The first indicator under MDG-3 therefore aims to eliminate gender disparity in the primary and secondary education by 2005 and at all levels of education by 2015. Pakistan has improved slightly in gender parity in primary education, secondary education and youth literacy but the progress on these indicators is still off track. Gender parity in primary education had improved from 0.82 percent in 2001-02 to 0.89 percent in 2012-13 while in secondary education the increase was from 0.75 percent in 2001-02 to 0.89 percent in 2012-13. Youth literacy Gender Parity Index (GPI) increased from 0.65 percent in 2001-02 to 0.82 percent in 2012-13.

Basic Education Community Schools

42. The Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) provide equal working/employment opportunities to staff teachers from both genders, promoting girl-child's education. Region-wise detail of female employees

and girl-children working and studying in BECS in the period under review is given below:

Detail of Female staff working in BECS during FY 2015-16

Area/province	Female Employees
Islamabad (Head Office)	17
Punjab	09
Sindh	02
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	01
Balochistan	01
Gilgit Baltistan	02
Azad Kashmir	0
Total	32

Total number of Female teachers working in BECS during FY 2015-2016

Punjab	GB	Sindh	Balochistan	ICPK	FATA	AJK	ICT	Total
5491	947	1151	514	1326	238	184	245	10096

Detail of Girl-Children studying in BECS during FY 2015-16

Area/province	1 st Q	2 nd Q	3 rd Q	4 th Q
Punjab	130567	133021	131847	134427
Gilgit Baltistan	27965	27962	28139	28789
Sindh	38521	38711	38761	38234
Balochistan	10690	10708	10705	10744
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	33858	34176	33778	35397
FATA	15478	14998	14609	16720
AJK	4555	3950	4061	4555
ICT	3961	3825	3800	4706
Total	265595	267351	265700	273572

National Policy on Home-Based Workers

43. The Ministry of Finance is in process of finalizing a National Policy on Home-Based Workers which intends to guide and support the Provincial Governments of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

Baluchistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Northern Areas in developing their own strategies, plans and programmes for protection and promotion of the rights and benefits of the Home-Based Workers, particularly women. The policy has been circulated among the relevant stakeholders for their comments.

Contribution of Rural Women to Development

44. A big share of female labour force participation is found in the agriculture sector in Pakistan. A Directorate of Gender has been created at Pakistan Agricultural Research Council to encourage women participation in agriculture. According to the Pakistan Labour Force Survey provided by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, 70% of total female employees are working in agriculture and its allied sectors. Rural women are major contributors in four sub-sectors of the rural economy: crop production, livestock production, cottage industry and household and family maintenance activities, such as transporting water, fuel and fodder to farm and home. Rural women of Pakistan also perform the following functions in the agriculture sector:

- i. Plantation of vegetables, rice and bare root plants.
- ii. Cultivation of vegetables and removal of weeds and unwanted growth.
- iii. Picking of cotton, small fruits, vegetables of all types; harvesting of crops.

Promotion of Adult Literacy and Livelihood Training in D.I. Khan

45. The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) envisages imparting of literacy, child rearing and income generation skills to adults, especially females. For this purpose the NCHD has established 15 literacy centers in UC Musazai. A total of 375 learners (women aged 18-35) have been enrolled in these centers. These enrolled women will acquire literacy and livelihood skills including stitching/sewing and handicraft.

Women Economic Development Sindh

46. A majority of women in Sindh particularly in rural areas are marginalized by poverty, home confinement and geographic isolation. Although talented embroiderers, they face significant logistical and social constraints in reaching high-value urban markets. Working with all parts

of the embroidered garments value chain, the project is aimed to directly reach 10,000 women (both urban and rural) and increasing revenue two or three-fold. The project is developing commercial business service markets that will overcome social barriers and limitations in the value chain, enabling women to reach affluent consumers and realize a higher return for their labor.

- a. Project goals:
 - i. To provide income generation skills to 10,000 females of 18-35 years of age.
 - ii. To enhance literacy skills of 10,000 semi-literate/ illiterate rural females of 18-35 years of age in 23 districts of Sindh.
 - iii. To increase participation of female youth in development process and labor force.
 - iv. To organize female groups in 400 communities.
- b. Literacy and stitching/ sewing trainings were provided to Quality Controllers and Trainers.

Following was the table of progress during the year 2015:

No of Districts	Centers established	No. of trainees
23	400	10,000

Observance of Women’s Quota in Jobs

47. Women quota for employment is strictly observed in organizations/departments under the administrative control of the Ministries. There is no gender discrimination in employment and provision of other facilities such as grant of loans, advances etc. As per Government rules there is no difference in the male and female remunerations in the same category of employment (i.e. same scale). Conducive environment is provided to female employees: “Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2010” is enforced strictly.

48. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSR&C) and the departments/organizations/entities working under its administrative control strongly believe in active

participation and inclusion of women in all spheres of life to ensure enhanced pace of development in the country.

- (a) Women are working at each and every level from MBBS-qualified researchers to the junior-most cadre in the National Research Institute of Fertility Control (NRIFC).
- (b) The National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) provides an equal opportunity to men and women as employer, and currently one in every seven employees is a female. There are 8 females (officers and supporting staff) among the total 56 in-position employees at the NIPS.
- (c) The National Institute of Health (NIH): Presently, 50 women are working in the NIH and participating in all activities at the institute.
- (d) The Pakistan Medical Research Council (PMRC) has ensured recruitment against the women quota as well as against the general quota and women have been provided fair and equal opportunities in all spheres of business of the Council.
- (e) The National Trust for Population Welfare encourages women's participation in national life. According to Employees Service Rules 40% of vacancies shall be filled with female candidates. In the year 2014-15, 12 women were working with the National Aids Control Programme (NACP), from Senior Programme Officer to Staff Nurse level.
- (f) Under the Mother and Child Health Services programme, female workers have been employed in majority and thereby provided opportunities for career development and employment. The programme focuses on provision of quality reproductive health/Family Planning and Mother and Child Health services to women and sensitizing them to their reproductive health rights. It aims to bring an attitudinal change in men through interpersonal communication.

49. In the Ministry of Interior, a 10% quota has been reserved in all ranks for induction of women as per Government instructions/policy. Following was the number of female officers/officials working in the Ministry of Interior in 2014-15:

(i) Deputy Secretary	(02)
(ii) Senior Private Secretary	(01)
(iii) Section Officers	(03)
(iv) Assistant Directors	(02)
(v) Superintendent	(01)
(vi) Assistant Private Secretary	(01)
(vii) Assistants	(08)
(viii) Stenotypist	(02)
(ix) UDCs	(06)
(x) LDCs	(06)
(xi) Naib Qasid	(08)

(a) Office of the Chief Commissioner (ICT)

Equal opportunities of employment and congenial working conditions have been provided to women by the ICT Administration. 371 women have been employed in BS-19 and below in various office departments of the ICT Administration, including 317 Lady Health Workers. A separate Women Police Station is functioning in Islamabad. In addition, a large number of women have been recruited in the ICT Police Department in various ranks.

(b) National Police Academy (NPA)

Four Lady Assistant Superintendents of Police were trained at the NPA during 2013-14. Three lady officers/officials were employed in the NPA. Nine Lady ASP Officers were trained at NPA during 2014-15.

(c) Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)

In line with the Government policy the FIA is making efforts to induct as many women as possible. In this respect, 208 women were working in the FIA besides many more in the Ministerial cadre. Due to efforts of the FIA the Government sanctioned Female Immigration Officers in the upper ranks from Sub-Inspector to Deputy Director to provide maximum opportunities to women with the added benefits of promotion to higher ranks. Besides, a 10% quota has been reserved in all ranks for induction of women as per Government policy.

(d) National Academy for Prison Administration (NAPA)

A full-time female lecturer (psychology), selected through the FPSC, is working in the NAPA. There is full participation of women from the prisons department in different courses organized at the NAPA from time to time.

50. The Ministry of Communication has ensured that women quota for employment is strictly observed within the ministry as well as the organizations/departments under its administrative control. As per Government rules there is no difference in the male and female remunerations of same category/scale of employment. There is no gender discrimination in employment and provision of other facilities.

51. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is in full compliance with the principle of female participation in national life. Women are inducted not only on reserved seats but on open vacancies as per quota share determined by the Federal Government for province/region. There is no discrimination based on gender in the CAA. The CAA believes in the capabilities and potential of women and empowers them to take initiatives and recommend developments/improvements in process and operations. Women of the CAA actively participate in official meetings, seminars, trainings and events and contribute positively in the assigned tasks and targets. Besides equal participation 10 % female quota is observed during induction of employees. Presently, women are working as Additional Directors in CAA and performing their duties efficiently. Ten percent female staff has been recruited in various ranks of ASF and they take part in basic training of administrative and operational nature.

52. Equal opportunities are provided within the office management system of Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD). In order to have active representation of women, PMD follows the government-allocated quota reserved for women. Women are also encouraged to compete on open merit.

53. The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) under the Establishment Division strictly observes the 10% quota reserved for women. Induction of women is encouraged in all processes of recruitment by the FPSC. The National Day for Working Women was observed on 22nd December, 2017 at FPSC Headquarter, Islamabad to honour the role of working women.

54. Female employees in the Statistics Division/ PBS fully participated in all activities of the department including census, surveys and collection of secondary data. Equal training opportunities are also provided to them. There is no discrimination on the basis of gender. Data on women's participation in economic activities is collected through different surveys and published.

55. The Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) has taken several steps to facilitate provision of equal opportunities to women and ensure active participation of women at every level from management to the Board of Directors in different organizations of the Ministry. The Ministry of IPC ensures the dignity of working women by providing legal protection through the Women Harassment at Workplace Act, 2010.

56. The Pakistan Girls Guide Association is a value-based national movement of empowered girls and young women working as agents of change to build a better world.

57. The Utility Stores Corporation (USC) is giving equal opportunity of employment to women while observing the quota and encouraging women for equal participation in national life.

58. All the female employees/trainees in Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC) are free to participate in national life/events as permitted under the rules. Security Exchange Commission and its units observe the directions of the Government for employing women whenever recruitment is carried out to fill in the vacant positions.

59. The Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) is an equal-opportunity provider and reserves women seats according to the quota.

60. The Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC) observes directions and instructions of Government in recruitment. Women are provided equal opportunities to participate in the training programme conducted by HMC.

61. The Export Processing Zone Authority's (EPZA) industrial units provide employment to 30,000 individuals, out of whom 70% are women.

Provision of Professional Education

62. The objective of training courses in Federal Educational Institutions is to provide a conducive environment to female presence in the organized sector of industrial establishment. In the year 2013-14 the target was to train/educate/sensitize 900 persons to the issue through seminars/workshops.

63. The Federal College of Education (FCE) provides professional education to the future teachers and more than 80% enrollment is of female students. Under the programme, a majority of female workers are provided opportunities for career development and employment. The programme focuses on provision of quality reproductive health/family planning and mother and child health services to the community, especially women, and sensitizing them to their reproductive health rights. It aims to bring an attitudinal change in men through interpersonal communication for safe motherhood practices and strengthen the family as a social unit through responsible parenthood thereby providing women full opportunities for employment and career development to enable them to participate fully in the national life.

64. The Ministry of Climate Change encourages equal opportunities for women and promotes women participation in all its activities. There is a reasonable representation of women in the Ministry and its attached departments. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), an attached department of the Ministry, is also giving training to about 30 female students every year in an internship programme.

Training Courses for Women Employees

65. Some of the details of women participation, training and recruitment are given in the following lines:

(a) Secretariat Training Institute (STI)

The STI offers an equal opportunity training atmosphere. During 2013-14, its entire training programme called for preferable nominations of female participants. Consequently, 306 female officers and officials nominated for training courses were accommodated. 14 female probationers were accommodated in a separate hostel on STI premises. Enabling working environment was provided to all female

participants/employees at the STI. During 2014-15, 190 female officers / officials nominated for training courses were accommodated. 12 female trainees were accommodated in a separate hostel at STI premises.

(b) Staff Welfare Organization (SWO)

The Staff Welfare Organization ensures full participation of women in all its programmes/schemes. Most of the Staff Welfare Organization programmes are meant for women, like Hostel for Working Women, Ladies Industrial Homes, Work Order Centres, Day Care Centres and Vocational Training Centres. There is no gender discrimination in recruitment to various posts in the Organization. The detail is as under:

- (i) Day Care Centre: The objectives of the project are to provide care to the children of women employees.
- (ii) Hostel for Working Women: The facility is provided at Islamabad to encourage the working women to continue their jobs and supplement their family income as well as contribute to economy of the country. The hostel consists of 48 suites.
- (iii) Ladies Industrial Homes: To enable the female dependents of Federal Government Employees to acquire useful and remunerating skills, courses are conducted in tailoring, knitting, embroidery, cooking, home management and other market-oriented skills, painting, block printing, leather/wood, thread/bead/mirror work, flower-making and cosmetics. These courses are of great value for supplementing income of the family.
- (iv) Work-Order Centre: Work-order Centres are primarily income-generating units for female trainees of Ladies Industrial Homes. This facility is provided at Islamabad and Peshawar.
- (v) Facility of community clubs is provided to female dependents for get-together and to discuss/resolve their problems.

(vi) Trade Training Centre/Vocational Training Centres: In order to provide career opportunities to the dependents of Government servants, these centres are rendering services at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta.

(c) Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD)

Training courses are conducted on Gender Responsive Social Service Delivery and Income Generation Activities and attended by both male/female participants. The Academy has established Vocational Training Centre for Women on its campus where women of the adjacent rural areas participate in various courses for income generation for their families. For example, a 3-Day Training Course on Gender-Sensitive Social Services Delivery was conducted during March 10-12, 2015.

(d) National School of Public Policy (NSPP)

The NSPP ensures that equal opportunities are provided to women. A number of women are working in Admin, Human Resource, Finance, Coordination, Research, Libraries and IT Wings of the NSPP Secretariat and its integral and constituent units. Furthermore, women are also represented at key positions in the NSPP.

(e) Pakistan Public Administration Research Centre (PPARC)

Female employees are fully participating in the national life in their assigned areas of responsibilities. Moreover, their quota in employment and other areas is also being implemented in letter and spirit. Women are protected under the “Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010”.

(f) National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD)

All female officials nominated for training courses were accommodated. Special training courses on women participation in national life are part of the training agenda.

(g) Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD)

Efforts are made to implement the policy of government with regard to quota in employment at the Centre. Women are provided all the requisite facilities to make their working environment conducive, secure and comfortable, as per available infrastructure. For mainstreaming gender-focused planning and development, specific gender-related courses are being conducted in the AHKNCRD. The facility of hostel for female employees is provided on campus to encourage women to participate in training courses.

Gender-Based Governance Training

66. To promote the concept of gender balance and highlight the role of women in national development, the Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM) is regularly running 'Gender-based Governance' trainings in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) promoting this concept. Throughout its 60-year history, the PIM has strongly advocated the role of women in development. The PIM was the first organization to run training courses for women managers like “How Successful Women Manage” and “Managerial Skills for Women Managers”. As per Government's instructions from time to time participation of women in all related fields by recruitment/appointment is ensured as per quota allocated by the Government (10% quota).

Training Activities in CDA

67. A total of 34 activities were carried out by the Capital Development Administration in 2016-17 for workers/trade union leaders/employers in which 915 (833 male and 82 female) representatives of workers, trade union leaders, employers were educated in the areas of Human Resource Development, welfare of the workers of public and private sector organization, their rights, privileges and to create better atmosphere between the proprietor and the worker.

Separate Chamber of Commerce for Women

68. Besides observing the women quota as per Federal Government policy for employment of women in services, the Ministry of Commerce and its attached organizations encourage women participation in all opportunities of employment in the main Ministry, Trade Organizations and Trade Missions abroad. Women are currently serving at senior/mid-level management positions. The Trade Organization Act 2013 provides for establishment of a separate Chamber of Commerce/trade bodies for

women. Such women-based Trade Organizations are also provided financial support through the Exports Development Fund and Exports Marketing Development Fund for their development.

Provision of Facilities to Women for Proceeding Abroad

69. The Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development Division encourages women to proceed abroad for the purpose of employment. In the Emigration Rules, 1979, Article 25, Section 2, Sub-Section XI lays down that the female workers are allowed to proceed abroad when they reach the age of 35. It is also pertinent to mention that in special cases the Federal Government can relax the age limit for women by 5 years. The Bureau of Emigration is under the jurisdictional umbrella of the Ministry and the Federal Government is perpetually trying its level best to streamline the emigration process for the female workers.

Fashion & Design

70. Regarding Article 34 of the 1973 Constitution, it is pointed out that Commerce Division/Attached Departments are fully committed to enhancing participation and providing equal opportunities to women and encouraging women entrepreneurs to participate in the events organized for promotion of Pakistan's trade. Women are also included in all delegations sent abroad by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). Similarly women entrepreneurs have been subsidized (upto 50%) and they are beneficiary of the entire programme being undertaken by TDAP.

71. In this context, two women Project Directors were appointed for two PSDP-funded projects of Commerce Division. The establishment of Pakistan Institute of Fashion & Design (PIFD), Lahore by Commerce Division is a shining example in this respect. The Vice Chancellor of PIFD Lahore is a lady. It is important to mention that 85% of students in the Institute are women. Brilliant female graduates of the institute are encouraged to participate in the leading fashion weeks. Their collections are being exhibited not only in Pakistan but also in Alta Roma Fashion, Rome, Italy. The PIFD has also secured the honor of representing Pakistan at International Fashion Showcase, London, UK since 2013 where a large number of female graduates represent Pakistan.

72. The Pakistan Fashion Week was organized by Commerce Section of Qatar Government in May 2015, whereby the female entrepreneurs in

the fashion industry were facilitated. The Commercial Section, Dubai, UAE, organized the visit of a four-member trade delegation led by Chairperson of *Aik Hunar Aik Nagar* (One Village One Craft) and President of Bahawalpur Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 28th to 31st August, 2015. The objective of the visit was to introduce, connect and arrange business matchmaking of Pakistan's craftsmen and budding entrepreneurs (especially women from poverty-stricken regions of Pakistan) with high-end customers. During the trade delegation's visit, meetings with Zabeel Ladies Club, Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Sharjah Ladies Club were organized.

Women Involvement in Campaign against Narcotics

73. Steps are being taken to involve women in the campaign against narcotics/drug abuse through print/ electronic media, seminars, workshops, walks, rallies, dialogues etc. In this regard women officer/officials have been recruited/ inducted in the Narcotics Control Division (NCD) and its attached department.

Women participation in Sports

74. In the past, Pakistani women took part only in a few games i.e. Athletics, Badminton, Tennis, Table Tennis, but now the position has changed and women are regularly participating in games like Bridge, Cycling, Football, Golf, Handball, Hockey, Sailing, Skiing, Squash, Shooting, Swimming, Taekwondo, Judo, Kabadi, Karate, Netball, and Wushu.

75. The Pakistan Sports Board successfully arranged the Inter-Board Sports Gala-2016. The Sports Board organized the 2nd Quaid-e-Azam Inter-Provincial Games at Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad in which 1030 female players participated along with 1815 male players. The performance of female athletes was appreciated in the games.

76. Pakistan also participated in South Asian Games in 2016 and got 106 medals overall. The female participation in different games was fantastic and as a result they got 03 Gold, 08 Silver and 24 Bronze medals in Badminton, Boxing, Cycling, Handball, Judo, Shooting, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis and Wushu events.

77. During the year 2017-18, the Pakistan contingent participated in the 6th Commonwealth Youth Games held at Nassau (Bahamas), 21st

Commonwealth Games held at Gold Coast (Australia) during April 2018 and the 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) during September, 2017. The contingent comprised of both male and female players as selected by the National Sports Federation, including 39 female players.

78. The Pakistan Girl Guides Association offers a unique opportunity for the development of girls and women by providing them opportunities to develop their talent to its fullest potential. The Guides Programme offers opportunities to a girl to value herself as someone with a wide range of skills and abilities, motivates girls to reach their fullest potential and develop self-confidence.

79. The Pakistan Sports Board endeavours to provide maximum possible opportunities of participation to female players in sports activities at national and international level. The number of male and female participants in different sports activities during the years 2016-17 and 2017-18 is given below:

S. No.	Activities		2016-17	2017-18
		Gender	Strength	Strength
i.	Training Camps:	Male	951	1198
		Female	199	266
		Total:	1150	1464
ii.	Events organized in Pakistan:	Male	2324	1815
		Female	154	1030
		Total:	2478	2845
iii.	Participation in International events:	Male	841	892
		Female	194	181
		Total:	1035	1073

CHAPTER-6

PROTECTION OF THE MARRIAGE, THE FAMILY, THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD (ARTICLE-35 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall protect the marriage, the family, the mother and the child.

The Federal Government has launched various initiatives to protect and support the family, mother and child welfare. Medication is provided to the employees and their dependents. At daughter's marriage, a loan is given to the employees. Participation of all employees in family functions is facilitated by leave as and when requested. Wedlock policy is observed in transfer/postings. Medical leave or special leave to women is provided as per rules. Group life/health insurance is provided to the employees. An assistance package is provided for families of the employees who die during service. Necessary facilities are provided to the employees, such as hiring of residential accommodation, as per rules.

Reduction in Child Mortality

2. Infant and child mortality are important indicators of a country's socio-economic development and quality of life as well as population health status. Child mortality rates are used for monitoring of a country's progress towards Millennium Development Goal-4 which aims to reduce under-five child mortality rate to 52 percent, infant mortality rate to 40 percent, proportion of children under five who suffer from diarrhea to less than 10 percent, immunization of children to 90 percent and Lady Health Worker's (LHW) coverage to 100 percent.

Mother and Child Health Care Centres

3. The Lady Health Worker (LHW) is considered to be one of the most successful programmes in health sector with a total of 100,000 LHWs providing basic health facilities covering 83 percent of the total population.

4. Special attention is being paid to the welfare and health of women and children in FATA. Mother and Child Health Care Centres have been established in each Agency and Tehsil Headquarters. Similarly parallel programmes of family welfare and food supplements are being

implemented for the female child. The institutions of marriage and family are well-protected and the local administration pays full attention to the rights of women.

Child Support Programme

5. This programme was started with the objective of inducing poor people to send their children to school and discourage child labour. A family with one child of school-going age is provided with a cash support of Rs.300 per month and a family with two or more children is provided Rs.600 per month per child for sending their children to school. UNICEF provided technical collaboration to Pakistan Baitul Mal in designing the programme. In 2013-14, the programme was running in 14 districts. An amount of Rs.31.603 million was disbursed among 16,680 beneficiaries during the period from July-March, 2013-14. Gallop Pakistan was hired by Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) for base line survey and rapid assessment of the results.

Rehabilitation of Child Labour

6. The Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has launched 159 National Centers for Rehabilitation of Child Labour (NCsRCL) with the objective of progressive elimination of child labour and rehabilitation of the victims across Pakistan. Children between the ages of 5-6 years, both male and female, are induced away from hazardous labour and enrolled in these centers to get primary education in 4 years. The PBM utilized an amount of Rs.285.309 million for these centers during July-March 2013-14.

Child Welfare and Development

7. The South Asia Initiative on Ending Violence Against Children (SIEVAC) is an apex body of SAARC. Pakistan is a founding member of this body. The National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD) is implementing a project titled “Preventing Violence Against Children in Pakistan” in line with the Agreement devised by SAARC Development Fund (SDF). In this regard, capacity building workshops of the stakeholders have been organized across the country, including the AJ&K. The thematic areas of the violence against children, including corporal punishment, child marriage, child labor, child abuse and child trafficking, have been addressed during these workshops.

8. The NCCWD together with UNICEF also launched a nation-wide media campaign for ending violence against children. The campaign was

meant to focus on the issue of corporal punishment. The campaign included airing of docudrama, public services messages and ads in national newspapers and talk shows.

Criminal Law (2nd Amendments) Act, 2016

9. The Government enacted the Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2016 on 18th March, 2016. The Act provides for raising the minimum age for criminal responsibility by amending Sections 82 & 83 of the PPC. Insertion of new sections i.e. 292A, 292B, 292C, 328A, 369A, 377A and 377B criminalized exposing children to sexually explicit material, child pornography, cruelty to children, human trafficking and sexual abuse within Pakistan.

ICT Child Protection Act, 2018

10. The Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Bill, 2016 was drafted by the Ministry of Human Rights to protect the vulnerable children of ICT. The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Human Rights approved the Bill in its meeting held on 4th July, 2017. The ICT Child Protection Act, 2018 was enacted to provide for the establishment of a mechanism for rescue, care, and protection of children at risk. Under this Act, a child protection commission was also being established to provide necessary protective services to the unattended children including their registration, rehabilitation, counseling and protection.

National Child Protection Center

11. The National Child Protection Center (NCPC), Islamabad, provides temporary shelter and facilitates rehabilitation and reunification of victims of violence and runaway or street children at the ICT level. It also provides non-formal education and skill enhancement to children from marginalized segments of the society.

National Commission on the Rights of Children (NCRC) Bill 2015

12. The NCRC Bill was drafted by the Ministry of Human Rights. The Bill will lay down rules and regulations to define the various rights of children including the rights to life, education, parental care, protection from abuse, and juvenile justice among others. The role of NCRC will be to serve as the focal point for facilitating, coordinating and reporting all child related international commitments. The said Bill was under consideration of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Law & Justice in the period under review.

UN Convention on the Rights of Child

13. In the context of protection of family, the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat focuses on addressing issues related to rights of children and achieving compliance of the UN Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC) in Pakistan. The National Commissioner for Children office in the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat continued to evaluate and promote the implementation of policies in the field of protection of children rights, create a redress mechanism, coordinate with the provinces for joint initiatives, conduct research on the status and the way forward on child rights; and above all, to serve as precursor to a full-fledged Ombudsperson for Children in Pakistan. In this context the following milestones were achieved and activities undertaken during the period under report.

(a) National Committee on Children

- i. The National Committee on Children was re-notified with the addition of few more active members for taking prompt measures for early redressal of children issues. Meetings of the Committee were held at Federal level and in Provinces to formulate proposals to ameliorate the condition of children, who are disabled, forced to work, made to beg on streets, are in prisons, sexually abused and subjected to trafficking. ToRs/SOPs have been developed to ensure smooth functioning of the Committees.
- ii. Commissioners for children have been reappointed and new Committees formed to empower National Committee's members to work more actively in redressing the children's issues in collaboration and close coordination with the provincial Child Commissioners across the country.
- iii. Some of the important interventions by the Committees resulted in recovery of kidnapped girls and arrest of the accused in various parts of the country: the arrest of a schoolteacher of Government High School Balakot, Abbottabad, and his gang, who were involved in the sexual abuse of students and uploading their videos on the internet; redressal of scores of complaints regarding denial of admission in colleges and universities to students and delays or refusal of issuance of B-form; issuance of CNIC to transgender by NADRA; action by

the F.I.A. against trafficking of children in packed cartons to Thailand; precautionary measures by the Ministry of Health Services & Regulations against the outbreak of a mysterious disease in Shangla village of Upper Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; and raising of awareness of health and hygiene among the people.

(b) Advisory Committee with Special Reference to Children and Women Prisoners

In pursuance of the direction of Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Wafaqi Mohtasib constituted an “Advisory Committee with Special Reference to Children and Women Prisoners”. The members of the Committee, accompanied by the members of the National Committee on Children, visited Adiala Jail, Haripur Jail, Central Jail Karachi, Quetta Jail, Kot Lakhpat Jail, Macch Jail, District Jail D.I. Khan and Borstal Jail, Faisalabad, and recommended improvement in areas like shortage of staff in prisons, over-crowdedness, lack of sanitation, health facilities and proper and timely provision of food, external oversight mechanism, non-production of under-trial prisoners in court, illegal detention of under-trial prisoners who are involved in petty crimes, lack of educational and training facilities and lack of medical facilities. The following steps were taken by the committee with the support of civil society, judiciary and philanthropists:

- i. Payments of Rs. 44 million were made to get some of the prisoners released from prisons all over Pakistan.
- ii. Implementation of the MoU signed with Chairman HEC, COMSATS University, Vice-Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes.
- iii. The first Pakistan Sweet Home for children in jails was inaugurated by Senator Dr. S. M. Zafar and the Wafaqi Mohtasib in Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore. The second Sweet Home was planned for Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.
- iv. The National Book Foundation is providing free books in jails.
- v. The Vice Chancellor, AIOU, upgraded the libraries in Central Jail Adiala, Rawalpindi, and District Jail Quetta

by providing books for improving the educational level of the inmates.

- vi. The COMSATS University was providing books & beds to Central Jail Haripur and had committed to establish a computer lab in that jail.
- vii. The first boarding school was constructed in Borstal Jail, Faisalabad, and Eid gifts were distributed among the prisoners by the Committee members.

Juvenile Justice System Bill, 2016

14. The Juvenile Justice System Bill, 2016 was also drafted by the Ministry of Human Rights and sent to the Law and Justice Division for vetting.

Commemorating World Day Against Child Labour 2017

15. The focus of “Commemorating World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL)” was to recognize projects with maximum impact and address multi-dimensional child labour issues. A competition was launched among NGOs and after due diligence and scrutiny, cash grants were awarded worth U.S. \$52,350, \$52,350, \$32,200 and \$19,500 to four partners, viz, Bunyad Literacy Community Council, Sudhaar Society, Sujag Sansar Organization, Vershegom Area Development Organization, respectively, to implement WDACL Project's activities over nine months. The National Commissioner for Children's office, in conjunction with UNICEF, has provided technical and administrative support to all partner NGOs and ensured the implementation of their respective work plans. UNICEF allowed extension of the project till December 2017 to facilitate NGOs to smoothly complete work in their respective domains.

Legislation on Dissolution of Marriage

16. The Ministry of Religious Affairs shared with the Ministry of Law and Justice Division, draft amendments in Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, Dissolution of Muslims Marriage Act and West Pakistan Family Court Act, 1964. The Ministry, after thoroughly examining the proposed amendments in compliance with an order of Supreme Court dated 24.04.2004, which required of the Ministry to take necessary steps in connection with dissolution of marriage without a protracted trial of women before different courts, forwarded the amended draft to Ministry of Law and Justice for further necessary action. The Human Rights Division takes up various cases with the concerned authorities in connection with issues related to protection of family etc. The Human

Rights Division supported the National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD) for celebration of the Universal Children Day on 20th November each year. Similarly the Human Rights Division also supported activities of the Parliamentary Forum on Child Rights.

Training of *Nikah* Registrars

17. The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) is ex-officio member of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. In a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Justice of Pakistan, NCSW was assigned the task to design Training Manual and Module for the reference of *Nikah* Registrars regarding filling of *Nikahnama*. The purpose of this course is to make *Nikah* Registrars capable of filling all columns of the *Nikah* Registration Form (*Nikahnama*) fully and properly. The Training Manual and Module developed by NCSW has been approved by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan.

Dowry and Bridal Gift (Restriction) Act, 1976

18. Miscellaneous references regarding family issues were examined by the Ministry of Religious affairs and Interfaith Harmony from an Islamic point of view and comments were provided to the referring quarters. The Form No. II of Rules under Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961” i.e. *Nikahnama* form has been amended to the extent of ICT. A summary on “Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) (Amendment) Bill 2017” to amend the Original Act of 1973 was submitted to the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) on which consultation was being done with the Provincial Governments.

Action Plan for Human Rights

19. The Action Plan for Human Rights provides for establishment of new Crisis Centers for women and strengthening/standardization of the existing centers/services at district level in collaboration with the civil society organizations to provide rehabilitation services for victims and survivors of violence. In this regard, following key steps have been taken to ensure family life protection.

Family Protection & Rehabilitation

20. As part of efforts to ensure observance and implementation of the principle of policy as enunciated in Article 35 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the Family Protection & Rehabilitation Centre for Women

(FPRC) undertook the following activities during the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17:

S#	Indicators	Targets Achieved	
		2015-16	2016-17
1.	No. of cases registered on matter of violence against women (Women Centre & Shelter Home)	437	385
2.	Total survivors of violence and children accommodated in Shelter Home	323	653
3.	Counselling Services (Individual + Joint + Telephonic + Legal)	7,181	21,705
4.	Referral Services (Shelter, Legal, Other Centres, MoHR, Gender Crime Cell, Pakistan <i>Bait ul-Mal</i>)	379	292
5.	Beneficiaries of awareness raising sessions	107	2,528
6.	Beneficiaries of outreach visits	290	-

Provision of Telemedicine Services

21. The Ministry of Information Technology (IT) launched PSDP projects regarding telemedicine services for rural areas of Pakistan for the provision of cost-effective means for consultation, advice and treatment by specialist doctors based in the urban hospitals for families (mother and child especially) living in rural/remote areas of Pakistan. The main services are remote consultations, remote health checkups etc. Telemedicine centers were launched at three locations: Holy Family Hospital Rawalpindi, Jinnah Post-Graduate Center Karachi and Mayo Hospital Lahore. These telemedicine centers are connected with 12 rural hospitals in Attock, Khushab, Pindi Gheb, D.G. Khan, Gujrat, Sahiwal, Rajan Pur, Jhang, Shikarpur, Gambat, Mirpurkhas and Jacobabad.

Reproductive Health Care Bill

22. The Reproductive Health Care Bill 2014 addressed the issues related to reproductive health of women, raising awareness about the issue in curricula and other activities. The Bill was forwarded to Ministry of Health Services, Regulation and Coordination as the administrative Ministry.

Convention on the Rights of Child

23. The Fifth Periodic report on Convention on the Rights of Child was forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for onward transmission to the treaty body.

Protection of the Family

24. Families of the employees are protected by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (NHSR&C) and departments/organizations/entities working under its administrative control.

- (a) The National Institute of Health (NIH) has ensured full protection of the families of NIH employees and appointed their children in case of death during service.
- (b) The Pakistan Medical Research Council (PMRC) follows implementation of Sexual Harassment Act for maintaining a respectable working environment for female employees and importance is given to other issues of females such as maternity leave, etc.
- (c) The National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) tried to ensure full protection of the families of its employees. For example, wife of a deceased Sanitary Worker of NIPS was given employment in replacement of her husband so as to save the family from financial constraints.

Prime Minister's Assistance Package for Employees

25. The Prime Minister's Assistance Package for those employees who die during service is also applicable to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) employees. Complete medical cover to the employees and their declared families is being provided by the CAA. Free textbooks are provided by CAA for the children of its employees in lower cadres. The Airport Security Force (ASF) Public Schools at Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad Airports and ASF Public College at Karachi have been established for providing education to the children of ASF personnel at a nominal cost. The ASF Medical Centres are providing medical facility to the families of ASF Staff. Allout efforts are being made for protection and well-being of the employees' families in case of any distress.

Medical Facilities for Families

26. The Capital Administration and Development Division (CADD) and other Federal Divisions are observing and implementing the subject article. In this regard all regular employees and their families including their parents have been provided with full medical cover. Every possible facility is given to staff, like leave on marriages, illness and other issues,

maternity leave as well as other incentives. All Special Education Centers located in the ICT have appointed Social Welfare Officers/Social Case Workers to look after issues related to the families of children studying in these Centers and regularly provide family counseling and guidance services. The syllabus of 24 months is taught as a basic training course for Family Welfare Workers & Tutors etc.

Counseling Services

27. Parents are usually the first to notice changes in their children's behavior, attitude or emotional expression that might indicate a problem. To meet any such challenge, counseling and psychological services are being provided by the Psychology Department of the Federal hospital to help the patients with personal, emotional and adjustment issues so that they can be successful in their future life. The Psychology Department is also contributing a vital role in counseling of parents having disabled children. Psychological/medical treatment is also being provided to the disabled and their families in the institute. The programme aims to bring an attitudinal change in men through interpersonal communication for safe motherhood practices.

Welfare of Employees

28. The welfare of Federal Government Employees and their families is given due attention. The employees and the families get the following facilities irrespective of caste and religion:

- i. Maternity leave is granted on full pay, outside the leave account, to a female employee to the extent of ninety days.
- ii. The family of an employee of a Ministry is protected by family pension which is admissible to widower of a deceased female Government servant. The heirs of deceased female government servant are also entitled to family pension. Pension cases are processed on priority. Computerization of pension is in process.
- iii. Marriage grant is given to the employees at the marriage of their daughters.
- iv. Employees are facilitated through loans, advances, service regularization & different allowances to ensure respectable livelihood with reasonable rest & leisure.

- v. All employees are insured and provided financial assistance in case of death under the Benevolent and Group Insurance Scheme.
- vi. Medical facilities, including reimbursement of expenses on this account, are provided to employees and their dependents.

Employees' Welfare Schemes

29. The Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Fund (FEB&GIF) provides financial assistance to the Federal Government/autonomous bodies' employees and their families covered under the FEB&GI Act, 1969 in the shape of its welfare schemes which include monthly benevolent grant, burial charges, lump sum grant on invalidation, educational stipends/reimbursement of fee, marriage grant and prizes in essay-writing competition among the Federal Government Employees' Children. The number of Federal Government employees benefiting through these schemes increased from 670,000 to 720,695 in the period under review.

(Rupees in millions)

FEB&GIF	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Contributions	3435.763	4,701.062	5,396.053	6,518	6,637.85
Disbursements	3837.750	5,055.213	5,088.166	5,594	6,141.39

In the FY 2016-17, the amount under the marriage grant scheme was enhanced to Rs. 100,000/- from Rs. 50,000/- in case of marriage of daughter of a deceased Federal Government employee.

30. The following steps were taken by the various Government Departments for the employees' welfare:

- a) National School of Public Policy (NSPP): The married female staff serving in the NSPP was granted maternity leave as prescribed under the rules and their medical charges were also reimbursed as per policy of NSPP.
- b) Secretariat Training Institute Pakistan (STI): This aspect of the Principles of Policy was highlighted through different courses focusing on social issues.
- c) Pakistan Public Administration Research Centre (PPARC): The assistance package of Government employees who die or

become permanently disabled is being implemented in letter and spirit as fixed by the Government.

- d) National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD): This aspect of Principles of Policy is highlighted through different courses on good governance, women empowerment, improving personal effectiveness and many other social issues. Family life is promoted through training programmes like Community Development etc.
- e) Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD): A Baby Day Care Centre has been established at the PARD Campus for facilitation of the working women folk of local/adjacent areas. Training courses are conducted for the empowerment of women at the Academy. A 5-Day Training Course held on Income Generation Opportunities for Rural Youth, from 6th to 10th April 2015 was attended by 23 participants.
- f) The HR Policy of SMEDA allows maternity leave to female employees. Health insurance and medical facility is also available to all employees.
- g) The Utility Stores Corporation (USC) provides the following benefits to the family on death of an employee:
 - i. An amount of Rs.30,000/- is given to the family to meet the funeral expenses.
 - ii. Monthly Assistance of Rs. 3500/- per month to the widow and Rs. 1500/- to each child (up to a maximum of 3 children) is paid.
 - iii. An amount of Rs. 200,000/- is paid to the family of deceased employee on account of Group Insurance.
 - iv. An amount of Rs. 800,000/- is paid to the family of deceased employee on account of deductions from the salary of officers/officials on voluntary basis.
 - v. All other benefits are being paid to the family which are payable as per USC Service Rules.
- h) The Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) provides medical facilities to the employees and their dependents including life partner, parents and children.

- i) The Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC) has maintained a welfare fund for financial help in case of marriage.
- j) Necessary measures have been taken by the Ministry of Water and Power to provide protection to the families of employees. This is being done in the form of health care, group insurance and benevolent grants etc., in accordance with the rules and policies. The Government's rules/instructions regarding provision of benevolent grant and family pension etc., as well as employment of the eligible widow, son or daughter of the deceased employee in case of in-service death of a Government servant are being observed as per policy.

Welfare Package for Deceased Employees

31. The Government has announced various steps to be taken in case of in-service death of an employee. Instructions/policies have been circulated from time to time to the attached departments working under the administrative control of Ministry of Interior for welfare and financial assistance to their employees.

- i. The policy of appointment of children of the employee who die while in service, on 02 years contract basis, is being followed. Besides, employees are also provided financial assistance from the welfare fund of FIA.
- ii. There is a scholarship for the children of FIA employees who secure very good marks in the examinations held by Board/Universities.
- iii. The *Shuhada* Package for FIA employees was notified at par with the package of Punjab Police.
- iv. Protection of families of all ranks of Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts is being ensured in accordance with the Article.
- v. The staff of National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) is accommodated through educational stipend to children, grants on marriage of children as well as welfare grants in other heads.

Welfare Package for Overseas Pakistanis

32. In the event of death or disability of an overseas Pakistani during his/her stay abroad, financial aid is provided to destitute families of

deceased/disabled overseas Pakistanis (OPs) through the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development. This is a one-time grant.

- i. In June 2013, the Ministry enhanced the rate of compensation from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 150,000. Therefore, in 2013-14 a record number of destitute OPs (680) were provided the highest amount to date, *i.e.* Rs.102 million.
- ii. The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) processes a large number of blood money, death compensation, disability/family pension, insurance claims and all types of dues of OPs every year in collaboration with the Pakistani missions abroad. In 2013-14, 259 cases were settled and drafts amounting to Rs. 278,012,018 were disbursed to Overseas Pakistanis and their dependents.
- iii. Financial grants are disbursed among the deserving workers through the Workers Welfare Fund. In 2013-14 the Death Grant was disbursed in 7477 cases @ Rs. 500,000 per case.
- iv. The amount of Marriage Grant was also increased from Rs.70,000 to Rs. 100,000. The Marriage Grants were awarded in 1726 cases in 2013-14.

Financial Assistance for families in 2015-16

33. In the event of death or disability of an Overseas Pakistani while working abroad and during a period of three years from the date of permanent return to Pakistan, financial aid was provided to the families of the deceased @ Rs. 400,000 per case and the disabled @ Rs. 300,000 per case.

- i. The OPF provided an amount of Rs.324 million to 1,111 eligible/deserving destitute families and disabled overseas Pakistanis on the principle of “First Come First Served Basis” during the financial year 2015-16.
- ii. During the said period, 288 cases of all types of dues of overseas Pakistanis were settled in collaboration with the Pakistani Missions abroad and bank drafts were disbursed to Pakistanis/deponents involving Rs.282 million.

- iii. During the period following financial grants were disbursed among the deserving through the Workers Welfare Fund:
 - Death Grant @ Rs. 500,000/- per case: 13,138 Nos.
 - Marriage Grant @ Rs. 100,000/- per case: 2,288 Nos.
- iv. Details of insurance amount paid to disabled/family members of deceased migrant workers by the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment (BE&OE)/State Life Insurance Corporation during the year 2015-16 are as under:
 - No. of Deaths 649Amount (Rs. 643 million)
 - No. of Disabled 95Amount (Rs. 36.41 million)
(Overseas Pakistanis)

Safety of Employees

34. Various departments of the Ministry of Industries and Production protect the marriage, the family, the mother and the child. All the basic facilities are provided to the Government servants and their spouses, siblings and children as fixed by the Government from time to time. All steps and precautionary measures are taken to protect the employees from danger / hazard / heat at plant area/hazardous places. Safety items are also issued for protection of their lives and to avoid any incident while performing duty.

35. A Disaster Management Cell was established in the Industries and Production Division, functioning as per given TORs in line with instruction of Government of Pakistan to overcome any untoward problem/accident. A number of employees were trained in Civil Defence as well as imparted training of fire-fighting.

36. Employees and their families residing in the Steel Town are given fool proof security at their residence to avoid theft/robbery and to ensure a peaceful environment. There is a good sports facility infrastructure available in the Steel Town which employees and their children can avail.

37. The Export Processing Zone (EPZA) gives special consideration to health, safety and Environment in all areas of operations. The Authority provides green and clean environment to its investors and their employees to ensure a healthy non-toxic working environment which in return ensures prevention of various diseases. In addition to proper gate security,

armed guards are deputed at various check-posts to ensure security of businesses and employees. Employees and their families residing in the Pakistan Machine Tool Factory (PMTF) Colony are given foolproof security of their residence to avoid theft/robbery.

Financial Leverage

38. Banks are extending fullest cooperation and financial leverage to protect the economic interests of families by providing comprehensive medical facilities, house building finance and car finance for employees on nominal markup rates, educational stipends and honorariums for children of employees etc. The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has been offering NBP Advance Salary to Government employees as well as NBP *Saibaan* facility to any eligible citizen of Pakistan for construction of houses.

CHAPTER-7

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES (ARTICLE-36 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities, including their due representation in the Federal and Provincial services.

The Constitution guarantees protection of the rights, interests and well-being of the minorities. The Constitution also provides them freedom to profess their religion. The protection of the religious minorities in Pakistan is the responsibility of the State not only in light of the Constitution of Pakistan but also under international commitments such as the Convention on International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which the State of Pakistan has ratified.

2. Although this subject has been transferred to the Provincial Governments in pursuance of devolution of powers undertaken in the light of the 18th Constitutional Amendment, yet many related issues are considered at the national level. The Ministries of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony and the Ministry of Human Rights deal with the issues relating to minorities living in the country. The Minorities Welfare Fund is used for the mainstreaming and promotion of social and economic well-being of minorities in the country. Lives and possessions of minorities are protected as per law. There is no discrimination in educational institutes and services on religious basis.

Protection of Rights of Minorities and Minorities' Children

3. The protection of rights of minorities and minorities' children is one of the major areas of the Action Plan for Ministry of Human Rights, which provides for extensive activities in collaboration with the concerned stakeholders for protection of these rights with a view to promote interfaith harmony. The Ministry of Human Rights in coordination with the relevant stakeholders has taken the following actions in this regard:

- i. Effective operation of an independent National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to monitor violation of minorities' rights through allocation of adequate financial resources as well as placement of technically trained and sensitized human resource.

- ii. Formulation of National Policy Guidelines and National Plan of Action for promotion and protection of rights of minorities.
 - iii. Strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of Interfaith Harmony Committees established at the district level with active engagement of the district administration and police and a strong periodic reporting regime for the concerned Ministries/Divisions/Departments.
 - iv. Effective enforcement of Sections 99-A and 295-A of PPC that are related to criminalizing the incitement to religious hatred that leads to violence, including hate speech.
 - v. Special security arrangements (Special Police) for protection of places of worship of minorities through adequate deployment of well-equipped, trained and sensitized security personnel.
 - vi. Launching of a comprehensive programme/package for socio-economic uplift of members of the minority communities including:
 - Increase in funds and number of scholarships
 - Provision of financial assistance to vulnerable groups from minority communities, *i.e.* elderly, widows, orphans, disabled and forced laborers.
 - Ensuring 5% quota for minorities in the National Income Support Programme and other social safety nets
 - Ensuring enforcement of 5 percent quota for jobs allocated for minorities in letter and spirit.
 - vii. Ensuring participation of political leadership and Members of Parliament at national and provincial levels in the festivals of minorities as a gesture of solidarity.
4. The following laws are equally applicable on the children of minorities:
- a. The ICT Child Protection Act, 2018
 - b. National Commission on the Rights of Children Act, 2017
 - c. The Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

National Commission for Minorities

5. The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) with revised composition and ToRs was approved and notified on 04.05.2015 with the inclusion of the name of Minister of Religious Affairs & Inter-Faith Harmony as ex-officio Chairman. ToRs are as under:

- i. To develop a National Policy on Inter-faith Harmony to explore the avenues for peace and security.
- ii. To consider such laws, executive instructions, and orders of procedural practices of the Government, autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies and agencies which are reported to be discriminatory towards the minorities.
- iii. To recommend to the Government such steps as shall ensure full and effective participation by the members of Minority communities in all aspects of national life.
- iv. To ensure their full and effective participation and association with their religious and cultural festivals and celebrations.
- v. To look into the grievances and representations made by the members of a Minority Community to the Government of Pakistan, and after examination of such grievances, to make suitable recommendations to the Government of Pakistan.
- vi. To ensure that the churches, shrines, temples, *gurdwaras* and other places of worship of the Minority communities are preserved and well-kept in a functional condition.
- vii. To consider the cases of NOCs for the sale/purchase/transfer of communal properties of minorities as provided under the Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Ordinance, 2001.
- viii. The Minorities Commission, with consensus, may set additional objectives for itself and if required may consult legal and constitutional experts.

Legislation for Protection of Minorities Rights

6. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights initiated the process to amend personal laws of minorities to make them compatible with the international standards of human rights and non-discrimination. These laws include:

- (a) Christian Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2014
- (b) Christian Divorce (Amendment) Bill 2014
- (c) Hindu Marriage Act 2017

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

7. The Ministry of Human Rights held consultations with the Christian religious denominations in September 2016 and April 2017 at Islamabad and Lahore, respectively, to discuss the Christian Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2014 and Divorce (Amendment) Bill 2014. In the draft bills, it was recommended that registration of marriage would be the responsibility of the State and solemnization would be done by the Church. The age of marriage for both male and female was proposed to be 18 years. Under the hitherto applicable law of Christian Divorce Act 1862, there was only one ground of divorce available that is raising allegations against the chastity of the spouse. In the proposed draft, other grounds of divorce have been provided for both parties. Moreover, the courts have been asked to decide the divorce petition within a time period of six months.

HINDU MARRIAGE

8. The Hindu Marriage joins two individuals for life. Since there is no mechanism for the registration of these marriages, Hindu women do not have the basic documentation to prove their marital status and thus cannot claim any legal rights such as inheritance from a deceased husband, re-marriage, divorce, separation or adoption. They also face difficulties while travelling within and outside the country. The Hindu Marriage Bill was drafted to overcome these difficulties by prescribing a registration mechanism and a penalty if its provisions are violated. It also contained a registration form to be called "*Shaadi Parat*". The Bill was passed by National Assembly's Standing Committee on Law and Justice in February 2016 and enacted in March 2017. The Hindu Marriage Act 2017 extends to the Islamabad, Capital Territory, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab.

Interfaith Harmony

9. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony (RA&IH) has made efforts to mitigate the issues between majority and minority communities and has conducted a number of seminars, conferences and consultative meetings of different communities.

- i A national Conference on inter-faith harmony, entitled “Living Together with Diversity: Inter-Faith and Intef-Cultural Dialogue”, was held on 20-22 February 2013 at Islamabad.
- ii The Minister for RA&IH held meetings with scholars of all Muslims sects at Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta and discussed with them the sectarian issues. He persuaded them to abide by a common code of conduct.
- iii The Minister also held meeting with the minority communities’ leaders in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad to strengthen national harmony among all religions.
- iv Inter-faith harmony Conferences were held in all the provincial headquarters of the country in 2015.
- v Each year many important religious functions of Minorities and Minorities Days are celebrated at official level.
- vi Interfaith Harmony Committees have been established by the Provincial Governments which are playing a positive role to create healthy environment among different communities.
- vii Provincial Home departments are providing security to the Minorities on different occasions like Holi, Easter, Good Friday and Sunday prayers.

10. The Federal Government also constituted a taskforce which devised a strategy to ensure religious tolerance at the level of schools and colleges. The curriculum is being designed or revised in manner that promotes religious and social harmony. The Federal Government has also taken appropriate steps to discourage hate material on social media.

Christmas Peace Train

11. On the occasion of Christmas, a country-wide Christmas Peace Train was launched from 22nd December, 2016 to 7th January, 2017 as a special initiative under the Public Awareness Campaign on Human Rights. Its overall objective was to create awareness on the minorities’ rights besides promotion of tolerance, peace, equality, interfaith harmony and justice in the society.

Other steps for protection of minorities

12. The following steps were taken for protection of minorities in the period under review:

- (a) One post of Member in the National Commission for Human Rights was reserved for minorities.
- (b) The draft of Pakistan's 21st, 22nd and 23rd Combined Periodic Report was prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for views/ comments. The Report was being updated in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- (c) The Regulation and Laws related to employment of children, compulsory primary education and Workers Welfare Fund Ordinance was extended to FATA.

Protection of Sacred Places

13. The protection of sacred places of Hindu and Sikh minorities and providing facilities to Hindu & Sikh pilgrims is the first and foremost priority of the ETP Board and all the services are pivoted around these core activities. A handsome amount is spent for repair and maintenance of these sacred places. New facilities are also being constructed to extend the services including construction of 30 rooms and a dining hall at Katas Raj.

Participation in National Life

14. The minorities of Pakistan are given due representation in the National Assembly, Senate and all Provincial Assemblies under Articles 51, 59 & 106, respectively. The representatives of minorities are also availing equal opportunities of joining the Armed Forces, Judiciary and Civil Service of Pakistan. The minorities' quota is observed in induction. The candidates subscribing to any belief can also compete on open merit and are not discriminated on the basis of their belief if they otherwise qualify for the job.

Minorities in Government Service

15. The representatives of minorities working in Ministries and Divisions avail all facilities admissible to the Muslim employees. They are given full freedom in religious matters. They are free to offer their religious and spiritual ceremonies in their respective places of worship. Optional leave is granted to employees belonging to the minority communities on the occasions of their respective religious festivals. They are also facilitated through advance salaries on special occasions. Greetings are also sent to the minority members on special occasions. All employees are also provided social insurance, educational stipends for

their children, regional quota and financial incentives as per Government policy.

16. The Finance Commission on Minorities fully safeguarded the legitimate rights and interests of minorities as far as the statutory role of the Commission was concerned. In the period under review, there were 12 Christian employees in this Commission. Due respect is given to their religious obligations and it is ensured that they get due financial and administrative support, particularly on the occasion of their religious festivals.

17. Other steps for protection of minorities' rights are given below:

(a) National School of Public Policy (NSPP)

In all units of the NSPP, appropriate time was allocated for lecture-discussions and panel-discussions on the issues confronting minorities in Pakistan. The honorable guest speakers representing different minorities were invited to deliver lectures or lead the discussions. A handsome number of employees working in NSPP belong to minorities.

(b) The Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds (FEB&GIF)

Employees from the minorities in the Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Fund were provided all the necessary facilities to make the office environment secure and friendly for them. No discrimination was shown towards non-Muslim employees on the basis of faith. The quota fixed for minorities in the Federal Government services was also observed.

(c) Secretariat Training Institute Pakistan (STI)

This aspect of the principles of policy was highlighted in different training courses through instructions and extended lectures on human rights.

(d) Pakistan Public Administration Research Centre (PPARC)

Employees belonging to minorities are facilitated in observance of their festivals and rituals.

(e) Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC)

The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) implemented 5% quota reserved for minorities during the process of recruitment to safeguard the rights and interests of the minorities.

(f) National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD)

All members of minorities nominated for training were given equal opportunities of professional development. Employees belonging to minorities were facilitated in observance of their festivals and rituals. The officials belonging to minorities are given due respect.

(g) Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD)

There is a separate colony for the Christian community at Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD) campus where all possible facilities are available to the residents. A sizeable area has been earmarked for graveyard of the Christian community adjacent to the colony. A unit in the residential colony has been allocated to be used as Church. Upgradation of washrooms/bathrooms as well as other necessary structural improvements was carried out in the Christian colony.

- i At Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM), people from all religions are employed. Similarly, participants from all religions are entertained and all are treated equally. The employees are given equal opportunities of professional development.
- ii Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) does not discriminate on the basis of gender/creed/religion.
- iii The Utility Stores Corporation (USC) is also observing the employment quota for minorities. They are given equal opportunity to celebrate their religious events and they are being paid advance salaries on these occasions. Protection of minorities in the Centre is fully ensured. The employees/trainees are participating in respect of

- career opportunity or any training programme arranged by this Centre without any obstacle.
- iv A number of people working in the Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) belong to minorities; the PIDC observes the minorities' quota in all its inductions.
 - v The minority associates are fully safeguarded with regard to their legitimate rights and interests. They have full liberty to celebrate their religious events and are provided with all facilitation under the rules.
 - vi The minorities employed in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) have as much protection as counterpart Muslims employees in the organization. The rights of employment of the minorities are safeguarded in NAB. In recruitment during 2015 out of 110 officers, 3 belonged to minorities.
 - vii The National Health Services, Regulation & Coordination and departments/ organizations/entities working under its administrative control are implementing the quota for representation of minorities in the Federal and Provincial services. All health services are provided irrespective of sex, cast and religion. The Department of Health Services also provides incentives to employees from minority groups. Honoraria were also given to Christian employees on the occasion of Christmas. The employees belonging to minorities are provided every opportunity of performance without discrimination. Incentives are also provided to employees from minority groups. The Federal Hospital has employed personnel from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds. Their basic rights of freedom to observe religious and cultural festivals as well as freedom to worship are protected. The Institute does not allow any kind of bias or prejudice against the religious/ethnic minorities and their rights are protected as a sacred trust.
 - viii The Pakistan Railways facilitates the minorities in celebrating their religious festivals in Churches, Temples and *Gurdwaras* constructed in Railway premises.

Minorities Welfare Fund

18. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony deals with issues relating to the minorities living in the country. This Ministry is involved in efforts to provide social justice to minorities in the country through relief activities in any unpleasant incident. The Minorities Welfare Fund is used for the promotion of social and economic well-being of minorities in the country. The achievements of this Ministry for utilization of this fund for welfare of minorities are as under:

(a) Financial Assistance

An amount of Rs.19.78 million was distributed among 2786 persons from the Minorities in the year 2013-14 and an amount of Rs.17.89 million was distributed among 4158 persons of the minorities community in the country during financial year 2014-15.

(b) Small Development Schemes

Small development schemes for welfare and uplift of minorities are also carried out in different cities of the country through the Minorities Welfare Fund. A total of 44 schemes amounting to Rs.61.23 million, received from the Provincial Governments/Community Leaders/ Minorities' Members of Parliament etc. were sanctioned during 2013-14; 52 schemes amounting to Rs. 50.83 million from the minorities' Parliamentarians were sanctioned during the year 2014-15 and 41 schemes amounting to Rs. 51.00 million received from the Minorities Parliamentarians were sanctioned during the year 2015-16.

(c) Scholarships

Scholarships amounting to Rs.20.40 million were awarded to 2546 deserving students belonging to the minority communities in Government institutions, out of the budget for the year 2013-14; scholarships amounting to Rs.57.09 million were awarded to 2347 such students out of the budget for the year 2014-15 and scholarships amounting to Rs25.72 million were awarded to 1426 such students out of the budget for the year 2015-16.

Basic Education Community Schools

19. The Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) protected the legitimate rights and interests of minorities by providing equal opportunities of employment and free and compulsory education at the Federal, Provincial and District levels; during 2015-16 03 Christians and 01 Hindu total were working in BECS Offices, 64 Non-Muslim (36 Christians, 24 Hindus, 04 Calash) teachers were teaching and 2518 students (1257 Non-Muslim Girls and 1261 Non-Muslim Boys) were studying in BECS; detail is as under:

i. Detail of Minority Staff working in BECS during 2015-16

Area/Province	No. of Women
Islamabad (Head Office)	02 (Christian)
Punjab	01 (Christian)
Sindh	01 (Hindu)
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	0
Balochistan	0
Gilgit	0
Azad Kashmir	0
Total	04

ii. Detail of Minority Teachers working in BECS during F.Y. 2015-16

Area/Province	No. of Non-Muslim Teachers	Faith
Punjab	28	Christians -28
GB	Nil	Nil
Sindh	29	Christians -7 Hindu-22
Blochistan	3	Christians -01 Hindu-02
KPK	4	Kalash-4
FATA	0	0
AJK	0	0
ICT	0	0
Total	64	Christians=36 Hindus=24 Kalash=04

iii. Detail of Minority Students studying in BECS during F.Y. 2015-16

Area/Province	Non- Muslim Girls	Non- Muslim Boys	Total
Punjab	694	680	1374
GB	0	0	0
Sindh	503	555	1058
Balochistan	60	26	86
KPK	0	0	0
FATA	0	0	0
AJK	0	0	0
ICT	0	0	0
Total	1257	1261	2518

Role of Higher Education Sector

20. As per HEC’s Model University Ordinance 2002, “the University shall be open to all persons of either gender and of whatever religion, race, creed, class, color or domicile and no person shall be denied the privileges of the University on the grounds of religion, race, sex, caste, creed, class, color or domicile”.

Safeguard of Minorities Rights during Privatization

21. The Government has assigned high priority to privatization of 65 entities in various sectors through public-private partnership and capital market transaction with other modes of privatization. It is ensured that the minorities’ rights do not suffer due to process of privatization.

CHAPTER-8

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ERADICATION OF SOCIAL EVILS

(ARTICLE-37 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall:

- (a) promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of backward classes or areas;*
- (b) remove illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within minimum possible period;*
- (c) make technical and professional education generally available and higher education equally accessible to all on the basis of merit;*
- (d) ensure inexpensive and expeditious justice;*
- (e) make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work, ensuring that children and women are not employed in vocations unsuited to their age or sex, and for maternity benefits for women in employment;*
- (f) enable the people of different areas, through education, training, agricultural and industrial development and other methods, to participate fully in all forms of national activities, including employment in the service of Pakistan;*
- (g) prevent prostitution, gambling and taking of injurious drugs, printing, publication, circulation and display of obscene literature and advertisements;*
- (h) prevent the consumption of alcoholic liquor otherwise than for medicinal and, in the case of non-Muslims, religious purposes; and*
- (i) Decentralize the Government administration so as to facilitate expeditious disposal of its business to meet the convenience and requirements of the public.*

The Federal Government is providing facilities for the well-being of its employees irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race by raising their standard of living. All efforts are made to promote social justice and to provide equal opportunities to all through eradication of corruption, promotion of merit, fair play and implementation of rule of law. Policies and initiatives in the areas of promotion of education, health, provision of justice,

promotion of socio-economic development and eradication of social evils undertaken by the Federal Departments during the period under review are reported as under:

Improvement in Educational Facilities

2. The Government focused on primary education and endeavoured to resume the expenditure on education from 2.0 percent of the GDP to 4.0 percent by 2018. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on education and to improve the literacy rate, the Federal Government allocated in the budget for 2013-14 a substantial amount of Rs.59.28 billion as well as Rs.5.72 billion for the PSDP 2013-14 for expansion and development of basic and college education. In addition, the Provincial Governments also allocated Rs.59.44 billion to accelerate the pace of education at all levels to achieve the MDGs.

3. In 2013-14, the literacy rate of the population (10 years and above) was 60 percent while the MDG was to achieve 80 percent literacy rate till 2015. Literacy remained higher in the urban areas than in the rural areas and higher among the male than female population. Province-wise data suggested that the Punjab was in the lead with 62 percent literacy rate followed by Sindh with 60 percent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 52 percent and Balochistan with the lowest literacy rate of 44 percent.

Higher Education

4. About 35-40% of the approved development funds were allocated by the Finance Division for infrastructure development of the universities to expand the access to higher education. This also included new projects:

- i. Construction of new campus of University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore and Narowal at a cost of Rs.2878.521 million.
- ii. Strengthening and up-gradation of University of Engineering & Technology, Taxila, and its sub-campuses at a total cost of Rs.685.307 million.
- iii. Strengthening of faculties of Lahore College for Women University (LCWU), Lahore at a cost of Rs.643.514 million.
- iv. Provision of academic & research facilities at Government College University, Faisalabad at a cost of Rs.797.375 million.

- v. Strengthening of Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science and Technology (QUEST), Nawabshah, at a cost of Rs.697.816 million.
- vi. Strengthening of Research Programmes at HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi, at a cost of Rs.580.943 million
- vii. Strengthening of Khyber Medical University, Peshawar at a cost of Rs.980.352 million
- viii. Establishment of *Seerat* Chairs in Public Sector Universities - HEC (Revised) at a cost of Rs.192.000 million
- ix. Strengthening of University of Poonch, Rawalakot, AJ&K, at a cost of Rs. 844.914 million
- x. Strengthening of existing departments at Islamia University of Bahawalpur at a cost of Rs.858.442 million
- xi. Strengthening of the faculty of Oral Health Sciences and Support Facilities at Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi at a cost of Rs.640.209 million
- xii. Strengthening of Agriculture Engineering and Women Development Programme at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi at a cost of Rs.843.189 million
- xiii. To encourage the R&D activities and improve the skills of students, 35% of the approved development funds were allocated for provision of teaching & research lab equipment and improvement of ICT infrastructure at the universities.

5. In 2013-14, there were 131 public sector universities, degree-awarding institutions and centers getting the annual recurring grant through the Higher Education Commission (HEC). While disbursing the recurring grant the HEC considers multiple factors such as students enrollment in different subject categories, faculty strength, research output and need and performance of an institution.

Development Projects of HEC

6. The allocation and release of development grant for 2013-14 was increased by 44% and 90% respectively as compared to the previous year to support the higher education sector of Pakistan. The enhanced allocation allowed fiscal space for new initiatives for strengthening the

existing universities and developing new ones. Thirteen new development projects worth Rs.16.9121 billion were approved during 2013-14 as compared to three development projects worth Rs.1.732 billion approved during the previous year of 2012-13. Region-wise summary is given below.

Province	FY-2012-13		FY-2013-14	
	Total No. of students	Total amount in millions	Total No. of students	Total amount in millions
Balochistan	5,336	99	11,100	198
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	879	54	8792	254
Sindh	8	0.490	8,096	133
Punjab	5	0.236	18,084	393
ICT	3	0.372	394	19
AJK	0	0000	3,279	78
Gilgit-Baltistan	874	185	2,250	48
Total	7,105	339	51,995	

Performance Comparison of PSDP Projects

7. The development portfolio of Higher Education Commission for the year 2013-14 comprised of 154 development projects with an allocation of Rs. 22.813 billion, including Rs.4.00 billion for the PM laptop scheme. The amount of allocation was significantly increased as compared to the previous years as under:

Financial Year	Allocation (Rupees in billion)	Releases (Rupees in billion)
2012-13	15.800	12.014
2013-14	22.813	22.813

Breast Cancer Awareness

8. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) had been working with the Pink Ribbon Pakistan since 2012 and continued the initiative in the period under review. With the help of universities young girls/women were empowered with knowledge and techniques to detect breast cancer at

an early stage, as the cancer was registering an alarming increase in young girls of Pakistan. Since the October is known as the Breast Cancer Awareness month all over the world, the entire month is celebrated as “Pinktober” followed by an extensive youth awareness programme. Different activities like seminars, walks, poster competitions, panel discussions material dissemination and other events were organized to highlight the issue. The focus of the Youth Programme was to spread early detection that increases chances of survival by more than 90%. By 2017-18, the programme had given knowhow to more than 600,000 girls through hundreds of academic institutions in almost 5 years. These students were sensitized on global standards and techniques of early detection, which enabled them to make better healthy choices in future.

Active Citizens Programme in Universities

9. The HEC in collaboration with the British Council initiated the Active Citizens Programme in Pakistan’s Higher Education Institutions. The programme aimed to build the capacity of young people as leaders, influencers and active citizens within their communities by developing their skills in leadership, communication, advocacy, citizenship, and social action through fund-raising, entrepreneurship, partnership and network-building. Under this programme 04 credit hours course was developed for the undergraduate level. Seven universities were running the course in the pilot phase in 2017-18. Through this programme, the institutional support, linkages and the academic platform will facilitate community engagement based on theoretical knowledge-based and inter-cultural dialogue between the participating students. It would help engage local policy makers and influencers for a stronger understanding of local issues and encourage students to implement community-based solutions. Students would be mentored by local experts and influencers in order to respond to local challenges and develop strong relationships with their local community as well as with industry. Moreover, keeping in view the importance of community outreach, the HEC gives weightage to ‘Community Service’ extended by the candidates, and it has been added in the evaluation criteria of all types of civil awards including the Best University Teacher Award.

“Zero Tolerance Policy” against Drugs Usage

10. All the Universities have “Zero Tolerance Policy” against drugs usage or business within their premises. The HEC and universities have taken numerous steps to prevent the use of drugs and narcotics as well as involvement in this business. The Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

have also been asked to declare the campuses as “Smoke free Zones”. In this backdrop, the HEC organized an awareness seminar for the students and faculty members of the federally chartered Universities, wherein the HEC was also declared as smoke-free premises. Similarly, the Higher Education Commission has requested all the Universities/HEIs to ensure the implementation of tobacco control law in campuses by sharing and displaying (information, education & communication material) to promote awareness amongst students, faculty and employees. The HEC is continuously following up the matter for enforcement of Tobacco Control Laws in the universities of Pakistan.

11. The Higher Education Commission has also given instructions to all Higher Education Institutions for creating mass awareness against drug abuse in the universities through lectures, seminars, debates, workshops, tableaux, drama shows and extensive advertising campaigns highlighting the anti-drug slogan – *Nashay say inkaar zindagi say piyar* – “Saying no to drugs is to love life”.

Youth Mobilization Campaign

12. The Voice of Balochistan (VOB) under the patronage of Headquarters Southern Command and the Government of Balochistan regularly arranged exposure visits of students/faculty members of various universities/colleges from Balochistan to other provinces of the country and vice versa. The objective of the programme is to develop “Inter-Provincial harmony through Students Exchange programmes” under the larger umbrella of “Youth Mobilization Campaign” – an initiative of the VOB, Government of Balochistan. The campaign aims at creating harmony amongst students of different provinces and to provide more opportunities to the students of less developed areas of Balochistan to learn from their counterparts in other provinces. More than 1200 students/faculty members from the various universities/affiliated colleges of Balochistan, Peshawar, Islamabad, and Lahore had benefited from 06 batches of this programme so far. In the 7th Batch of the Programme in December 02-11, 2018, more than 180 Baloch students/faculty members from 20 different Universities/Affiliated Colleges of Balochistan were participating.

Role of Youth against Terrorism

13. Continuous collaboration of law enforcement agencies with the Vice Chancellors/Heads of the Institutions of universities has been found

to be an effective medium to make headway in thwarting nefarious designs of unscrupulous elements aimed at disturbing peace and harmony in the institutions. The Security Agencies have also been issuing detailed instructions/guidelines to all universities/DAIs across the country to improve their security measures and confirm fool proof security on campuses.

14. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in collaboration with the HEC organized seminars entitled ‘Role of Youth in Rejecting Terrorism’ at General Headquarters Rawalpindi on 18th May 2017, where the COAS and the DG ISPR spoke to the Vice Chancellors of the universities. The seminar was aimed at reinforcement of societal peace, tolerance and creating awareness thereof amongst the Pakistani youth to address threats of radicalization.

Young Peace Development Corps

15. The HEC in coordination with the Ministry of Interior organized a seminar on International Peace Day on September 21, 2017, which was attended by 1500 students, VCs and faculty members from the universities located in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Taxila regions. The programme featured launching of the Young Peace Development Corps (YPDC), whereby students’ representatives from different universities took oath to be torch-bearers of peace and development in their universities and in the country as a whole.

16. The then Minister for Interior also held an interactive session with the Vice Chancellors on September 18, 2017. The session was attended by more than 100 Vice Chancellors of different Pakistani Universities through a video link. Suggestions were sought from the learned Vice Chancellors regarding the modus operandi of tackling the menace of terrorism and intolerance. The forum deliberated upon the following remedies to the issue:

- a. Career Counseling Centers to be opened in all universities.
- b. Extracurricular activities, such as sports, to be encouraged.
- c. Role of Students Union to be reviewed.
- d. Mandatory non-credit programme of Ethics to be included in the syllabus.
- e. Formation of watch groups over students.
- f. Tolerance level of students to be raised.
- g. Freedom of speech to be encouraged.

- h. Healthy activities like councils and debates to promote peace.
- i. Social exchange programmes between the students and faculty to be developed.
- j. Community service and welfare programmes to be made compulsory.

Training of Education Managers

17. The Academy of Educational Planning and Management (AEPAM) trained 545 education managers in 2013-14 as compared to its training of 356 education managers during the financial year 2012-13. It showed an increase of 53% in the number of trainees during 2013-14 as compared to previous year. Similarly, the number of trainees increased from 95 education managers in 2010-11 to 545 in 2013-14.

Name of Project	Duration of Training	No. of Education Managers Trained
		2013-14
Financial Management for Good Governance (FMGG), Phase-II (2012-2016)	One Week (Five Days)	356
Educational Leadership and Institutional Management (ELIM) Phase-III (2012-2015)	One Month (Four Weeks)	129
Capacity Building with Support of International Donor Agencies	Three days	60
Grand Total		545

Scholarships for Students of Backward Areas

18. The Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) provided several scholarships in 2014-15 for students of backward areas to provide them better opportunities for higher education through a project entitled “Provision of Quality Education Opportunities to the Students of Balochistan and FATA”. A total of 1650 scholarships were provided for higher education to the students of backward areas. The main objective of the scheme was to provide better educational facilities, remove backwardness and general disparity and improve the literacy rate.

- (a) The IPC has also been assigned the function of international exchange of students and teachers and foreign assistance in the field of education. The Ministry of IPC is implementing scholarship schemes for Pakistani students abroad and foreign students in Pakistan. In these schemes the provincial/regional quota is observed for nomination to provide due share to all segments of society. Standards of education are ensured on the basis of merit through forum of Inter-Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC). Efforts are made to strictly follow the principles and to ensure that no discrimination is done against any segment of society.
- (b) All organizations working under the administrative control of Ministry of IPC address the issues related to promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils in its all forms. NAPA has staged many plays to counter social evils.

Masjid Maktab Schools

19. The Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARAD) took lead to introduce non-formal education by establishing Masjid Maktab Schools. The prime objective of the project was to devise a base and means for quick and inexpensive spread of education in the rural areas by utilizing the locally available resource potential – human and material. The Academy identified Pesh Imam as Teacher and the Mosque as venue for holding classes. Intended as a pilot project, it was continued in the period under review due to its contribution towards educating the rural poor. In 2014-15 this low cost project consisted of 17 non-formal schools for girls and boys in the villages around Peshawar. The Academy provided nominal remuneration to the teachers, text books, notebooks and some stationary to the students. In 2017-18, this project consisted of 05 non-formal schools for girls and boys in the villages around Peshawar. A total of 352 students (142 girls and 210 boys) had benefited from this project over the previous six years.

Universal Primary Education

20. The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) was established by the Government of Pakistan in July 2002, under Ordinance No. XXIX of 2002 as a statutory autonomous body with the objective of promoting human development. One of the prime mandates of NCHD is to help Pakistan achieve 100% enrollment by 2025. NCHD aims to achieve a

fully literate society where quality education is ensured for all children of Pakistan through Universal Primary Education. The Vision of UPE Programme is to ensure: “Quality education to all children to enable them to realize their individual potential and contribute to the development of society and nation, creating a sense of Pakistani nationhood, the concepts of tolerance, social justice, democracy, their regional and local culture and history based on the basic ideology of Pakistan/Islam”. The UPE programme supports the Provincial Governments in ensuring:

- i. 100% enrollment (age 5-9 years)
- ii. Reducing the dropout rate through community participation
- iii. Ensuring quality education through teachers' training
- iv. Addressing the issue of access/coverage through its Community Feeder School/ Feeder Teacher Programme.

Establishment of Feeder Schools

21. In order to achieve these goals the NCHD has established schools in the un-served areas. The detail of the schools is given in the table below:

S. No.	Province/ Area	Feeder Schools	Male	Female	Total
1	Punjab	1,926	41,525	42,383	83,908
2	Sindh	3,653	101,290	84,664	185,954
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	252	4,382	6,013	10,395
4	Balochistan	439	9,071	7,450	16,521
5	AJ&K	163	2,354	2,568	4,922
6	Gilgit Baltistan		864	1,089	1,953
7	FATA	98	2,930	1,488	4,418

Up to 2015-16 the NCHD had established 6,581 Feeder Schools and enrolled 299,035 children in the un-served areas. The NCHD also focused on the enrollment of female children in schools and 141,727 girls were enrolled in these schools.

22. During the year 2017-18, 5949 Feeder Schools remained functional with 6581 Feeder Teachers and 310,146 students enrolled in the entire country. The NCHD for the first time introduced students’

assessment and undertook periodic and annual assessment of all enrolled students in Feeder Schools. The students were assessed on daily, monthly and quarterly basis for enhancing the quality of learning while all students were also assessed annually for promotion and migration to upper primary or lower middle education.

National Enrollment Drive

23. The Government made education the top national priority through “Education Emergency” with the aim to achieve 100% enrollment of boys and girls by 2025 in line with the requirements of Article 25-A of the Constitution which makes the “right to education” a fundamental right. In 2015-16 there were 6.07 million children out of 21.8 million population in the age group of 5-9 years who were out of schools and had never been to school. The Federal Government devised a comprehensive strategy to get enrolled these out of school children. In this regard the National Steering Committee (NSC) was constituted under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to make policy decisions and implement the strategy for enrollment drive and to oversee the progress to achieve the targets.

24. During the Enrollment Campaign 2016, the NCHD played a pivotal role. During a meeting dated 7th March, 2016, the NCHD was assigned the task to enroll 30 to 60 thousand children in NCHD Feeder Schools across the country. The NCHD was running Feeder Schools across the country where new children were enrolled during April 2016 as under:

S.No.	Province	Children Enrolled
1	Punjab	24,029
2	Sindh	39,358
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	6,018
4	Balochistan	5,254
5	AJ&K	970
6	Gilgit Baltistan	526
7	FATA	6,011
8	Total	82,166

Mainstreaming of Deeni Madaris

25. The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training through the NCHD established 100 Feeder Schools in Madrassas. In this pilot project 100 Feeder Schools were established in Madrassas of the Federal Areas. The detail is given below:

Sr.	Area Name	District	Feeder Schools	Students enrolled
1	ICT	Islamabad	40	741
2	GB	Nagar	15	466
3	FATA	Khyber	25	816
4	AJ&K	Muzafarabad	20	457
	Total		100	2480

In 2015-16 the Government of Pakistan increased the number of Madrassa schools from 100 to 500 in recognition of the good work being done in the pilot phase of this project.

Own a School Initiative

26. The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training through the NCHD initiated an innovative “Own a School Initiative” across the country. Donors and philanthropists were approached to contribute to literate Pakistan and provide the opportunity of schooling to the most vulnerable segments of the society, especially girls. The following numbers of schools were established up to 2015-16:

- i. 10 Feeder Schools were established in Thatta and Umerkot districts of Sindh with financial support from Mr. Muhammad Saleem Bikiya.
- ii. 10 Feeder Schools were established as 04 in Bahawalpur and 06 in Kohat with financial support from Mrs. Nadira Panjwani, Chairperson, Pakistan Human Development Fund (PHDF).
- iii. 05 Feeder Schools were established in Sibi District with financial support from Habib Noor Muhammad.

27. The then Minister of State for the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training suggested to the NCHD to launch a fund-raising campaign at the national level as well as internationally to generate funds to establish more schools in the country.

Every Child in School Initiative (ECSDI), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

28. This project was assigned by the UNICEF Pakistan to the NCHD with the following two components:

- A. School Nutrition Programme in four UCs of Upper Dir district of KPK and Khyber Agency of FATA. Under this project, the following activities were to be carried out:
- i. Capacity building of school teachers on Nutritional education.
 - ii. De-worming of all students in primary (boys & girls), middle and high schools (girls only).
 - iii. Provision of high energy biscuits (provided by the WFP) and safe drinking water to all primary school students on daily basis.
 - iv. Multi micronutrients supplementation to all children in primary (boys & girls), and to girls only in middle and high schools.
 - v. Provision of age-appropriate health and nutrition education (including cooking demonstrations for middle and high school girls) at regular intervals through deployment of technical staff in each union council.
- B. The second component was “Every Child in School Initiative” in 10 Districts of KPK namely Malakand, Charsada, Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Swat, Shangla, Kohat, Torghar, Kohistan and Peshawar. Under this component 228,541 children were to be enrolled during 2016 with 80% retention in school. The project was signed between the UNICEF and NCHD with a cost of Rs.193 million.

Human Development Support Units

29. During 2017-18 the NCHD was operational in 115 districts of Pakistan, including FATA, Gilgit-Baltistan and the AJK. The NCHD established Human Development Support Units (HDSUs) in 59 districts of Pakistan with 48 satellite offices for implementation of operations.

Implementation of Multi-Grade Teaching

30. Teaching two grades or more than two grades at the same time by a teacher in a classroom is known as multi-grade teaching. The main objective behind the multi-grade teaching is that the absence of a teacher should not diminish the students’ learning achievements. The teacher has to adapt many techniques and approaches to help the learners of different grades in the same class room. This is the main objective of multi-grade

teaching. Cooperative learning, group learning and a helping attitude will thus be developed among the students who will enhance their learning by explaining the learnt concepts to other students. Much desired social habits like a helping attitude, cooperation, and service mentality would thus develop among the learners.

Basic Education Community Schools

31. Non-Formal Education is the most appropriate solution to tackle the issue of out-of-school children. Being flexible in its model/nature and cost effectiveness its importance cannot be denied in developing countries like Pakistan.

32. The Directorate General of Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) is running the nationwide non-formal primary education project across the country named as the “Establishment and Operation of Basic Education Community Schools in the Country”. Since the date of inception, the BECS Directorate has been doing its best to provide free basic education to the deprived and under-privileged children of the country, who would have otherwise been denied their basic right to education. This project was initiated in 1996 and it remained functional under different names.

33. The socio-economic impact of BECS 2015-16 showed that 12173 teachers of remote areas were working in these schools while 501211 students were studying and many of them were supporting their families. Out of 38086 students, 34376 passed the Class V examination, i.e. 90 percent of the total. The BECS Directorate launched the enrolment drive during April 2016 and enrolled 65444 students. The Directorate adopted 100 Non-Formal Schools opened through the Livelihood Programme for the Household in the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA).

34. As many as 12304 BECS with a total enrollment of 0.5 million were functional all over the country in 2017-18, providing free basic education to the deprived segments of society. Despite adverse security situation, terrorism and social taboos, the BECS is successfully delivering basic education through its nationwide network of six regional and 15 Divisional Offices with its Head Office at Islamabad. The BECS focuses on providing basic education to the poor family children especially girls in hard-to-reach areas, including FATA, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and contributes significantly to “Gender Empowerment”.

Design of the Project

35. The BEC Schools are based on Non-Formal Basic Education System having a single teacher, single home-based room for school (Class KG to V) where the premises is provided free of cost by the community. In each school, 30 learners of age group 4-16 years are desirable. One teacher is responsible for all the classes of the school by adopting multi-grade teaching methods; based on formal school curriculum. The teachers, honorarium, utility bills, learning material and textbooks are provided by the Government. At the end of grade five, the formal sector conducts the examination and allows admission in Grade Six of formal schools.

Targets 2017-18

36. The department had the following annual targets in 2017-18:

- i. Continued operation of the existing 12,304 BEC Schools.
- ii. Disbursement of Teachers Honorarium.
- iii. Provisions of Textbooks to BECS learners.
- iv. Provision of Teaching Learning Material.
- v. Capacity-Building/Training of BECS Teachers
- vi. Monitoring of BECS.
- vii. Motivational Campaign.

Moreover, this year the Directorate General of BECS intended to upgrade the BEC Schools into Full-Service Community Schools by providing health services, sports and other extracurricular activities necessary for the complete development of a child.

Achievements 2017-18

37. The major achievements of BECS during 2017-18 are:

- i. Successful operation of 12,304 School with enrolment of 0.5 million learners.
- ii. Teacher-student ratio was 42:1.
- iii. 357,482 students qualified the Class V examination (2007-2018).
- iv. 28,911 students graduated during the academic year 2018.
- v. The pass percentage for the academic year 2018 was 88.3%
- vi. 218,998 free of cost copies of *Noorani Qaida* distributed all over Pakistan.
- vii. 944 BECS teachers trained in *Nazrah* at Karachi.

- viii. Textbooks distributed across all BECS.
- ix. Quarterly evaluation of field Progress Reports completed.
- x. 85% of teachers & 65% of students were female.

38. The BECS management has taken many initiatives on its own without any Government funding. These initiatives are aimed at the improvement of physical status and quality of education in the Basic Education Community Schools. These include:

- i. Conversion of BECS into Full-Service Community School (FSCS): In this regard a pilot project was launched in Peshawar, Mardan, Islamabad Capital Territory and parts of Sindh. Initially, free of cost health facilities were provided at Peshawar and Mardan. Free of cost health care visits to Basic Education Community Schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were arranged in collaboration with the HADI Foundation.
- ii. Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Hashoo Foundation under Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) initiative, wherein different services would be provided to BECS.
- iii. Provision of free of cost text books to most of BECS of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the help of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government.
- iv. Up-gradation of initially 3 BECS of Islamabad Capital Territory into Full Service Community Schools in collaboration with PASDAR (students based organization of Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad).
- v. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with American Refugee Committee (ARCI) to support BECS.
- vi. MoU with Gilgit Baltistan Rural Support Programme for conversion of BECS into Full Service Community School.
- vii. MoU with Azmat Foundation to provide the missing facilities in BECS.
- viii. MoU signed with Pakistan Mammon Women Educational Society (Sindh) for provision of free of cost health facilities to the learners of BECS in Karachi.
- ix. Collection of BECS learners' data for provision of scholarship under the Benazir Income Support Programme.
- x. Pilot Project with Tele-Taleem (social enterprises) for provision of IT-based teaching-learning facilities in BECS.

- xi. Renowned private schools and banks approached through invitations for resource mobilization by provision of mission facilities under the Full Service Community School (FSCS) initiative.
- xii. Preparation of Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) in coordination with donors for provision of missing facilities.
- xiii. Partnership and linkages with:
 - American Refugee Committee (ARC)
 - Haadi Foundaiton.
 - PASDAR
 - Right to Play
 - Peshawar Model School
 - Shifa International
 - Hashoo Foundation
 - International Delphic Council
 - Benazir Income Support Progamme

Reserved Seats for Backward Areas in Educational Institutions

39. The Principles of Policy as laid down in Article 37 of the Constitution of 1973 require the provision of education in order to bring the backward and under developed areas at pars with the rest of the country. The Ministry of States and Frontier Regions reserved 1393 seats for the 2016-17 session for candidates of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in the professional/ educational institutions across the country as per following details:

S. No.	Name of the Discipline	No. of Seats
1.	MBBS / BDS	159
2.	B. Sc. (Engineering)	104
3.	Postgraduate / Under-graduate	929
4.	B.A (Hons) / B. Sc (Hons)	06
5.	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)	23
6.	F.A / F.Sc	10
7.	Diploma of Associate Engineering (DAE)	162
Total		1393

The Ministry of SAFRON nominated 1393 FATA candidates on the recommendations of the respective Joint Admission Committees and Admission/Selection Committees to the respective public sector educational/professional colleges / universities and institutes for the academic session 2016-17.

Vocational and Technical Training

40. The National Vocational and Technical Training Centre (NAVTTTC) imparts Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to less educated and deprived segments of the country to motivate them to participate in economic growth of the country which will lead to social justice and eradication of social evils. Trainings are being imparted free of cost along with provision of handsome remunerations. NAVTTTC ensures that all citizens of Pakistan have access and equal opportunities to qualify for technical and vocational education and training. Target groups for all training programmes are mostly school/college dropouts and sometimes uneducated people belonging to backward areas. They are imparted professional trainings for their economic and social uplift.

- i. NAVTTTC drafted the National Vocational and Qualification Framework (NVQF) to permit vertical and horizontal mobility in the vocational stream to those undergoing TVET. It also recognized prior learning and envisioned taking into the loop the informal labor force that has learned skills through the traditional *Ustaad-Shagird* discipline. The NVQF will be beneficial for students, employers and the Government. The draft was disseminated to all provinces with the final version of NVQF to be notified by December 2014.
- ii. The National Skills Strategy (NSS) 2009 to 2013 has been reviewed by NAVTTTC and it was proposed that the NSS should be extended for another two years.
- iii. NAVTTTC has constituted 29 Industry Advisory Groups (IAGs) in different economic sectors to bridge the gap between the industry and TVET. IAGs help in providing labour market information and competency standards for performing the job efficiently and within the possible resources and time.
- iv. NAVTTTC has notified competency standards prepared by the ILO in 4 sectors i.e. hospitality, garment manufacturing, beauty & personal care and fashion designing. In addition

NAVTTTC has also developed 10 skill standards and curricula prepared by UNIDO. So far, 185 curricula have been developed: 24 pertaining to 3-years technical programme (DAE) and the remaining 161 for different certificate programmes.

- v. NAVTTTC has established inter-provincial TVET Coordination Committee to ensure improvements and better coordination among the provinces and territories in the TVET sector.
- vi. NAVTTTC's training policy covers mainly the important sectors. From July 2013, to March 2014, 6,677 individuals were equipped with technical hands-on skills under President's *Fanni Maharat* programme and Prime Minister's *Hunarmand* Pakistan Programme while 2,687 were under training.
- vii. NAVTTTC accredited 28 TVET institutes/107 disciplines whereas assessment/accreditation of 42 TVET institutes with NAVTTTC was in pipeline.
- viii. NAVTTTC prepared TORs for members of the TVET Accreditation and Quality Evaluation Committee (TA&QEC) that supervises and grants final decisions on accreditation of TVET programmes and other relevant issues. The fifth meeting of the committee was organized on 13th February, 2014 wherein accreditation status was awarded to 15 institutions covering 61 disciplines including DAE programmes and Vocational Trade.
- ix. NAVTTTC maintained a pool of more than 275 technical experts having relevant qualifications and expertise in various disciplines and trades for the accreditation activities.
- x. NAVTTTC organized seven Accreditation Awareness Sessions in different cities in 2013-14, i.e. Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar, while the second phase of the same was scheduled in August-September 2014 covering other areas *i.e.* the AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan.
- xi. NAVTTTC successfully organized four days "ISO training" sessions from 27th to 30th January, 2014 for the capacity-building of NAVTTTC coordinators, technical trainers and staff.

- xii. For eradication of social evils, 25,000 youth were trained in 2014-15 across the country, including the far-flung and war-affected border areas, while 25,000 more were to be trained in short and long-term TVET courses of improved quality, adapted to the needs of market.

President's Programme for Highly Qualified Overseas Pakistanis

41. Under the Public Sector Development Project (PSDP) titled "President's Programme for the Care of Highly Qualified Overseas Pakistanis (PPQP) in 2014-15, the latest technical and professional knowledge was acquired by various technical, industrial and educational institutions of the country by utilizing the services of expatriate Pakistani consultants.

Welfare of Overseas Pakistanis

42. The following steps were taken for redressing grievances and improving the lot of overseas Pakistanis in 2015-16:

- i. An online complaints management system was devised in the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and the office of Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) to deal with the different complaints/grievances of Overseas Pakistanis. The complaints were referred to the concerned authorities and actively pursued till redressal. The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development received 912 complaints of Overseas Pakistanis during the year 2015-16. Out of these 375 complaints were settled/resolved and the remaining were under process with the concerned quarters at the close of 2015-16. The complaints pertained to criminal cases, family disputes, property disputes and telephone/electricity/gas/water connection problems, etc.
- ii. The Ministry established 19 offices of Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) in 16 missions in 14 countries. These offices maintain a close liaison with the Pakistani community as well as the concerned authorities of the host country to resolve the issues/problems of Pakistani expatriates.
- iii. To resolve the educational problems of the workers' children, the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) provides them scholarships (Rs.1,600 to Rs.3,500 per month): during 2015-16, 1,566 students were awarded the scholarship.

- iv. Two (02) housing schemes with 998 flats & 10 barracks at a cost of Rs. 3,038.374 million and a water supply scheme costing Rs.8.905 million were executed.
- v. Five (5) Vocational Technical Institutes were established.
- vi. In 2016-17 an amount of Rs. 1.8 million was allocated for Merit Award of Overseas Pakistanis' Children; an amount of Rs. 3.6 million was allocated for the children of the Overseas Pakistanis under the Needy Scholarships Scheme while an amount of Rs. 1750.01 million was given to the workers children on account of grant of 9,986 scholarships (from Rs. 1,600 to Rs. 3,500 per month).

Reduction in Unemployment

43. The Government is committed to bring reforms for an increase in investment and savings, to help address the rising unemployment issue. The public investment recorded a growth at the rate of 17.12 percent in 2013-14 as compared to negative growth (-0.35 percent) in the previous year, which reflected a major shift in expenditure priorities of the Government. It is also evident that total investment witnessed a growth of 8.46 percent as compared to 8.41 percent last year, which was an indicator that investor's confidence was improving in the country and the Government's measures were working in right directions. From July 2013 to 9th May 2014, the credit to private sector increased to Rs. 296.4 billion against an expansion of Rs. 92.5 billion in the comparable period last year, showing a significant growth.

Increase in Per Capita Income

44. The per capita Income in dollar terms recorded a growth of 3.5 percent in 2013-14 as compared to 1.44 percent in the previous year. The per capita income in dollar terms reached \$1,386 in 2013-14. The main factors for the increase in per capita income included acceleration in real GDP growth, relatively lower growth in population and the appreciation of Pak Rupee.

Positive Trends in Health and Nutrition

45. Significant progress toward achieving a better health outcome was made in 2013-14, when the existing national public health network in Pakistan extended to 167759 doctors, 13716 dentists and 86183 nurses. Rapid population growth caused inadequacy of health care facilities

despite a reasonable expansion in the number of hospitals, doctors, nurses and other health care facilities. The inadequacy of healthcare facilities was reflected in the estimates of 1,099 persons against one doctor and one dentist versus 13,441 persons, while the ratio of population and availability of hospital beds was worked out at 1,647 persons per bed. The Government's commitment toward attaining better health outcomes was reflected by the progressive nature of health spending which increased by 29 percent from Rs.79.46 billion in 2012-13 to Rs.102.33 billion in 2013-14. The fiscal year saw tremendous increase in health care facilities which included an increase of 5,000 doctors, 500 dentists, 3,150 nurses, 4,500 paramedics and 3,600 hospital beds. This together with construction of 7 new Rural Health Centres (RHCs), 32 Basic Health Units (BHUs) and immunization of 6 million children was an encouraging effort by the Government to provide better health facilities to the general public. To effectively address the health problems, a number of health programmes were carried out. These included TB, Malaria, AIDs and cancer treatment and food and nutrition programmes. Pakistan per capita food intake was estimated at 2,450 calories per day for 2013-14 which was at the level of last year, while Protein intake was 72 grams.

Population, Labour Force and Employment

46. The population growth rate decreased from 1.97 percent in 2013 to 1.95 percent in 2014 due to timely and effective measures adopted by the Government, although a population of 188.2 million projected for the year 2014 was creating a population-resource imbalance. Youth population, according to population projections of the Planning Commission, was approximately 56 percent of the total population in the year 2014. To emancipate the country from problems associated with population-resource imbalance, increasing unemployment and the increase in least productive youth population, the Government was working on both population control and capacity-building of youth population under the concept of inclusive growth. The family planning programme of the Government encompassed Family Welfare Centers, Reproductive Health Services Centers, Regional Training Institutes and Mobile Services Units. These family planning programmes will help in reducing population growth rate, fertility rate, infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate in the country.

Poverty and Social Safety Nets

47. Poverty is measured traditionally in terms of the ability to ensure a minimum number of calories intake or to have a minimum level of income

to satisfy basic needs of an adult per day because the poor spend sixty percent of their income on food-related expenditures. The official poverty line in Pakistan is calorie-based and is defined as per capita food and non-food expenditure per month to support food consumption yielding an equivalent of 2350 calories per adult per day. According to Pakistan's Millennium Development Goal Report 2013, the incidence of absolute poverty decreased from 22.3 percent in 2005-06 to 12.4 percent of population living below the official poverty line in 2010-11. The Government started a spectrum of social safety net programmes for creating opportunities for the poor to escape poverty and to increase their resilience to crises. The commitment of the Government for eradicating poverty translated into pro-poor expenditure of Rs. 588.105 million during the period July-December 2013-14 for improving the quality of life.

Benazir Income Support Programme

48. The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is one of the most popular and well-thought out interventions of the Government. The Government continued the programme with total disbursements of Rs. 48.18 billion up to March 2014, in terms of cash grants while the number of beneficiaries increased to 5.25 million. The programme has four closely associated and complementary components including *Waseela-e-Rozgar* (Technical and Vocational Training), *Waseela-e-Haq* (Microfinance), *Waseela-e-Sehat* (Life and Health Insurance) and *Waseela-e-Taleem* (Primary Education). International donor agencies have acknowledged the targeting mechanism and wide coverage of BISP by providing generous assistance for execution of schemes under these programmes. Since its inception the various donor agencies including USAID, ADB, IDA and UK had committed an amount of US \$1436.63 million for BISP up to 2013-14. Out of these allocations, total disbursements of loans and grants for BISP stood at US \$589.15 million up to 30.04.2014. The IMF Mission during a review meeting held in Dubai in April-May, 2014, also appreciated the BISP and expressed its support for continuing and further improving the programme. The programme provides eligible families with unconditional cash transfers (UCT), originally set at a monthly value of Rs.1,000, which was raised to Rs.1,200 in July 2013 and Rs.1,500 in July 2014. The BISP showed marvelous progress by increasing its beneficiaries and improving the targeting and disbursement mechanism and delivered the commitments that it had made. This progress improved the BISP ranking among SSNs programmes across the world. The BISP successfully achieved all the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs)

under the World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects. BISP's annual disbursement rose from Rs.42.9 billion in FY 2012-13 to Rs.65.1 billion in FY 2013-14. In FY 2013-14, BISP disbursed a 52 percent higher amount among its beneficiaries as compared to amount disbursed in 2012-13. The BISP was making payments to more than 94% of its beneficiaries through technology-based payment mechanisms like Smart/Debit cards and mobile phone banking.

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

49. Different interventions were made for reducing poverty and hunger, enhancing gender equality and women empowerment, improving maternal health and child mortality and increasing community participation. The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund's (PPAF) role in microcredit, water and infrastructure, drought mitigation, education, health, and emergency response interventions has been widely praised. Total disbursements through the PPAF from July to December 2013 amounted to Rs.8414 million.

Individual Financial Assistance

50. The deserving persons get educational, medical and general assistance through the Individual Financial Assistance (IFA) programme of Pakistan Bait-ul Mal (PBM). The PBM has envisioned providing wheel chairs to every disabled person in the country. A family who has two or more special children is called the "Special Family" and an amount of Rs.25,000 is given to such a family annually. An amount of Rs.605.983 million was disbursed to benefit 13,434 individuals countrywide from July 2013 to March 2014.

Social Welfare Initiatives

51. The Government envisaged many initiatives in the annual plan for 2017-18 for empowerment of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the society. The initiatives included projects for education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, child protection, patients welfare, and senior citizens' assistance by the Federal Ministries and Departments across the country, i.e. Benazir Income Support Programme, Pakistan Baitul Mal, Directorate General of Special Education, etc.

52. Sustainable community development initiatives have also been encouraged by the Federal & Provincial Governments to promote and support local initiatives for socio-economic development and eradication of social evils at community level. Pakistan Vision 2025 approved by the National Economic Council (NEC) laid special emphasis on promotion of socio-economic justice in society.

53. The National Council of Social Welfare (NCSW) advocates for promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils through awareness by conducting seminars, workshops, conferences and surveys/research studies. Every week a seminar/workshop is arranged by the Council. During the 2016-17, 50 seminars/workshops were conducted to address the issues/problems of vulnerable people, i.e. street children, women, youth, the aged, the disabled, indigent, destitute, beggars and other underprivileged people. In order to redress the grievances of senior citizens, a desk was established for provision of all possible facilities to the senior citizens to resolve their issues. Each complaint relating to any Government department is pursued by the NCSW's dedicated staff.

54. A library/reading room was established for the senior citizens of Rawalpindi/Islamabad. Hundreds of books on different topics including history, literature, culture, religion, society, health, etc. were provided in the library. The leading English and Urdu newspapers were also available for the senior citizens. A special dedicated PC was installed for e-books' reading. Free internet facility was also provided for Internet browsing.

55. A special Research Cell was established to suggest ways and means for improvement in the lot of vulnerable segments of the society. Work has been initiated for creating a large database and a well-defined research programme for designing policies aimed at well-being and uplift of the community in general and the vulnerable groups in particular, i.e. the neglected, disadvantaged, underprivileged and exploited children, women, youth, the aged, disabled, indigent, disabled, destitute, beggars, prisoners and ex-convicts etc.

Subsidized Supply of Essential Food Items

56. The basic objective of the Utility Stores Corporation is to provide essential items of daily use to the poor segments of society at prices lower than the open market. Up to 2017-18 the Utility Stores Corporation had 5954 outlets throughout the country at the Union Council level providing subsidized items to the low income sections of the society. The

Corporation had decentralized the administrative work through its Head Office, 9 Zonal Offices and 65 Regional Offices to facilitate the disposal of its business.

Development of Less Developed Areas

57. As a consequence of the 18th Amendment and approval of the 7th NFC Award, development at sub-national level is a devolved subject and thus falls under the domain of the provincial governments. The Federal Government through Planning and Development Division supplemented the Provincial Governments' efforts to improve the living standards of the poor and develop the less developed areas.

58. Development activities in the Special Areas, i.e. FATA, AJ&K and GB, fall under the domain of the Federal Government. Therefore block allocation is provided in Federal PSDP to support development interventions in these regions. The Planning, Development & Reform Division finalized its Pakistan Vision 2025 in 2013-14 which emphasized horizontal and vertical equities among regions. The programme suggested a roadmap and long-term policies to achieve sustained economic growth for the areas, and the 11th Five Year Plan 2013-18 provided an action plan to achieve those targets. Development goals were set and adequate financial resources allocated to achieve the set goals. The administrations of the areas were authorized to utilize these funds according to their developmental needs and priorities.

59. During the fiscal year 2013-14, an amount of Rs.39 billion was provided for development activities in less developed regions through projects and programmes of various Ministries i.e. Ministry of Interior & Narcotics Control, Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan Division and States & Frontier Regions Division (SAFRON). This amount was over and above the amount being spent on development projects of less developed areas of the provinces including Balochistan and other parts of the country. The amount was spent on development activities in various sectors like communication, health, education, power, water resources, agriculture, housing, rural development and minerals. These allocations were meant for socioeconomic uplift of the people of these areas. Modernization of infrastructure and regional connectivity was one of the main thematic areas to achieve development targets for the less developed areas.

- i. Area-wise detail of allocations for the FY 2014-15 to 2017-18 is as under:

(Rs. billion)

Area/Region	Allocations			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
AJ&K	10.50	23.30	12.00	22.00
Gilgit-Baltistan	8.20	22.60	9.00	15.00
FATA	19.10	120.90	21.00	24.50
Total:	37.80	166.80	42.00	61.50

- ii. During 2015-16, an amount of Rs. 283.4 billion was allocated for less developed areas, including Rs9.6 billion for the Punjab, Rs.20.7 billion for Sindh, Rs.42.1 billion for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Rs.44.2 billion for Balochistan in addition to the allocations for the AJ&K, Gilgit-Baltistan and FATA mentioned above.
- iii. During 2016-17, an amount of Rs. 42 billion was earmarked as block allocation for FATA, AJ&K & Gilgit-Baltistan while an additional amount of Rs. 0.36 billion was set aside for area development projects under other Ministries/Divisions.

60. Area development projects under the Narcotics Control Division were aimed at eliminating poppy cultivation and other illicit trade in remote areas by making these areas accessible to local administration and introducing high value crops. The scope of projects included construction of rural roads, irrigation channels, and drinking water supply schemes, distribution of agricultural inputs and electrification of villages. These projects helped to overcome economic challenges and improve the living standard of people, and brought them into the mainstream.

Engagement of Local Work-Force

61. The organizations under the Ministry of Communications, i.e. Construction Technology Training Institute (CTTI) & National Highway and Motorway Police (NH&MP), provide technical trainings to enable the people to contribute in the economic development of the country. Special programmes were in place for FATA and other under-developed regions in CTTI. *Aghaz e Haqooq Balochistan* Programme was being implemented in line with this principle. The engagement of local workforce was encouraged in the execution of development projects by the NHA to promote the social and economic well-being of the people.

Opening of new post offices was being undertaken. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), National Trade Corridor and Karakoram Highway schemes initiated through the NHA would prove to be a giant step for the promotion of social and economic welfare of the people of Pakistan.

Provision of Educational and other Facilities in Merged Areas

62. Equal opportunities are being offered to residents of the Merged Areas for education & health. In scholarships, 90 percent are reserved for students who have studied in educational institutions in the Merged Areas. In 2017-18 there were 12 schemes for award of scholarships, provision of free textbooks & laptops benefiting thousands of students. Educational facilities and scholarships were being provided to students throughout the Merged Areas.

63. Technical Education Institutes and Skill Development Centers were available in the Merged Areas. The Merged Areas Youth Policy was under process of approval during 2017-18.

64. For inexpensive and expeditious justice, amendments in the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) were made back in August 2011 in consultation with the tribal people. The Merged Areas Tribunal was established. Besides, the Report of Merged Areas Reforms Committee has also been under consideration of the Federal Government/Parliament.

65. The Merged Areas Secretariat, through its sustainable development plan and Tribal Areas Rural to Urban Centers Conversion Initiative (TARUCCI), worked out a plan for the establishment of Hubs and Municipal Committees which would not only guarantee job opportunities to tribesmen but also boost trade, commerce, education, health, municipal services and agriculture. The plan will have a positive social and economic impact on the lives of people.

66. Furthermore, the Government was determined to introduce the reforms initiative in the Merged Areas. Besides other recommendations, the Reforms Commission also suggested extension of the Local Government system and holding of party-based Local Bodies elections in the Merged Areas. Approximately, Rs.2 billion were required for erecting the infrastructure for all the Local Councils and the 16 notified hubs.

67. The Federal Government allocated Rs. 20587 million for the Merged Areas' Annual Development Programme (ADP) for 2017-18. Out of the allocated amount, maximum funds were allocated to social sectors i.e. 43% of the ADP allocation, followed by 41% to infrastructure, with the focus on service delivery sectors like education, health, social welfare, etc. The overall objective of the ADP formulation was to invest in human capital, ensure basic social services, livelihood and employment generation. Therefore, while formulating the development portfolio for the financial year, the main thrust was to:

- i. Focus on consolidation, improvement and upgradation of the existing infrastructure to improve service delivery.
- ii. Emphasize completion of maximum ongoing projects by allocating 80% share of the ADP resources to ensure early delivery of the targeted services.
- iii. Development of livelihood and income-generating activities.

68. Due to the highly religious and tribal nature of community life, the tribal areas are free of obscenity and prostitution. Strict action is taken under the FCR & *Rewaj* against any such violation. During 2017-18 the local tribes were allowed to settle their issues/disputes locally on their own under the Frontier Crimes (Amendments) Regulations 2011, ensuring cheap and speedy justice to people of the areas.

Promotion of Healthy Social Activities

69. Healthy social activities are promoted and efforts are made for eradication of social evils by the Industries & Production Division as follows:

- (a) To promote the educational and economic interests of backward classes or areas, courses are programmed free of cost for the deserving trainees with the cooperation of Punjab Skills Development Foundation, Government of Punjab. A nominal fee is charged from the regular trainees for the courses to enable them to get technical skills.
- (b) Applications are invited from all over Pakistan without any provincial, tribal or sectarian prejudice for the trainings conducted by the Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC). In the premises of PITAC no one is allowed

to take injurious drugs, or take part in gambling, publication and display of obscene literature and advertisements.

- (c) The primary aim of establishment of Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) was to set up industries in such fields where the private sector was shy of investment and where a large amount of capital outlay with long generation period was required. Secondly, the object was to set up industries in backward areas with a view to generate employment opportunities and remove regional disparities.

Merit-Based System of Recruitment

70. The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) practices and follows a fair and transparent merit-based online system of recruitment due to which relevant information is available to the candidates at doorstep. The merit-based system of recruitment and transparency in process is a step towards promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils. Various steps were taken by the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) to provide adequate representation to under-developed areas & under-privileged people and promotion of economic well-being and providing social justice.

- i. As an apex federal recruiting agency, the FPSC recruited human resource against the various posts in BS-16 and above through direct general recruitment. Details are as follows:

General Direct Recruitment

Year	Applications received	Nominations made
2016	875281	1455
2017	835817	2413
2018 (Up to June)	28551	489

CSS Competitive Examination

Year	Total Candidates	Successful Candidates
2016	9643	191
2017	9391	261

- ii. The Commission spent 1237 days in 116 visits during the year 2017 for conduct of interviews of 6175 candidates and personal hearings of 865 candidates.
- iii. To provide inexpensive and expeditious justice, the Commission addresses grievances of the candidates through a prescribed mechanism. Under Section 7(3) of the FPSC Ordinance 1977, a candidate aggrieved by any decision of the Federal Public Service Commission may make a representation or review petition to the Commission within the stipulated period. In this context, the Commission dealt with representations and review petitions filed by various candidates during the financial year 2017-18.

Provision of Good Working Conditions

71. The principle of merit is strictly followed while making recruitment in the Federal Ministries and attached departments. The working conditions in the Ministries and departments are cordial; the employees are entitled to all benefits such as leave with full pay (LFP), maternity benefits, honoraria etc. under the rules. Some administrative and financial powers have been decentralized to section heads for the convenience of employees.

- i. The Ministry of Defence Production and its Establishments are providing the necessary facilities including education, recreation and medical facilities for the well-being of their employees and their families, irrespective of religion, sex, caste, creed or race.
- ii. The Establishment Division and its organizations ensure provision of good conditions of working and also ensure all the maternity benefits for women. This Ministry and its organizations have enabled the people of different areas to take part in the services of Pakistan through provision of opportunities of employment. This Ministry and its organizations have decentralized administration by establishing regional offices in the provinces to facilitate quick disposal of services to meet the convenience and requirements of both the public servants and the public.
- iii. As a policy matter, there is no discrimination in the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) of Establishment Division, on

the basis of domiciled area or the social class to which the participants or its employees belong. Consumption of alcohol and narcotics in any form are strictly prohibited. Besides, strict discipline is enforced in the hostels as well. Administration of the NSPP performed its duties efficiently while acting as a role model for other public sector training institutions.

- iv. Courses at the Secretariat Training Institute (STI) include topics like “Good Governance”, “Improving Personal Effectiveness”, “Anger Management” and “Stress Management”. Consequently, information on these issues helps the participants to reform attitudes at individual level.
- v. Various Constitutional Articles are taught at the National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD) in different pre/in-service courses aligned to social development and eradication of social evils, which are given due consideration in the management studies for postings/transfers of various employees of devolved Ministries/Divisions and employees placed on the Surplus Pool. The officers are trained to secure professional knowledge.
- vi. The Ministry of Housing and Works and its organizations have decentralized administration by establishing regional offices in the provinces to facilitate quick disposal of services to meet the convenience and requirements of the public servants and the public.
- vii. Humane working conditions are being maintained at the Security Exchange Commission (SEC) and its units. Maternity benefits are made available to all female employees.
- viii. Safe working conditions are being maintained at Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC). Technical and professional education is available to all irrespective of any sort of gender, caste, creed, sectarian difference. Maternity benefits are made available to all female employees.
- ix. All illegal and unethical practices are duly discouraged and on the whole, the atmosphere of Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination and its entities remained satisfactory and no incident of social injustice was reported.

- x. The National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), as a research-based institution, strongly believes in social justice for all men and women, girls and boys, Muslims and non-Muslims, rich and poor, urbanized and rural people, educated and non-educated, elite and non-elite, locals and foreigners, etc. The NIPS believes in eradication of social evils in the form of gender discrimination, marginalization and social exclusion, corruption, extremism and terrorism, etc.
- xi. The Pakistan Medical Research Council (PMRC) has been helpful in encouraging its employees to raise their educational qualification through higher studies and enhancement of their skills through different technical trainings. Harmonious and cordial environment is maintained at the Council for improving the working of employees. All illegal and unethical practices are discouraged.

HR Department in Pakistan Railways

72. To provide social justice to the employees, Pakistan Railways established the Human Resource Development Department headed by Chief Personnel Officer at the Headquarters and Divisional Personnel Officer at the divisional level. Every employee is free to seek justice in case of a genuine grievance. A department of welfare is also working round the clock as a bridge between employees and administration.

Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility

73. The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) has been spreading awareness through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities since long. The NBP has dedicated 1% of its profit for the CSR and sports activities. The NBP has been grooming players from many fields of sports, enabling them to be economically more stable and prosperous and to help them contribute to our country in their area of sports. It also sponsors many NGOs, hospitals, educational institutions, sports tournaments etc. for spreading positivity across the board.

Competition Commission of Pakistan

74. The Competition Commission of Pakistan has taken steps in its short history, which will have a substantial and positive impact on making Pakistan a more competitive economy in the years ahead. With this objective in view, the four pillars underlying the Commission's general approach to its responsibilities are noteworthy:

- (i) Adopting an enlightened and progressive approach that encourages business growth without which Pakistan would not be competitive in a globalizing and privatizing world;
- (ii) Facilitating and assisting business enterprises in resolving problems in relation to compliance with the competition law- a business-friendly stance;
- (iii) Striving to be transparent, albeit respecting the confidentiality of business-sensitive information; and
- (iv) Endeavoring to be efficient, reducing both the Commission's own enforcement costs as well as the compliance costs for business.

Investors' Education

75. The Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) played a pivotal role in contributing towards building the investors' confidence in Pakistan through investors' education. Owing to the increased complexities and emergence of new products and services in the financial markets, it has become imperative that current as well as potential investors should be kept abreast with these latest developments. Therefore, the SECP set up the Investor Education and International Relations Department (IEIRD), which successfully completed a number of new initiatives. The Department is proactively providing investor education, besides addressing and resolving queries and complaints by investors and stakeholders.

Role of Media

76. The Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage promotes social justice and discourages all social evils. The Ministry through electronic and print media promotes the importance of education and protects the economic interest of backward and deserving classes. The PTVC and PBC are broadcasting various programmes to educate people and remove illiteracy. Technical and professional education is also provided through different media campaigns. Training in agriculture development is also provided to the peasants from time to time on the PTVC and PBC. The Ministry discourages all social evils like prostitution, gambling, drugs, alcoholic liquor etc. The Islamic programmes of the PBC play a key role in promotion of social justice and encourage positivity in the people.

77. The Electronic Crimes Bill was in process during the period under review to stop the misuse of all electronic communication means.

Eradication of Social Evils

78. In the Interior Division, a transparent and balanced system is in place to exercise all the criminal laws and special laws for eradication of social evils and promotion of social justice.

(a) Office of the Chief Commissioner (ICT)

A one-window system has been introduced in public dealing departments like the Deputy Commissioner’s Office, Islamabad, and the Excise & Taxation Department, Islamabad, to resolve problems of the general public at one place.

(b) National Police Academy

The number of people from different parts of the country trained by the NPA in different fields in 2013-14 was as follows:

S.#	Type of training	Participants
1.	15 th Initial Command Course for ASPs	18
2.	16 th Initial Command Course for ASPs	20
3.	Maldivian Police Officer trained with the batch of 16 th ICC.	02
4.	10 different Capacity Building Courses	207
5.	Two Workshops.	67
6.	One Seminar	30

(c) Federal Investigation Agency

Due to lack of knowledge a large number of innocent people are defrauded by imposters with fake travel documents and become victims of human trafficking losing their hard-earned money to notorious agents/ traffickers/groups on promises of employment abroad and admission in foreign countries’ universities, etc. The FIA, as a lead agency, took the following steps in this regard in 2013-14:

- i. Helpline UAN No. 111-345-786 was installed at FIA headquarters as well as zonal Directorates of all provinces.
- ii. Victims facilitation centre at Taftan was under construction with the collaboration of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- iii. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was engaged to facilitate the victims/deportees from foreign countries. In this regard, shelter homes were arranged at Islamabad with the assistance of IOM for victims, particularly for women and children.
- iv. Laws pertaining to human trafficking like the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO) 2002 were effectively implemented.
- v. The specialized Anti-Trafficking Unit (ATU) was constituted at all zones of FIA.
- vi. Two draft Laws prepared by the FIA were under consideration with the Ministry of Interior for easy access to justice:
 - An Act to Combat the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air 2013;
 - An Act to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children 2013.
- vii. The Electronics Transaction Act was added to the schedule of FIA to safeguard the intellectual rights and curb the increasing incidents of cybercrime. Independent Office Units were being established in the FIA for the purpose.
- viii. A total of 143 cases were registered and 59 raids conducted during 2013-14, wherein estimated loss averted was worth Rs.1150 million. Moreover, estimated cost of seized equipment amounted to Rs.330 million. During the reported period 117 RED Notices were issued in order to arrest the accused from other countries.
The following steps were taken in 2014-15:
- ix. Establishment of Special Courts (Central) in Gujranwala.

- x. Creation of Immigration Checkpost at Torkham.
- xi. The “Protection of Pakistan Act 2014” was promulgated in order to curb terrorism and terrorist activities.
- xii. Recruitment was carried out in the Gilgit Baltistan Scouts in accordance with the laid down policy. Legitimate rights of all ranks pertaining to economics, education, security, justice, working environment were ensured.
- xiii. A total of 300 cases were registered and 136 raids were conducted during 2014-15, wherein estimated loss averted was worth Rs.1223.14 million per month. Moreover, estimated cost of seized equipment amounted to Rs.155.9 million.
- xiv. As an awareness campaign the UNODC and the FIA jointly organized community forums in 2014-15 in Quetta, Mandi Bahauddin and Gujranwala, involving 1000 key community members.

(d) National Response Centre for Cyber Crime

For the awareness of general public, the National Response Centre for Cyber Crime (NR3C) introduced Cyber Scouts in the FIA with an aim to promote awareness about cybercrime in the society. A cyber scout was trained to identify cybercrime and equipped with adequate preventive knowledge to help fight this menace. He understands the risk associated with virtual socializing and he works to promote cyber safety in his surrounding environment. A cyber scout plays a vital role to create cyber awareness among fellow students, teachers and parents.

- “*Cyber Helpline 9911*” is round-the-clock cybercrime complaints registration service dedicated to addressing the grievances of general public. A victim of cybercrime can dial 9911 from his landline phone/mobile phone and report his complaint.
- “*Cyber Alert Service (CAS)*” is an effort of NR3C-FIA, which serves to spread public awareness about

cybercrime via SMS. It delivers preventive tips/measure to counter electronic crime, which has hit the society like a menace. Messages sent through this service advise the general public not to fall prey to fake/fraud lottery scams and online banking frauds.

(e) Gilgit Baltistan Scouts

The Force Community Centre was established in the Gilgit Baltistan Scouts to provide the troops and their families an opportunity to learn and excel in human resource development. Vocational training is being imparted to groom them and enhance their vocational skills. Medical centres have also been established to ensure provision of medical care to the troops and their families.

(f) Civil Aviation Authority

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has transparent systems in every sphere of its activities and has an effective mechanism of punishment and reward. The CAA service regulations have been revised recently to make them more effective and efficient. The CAA follows the policy of zero tolerance against social injustice and social evils. It strongly discourages harassment in any of its manifestations. A code of conduct has been made part of the revised CAA service regulations which focuses on workplace ethics and morality. An ethics committee and anti-harassment committee have been established in the CAA to redress any complaint in this regard. The CAA also emphasizes occupational health and safety according to the international standards. Corrupt ASF personnel have been weeded out of ASF service. The ASF personnel who displayed outstanding performance during the course of duty are rewarded. Social activities in accordance with the teaching of Islam are encouraged. All issues contrary to Islamic values are discouraged.

Protection of Human Rights

79. The following steps were taken for the implementation of human rights during 2013-14:

- i. The Human Rights Wing of the Law, Justice and Human Rights Division was tasked to submit reports on the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). The Initial Report on Convention against Torture was prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for comments. The report was updated in the light of comments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- ii. Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention & Punishment), Bill 2013 was drafted.
- iii. Domestic Violence (Prevention & Protection) Bill, 2013 was drafted.
- iv. International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR): Initial draft report was forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- v. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): Initial report was finalized, keeping in view the comments of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- vi. The new initiatives include inclusion of the human rights subject in curriculum, research on human rights situation, establishment of human rights centres at district level and centres of excellence at universities, capacity-building and sensitization of law-enforcing agencies, advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, establishment of human rights defenders network and the capacity-building of officers and officials of the Ministry dealing with Human Rights.

Awareness Raising and Capacity Building

80. The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) initiated a public awareness campaign on human rights, education and sensitization in 2017-18 under the Action Plan for Human Rights through seminars as well as advertisements in print and electronic media. The campaign's target was general public, civil society, researchers, academia, students, Government functionaries and different segments of society. The campaign focused on promotion of human rights, social justice, tolerance, peace and respect, besides prevention of social evils, and anti-human rights practices, etc. In this regard, the following activities were undertaken:

- i. Organized the International Conference on Human Rights on 19-21 February, 2018 at Islamabad.
- ii. Organized 33 seminars in various Universities during July 2017 to June 2018 as part of human rights, education, sensitization & awareness raising.
- iii. Disseminated five-year achievements of MoHR through comprehensive media briefing on 31st May, 2018.
- iv. Published Advertisement (English and Urdu) in Eight Newspapers on the International Women Day, on 8th March, 2018.
- v. Launched a documentary on human rights in February 2018.
- vi. Released TVCs in Urdu on prevention of violence against women and children through five electronic media channels in connection with the International Women's Day, 8th March, 2018.
- vii. Launched a Radio Programme: "*Hum aur Hamary Haqooq*".
- viii. A 30-minute PTV news report on International Conference on Human Rights was aired on 4th March, 2018.
- ix. Developed and disseminated "Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Material on Human Rights Issues" as a part of the public awareness programme. The material also contained messages against rape and child protection.
- x. Prepared and disseminated more than 3000 booklets on the action plan, legislation and human rights institutions besides newsletters.
- xi. The International Human Rights Day (10th December), Universal Children Day (20th November) and International Women's Day (08 March) were also celebrated as regular features in order to create awareness among the masses. On these occasions the messages of President and Prime Minister were issued.
- xii. Capacity-building and training workshops of the stakeholders were organized by the Ministry as a regular feature for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Monitoring and Redressal of Human Rights Violations

81. *Helpline 1099* provides referral services for legal advice to address grievances of the victims. Public Notices are issued in newspapers to create awareness among the masses in this regard. From July 2017 to June 2018 a total of 48,176 calls were received out of which 6278 eligible cases were sent to the relevant departments for redressal.

82. The Ministry also identified a total of 6286 cases of human rights violations through print and electronic media monitoring from July 2017 to June 2018. All these cases were taken up with the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and other concerned authorities for redressal.

Judicial Reforms

83. The Government is committed to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to all citizens through various reforms measures. The Access to Justice Programme (AJP) is one of the key reform initiatives, which aims to implement reforms in the judicial, police, legal and administrative justice sectors. The following measures were initiated under the AJP directly or indirectly in 2013-14 to ensure speedy and inexpensive justice to the masses.

A. New laws and amendments for avoiding delays:

- i. Amendments in Family Laws (disposal of cases in 6 months, women-friendly legislation).
- ii. Devolved Habeas Corpus powers (delegation of authority to DSJs); Amendments in Arbitration Act.
- iii. Amendments to introduce Alternative Dispute Resolution (Section 89/A- CPC)
- iv. Small Claims and Minor Offences Ordinance
- v. National Judicial Policy-Making Committee Ordinance 2002 (coordination and harmony in judicial policy).
- vi. Amendments in Law and Justice Commission Ordinance (expanded mandate).
- vii. Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002.
- viii. In addition, the High Courts issued directives for early disposal of old cases.

B. Improving judicial performance through focus on the following issues related to judicial officers:

- i. Increase in the number of judges
 - ii. Policy to fill vacancies within 120 days
 - iii. Incentives & sanctions policy:
 - Incentive: Judicial allowance of Rs. 6000 (Civil Judges)/
Rs. 7000 (Additional Judges and above)
 - Sanction: Members Inspection Team (MIT) offices to ensure strict watch & supervision of performance of judicial officers by High Courts
- C. Establishment of local justice sector institutions such as:
- i. Bench Bar Liaison Committees
 - ii. Citizens Courts Liaison Committees
 - iii. District Criminal Justice Coordination Committees
- D. Synchronization of non-formal and quasi-formal methods of adjudication with the formal institutions of justice through *Anjuman Musalihat/Insaaf* Committees as an institutional response to balance any skewed justice delivery through traditional dispute resolution by *Jirgas/Panychayats*.
- E. Capacity Building of Judicial officers & Judiciary through following measures
- i. Formal training programmes (Fiscal Management, Delay Reduction, ADR, ACR Writing, and Cash Flow Management)
 - ii. Training workshops/ seminars/conferences
 - iii. Computer training of every Judicial Officer
- F. Creation of enabling environment through implementation of an integrated justice sector automation plan. Automation efforts of the AJP will have efficiency-multiplier effects on the justice service delivery system:
- i. Automation plans for Supreme Court, Federal *Shariat* Court
 - ii. Justice Commission including four District Courts in Sindh

- iii. Digitization and Automation of Lahore High Court Library
- iv. Video Conference Facility for Superior Courts
- v. Provision of computers across the country
- vi. Digitization of Libraries along with legal database (subscriptions)
- vii. Trial through video conferencing

G. Implementation of projects for:

- i. Progressive Annual Budgetary Allocations for judiciary
- ii. Proper court rooms
- iii. Proper office buildings
- iv. Residences near courts
- v. Information kiosks to facilitate litigants in accessing information regarding their cases, court system etc (established at every model district court complex)
- vi. Sheds, benches, washrooms, water coolers, et. for litigants

In total, there were around 626 schemes worth Rs. 11,000 million for physical improvements in the judicial system.

Police Reforms

84. Police reforms supported by the AJP were aimed at reducing interference and making the police more professional and accountable for its actions to the public at large. The Police Order enacted in 2002 was a major AJP policy action, which provided autonomy in professional matters, accountability and oversight mechanisms and functional reorganization leading to specialization. The Federal Government and all the Provincial Governments have taken steps to improve capacity within the available resources, including funds under the AJP.

85. The National Police Bureau, Ministry of Interior, initiated a number of projects, including:

- (i) Police Record and Office Management Information System (PROMIS) costing Rs.1405 million;
- (ii) Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) costing Rs.1107 million.

86. The AJP approved a large number of schemes for police, which were at various stages of implementation during the period under review. These included construction of new police stations, improvement of facilities at training colleges, an investigation complex at Bahawalpur, construction of offices and residences at Bahawalpur, Bhawalnagar and Rahim Yar Khan, upgradation of training college in Quetta and barracks and hostels at Multan, Gujranwala and Rawalpindi. In the NWFP, a number of schemes were undertaken, including provision of wireless equipment for the NWFP Police, prison vans, district investigation headquarters in all 24 districts, judicial lockups in all districts and medico-legal wards in all divisions in the province.

87. Following are other initiatives with regard to the AJP-Supported Police Reforms.

- i. Introduction of community Policing Techniques
- ii. Review of Police Training Systems
- iii. Capacity Building in FIA
- iv. Awareness-raising activities through a consultancy group under the AJP regarding rights and responsibilities under the Police Order 2002.
- v. Establishment of Independent Prosecution Service (IPS) by all Provincial Governments.

Prison Reforms

88. The following prison reforms were implemented:

- i. Construction of a large number of new prisons
- ii. Facilities for jail inmates (new barracks, toilets, coolers etc)
- iii. First women's jail in Rawalpindi.

Public Safety Reforms

89. The public safety reforms included:

- i. Public Safety Commissions established at National, Provincial and District Levels
- ii. CPLC established in Provincial Capitals and Faisalabad
- iii. Institutional Development of National Public Safety Commission
- iv. Capacity-Building of National Public Safety Commission
- v. A consultancy group under the AJP prepared the Rules of Business for Public Safety Commission.

Administrative Justice Reforms

90. Reforms in the administrative justice system are another important thematic area of the Access to Justice Programme (AJP). These include:

- a. Ombudsman Office Reforms
 - i. AJP-sponsored amendments to Ombudsman Ordinance providing for security of tenure of service
 - ii. Physical improvements (Wafaqi Mohtasib, Sindh Ombudsman etc)
 - iii. Establishment of Websites for Punjab and Sindh Ombudsman
 - iv. Sindh Ombudsman Office Reforms
 - v. Business process analysis to improve performance
 - vi. Principal Officer (mostly notified)
 - vii. Improvements in Reporting Framework through a consultancy group.
 - viii. Digitization of libraries of various department of IAs.
- b. Legal Profession & Education
 - i. Draft Legal Education Policy (centers of excellence)
 - ii. Purchase of books for Bar Associations: Phase-I
 - iii. Purchase of books for Bar Associations: Phase-II
 - iv. Procurement of Automation Hardware for Bar Associations.
- c. Legal Empowerment
 - i. Legal Empowerment Fund established in 2013-14 with \$25 million endowment.
 - ii. Gender Affirmative Policy to encourage women to join the legal profession announced by the Sindh and Balochistan governments.
 - iii. Awareness-raising events, sensitization campaigns and media strategy

Paralegal Project

91. The Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) actively played its role in “promotion of social justice and eradication of social

evils” through legal empowerment. The Secretariat launched a nationwide awareness campaign in 2016-17, which was aimed to empower the masses to gain full access to the means of development to work together towards achieving equality and justice. The campaign promoted five basic rights: (1) Right to Life, (2) Right to Justice, (3) Right to Equality, (4) Right to Development and (5) Right to Good Governance, to lay down the foundation of Constitutional and Legal Rights based on Islamic principles.

92. To promote legal empowerment of the poor and vulnerable communities, the Secretariat of LJCP launched the “Access to Justice Pilot Project for Paralegals” for training of community persons of remote areas for legal empowerment, with the joint collaboration of Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, British Council of Pakistan and Peace & Justice Network. The core objective of the project was to legally empower the citizens of Pakistan to approach the justice sector institutions for protection & preservation of their legal as well as constitutional rights. Initially, a 5-day training programme to train the master trainers was held in three districts of Rajanpur. These trainers would further train paralegal persons at Union Councils level. The LJCP provided all kind of technical assistance and legal expertise to the project.

Redress of complaints

93. The Public Affairs and Grievances Wing of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs remained actively involved in processing and redressing complaints.

A. Complaints received in the Public Affairs & Grievances Wing from 21-08-2013 to 30-06-2014 were as follows:

S. No.	Province/Area	Petitions Received
1	Punjab	60,492
2	Sindh	16,991
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	6,070
4	Balochistan	2,016
5	PATA/FATA/GB/AJK/ICT/OP/Others	5,198

B. Action Taken (as on 30-06-2014):

The above-mentioned petitions were processed and relief provided to the aggrieved persons/petitions as per followings figures:

S. No	Province/Area	Cases Processed	Replies Received	
			Interim	Final
1	Punjab	45,474	4,838	6,749
2	Sindh	15,898	776	3,054
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	5,830	1,128	1,945
4	Balochistan	1,790	310	132
5	PATA/FATA/G.B/AJK/ICT/OP/Others etc.	4,959	790	936
TOTAL		73,951	7,842	12,816

94. The Complaint Cells established in the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (*ccophrd@gmail.com*) and in the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (*info@opf.org.pk*) dealt with different nature of complaints/grievances of overseas Pakistanis. Main achievements in 2014-15 are mentioned below:

- i. On the request of Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, all the Provincial Chief Secretaries and IGPs, including those in the AJK, FATA and Gilgit-Baltistan, nominated their focal persons from the Revenue and Police Departments at district level. Complaints were forwarded to them.
- ii. The Ministry established 19 offices of Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) in 16 missions in 14 countries. These offices maintain a close liaison with the Pakistani community as well as concerned authorities of the host country to resolve issues/problems of Pakistani expatriates.
- iii. A network of focal persons was formed, including prominent overseas Pakistanis in different countries. They worked on a voluntary basis and coordinate with the CWAs to resolve the problems of Overseas Pakistanis living in far-flung areas not accessible by the CWAs in case of emergency.
- iv. During the year 2014-15, 690 complaints were received in the OPF Complaint Cell, out of which about 70% cases were settled.

Settlement of Disputes

95. The National Industrial Relations Commission (NIRC) of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development is a

quasi-judicial body which settled disputes between the employee and the employer. In 2013-14, 4961 cases were brought forward from the previous year along with 6740 fresh cases (as compared to 2439 fresh cases in the previous year). The total number of cases increased to 11701, which indicated that the aggrieved persons' confidence in the system had boosted with the increase in Benches. As many as 3428 cases were disposed of during the year.

Programmes for Curbing Social Evils

96. For the promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils, steps were taken by Capital Administration and Development Division (CADD) to provide a good working environment to all employees in the institute. A programme was launched to address the social taboos and misconceptions related to the reproductive health rights of women bringing attitudinal change for practicing the small family norms by adopting safe motherhood practices and preventing unwanted pregnancies. It would ultimately improve the maternal and newborns health and increase the role of women in decision-making for betterment of their family by increasing employment opportunities and career development.

Improved Policing in ICT

97. In order to provide relief to the citizens of Islamabad Capital Territory in the social justice system, the number of Police Stations had been increased from 9 to 22 by 2017-18. In all police stations, "Front Desks" were established to provide quick service to the complainants without delay. In this process, E-Tag is provided to the complainant and after preliminary investigation the complaint is forward to the Computer Operators for lodging an online FIR on the same day and a copy is also conveyed to the complainant. During the year 2018 more than 5500 FIRs were lodged at 22 police stations. It has provided a smooth and speedy access to justice to the general public for eradication of social evils.

98. The Public Conciliatory Committees were established in each police station under the supervision of SDPOs. The role and function of these committees was to resolve disputes of civil nature and to reduce conflict/litigation amongst the citizens at local level.

Anti-Honour Killing Law

99. To discourage honour-killing, the Parliament passed the Anti-Honour Killing Laws (Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2015 (Private Bill) in a joint sitting on 6th October, 2016.

Awareness Campaign against Drugs

100. The Narcotics Control Division was involved in various social activities like an awareness campaign through seminars, walks, talk shows, rallies, public service messages, stage dramas, *Mohalla* meetings, dialogues etc. to prevent the abuse of drugs.

CHAPTER-9

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE

(ARTICLE-38 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall—

- (a) *secure the well-being of the people, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, by raising their standard of living, by preventing the concentration of wealth and means of production and distribution in the hands of a few to the detriment of general interest and by ensuring equitable adjustment of rights between employers and employees, and landlords and tenants;*
- (b) *provide for all citizens, within the available resources of the country, facilities for work and adequate livelihood with reasonable rest and leisure;*
- (c) *provide for all persons employed in the service of Pakistan or otherwise, social security by compulsory social insurance or other means;*
- (d) *provide basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief, for all such citizens, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, as are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness or unemployment;*
- (e) *reduce disparity in the incomes and earnings of individuals, including persons in the various classes of the service of Pakistan;*
- (f) *eliminate riba as early as possible; and*
- (g) *ensure that the shares of Provinces in all Federal services, including autonomous bodies and corporations established by, or under the control of, the Federal Government, shall be secured and any omission in the allocation of the shares of the Provinces in the past shall be rectified.*

The Federal Ministries/Divisions did all efforts for development of the economy and thereby promotion of social and economic well-being of the people. Efforts were made for the provision of basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief for all

citizens irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race. The provinces have been given due share in all Federal services including autonomous bodies and organizations. Well-being of the employees is looked after to the maximum extent. Full social security is provided. The house hiring facility is provided to the Federal Government employees. Medical claims of employees are regularly cleared as per Government rules. Marriage grant, educational stipend and personal advances are sanctioned as per Government policy. Educational scholarships are provided for higher studies to children of the employees irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race.

2. China and Pakistan entered into a comprehensive plan to create a new “economic corridor” between the two nations. The corridor will serve as a driver for connectivity between South Asia and East Asia. The new trade linkages are expected to extend further and help Pakistan benefit from key export markets. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), National Trade Corridor and Karakoram Highway schemes initiated through the NHA will prove to be a giant step to promote social and economic welfare of the people. Moreover, Pakistan’s first Sovereign Bond issuance generated a positive response from the international investor. The auction for 3G/4G spectrum licences was carried out in a transparent manner in 2013-14 and the new technology was expected to generate new job opportunities. The Economic Advisory Council (EAC) was reactivated and recommendations were made by sub-groups formed by the EAC to bring development in specific areas such as industry, trade, resource utilization and expenditure management, energy, agriculture/food security and social sector. The National Power Policy 2013 was developed to provide a roadmap for providing affordable energy in the country through an efficient generation, transmission and distribution system. The Ministry of Education, Trainings & Standards in Higher Education developed a National Plan of Action for MDGs Acceleration Framework (MAF) 2013-16. The National Education Plan focused on bringing in maximum number of primary age, out-of-school children in formal and non-formal schools through provision/expansion of schools, awareness campaigns, etc.

Federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP)

3. One of the main functions of the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms (PD&R) under Schedule-II of the Rules of Business 1973, is to devise the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and monitor the development projects/programmes for socio-

economic growth for equitable development in the country. The PSDP funding spurs the development process in the country to create employment and alleviate poverty. It is one of the tools of Government through which it generates inclusive and sustainable growth. The PSDP as public sector investment is the major catalyst to spur the development process in the country to create employment and alleviate poverty. It is one of the tools of Government through which it generates inclusive and sustainable growth.

PSDP 2013-14

4. The Pakistan economy attained 4 percent growth in 2013-14 as against a growth of 3.7 percent recorded in the same period in the previous year. The GDP growth rate in 2013-14 was the highest since 2008-09. The industrial sector expanded by 5.84 percent in 2013-14 against a growth of 1.37 percent last year, which was the highest since 2008-09. The share of the services sector increased from 56.6 percent of GDP in 2008-09 to 58.1 percent in 2013-14. The falling investment trend was also arrested and investment recorded at around 15% of GDP in this year.

5. The Ministry of PD&R prepared the Annual Plan for steering the economy to a higher growth path and at the same time for achieving the objective of balanced development. The public investment through PSDP is diverted to priority areas of development such as energy, infrastructure, social sector and others for enhancing the general well-being of the masses. Efforts are being made to enhance the job-creating ability of the economy. Progress has been made on the formulation of Social Safety Net Policy in the country under the Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP) Component-IV project to promote the economic well-being of marginalized and vulnerable segments of the society.

6. During the fiscal year 2013-14, the Federal Government allocated Rs.59.28 billion for education against Rs.57.03 billion in the previous year, an increase of 4.0 percent. The development programmes/projects were as follows:

- i. National Book Foundation (NBF) Head Office Building, Phase-II Islamabad at a cost of Rs.6.684 million
- ii. Establishment of FG Degree College for Women at Bhara Kahu, Islamabad at a cost of Rs.11.250 million

- iii. Strengthening of Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG) F-7/4, Islamabad at a cost of Rs.11.124 million
- iv. Establishment of FG Degree College for Boys at Nowshehra at a cost of Rs.6.650 million
- v. Capacity-building of Teacher Training Institutions & Training of Elementary School Teachers in ICT, FATA, GB & AJ & K at a cost of Rs.104.532 million
- vi. Educational Leadership and Institutional Management (ELIM) Phase-III at a cost of Rs.15.00 million
- vii. Establishment & Operation of Basic Education Community Schools in the Country at a cost of Rs.2342.792 million
- viii. Financial Management for Good Governance (FMGG) Phase-II at a cost of Rs.16.192 million
- ix. Improving Human Development Indicators in Pakistan (countrywide) at a cost of Rs.2367.98 million
- x. Use of Data for Educational Planning & Management using Computer Software for Education Managers at a cost of Rs.7.904 million
- xi. Capacity-building of Teachers Training Institutions and training of Elementary Schools Teachers in Balochistan at a cost of Rs.106.00 million
- xii. Capacity-building of Teachers Training Institutions and training of Elementary Schools Teachers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at a cost of Rs.103.279 million
- xiii. Capacity-building of Teachers Training Institutions and training of Elementary Schools Teachers in Punjab at a cost of Rs.365.543 million
- xiv. Capacity-building of Teachers Training Institutions and training of Elementary Schools Teachers in Sindh at a cost of Rs.150.00 million
- xv. Award of 100 Scholarships to Bangladeshi students in Engineering and Information Technology under Prime Minister's Directive at a cost of Rs.5.00 million
- xvi. Award of 400 scholarships to students from Indian Occupied Kashmir in the Fields of Medicine, Engineering and IT at a cost of Rs.35.685 million

- xvii. Award of Cultural Scholarship to students from other countries at a cost of Rs.3.00million
- xviii. Merit Scholarship for Minority students (Phase-II) all over Pakistan at a cost of Rs.2.569 million
- xix. Provision of Quality Education opportunities for students of Balochistan and FATA and 03 Programme Management Units (PMU) at a cost of Rs.52.640 million
- xx. Construction of 96 Primary School Buildings of Southern Districts of AJ&K at a cost of Rs.296.808 million
- xxi. Reconstruction of 70 non-strategic institutions' (30 primary, 20 middle, and 20 high schools) earthquake-affected/damaged buildings, provision of furniture and other equipment in 7 districts of AJ&K at a cost of Rs.493.192 million.
- xxii. Establishment of Project Monitoring & Evaluation Cell at a cost of Rs.2.00 million.

Tracking of Pro-Poor Expenditure

7. There exists full commitment at all levels of Government to follow a sustained poverty reduction strategy and to allocate a minimum of 4.5 percent of GDP to social and poverty related expenditures. The Government prioritized 17 pro-poor sectors through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)-II, which provided a link between policy priorities and the budget reality. During July-December of the year 2013-14, Rs. 588.105 billion expenditure has been made against the allocation in these sectors to improve the life standards of the people.

8. The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development enhanced the rate of compensation for the destitute from Rs.100000 to Rs.150000 and also increased the number of grants. Therefore, in 2013-14, a record number of the destitute (680) were provided an all-time highest amount of Rs.102 million.

PSDP 2014-15

9. The Ministry of PD&R prepared the Annual Plan for steering economy to a higher growth path. During 2014-15, economic activity further improved with 4.2% GDP growth along with positive growth in different sectors of the economy (agriculture 2.9%, manufacturing 3.2%

and services 5.0%). Furthermore, an increase in per capita income was observed with a growth of 7.5% (Rs.153,060 in FY 2014-15 as against Rs.142,312 in FY 2013-14). The increased per capita income and reduced inflation (from 8.6% in FY 2013-14 to 4.5% in FY 2014-15) depicted a rising standard of living. There was growth in investment-to-GDP ratio (from 15.0% in FY 2013-14 to 15.1% in FY 2014-15), with a nominal, assisted new job creation in the market.

10. The National Economic Council (NEC) approved the PSDP 2014-15 in its meeting held on 29th May 2014 with a total outlay of Rs.1,175 billion. The Federal component of the PSDP was Rs.525 billion and provincial ADP amounted to Rs.650 billion. Foreign aid component of the federal PSDP was Rs.102 billion and that of provincial ADP was Rs.90 billion. Broad sector-wise Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates of the PSDP 2014-15 along with sector-wise percentages are given below:

(Rs. billion)

Sector	Budget Estimates*		Revised Estimates	
Infrastructure	331.5	(63.1)	323.0	(59.6)
Social Sector	87.3	(16.6)	88.0	(16.2)
Science and Information Technology	6.2	(1.2)	6.0	(1.1)
Governance	5.4	(1.0)	5.0	(0.9)
Special Areas (AJK, GB, FATA)	37.7	(7.2)	38.0	(7.0)
Production Sector	3.4	(0.6)	2.0	(0.4)
Special Programmes (Special Federal Programmes, Pak. MDGs and PM's Youth)	48.5	(9.2)	30.0	(5.5)
ERRA	5.0	(1.0)	5.0	(0.9)
Special Development Programme for TDPs and Security Arrangements		-	45.0	(8.3)
Total Size	525.0	(100)	542.0	(100)

* Figures in parenthesis are percentage share of the sector-wise allocation.

11. The salient Features of the PSDP 2014-15 are mentioned below:

- i. Infrastructure was given priority with a share of Rs.323 billion (60%) in the revised Federal PSDP 2014-15.

- ii. In order to tackle the problem of energy shortage in households and industries, energy sector was given priority with an overall allocation of Rs.248 billion, including WAPDA's self-financed Rs.137 billion in the Energy Sector.
- iii. The social sector was devolved to the Provinces. However, an amount of Rs.88 billion was allocated for health and education including higher education and other social sectors.
- iv. Under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), projects costing Rs.515 billion were initiated with an allocation of Rs.23 billion in FY 2014-15.
- v. Some of the other important projects initiated during FY 2014-15 included the Green Line Bus Transit System, Karachi-Kalat-Quetta Chaman Section, Multan-Sukkur Section of the motorway, Greater Karachi Water Supply Scheme, Keyal Khawar Hydro-Power Project, KPK and Wind Power Projects at Jhimper and Gharo Wind Clusters.
- vi. To address the development needs at grass roots level, Pakistan MDGs Community Development Programme was initiated with an allocation of Rs. 12.5 billion.

Allocation of Funds for Development Projects

12. Funds to the tune of Rs.1071.00 million were allocated in PSDP 2014-15 for execution of the following development projects under the Ministry of National Food Security and Research:

- i. Establishment of Horticulture Research Institute, Khuzdar, Balochistan.
- ii. Establishment of Livestock Research Institute, Turbat, Balochistan
- iii. Indigenization of Hybrid Seed Production for Enhanced Crop Production and Monitoring of Crops through Satellite Technology (Phase-II)
- iv. National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB)
- v. Pak-China Cooperation for Agricultural Research and Development.

- vi. Research for Agricultural Development Programme (RADP), Islamabad.
- vii. Special Programme for Strengthening of SPS Facilities and Quality Inspection Services in Compliance with WTO_Establishment of an integrated National Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (NAPHIS).
- viii. Strengthening of Coastal Agriculture Research Station, Bhawani, Balochistan.
- ix. Upgradation and Establishment of Animal Quarantine Stations in Pakistan.
- x. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease) Surveillance and Capacity-Building Leading to Negligible Risk Country Status for Pakistan.
- xi. Capacity Development of Agriculture Extension Services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PARC).
- xii. Establishment of Americas Channel Cat Fish (*Ictalurus Punctatus*) Hatchery at NARC.
- xiii. Kitchen Gardening – a way to Safe and Nutritious Vegetables.
- xiv. National Pesticides Residues Monitoring System in Pakistan (PARC).
- xv. Promotion of Olive Cultivation on Commercial Scale in Pakistan.
- xvi. Rehabilitation and Strengthening of Summer Agricultural Research Station of PARC.
- xvii. Value Addition in Agriculture – Cluster Development Approach.
- xviii. Upgradation of Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) D.I. Khan to the Level of Arid Zone Research Centre (AZRC) and Establishment of New Adaptive Research-cum-Demonstration Institutes at Seakach, Wana, South Waziristan Agency, Miranshah, North Waziristan Agency (FATA), Tank and Matora, Lakki Marwat-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Allocation of Funds for Social Development

13. During 2014-15, an amount of Rs. 47.7 billion was allocated for development activities in the Less Developed Regions/Special Areas. Out

of the total allocation, Rs. 36.4 billion were released for various projects/programmes during the year. These funds were provided through the respective Ministries/Divisions.

- i. Equal opportunities were offered to residents of FATA for education and health. Even in scholarships 90 percent were reserved for students who had studied in educational institutions inside FATA. There were 12 schemes for award of scholarships and provision of free textbooks and laptops to the students in FATA benefiting thousands of students.
- ii. Educational facilities and scholarships were provided to the tribal students throughout FATA.
- iii. Technical Education Institutes and Skill Development Centres were available in FATA and their number had increased significantly. These institutions were equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
- iv. For inexpensive and expeditious justice, amendments in FCR were made in consultation with tribal people. The FATA Tribunal was established.
- v. All policies of Federal Government on the subject were strictly followed in public sector organizations and maternity benefits were ensured to female employees working for the affairs of FATA.
- vi. The FATA Secretariat, through its Sustainable Development Plan (2009-15) and Tribal Areas Rural to Urban Centres Conversion Initiative (TARUCCI) developed an integrated plan of urban hubs where state of the art educational, health and municipal facilities would be coupled with enterprise development and job opportunities to mainstream the FATA population with the national activities.

PSDP 2015-16

14. The National Economic Council (NEC) approved the PSDP 2015--16 in its meeting held on the 1st June, 2015 with a total outlay of Rs.1,514 billion. The Federal component of the PSDP was Rs.700 billion and the provincial ADP was Rs.814 billion. Foreign aid component of the Federal PSDP was Rs. 146 billion and that of provincial ADP was Rs. 85 billion. Broad sector-wise budget estimates and revised estimates of PSDP 2015-16 along with sectoral percentages are given below:

(Rs. Billion)

Sector	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates
Infrastructure	408.0	418.0
Social Sector	61.0	56.0
Science & Information Technology	7.0	11.0
Governance	7.0	6.0
Special Areas (AJK, GB, FATA)	39.0	39.0
Production Sector	4.0	3.0
Special Programmes (Special Federal Programmes and Pak. MDGs)	48.0	41.0
ERRA	7.0	7.0
Prime Minister's Youth Programme	20.0	20.0
Special Development Programme for TDPs & Security Arrangements	100.0	100.0

PSDP 2016-17

15. The Ministry of PD&R prepared and launched the Annual Plan during 2016-17. The targets were set, monitored and analyzed. The analysis revealed that GDP registered 5.3 per cent growth – the highest in past nine years. Macroeconomic indicators remained stable and depicted an optimistic economic outlook. The growth in agriculture sector achieved the target of 3.5 percent. The Industry registered a growth of 5 per cent during 2016-17. Construction and manufacturing sectors were the main contributors as the manufacturing sector grew by 5.3 per cent compared to a target of 6.1 per cent while the construction sector showed a growth of 9 per cent against a target of 13.2 per cent. The services sector surpassed its target of 5.7 per cent and grew by 6 per cent due to revival in Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) and agriculture sectors along with increase in imports.

16. In addition to different social safety nets programmes, pro-poor expenditure was continued as an instrument to reduce poverty. This

expenditure was Rs. 2,694.6 billion in 2015-16 and Rs. 1,681.7 billion July-March 2016-17.

17. The Social Safety Nets (SSNs) have played a significant role in uplifting the status of marginalized segments of the society across the globe. In the year 2016, a National Social Protection Framework was developed in consultation with the Federating Units to ensure effective protection of the poor and the vulnerable against all kind of shocks.

18. Pakistan as a part of global efforts to reduce poverty adopted the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. To create awareness and implementation of these goals at grass roots level, the Local Government Summit was held in March 2017 in Islamabad.

19. To promote social and economic well-being of the people, the Government was committed to civil service reforms. To promote public service delivery, various initiatives were undertaken under the project “Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance” by the Ministry of Planning Development & Reforms. The Institutional Reforms Group (IRG) was set up to take the reforms agenda forward.

20. The following projects were aimed at social and economic well-being of the masses:

- i. Establishment of National Curriculum Council (NCC) Secretariat
- ii. Mainstreaming of Madaris
- iii. Modernization & Standardization of Examination System
- iv. Establishment of Centre for Social Entrepreneurship
- v. National Endowment Scholarships for Talent (NEST)
- vi. National Cancer Hospital & Research Center
- vii. Prime Minister's National Health Programme
- viii. Prime Minister's National Skill Development Programme

21. Another effective step of the Government was the proposal for establishment of Center for Rural Economy at Planning Commission. The Center would effectively prove as a hub for uplifting the socio-economic conditions of rural community who are strongly associated with the agriculture sector.

Formulation of PSDP 2016-17

22. The National Economic Council (NEC) approved the PSDP 2016-17 in its meeting held on 30-05-2016 with a total outlay of Rs.1,675 billion. The Federal component of the PSDP was Rs800 billion and the Provincial Annual Development Programme was Rs.875 billion. The Foreign Aid Component of the Federal PSDP was Rs.143 billion and that of Provincial ADP was Rs.66 billion. Broad sector-wise budget estimates and the revised estimates of the Federal PSDP 2016-17 along with percentage shares are given below:

Sector	(Rs. Billion)			
	Budget Allocations		Revised Allocations	
		%		%
Infrastructure	468.0	59.0	482.0	60.0
Social Sector	69.0	9.0	71.0	9.0
Science & IT	8.5	1.0	8.0	1.0
Governance	8.5	1.0	7.0	1.0
Special Areas (AJK, GB, FATA)	42.0	5.0	42.0	5.0
Production Sector	4.0	0.5	3.0	0.5
Special Programmes (Special Federal Programmes and Pak SDGs)	48.0	6.0	35.0	5.0
ERRA	7.0	1.0	7.0	1.0
Prime Minister's Youth Programme	20.0	2.5	20.0	2.5
Special Development Programme for Temporarily Displaced Persons (TDPs) & Security Arrangements	100.0	12.0	100.0	12.0
Gas Development Infrastructure Fund	25.0	3.0	25.0	3.0
Total Size	800	100.0	800.0	100.0

Salient Features of PSDP 2016-17

23. The salient features of PSDP 2016-17 were as follows:

- i. The Infrastructure Sector was given priority with an allocation of Rs. 482 billion in the revised Federal PSDP 2016-17 and with 60% share in total allocations.
- ii. Within infrastructure, the Energy Sector was given priority with an allocation of Rs. 409 billion, including Rs. 253 billion as self-financed portfolio by WAPDA/PEPCO /NTDC.

- iii. For better regional connectivity and fast track trade mobility, the projects of transport and communication including CPEC projects sponsored by National Highway Authority (NHA), Railways, Ports & Shipping etc. were allocated Rs. 262 billion.
- iv. For better utilization and conservation of water resources for domestic use and irrigation purposes, Rs. 36 billion were allocated for water sector projects.
- v. Financing projects falling in the devolved social sector is a responsibility of the Provincial Governments after the 18th Constitutional Amendment. Substantial additional resources were transferred to provinces under the 7th NFC Award.
- vi. The Federal Government continued financing vertical programmes in the health and population welfare sectors as per decision of the Council of Common Interests dated 28-04-2011. A total of Rs. 71 billion were allocated for social sector projects (such as education, health, population welfare, etc.). In addition, Rs.35 billion were allocated for achieving SDGs to augment the efforts of the Provincial Governments to finance need-based community development projects.
- vii. To promote the culture of research, innovation and technical knowhow, the science and Information Technology sector was allocated Rs.8.0 billion during 2016-17.
- viii. For better security, governance, institutional strengthening, capacity building and reforms programmes, Rs.7.0 billion were earmarked for the Governance Sector.
- ix. An allocation of Rs.3.0 billion was earmarked in the PSDP 2016-17 for projects in the Production Sector (agriculture, commerce, textiles) to boost productivity.
- x. To bring less developed areas at par with the rest of the country, the Special Areas (FATA, GB & AJ&K) were provided Rs.42.0 billion for financing of schemes under their respective ADPs for 2016-17.
- xi. The Gas Infrastructure Development Fund was set up with an amount of Rs. 25 billion.

- xii. For rehabilitation and reconstruction of FATA, an amount of Rs.100 billion was earmarked for TDPs and security enhancement.
- xiii. To sharpen the skills of youth to equip them to compete in the global market, an amount of Rs.20 billion was allocated for the PM's Youth Development Programme.
- xiv. The Ministry of PD&R undertook four quarterly reviews of projects financed through PSDP 2016-17 with a view to assess physical and financial progress and adjust allocations so that more funds were diverted to fast moving important projects with a view to complete the projects as scheduled.
- xv. The Ministry of PD&R allowed a re-appropriation of Rs. 53 billion for 101 on-going projects within the PSDP 2016-17. The Ministries /Divisions were also asked to submit PC-Is of unapproved budgeted projects so that allocated funds could be utilized.
- xvi. More than 145 projects were completed during 2016-17 with a total cost of Rs. 68 billion.

PSDP 2017-18

24. Socio-economic objectives for the proposed 12th Five Year Plan (2018-2023) addressed equitable distribution of resources to minimize regional disparities.

- i. To the promote social and economic well-being of the people, the Government was committed to civil service reforms and the Ministry of Planning and Development was given the additional portfolio of reforms.
- ii. The Pakistan Social & Living Standard Measurement Survey was implemented for data generation that would enable policy planning and help in formulating the poverty reduction strategy and rapid assessment of the relevant programmes.
- iii. Multi-dimensional Poverty Index to measure poverty level was prepared which could help in measuring/increasing social & economic level of well-being of the people.
- iv. For promotion of innovative ideas through business plans competitions leading to solution of social issues/problems, the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship was established at a cost

of Rs.178.43 million in the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform and was allocated Rs.40.0 million in PSDP 2017-18.

- v. Civil Service Reforms envisaging better performance of institutions and effective service delivery were initiated to promote socio-economic wellbeing of masses.
- vi. To reduce the miseries of the vulnerable, downtrodden and marginalized segments, social assistance under Pakistan Baitulmal, Zakat, BISP, Social Safety Net initiatives, etc. continued all over the country. The Government provided different subsidies in the agriculture sector and on utility items by the Utility Stores Corporation for socio-economic well-being of the needy people including farmers.
- vii. Funds amounting to Rs.65.859 million were allocated to three ongoing development schemes of special education including “Upgradation of National Special Education Centre for the Hearing-Impaired Children from Higher Secondary to Graduation Level, Islamabad” with an allocation of Rs.25.60 million and utilization of Rs.17.507 million, establishment of Resource Unit for autistic children at National Special Education Center for Mentally Retarded Children Islamabad with an allocation of Rs.20.00 million and utilization of Rs.10.289 million and establishment of Orthopedic Workshop at National Special Education Centre for Physically Handicapped Children, Islamabad, with an allocation of Rs.20.259 million and utilization of Rs.11.00 million.
- viii. Funds amounting to Rs.254.0 million were allocated in PSDP 2017-18 to four new development schemes of Ministry of Human Rights, i.e. Implementation of Action Plan for Human Rights in Pakistan with an allocation Rs. 12.00 million and utilization of Rs. 7.770 million, institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Human Rights with an allocation of Rs. 30.00 million and utilization of Rs.20.00 million. An amount of Rs. 52.00 million was allocated for two ongoing development schemes of Ministry of Human Rights, i.e. Helpline for legal advice on violations of human rights with an allocation of Rs. 25.0 million with 100 percent utilization, and establishment of National Institute of Human Rights for capacity-building, training, research and development with an

allocation of Rs. 27.00 million and utilization of Rs. 19.140 million.

Relief Funds for Victims of HR violations

25. The following relief funds were operational for victims of HR violations:

- i. Human Rights Relief Revolving Fund: 153 victims of human rights violations were given financial assistance of Rs. 2.2 million during 2017-18.
- ii. Diyat Fund was operationalized. Its 5th meeting was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Human Rights on 16th May, 2018 when one Diyat case for Rs.1.68 million was approved.
- iii. Women in Distress and Detention Fund was also being made operational with the enactment of the Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, in May 2018.
- iv. A Rs.100 million Endowment Fund was created for free legal aid for victims of human rights violations.

Agriculture Sector Development

26. The agriculture sector accounts for 21.0 percent of GDP and absorbs 43.7 percent of labour force. The sector has strong backward and forward linkages. The agriculture sector has four sub-sectors including crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry. The performance of this sector remained moderate in 2013-14. The sector recorded a growth of 2.1 percent against the growth of 2.9 percent last year. Important crops such as wheat, rice, sugar posted a remarkable growth of 3.74 percent as compared to 1.19 percent last year due to a subdued growth in other crops. The Federal Government undertook a number of steps to enhance agriculture productivity and profitability which ultimately played a pivotal role in the promotion of social and economic well-being of people in general and the farming community in particular.

Water Management

27. The Federal Water Management Cell of National Food Security and Research Division took the following major steps for the promotion of agriculture in Pakistan in the financial year 2014-15:

- i. PC-I prepared for the project titled “Technical Assistance Grant for Mini-Dams Command Area Development Project in the Potohar Region” was approved by the CDWP in its meeting held on 2nd May, 2014. Coordination with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) was underway for finalization of agreement for execution of the project.
- ii. Letter of Agreement for Establishment of “ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water for Agriculture” was signed between the Economic Coordination Organization and the M/o National Food Security and Research. The 2nd Working Group Meeting for finalization of TOR and the Work Plan for undertaking feasibility study for establishment of the ECO Centre were expected very shortly.
- iii. Functioning of Seed Testing Laboratories: 28 seed testing laboratories located at various agro ecological zones in the country were providing seed certification services to the public and private seed sector.
- iv. Registration of new Seed Companies: During the year 2014-15, a total of 29 new seed companies were granted one-year provisional permission to do seed business. Evaluation of seed companies was carried out and cases of inefficient/dormant seed companies submitted to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research for de-registration/cancellation in the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group.
- v. Registration of New Varieties of Various Crops: 135 new candidate varieties were studied in distinctness, uniformity and stability trials during the period.
- vi. Seed Sampling and Testing: A total quantity of 1,90,422 MT seed of various crops was sampled and tested for purity, germination and seed health during the year 2014-15.
- vii. Seed Quality Control in the Market: Under the provision of Seed Act, a total of 568 cases with a quantity of 40.05 MT seed of different crops were filed in different Courts of Law against the dealers selling substandard seeds during 2014-15.
- viii. Imported seed consignments: A total quantity of 61374.33 MT of imported seed of various crops/hybrids (maize, paddy, sunflower, canola, fodder, potato, vegetables etc.) with a total

value of Rs. 14813.54 million was tested under the Seed Truth in Labeling Rules 1991 at the ports of entry i.e. Lahore and Karachi.

- ix. Seed Health Testing: A total of 652 seed samples of various crops/vegetables and fruits were tested at the Central Seed Health Testing Laboratory, Islamabad for detection of fungal and viral diseases using the latest diagnostic techniques and protocols.
- x. Establishment of Fruit Plant Certification System: Fruit production has a great potential of value addition. For availability of certified and disease-free fruit plants, Regional Fruit Plant Nursery testing/certification laboratories have been established in coordination with the Provincial Governments in all provinces to distribute true-to-type and disease-free fruit plants. Fifteen new fruit plant nurseries were registered during the year 2014-15, taking the total number of nurseries to 180. For production and distribution of certified fruit plants as many as 50,000 fruit nursery plants were provided certification coverage.
- xi. Seed (Amendment) Act, 2015: The Seed (Amendment) Bill 2015 was passed by the National Assembly on 16th March 2015 and by the Senate on 7th July 2015. The Seed (Amendment) Act, 2015 after being approved by both the Houses was signed by the President on 23rd July, 2015 which was subsequently published in the Gazette of Pakistan, Extraordinary, Part-I as Act No. VII of 2015 on 29th July 2015.

Construction of Godowns

28. The Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation Limited (PASSCO) in 2014-15 commenced the construction of 20 House-type Godowns from its indigenous funds, which will enhance PASSCO's grain storage capacity with an additional quantity of 22,000 MT with the wheat procurement at 800,000 MT.

Efforts to Enhance Productivity

29. The Pakistan Oil Seed Development Board initiated the following activities:

- i. Initiated collaboration with NARC for Canola Cultivation Campaign 2014-15 through identification of cluster areas in ICT and FATA.
- ii. Motivated the seed companies of Pakistan and All Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association (APSEA) to ensure timely availability of quality canola seed and announcement of procurement price for the crop of 2014-15.
- iii. Coordinated with the provinces regarding production plans for the oilseeds crops for *Rabi/Kharif* season through meetings of Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) in 2013-14 and 2014-15.
- iv. Supervised the follow-up to the canola demonstration plots for two canola hybrid varieties at Ratwal village in collaboration with *Lok Sanjh* Foundation.
- v. Establishment of Food Security Research Institute (FSRI), NARC.
- vi. Establishment of Cotton Research Programme at NARC.
- vii. Establishment of Agricultural Engineering Division (AED) at PARC.
- viii. Establishment of AZRI Technology Field Station at Khairpur District, Sindh.
- ix. Establishment of Agricultural Research Station Chitral (ARSC).
- x. Establishment of Olive Research and Development Institute, NARC.
- xi. Establishment of Agricultural Research Institute, Barkhan at Rakhni, Balochistan.
- xii. Establishment of Thal Agricultural Research Development and Polytechnic Institute (TARDPI), Punjab

Food Security

30. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research notified the National Food Security Council (NFSC) to be established for ensuring food security. The Federal Agriculture Committee was revived before the start of *Rabi* and *Kharif* seasons for setting targets and assessing achievement. The meeting was convened to fix the target for next crops

during 2014-15 and assess achievements of the previous year. In order to address food insecurity/malnutrition, Ministry of National Food Security and Research donated an aggregate quantity of 350,000 Metric Tons of wheat to the World Food Programme in five installments.

31. The Livestock Wing of Ministry of National Food Security & Research formulated the policy to encourage and promote the livestock sector for improved supply of livestock products for national food security. The production of milk increased by 2.28% (2 million tons), mutton 1.80 % (0.70) million tons), poultry meat 8.0 % (1.2 million tons) and eggs 4.7 % (17.0 billion Nos) during the period 2016-17 when compared to the previous year.

32. The Economic Wing collected crops area/production details and other agriculture data from the Federal and Provincial Governments, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Crop Reporting Services of the Provinces and other statistics agencies. The data is compiled, computerized and disseminated in the form of publications on yearly basis. The Economic Wing published the following documents:

- i. Agriculture Statistics of Pakistan
- ii. Crops Area and Production (By districts)
- iii. Fruit, Vegetables and Condiments Statistics of Pakistan
- iv. Year Book for the Cabinet

Expansion of Credit Availability to Small Farmers

33. Zarai Taraqati Bank of Pakistan, in line with the Government Policy, plays an important role for reduction in poverty in rural areas and continues disbursement to the farming community, especially small farmers.

34. During the fiscal year 2014-2015 an amount of Rs. 95.82 billion was disbursed to the farming community covering both development and production categories. The bank is providing loans to the farming community at their door-step through Micro-Credit Offices (MCOs) in different schemes. During the fiscal year 2014-2015 the Bank disbursed Rs. 18.013 million and Rs. 88.34 billion for the landless and small farmers respectively. During the same period, the Bank served 407,324 borrowers.

35. During the fiscal year 2015-2016 an amount of Rs. 90.977 billion was disbursed to the farming community for both development and production categories.

36. During the fiscal year 2016-2017 an amount of Rs.92 billion was disbursed to the farming community for the development and production categories. During 2016-2017 the Bank disbursed Rs.86.732 billion for small farmers respectively through 1289 MCOs. The Bank served 442,775 borrowers in the year.

Efforts to Enhance Profitability

37. The following policy measures were adopted by the Government to reduce the cost of inputs:

- i. Significant reduction in fertilizer prices was achieved in 2016-17. The price of bag of urea was Rs. 2,100 in February 2013 which had been reduced to Rs. 1,350 by 2016-17. Similarly, a bag of DAP priced at Rs. 4,000 in February 2013 was available at Rs.2,550 in 2016-17.
- ii. The fertilizer industry which had been enjoying concessional gas tariff and high level of profits was induced to share gains with the farmers.
- iii. Similarly, GST on the sale of fertilizers was reduced from 17% to 5%. Manufacturers of other brands of fertilizer including DAP, NP and CAN etc. also ensured a reduction in prices. Resultantly the farmer community annually saved approximately Rs.21.0 billion on account of the cost of fertilizers.

Eradication of Poppy Cultivation

38. The Narcotics Control Division sponsored 4 area development projects in FATA and PATA of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The basic objective of these projects was to replace poppy cultivation with alternate crops and to carry out development activities to improve social and economic position of the people of that area.

Rural Development

39. A number of training programmes were conducted by the National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD) for employees of

Government/NGOs that would contribute towards the socio-economic well-being of rural communities in particular.

40. The Pakistan Academy for Rural Development (PARD) was regularly conducting farmers conventions in order to secure well-being of people, especially the marginalized group of poor farmers. The conventions provide a forum for the farmers with small and medium-sized holdings to directly interact not only with the service providers such as ZTBL, PARD, Agriculture Extension Departments etc. but also to get the agricultural machinery, equipment etc. The activities held during 2014-15 are given below:

- i. A training course was held on “Agro-Based Micro-Enterprises Development and Management” from February 23-27, 2015. A total of 08 participants attended the course.
- ii. A 5-day training course was held on “Income Generation Opportunities for Rural Youth”, on April 6-10, 2015, which was attended by 23 participants.
- iii. A 5-day training on “Value Addition in Fruit and Vegetable Sector was held on April 13-17, 2015 with a total of 31 participants.
- iv. A 3-day “Farmers Convention” was successfully arranged from April 15-17, 2015. The theme of the Convention was “*Khushhal Kisan, Mazboot Pakistan*”. The Ministry also organized field visits to Research Institutions. Almost 155 farmers from all over Pakistan attended the Convention.

Social Safety Net Initiatives

41. To reduce the miseries of vulnerable, downtrodden and marginalized segments, social assistance through Pakistan Baitul Mal, Benazir Income Support Programme, Social Safety Net initiatives, etc. continued all over the country. The Government provided different subsidies in the agriculture sector and on utility items at the Utility Stores Corporation for socio-economic well-being of the people.

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

42. The Government is determined to provide an array of opportunities to the poor people of Pakistan, especially women, youth and marginalized segments of society so that they could play an effective role in national development. For this purpose, the Government launched the Prime

Minister's Interest Free Loan (PMIFL) scheme to make the poor stand on their feet by offering them a chance to set up their own small enterprises productively. There was a strong cohesion between the Prime Minister's vision and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to engage in the Government's mandate for poverty alleviation, and equip them with the capacity and resources to extend interest-free loans to the poor and marginalized households to accelerate socio-economic development. Based on its previous experience, the PPAF was mandated by the Government of Pakistan to mobilize, implement and monitor the PMIFL Scheme. The Scheme was started in selected priority districts of Pakistan.

Timeline Activities

43. The Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan (PMIFL) Scheme was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in June, 2014 and an amount of Rs. 1.75 billion was released by the Ministry of Finance as first tranche. The first quarter (July-September 2014) was taken as mobilization period which included short-listing based on the eligibility criteria for partner organizations, desk & field appraisals, signing of financing agreements with qualified partners, development of the operations' manual and capacity-building modules, and training of partners' staff on how to set up loan centers & carry out disbursement of loans, development of dedicated MIS and reporting and documentation of all important processes. Therefore, the effective implementation started in October 2014. The second tranche of Rs.1.75 billion (after utilization of already released funds) was released in August 2015. On completion of the first year, the Ministry of Finance released the operational cost of Rs.155 million for the second year in February 2016.

44. The salient features of PMIFL Scheme are given below:

- i. To make interest-free loans available to men, women and youth from poor, vulnerable and marginalized households categorized under 0-40 on the Poverty Score Card (PSC).
- ii. To support female participation and inclusion in economic activities by disbursing at least 50% loans to women.
- iii. To enhance the entrepreneurial competencies by extending capacity-building services, e.g. enterprise training & counseling, market linkages, financial literacy and numeracy training.
- iv. To establish and strengthen rural/urban branches, and UC-based community institutions for assessing, distributing and recovering interest-free loans.

- v. To encourage behavioral change by demanding loan beneficiaries to ensure specific health and education practices.

45. Following is a brief summary of the PMIFL:

Title	Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan (PMIFL) Scheme
Funds Allocated for on-lending	Rupees 3.5 Billion (Rs.3.1 Billion)
Type of Loan	Interest-Free Loan
Loan Size	Up to Rs. 50,000 per borrower
Total Beneficiaries	70,000 in Year-1. 180,000 in Year-2.
Eligibility	Up to 40 on the PSC, who qualify social and technical appraisals, 50% of whom would be women.

46. Key achievements & progress for 2015-16 are as under:

	July 2015- June 2016			Cumulative to Oct 30, 2016		Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Females	
Applications Received	69,885	98,708	168,593	85,811	127,198	213,009
Applications Approved	58,212	86,244	144,456	78,777	118,501	197,278
Number of Loans Provided	56,386	86,509	142,895	72,587	116,198	188,785
Amount Disbursed (Rs. Million)	1,194.01	1,943.73	3,137.74	1,524.89	2,543.58	4,068.47
Induction of Partner Organizations (POs)	25			26		
Amount Disbursed to POs (Rs. Million)	1,901.05			3,231		
Coverage under PMIFL (District)	36			44		
UCs/Tehsils Outreach	266			287		
Loan Centers/Branches Established	164			233		
Implementation Support & Monitoring Visits (No.)	55			110		

A total amount of Rs. 4,069 million was disbursed to 188,785 borrowers as of June 30, 2016. This was almost one million rupees higher than the amount provided by the MoF for on-lending funds. Out of the total beneficiaries, 62% were women against the set target of 50%.

Prime Minister's Youth Business Loans Scheme

47. The Prime Minister's Youth Business Loans Scheme was meant to distribute the resources and to bring into loop the young lot of the country to play its role for economic development of self and the nation. The Small & Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) of Ministry of Industries and Productions was tasked with an advisory role in implementation of the PM's Youth Business Loan scheme both in terms of developing information tools and resources and also guiding and disseminating information to the aspirants. Under the scheme subsidized loans with a debt-equity ratio of 90:10, mark-up of 8.0 percent and tenure of 08years, inclusive of a one-year grace period, were being provided to new and existing entrepreneurs between the ages of 21-45 years. Loans from Rs.0.1 million to Rs.2.0 million would be provided to 100,000 individuals in the first year, across the entire country. In this regard, SMEDA had as many as fifty-six (56) business pre-feasibility studies developed along with information resources and tools, including FAQs on pre-feasibility studies, financial calculators, guidelines/templates on developing business plan and seven training video documentaries. Around 11.03 million downloads of pre-feasibility studies and other tools and resources had been availed from SMEDA website till 5th April, 2014. The information tools and resources were available in both English and Urdu languages. Exclusive Help Desks were also established by SMEDA at 28 locations in 19 cities for facilitation of the loan applicants. The scheme had seen a tremendous response and a total of 19,630 loan applicants had been facilitated at SMEDA's exclusive Help Desks across the country up to March 31, 2014. SMEDA continued to offer its technical/ advisory services in 2015-16 to beneficiaries of the Scheme starting their own businesses. Industrial growth/expansion was being promoted to create employment opportunities to accommodate a maximum number of the unemployed youth.

SMEDA Internship Portal

48. The SMEDA Internship Portal, launched on November 8, 2013, was a strategic initiative towards knowledge-based economy through provision of quality human resources. This 'No Cost' e-platform for

private and public sector organizations and university students provides an opportunity for match-making internship opportunities from a diversified HR pool for strengthening the human capital of the country. Private and public sector organizations were provided with a user interface, where they could place their human resource requirements. Each student registering on the portal has his/her own user interface, whereby they can post their profiles and apply for internship opportunities advertised by employers. Provision of support and guidance for students in building resumes is also part of the initiative. In order to operationalize the Portal, SMEDA engaged the academia, industry, SMEs, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, trade associations and public sector organizations to generate internship opportunities across the country.

Revitalization of Economy

49. During 2014-15 the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) continued to work on eight (08) PSDP projects with a total cost of Rs.586.61 million providing direct and indirect employment to 421 and 3,786 employees respectively. SMEDA also facilitated around 1080 SMEs through World Bank-funded project “Economic Revitalization of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA (ERKF)”.

50. During 2016-17 SMEDA facilitated around 83 SMEs through ERKF that resulted in rehabilitation of businesses which were adversely affected due to the war on terror in the region, leading towards employment creation and poverty reduction in the region.

51. To boost trade and economic activity and promote social and economic well-being of the people, the Small & Medium Enterprises Bank has been providing financial assistance to the SMEs throughout Pakistan since its establishment. The bank provided financial assistance of Rs.2,010.23 million during the period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Endowment Fund: Institutional Rehabilitation through NGOs

52. The Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) provides grant-in-aid to registered Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for their projects aimed at institutional rehabilitation of the poor and deserving persons of the society. Grant is provided to NGOs for the following strategies: Strategy-I for Financial Assistance to Orphans for Health, Education & Training; Strategy-II for Cataract operations for the deserving and Strategy-III for an

innovative pilot rehabilitation project. During July-March, 2013-14, an amount of Rs.12.204 million was spent among 6,102 poor beneficiaries.

Benazir Income Support Programme

53. The Government of Pakistan launched the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in July 2008, as the premier social safety net programme in Pakistan with the prime focus on poverty alleviation and women empowerment. The aim of BISP is to support inclusive growth through development and implementation of a financially sustainable, efficiently targeted, and well-administered national safety net system in Pakistan. The BISP is dedicated to fight poverty by employing multiple social protection instruments designed to bring a sustainable positive change in the lives of persistently excluded and deprived families. It provides the chronic and transient poor with both basic income support and access to opportunities to help them graduate out of poverty.

54. Being the flagship Social Safety Net (SSN) programme, the BISP has made a significant contribution in fulfilling Constitutional requirements with regard to the principles of policy. The prime objective of BISP was to provide financial assistance to poor and vulnerable segments of the society with the main concentration on poor women. As per policy to ensure women participation, the target beneficiary is woman. The BISP's unconditional cash transfer programme is only for women. Following are the key achievements of this programme:

- i. The BISP had provided financial assistance to 5.3 million female beneficiaries under unconditional cash transfer programme (UCT) by the end of June 2016. BISP's annual disbursement rose from Rs.16 billion in FY 2008-09 to Rs. 95.68 billion in FY 2015-16 to poorest of the poor women.
- ii. The BISP provided identity to 5.3 million women by giving them CNICs through NADRA.
- iii. The BISP has given courage to women and reduced violence at home.
- iv. The BISP has achieved a significant milestone in empowering women in the society. The impact Evaluation Report shows that 64% of female beneficiaries retain control over cash transfer. Now women can feel empowered by their contributions to the household budget and their decreased

dependency on their husbands. The evaluation suggests a small shift in community perceptions regarding the mobility of women with the acceptance that women can travel to collect the transfer themselves.

- v. Receipt of BISP cash transfer has also increased the likelihood of women being permitted to visit friends' houses alone. Due to the mandatory requirement of CNIC, BISP is directly responsible for more women turnout in post-2008 elections.
- vi. Hundreds of women empowerment *Jalsas* have been held in all provinces and villages of Pakistan with an unprecedented women participation.
- vii. 1300 Women Leaders (WLs) clusters have been formed on the basis of geographical proximity to create linkages within the beneficiary committees (BBCs), District and Provincial/Regional Governments to ensure that the voice of the marginalized communities/ beneficiaries is heard effectively. The formation of BBCs and Clusters has provided a platform to the vulnerable and marginalized beneficiaries of BISP, which has created a sense of ownership and will help them out of the vicious circle of poverty. It is a step towards women's social, economic and political empowerment and their ultimate emancipation.
- viii. 'BISP empowers talk' is another initiative introduced and carried out on a monthly basis to encourage idea generation, transfer success, motivation and inspiration for BISP beneficiaries in order to increase empowerment, dignity and meaning to life.

Provision of essential items

55. The Utility Stores Corporation (USC) decentralized the administrative work through its Head Office, 9 Zonal Offices and 65 Regional Offices for facilitation and disposal of its business. The USC has 5678 outlets throughout the country at union council level providing essential items to all segments of the society irrespective of caste, color, sex etc.

Social Security

56. Article 38(c) of the Constitution of Pakistan makes it obligatory for the State to provide social security by compulsory social insurance or by

any other means to all persons employed in the service of Pakistan or otherwise. For furtherance of this goal, the Government of Pakistan has established the Employees Old Age Benefits Institute (EOBI), which is mandated to provide pensions and other retirement benefits to employed workers on retirement. On fulfilling the prescribed conditions regarding qualifying age and payment of contribution etc., the Employees Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) provides monetary benefits to old workers through various programmes such as old age pension on attaining the age of superannuation, Invalidity Pension on sustaining invalidity affecting the insured person's earning by more than one third of the normal, heir's pension in case of death of insured person/pensioner and an old age grant if not meeting the benchmark for old-age pension.

57. The EOBI collected Rs.71491 million and disbursed pension/grant amounting to Rs.69528 million in 2013-14.

58. The EOBI registered 410,413 insured persons (employees) for provision of EOB benefits during the year 2015-16. The EOBI disbursed pension/ grant amounting to Rs. 22602 million during the year.

Emergency Relief

59. The Emergency Relief Cell of the Cabinet Division accomplished the following tasks during the year 2013-14:

- i. Relief goods i.e. 5,000 tents, 15,000 blankets, 68,000 plastic mats and 8,500 warm jackets amounting to Rs.142.453 million, were provided to Awaran, Balochistan for the earthquake-affected people.
- ii. An amount of Rs. 370 million was provided as cash assistance to the Government of Balochistan for construction of 16000 Low Cost Housing Units for the affectees of earthquake in the Awaran district.
- iii. Relief goods i.e. 595 life jackets, 18 boats and 600 plastic mats were provided to Government of the Punjab for flood-affected people.
- iv. A gift of 200 MT dates received from the Government of Saudi Arabia was distributed amongst the provinces and other

regions including Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, FATA and Islamabad Capital Territory.

Programme for Social & Economic Well-Being

60. The Capital Administration and Development Division (CADD) established 10 libraries in different sectors of Islamabad in an effort to raise the citizens' awareness about their issues and motivate them to search for solutions in order to promote democratic culture in the society. These libraries offer opportunities for development through learning.

- i. Directorate of Workers Education (DWE) is providing education/training to workers/trade union leader/ employers of the public and private sector organizations through different training courses/seminars/workshops.
- ii. The National Training Centres for Special Persons and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons working under the Directorate General Special Education (DGSE) are providing training to adults with a special focus on their future employment needs. Moreover, the Centers are imparting pre-vocational skills to children with disabilities to improve their skills in adult life.
- iii. The social and economic well-being of persons with disabilities is promoted by protecting their families from excessive health expenditures at PWD. Free health care is provided to persons with disabilities.
- iv. The Programme is designed to achieve social and economic well-being by curbing rapid population growth and thereby reducing its adverse consequences for development. It is intended to achieve a reduction in dependency ratios, to alleviate pressures on the dwindling resources and to help in the reduction of poverty.
- v. Monitoring of hospitals and interviews with the patients or attendants to prevent any undue monetary involvement by hospitals/individuals.
- vi. The National College of Arts students undertook the task of revamping the Thalassaemia Day Care Centre at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and Cancer Ward of the Mayo Hospital so that patients could convalesce in cheerful surroundings conducive to quick recovery.

Strategy for Improvement in Living Standards

61. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has adopted a progressive and multi-pronged strategy to broaden access to financial services in Pakistan. In particular, the SBP has been striving to expand inclusive financial services to all economic, social, and geographic segments of the population through agriculture credit, microfinance, and branchless banking and in this respect the State Bank is following the policies of the Ministry of Finance.

(a) Agriculture Finance

- i. During the fiscal year 2013-14, a total of Rs. 391 billion was disbursed by banks against an agri-credit demand of Rs.790 billion, which was around 50% of the total credit demand. In terms of outreach, 2.2 million borrowers were facilitated by banks against a total of 8.3 million farming households in the country.
- ii. The Government approved a credit guarantee scheme for small farmers by allocating Rs. 5.0 billion in the budget.
- iii. To reduce vulnerability of small farmers, the SBP in collaboration with stakeholders launched the Crop Loan Insurance Scheme for mitigating the default risk due to natural calamities and providing repayment assurance to banks.

(b) Initiatives to Promote Microfinance and Branchless Banking

- i. To promote access to financial resources for the lower income and unbanked population in the country, the SBP issued separate regulations for microfinance in which maximum loan size was set at Rs.150,000. Micro Finance Banks (MFBs) were also allowed to lend to microenterprises any amount up to Rs. 500,000/-.
- ii. SBP's Innovative Challenge Fund catalyzed some important branchless banking deployments in the country and especially the ecosystem for Government-to-Person (G2P) payments. G2P payments were typically made at specific banks for cash payments. A share of few major G2P payments, including Benazir Income Support Programme, Employees Old-age

Benefits Institute (EOBI) pensions, was being delivered to beneficiaries through branchless banking channels (ATMs, authorized shops etc.).

Better Infrastructure with Improved Facilities

62. The National Highway Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Communication is mandated with the development and maintenance of road infrastructure in the country. The NHA has been striving to provide safe and smooth commuting within the country by providing national highways and motorways network all over the country with improved facilities i.e. service areas, rest areas, food corners, washrooms and auto workshops. The NHA with its network of 12131 km of 39 national highways, motorways, expressways and strategic roads is rendering a vital contribution in improving the quality of roads infrastructure. This has led to better living standards of life by greater access to health facilities, education, farms and markets, business and employment opportunities. An amount of Rs101.783 billion was allocated in 2013-14 alone for 124 NHA projects including roads, bridges, tunnels and flyovers. The NHA continued to construct roads during the period under review to link the remote areas to the main highways and motorways, which would improve the agriculture sector due to easy access to the main markets and also improve the inter-provincial harmony. Furthermore, best health facilities and schools would be made available to the deprived areas.

Efforts to Increase Remittances from OPs

63. The Overseas Pakistanis (OPs) are contributing to the development of country's economy by sending remittances, which are the second largest source of national foreign exchange after exports. The remittances increased from US\$15.832 billion in 2013-14 to US\$ 18.454 billion in 2014-15 and to US\$19.91 billion in 2015-16.

64. To facilitate the Overseas Pakistanis for sending their remittances, the State Bank of Pakistan and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Ministry of Finance launched a joint initiative called the Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) in 2009. This initiative is aimed at facilitating/supporting a faster, cheaper, convenient and efficient flow of remittances. Under the scheme following incentives are being provided to the remitters/beneficiaries:

- i. No charges on sending money to Pakistan through banking channels;
- ii. Remittances can be received from Bank in cash instantly by the beneficiaries without a bank account;
- iii. Remittance can also be received swiftly in beneficiary's bank account throughout Pakistan;
- iv. Country-wide network of bank branches ensures convenience in receiving money by the beneficiary;
- v. In case of delayed payments, the beneficiary will receive 65 *paisas* per Rs.1000/day, for the delayed period;
- vi. Hundred free PIA air tickets per month through a lucky draw: the winner will be entitled to Business Class services, in-flight services and airport assistance (arrival/departure).
- vii. During the period under review about 10,000 brochures provided by PRI have been sent to CWAs posted in Pakistan Missions abroad for distribution among OPs to motivate them for remitting their savings through legal channels to get the incentives being provided under the said scheme.
- viii. A special package, i.e. the Foreign Exchange Remittance Card (FERC), has been introduced by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development to encourage the Overseas Pakistanis (OPs) to remit their earnings through normal banking channels. The OPs remitting foreign currency equivalent to US\$2500 to US\$50,000 per annum are issued five categories of FER Cards and are entitled to various incentives. As many as 6294 Remittance Cards of different categories i.e. Silver, Silver Plus, Gold, Gold Plus and Platinum were issued to Overseas Pakistanis in 2013-14.

65. The OPF Complaint Cell to address the grievances/problems of OPs and their families in Pakistan and abroad received 1332 complaints from different countries in 2013-14, most of which were resolved.

- i. The OPF has established Eye Hospitals where the patients are treated at subsidized rates. As many as 11743 patients were given medical treatment while 315 patients were operated

upon in 2013-14 as compared to 6884 medical cases and 210 surgical in the previous year.

- ii. The OPF organizes free eye camps in OPs populated areas for treatment of families of Overseas Pakistanis. The OPF organized nine free eye camps in 2013-14 where a total of 9099 patients were given medical treatment while 315 were operated upon and provided medical treatment.
- iii. The OPF Ambulance Service was provided to 225 deceased Pakistanis in 2013-14.
- iv. Educational Scholarships are provided to the needy/deserving children of low paid/deceased OPs. An amount of Rs. 1.4 million was distributed on account of grant of 210 scholarships in 2013-14. Merit Awards are granted to the talented children of the Overseas Pakistanis. In 2013-14, 56 talented students were awarded Rs.700,000 as Merit Award.
- v. Twenty-four OPF Educational Institutions have been established all over Pakistan to impart quality education especially to the children of overseas Pakistanis. During 2015-16, Rs.24,00,000 were awarded as needy scholarships and Rs.12,00,000 as merit scholarships.
- vi. To cater to the Housing needs of overseas Pakistanis, the OPF launched Housing Schemes in Lahore (Phase-I) & Lahore Extension, Peshawar, Gujrat, Mirpur (AJ&K), Larkana, Dadu and Turbat. During 2015-16, the development work of OPF Housing Scheme Zone-V, Islamabad was expedited and 98% work completed. 36 Residential and Commercial plots in the OPF housing scheme in Lahore and Peshawar were allotted to overseas Pakistanis through open auction.
- vii. As per directive of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman)'s Secretariat 'One Window Facilitation Desks' have been established at all international airports in Pakistan to facilitate overseas Pakistanis for resolution of their complaints against departments/agencies working at airports. During 2015-16, the Desks were established at Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Multan, Sialkot and Faisalabad where 30,042 passengers were assisted.

Economic Development through Trade

66. Under the Rules of Business 1973, the Ministry of Commerce is mandated to promote the foreign and domestic trade which is an important component in the promotion of economic well-being of people. The Ministry of Commerce announces the Trade Policy regularly. Since 2009, a medium-term three years Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) is being announced to ensure predictability and continuity of the Trade Policy. This objective of the Ministry of Commerce is met by focusing on regional trade, creating regulatory efficiencies, promoting agro-processed exports, increasing exports from less developed regions of Pakistan, promoting exports in services sector, enhancing access to export financing and credit guarantees, revamping export promotion agencies, mobilizing new investment in export-oriented industries, facilitating exporting industry, overcoming energy crisis, enhancing product and market development and diversification, undertaking effective trade diplomacy, increasing green exports, rationalizing the tariff protection policy, enhancing the role of women in exports and reforming and developing domestic commerce.

67. The Ministry of Commerce announced the STPF 2015-18 on 22nd March, 2016 through an extensive consultative process spanning almost a year. All stakeholders in the public and private sector including the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, District Chambers, trade associations, private businesses, academia, thinktanks, Trade Missions, Ministries/Divisions and other Government Agencies were actively engaged. Incentives announced under the STPF 2015-18 for exports were as under:

- i. An incentive for technology up-gradation will be provided in the shape of investment support of 20% or mark-up support of 50% up to a maximum of Rs. 1 million per annum per company for import of new plant and machinery.
- ii. Matching grant will be provided up to a maximum of Rs.5 million for specified plant and machinery or specified items to improve products design and encourage innovation in the SMEs in the export sector of leather, pharmaceutical and fisheries. Moreover, a Common Facility Center for surgical sector will be established.
- iii. Matching grant will be provided to facilitate the branding and certification for faster growth of the SME and export sector in Pakistan's economy through Intellectual Property Registration

(including trade and service marks), Certification and Accreditation.

- iv. Drawback for local taxes and levies will be given to exporters on Free On Board (FOB) values of their enhanced exports if increased by 10% and beyond (over the previous year's exports) at the rate of 4% on the increase.

Foreign and Technical Assistance

68. The Economic Affairs Division plays a vital role for seeking foreign economic/ technical assistance from foreign countries/ organizations to finance the social sector and economic activities in the country. This Ministry and its departments have been providing flats/houses to all citizens of the country at lowest possible price, within the available resources.

Empowerment of People through Professional Training

National Vocational and Technical Training Commission

69. The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) is following the vision of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training to empower the middle & lower middle class segments of our society economically. The people are provided training facilities across the country and various technical courses are launched. The NAVTTTC training enables people to start their own businesses through entrepreneurship and hands-on skills for their participation in all forms of national activities, including employment and services abroad. NAVTTTC supports all the Provinces to eradicate fraudulent practices to ensure quality of labour force and to earn dignity, respect and recognition for Pakistan labour in the country and abroad. NAVTTTC is trying to make sure that our entire workforce maintains acceptable international standards from all provinces. They must have access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions which can impart quality education and trainings. NAVTTTC realizes the fact that by imparting quality training to its workforce, social and economic well-being of Pakistani people can be ensured.

70. NAVTTTC has defined its priority sectors for TVET trainings as follows:

- a. Construction and Light Engineering
- b. Nursing and Paramedics

- c. Hospitality and Tourism
- d. Dairy and Livestock
- e. Secretariat Functions
- f. Auto Mechanics
- g. Retail and Wholesale Trading
- h. Beauty Care
- i. Textiles
- j. Information Technology
- k. Traditional Handicrafts
- l. Driving
- m. Food and beverages industry
- n. Ship-making and breaking industry

The training programmes are generally focused on human resource development and to equip the youth with hands-on skills so that they may meet their household expenditures through employment or entrepreneurship.

i. NAVTTC's Skills Development Programmes:

The Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme (Phase-I, II & III) has been launched for socio-economic empowerment of the lower middle class segments of society. These projects envisage training of 50,000 young people in Phase-1 & II across the country. The projects were launched in public & private institutes in collaboration with Provincial Governments i.e. TEVTA, social welfare, PVTC, labour department and private institutes etc. Phase-I & II of the programmes were completed in 2015-16, through which 50,000 individuals were provided with hand-on skills whereas Phase-III of the programme was under process for 50,000 more youth in the country. The region-wise quota is mentioned below:-

a. Punjab	12750
b. Balochistan	2000
c. Sindh	5850
d. KPK/ FATA	3400
e. ICT/AJK/GB	1000

- ii. Further, NAVTTC was running two skill development programmes through its regular PSDP budget, i.e. Prime Minister's *Hunarmand* Pakistan Programme & President's *Fanni Maharat* Programme up to June 2016. Under these programmes 159,852 trainees had been trained since 2006.

Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation

71. The role of Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) was redefined during 2004-05 with a view to facilitate the pace of industrialization in the country in line with the Government's initiative for strategic development and competitiveness to develop the non-traditional and unorganized sectors to contribute effectively towards accelerated growth in exports from Pakistan through private sector.

Heavy Mechanical Complex

72. The Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC) is conducting training programme in various technical disciplines. After completing these training programmes, the unemployed are able to get better jobs. Thus HMC's training function is playing a very important role in Human Resource Development, elimination of un-employment, poverty alleviation and improved quality of life.

Joint Ventures by PITAC

73. As per its mandate, Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC) can only establish joint ventures with institutions of the Provincial Government to promote and facilitate technical education and economic interests of backward classes and areas. PITAC has established a joint venture with the Punjab Skills Development Foundation, Government of Punjab, to promote technical education and economic interests of backward classes and areas of Southern Punjab free of cost. The detail of such courses from 2015-16 to 2017-18 is as under:

S. No.	Name of the course	Courses Conducted	Participants
1.	CNC Machine Operator	6	131
2.	PLC	10	239
3.	Welder	4	40
4.	Turner	4	52
Total:		24	462

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal

74. The goal of poverty alleviation can only be achieved through capacity-building and skill enhancement of the poor. Poorest of the poor are generally widows, orphans and poor girls. Therefore, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has established 144 Vocational *Dastkari* Schools (VDS) and 15 Diversified Vocational *Dastkari* Schools (DVDS) throughout the country since 1995 for developing their employable skills through free trainings. An amount of Rs.136.252 million was utilized for the purpose from July-March 2013-14.

Promotion of Competitive Economy

75. The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) is mandated by the Competition Act, 2010, to help promote a dynamic and competitive market economy underpinned by sound competition law principles. The benefits that result from the competition include increased economic efficiency, innovation, and consumer welfare. The Commission is only responsible for competition enforcement in Pakistan and moves decisively against various cartels and trade abuse cases. The Commission has been striving to change the mindset of economic actors in Pakistan. The Commission remains committed to transparent enforcement of Competition Law. The Commission issued certain orders to enhance economic efficiency and to protect consumers from anti-competitive behavior of business community, pertaining to:

i. Abuse of dominant position	14
ii. Cartelization	21
iii. Deceptive Marketing Practices	16

76. Amongst other steps, the Commission issued a voluntary Code of Competition Compliance for greater awareness of business community. Internationally, the CCP has actively participated in the Internal Competition Network, the OECD, GCR and UNCTAD. It was because of its strenuous efforts to provide equal opportunities to all the market players that the Commission was selected amongst the top 5 out of 42 agencies for GCR Enforcement Award 2012 in the regions of Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa. In 2016 the CCP was awarded the honor of 3-Star Rating in the annual ranking of the world's top competition authorities by the Global Competition Review.

77. During 2016-17, the Commission's performance in terms of enforcement activities remained as follows:

- i. Orders passed: 05
- ii. Mergers & Acquisitions cleared: 61
- iii. Exemptions granted: 48
- iv. Policy note issued: 01
- v. Show Cause Notices issued: 41
- vi. Hearings conducted: 55
- vii. Enquiries completed: 07
- viii. Penalties Imposed: Rs.219,292,624

In addition, the Commission also undertook a number of advocacy activities for creating awareness of competition law and policy in public and business community in 2016-17.

Support for IT Industry

78. Being related to the field of IT and Telecom, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom is placing fresh IT graduates from various universities in the IT industry through Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB). In addition to this, Rural Telephony and E-Services programme, Broadband Programme, Optical Fiber Cable Programme and Special Projects have been launched through the Universal Service Fund (USF). The objective is to promote economic and social well-being of the public, particularly the youth.

79. The Ministry of Information Technology is also playing a vital role for supporting the Prime Minister's Scholarship programme for talented youth of marginalized areas through the National R&D Fund.

Enhancement of Gas Production

80. Natural Gas is an efficient, economical and environment-friendly fuel. It contributes about 48% of the total primary energy mix in the country. The Government is pursuing its policies of enhancing gas production to meet the increasing demand of energy through aggressive exploration activities. Natural Gas consumption was 3,239 MMCFD in 2014-15.

Social Welfare Initiatives

81. A network of hospitals and dispensaries has been established by the Railways Division all over the rail network to facilitate patients. Competent doctors are available to serve the patients. Clinical investigations and tests are conducted free of cost.

82. The Ministry of Science and Technology and the organizations working under its auspices have taken various initiatives for well-being of the people such as installation of water filtration plants in various cities of Pakistan to provide safe drinking water to the people, development of alternative and economical construction material to facilitate people to construct low-cost houses, setting of standards, provision of state of the art testing facilities, etc.

Dissemination of Socio-Economic Data

83. The Statistics Division/Pakistan Bureau of Statistics collects, compiles and disseminates socio-economic data as one of its regular features, which is widely used by the Government/ private sectors and international agencies for policy/decision-making, development planning, monitoring and evaluation, and research purposes for well-being of the public.

Enhancement of Power Generation Capacity

84. The Ministry of Water and Power is playing its role in the efforts for social and economic well-being of the general public in accordance with its assigned functions. In order to provide relief to the general public from load shedding, the present Government has taken a number of initiatives to enhance the generation capacity of electricity through various short and long-term plans. The vision of the Ministry is to develop the most efficient and consumer-centric power generation, transmission, and distribution system that meets the needs of the country's population and boosts its economy in a sustainable and affordable manner. It also aims to ensure adequate, equitable and economical availability of water for irrigation, domestic, industrial and environmental needs of the country.

Privatisation Programme

85. The Privatisation Division is committed to implement the Privatization Programme of Government as it strongly believes that a dynamic, vibrant and competitive private sector leads to better employment opportunities, provision of efficient & cost-effective services to citizens/consumers and economic & social well-being of the people. Implementation of the privatization programme of the Government is an economic reforms agenda with an aim to create a dynamic and vibrant environment for deregulation, restructuring, and good governance, while striving towards development and productivity in the economy by

harnessing the private sector's capital and managerial expertise as an engine of growth. The privatization programme is based on two principles:

- a) First, it seeks to reduce the Government's direct role in commercial and industrial activities based on the well-known maxim that "the government has no business to do business". Exceptions are strategic industries or areas where the private sector is unable or unwilling to invest.
- b) Secondly, it promotes the private sector as the "engine of growth" and encourages it to play a leading role in economic development so as to bring about substantial increases in investment, employment opportunities and income levels, and consequently, reduction in poverty.

86. From 2013-14 to 2016-17 the Government had approved a privatization programme of 68 Public Sector Entities (PSEs) in various sectors through public-private partnership, capital market transaction and other modes of privatisation. The approval of five (05) privatization transactions had been completed by 2016-17, fetching proceeds of Rs. 172,870 million of which one transaction (National Power Construction Corp.) was completed during 2015-16, fetching proceeds of Rs.2,517 million. The activity created investment opportunities for the foreign and domestic investors. The net proceeds were remitted to the Federal Government for poverty alleviation programme and servicing of the Federal Government debt. The same resulted in reduction of financial burden and increased revenue to the Government.

87. Besides the above activity, the Privatization Commission pursued the privatization process of several other entities like Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), Kot Addu Power Company (KAPCO), Northern Power Generation Co. Ltd. (NPGCL), Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) and Mari Petroleum Company Ltd. (MPCL). Moreover, two entities i.e. Industrial Development Bank Ltd. (IDBL) and Telephone Industries of Pakistan (TIP) were included in the Privatization Programme for Early Implementation. During the period, the Commission completed the process of conversion of the Pakistan International Airlines into a Public Limited Company.

88. During 2016-17, the Privatization Commission completed due vigilance of two Power Sector Entities i.e. Islamabad Electric Supply

Company (IESCO) and Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), and also initiated the process of divestment of Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) shares through Initial Public Offering (IPO). During the period, the privatization of SME Bank reached an advanced stage with the Prequalification of Interested Parties under process. Moreover, divestment of shares of Mari Petroleum Company Limited through PSX was also initiated. Furthermore, two entities i.e. First Women Bank Ltd. (FWBL) & House Building Finance Company Ltd. (HBFCL) were included in the Privatization Programme for Early Implementation.

89. The successful privatization measures contributed in broadening of ownership in the political economy of Pakistan, in line with the provisions of the principles of policy.

Provision of Quality Education

90. The education sector was dealing with the Project titled “Provision of quality education opportunities for the students of Balochistan and FATA” in the period under review. During 2015-16 an amount of Rs.18.367 million was utilized for scholarships for the students of Balochistan and FATA and as miscellaneous expenditure. The Government also provided scholarships amounting to Rs.0.407 million to students belonging to the Bugti Tribe studying at Sadiq Public School, Bahawalpur. For students belonging to the Scheduled Caste of District Tharparkar an amount of Rs. 0.728 million was disbursed through a committee constituted under the Deputy Commissioner, Tharparkar. Moreover, during 2015-16 this Ministry nominated Pakistani students for scholarships for different countries as per following detail:

S.No	Country Name	Number of Pakistanis Nominated
1	United Kingdom	47
2	New Zealand.	02
3	China	109
4	Egypt (For <i>Deeni Madaris</i>)	13
5	Bangladesh (For Medical Colleges)	23

Higher Education

91. The Higher Education Commission is successfully executing its schemes/programmes to provide equitable access to higher education to

Pakistani youth within the age bracket of 17-22 years. These schemes include opening of universities/sub-campuses in each district of the country and need-based scholarship programme/initiatives such as *Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Baluchistan* etc. As per survey report of the HEC in 2017-18, the pre-PhD monthly income (mean) of the HEC scholar's family was nearly Rs.25885, which increased to Rs.122,975 after earning the PhD degree.

Issues related to Afghan Refugees and FATA

92. The Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) deals with the issues relating to Afghan Refugees, FATA, States, Levies and Khassadar as per Articles 90 and 99 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

a. Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA)

- i. Under Framework of the One UN in Pakistan, Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) is a Joint Programme Component of the UN initiative called "Delivering as One". Launched in 2009 as a five-year Government-led programme with financial support from several donor countries and the United Nations, more than 3,552 RAHA projects had been implemented up to 2016-2017 across all four Pakistan's provinces and FATA, benefitting 10.2 million Pakistani citizens and Afghan refugees through enhanced access and quality of public service delivery.
- ii. The identification of the RAHA projects was calibrated so as to reflect strategic priority focus on youth empowerment through education, skills training and livelihood support and in line with the Phase II of SSAR (2016-2017). It is also an important element of the Government's strategies and policies on the management of Afghan refugees.
- iii. From July 2016 to June 2017, 800,000 people benefited from RAHA projects, of whom around 27% were refugees and the remainder from host communities affected by the influx of refugees.
- iv. During this time, over 64 projects were implemented: the majority in KP (62%) and Baluchistan (21%) and the remaining 17% of projects in the Punjab and Sind. These projects were undertaken in six main sectors: health,

education, WASH (including clean drinking water supply and drains), irrigation, livelihoods (including agriculture, environment and skills development), infrastructure (including street pavement, village/farm-to-market roads, flood protection walls and energy-related infrastructure) and social protection.

b. Major RAHA interventions

- i. Around 200,000 individuals benefitted from WASH projects.
- ii. A total of 370,000 (including 170,000 Afghan Refugees) benefited from the provision of equipment and rehabilitation of health facilities in the hosting areas.
- iii. WASH Package for southern districts of the KPK through RAHA under Pak-Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA) was carried out in 4 southern districts (D.I. Khan, Bannu, Tank and Lakki Marwat) of the KPK. The project was created by clubbing 11 PC-1s in an umbrella PC-1 costing Rs.150.341 million. This package was expected to benefit more than 71,000 hosts and Afghan refugees.

c. RAHA's Skill Development Programme

With 64% of the total Afghan refugees below 25 years of age, RAHA in 2016-2017 envisaged a nexus of interventions in the interlinked areas of education, vocational skills training and livelihoods support to enhance investment in youth empowerment returning back to their country in September 2016:

- i. With UNHCR support the Ministry of SAFRON approved a special Skills Development Programme (SDP) to support the Afghan refugees' repatriation process as One livelihood project all over Pakistan with a budget of Rs.30.14 million.
- ii. As Pakistan's RAHA Programme had been imparting livelihood training to numerous ARs for 7 years, the RAHA Secretariat (RS) and RAHA Cell (RC) of Chief Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees (CCAR) were tasked to plan, manage and implement the SDP.
- iii. The SDP imparted training to both genders of Afghan refugees' youth in various income earning trades and

empowered them to play a useful post-repatriation role in reconstruction of their country.

- iv. The intensity of GoP's focus on SDP is manifested in the fact that Batch-1 of the SDP had completed its skill training courses between 15 Jan-April 2017 that imparted skills training in 9 different marketable trades to 495 male and 260 female Afghan refugees and Pakistani youth. The quota achieved for trainees from Afghan refugees' youth was 68%.

(Rs.million)

S #	Province	Education		Health		WASH		Infrastructure		Social Protection		Distt Totals	
		Project	Fund	Project	Fund	Project	Fund	Project	Fund	Project	Fund	Project	Fund
1	KP	7	131.857	8	217.652	15	294.562	8	164.934			38	809.005
2	Baluchistan	7	123.567	5	124.956	1	13.114					13	261.637
3	Punjab	4	55.926	1	19.136	2	38.311					7	113.373
4	Sind	2	21.926					1	20.395	1	30.012	4	72.333
Total		20	333.276	14	361.744	18	345.987	9	185.329	1	30.012	62	1256.348

Establishment of Social Welfare Centres in FATA

93. The Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department has been set up in FATA to initiate action on social security while Social Welfare Centres have been established where senior citizens, the permanently disabled and the vulnerable families would be brought under the cover of social security. Mobile prosthetic limbs workshop has been established which will travel to each Tribal Agency and FR to take care of the disabled at their doorstep.

Platform for Gilgit Entrepreneurs

94. The National Productivity Organization (NPO) of the Ministry of Industries and Production successfully completed the project called "Made in Gilgit" in 2016-17 for providing trainings to the entrepreneurs of Gilgit

to display their products in the market by organizing exhibitions in Lahore and Islamabad. The NPO successfully launched the Development of Productivity Practitioners programme (based on the Asian Productivity Organization curriculum) launching Productivity, Quality and Innovation (PQI) diploma in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) with the approval of Economic Affairs Division.

Employees Welfare

95. The Federal Government provides all facilities to its employees as per entitlement. At present the employees are enjoying the facilities of hiring of residential accommodation, medical facilities as well as loans and advances. The employees are also being facilitated through the Rest and Recreation leave so that they can work with more devotion, zeal and zest. The Federal Government utilizes all facilities for imparting training to its employees in related areas. The employees, after completing the training, participate more effectively in the activities of their respective departments. The employees are provided with Benevolent Fund, Provident Fund, Group Insurance and Employees Welfare Fund for maximum social security. In addition the facilities of hospitalization and medical tests are also provided for employees and their family, including parents.

96. A policy of non-discrimination was adopted by the Establishment Division regarding the citizens of Pakistan. Pension and medical facilities were made available to the retired employees as per Government policy. All serving employees were provided medical facilities under the rules without hindrance or inconvenience. Several steps were taken to improve the quality of life of low-grade employees, like paint-work/renovation of their residential quarters, provision of improved and better medical facilities, provision of ambulance, provision of medication with staff and equipment in the dispensary, stipends for outstanding children of employees sanctioned as per Government policy; and a congenial and comfortable office environment.

Staff Welfare Organization

97. The Staff Welfare Organization (SWO) is working under the Establishment Division for promotion of social and economic well-being of Federal Government employees and their dependents. Its programmes/schemes are designed to improve the living standard of

federal government employees. A brief of programmes/ schemes is given below:

- i. Ladies Industrial Homes: At ladies industrial homes, wives and daughters of Government servants are being taught various handicrafts/ skills to help them supplement the income of family and to increase employment opportunities.
- ii. Federal Staff Relief Fund: Emergency relief is provided to low paid individual employees in events of distress like TB, prolonged sickness or death in the family under the Federal Staff Relief Fund.
- iii. Rehabilitation Aid: Under this scheme the Staff Welfare Organization provides tricycles, wheel chairs, special heel shoes, artificial limbs, hearing aids, walking aids, neck collars and crutches to the Federal Government employees and their dependents.
- iv. Award of stipends to the school-going children:
- v. A most useful scheme has been launched to award stipend to the school and college-going children of Federal Government employees, especially low paid.
 - a) (BS 1-4)=5th class onward; also entitled to a specified amount for purchase of books and stationery.
 - b) (BS-5-16)= 6th Class onwards.
 - c) (BS - 17 and above)= 11th class onwards.
 - d) Cash awards of Rs.7,500/- for *Hufaz-e-Quran* upto the age of 20 years.
 - e) Cash award to those who obtain 80% and above marks in the classes listed below:

Class	Amount (In Rupees)
Matric	5,500
F.A/F.Sc.	7,700
B.A/B.Sc.	10,000

- vi. Multi-Purpose Community Centres: The SWO established 10 Community Centres throughout the country. These centres provide a collective forum to the Federal Government

employees for collective welfare activities and to cater to their social needs. The SWO also provides the facility of 4 wedding halls to the Federal Government employees on subsidized rates.

- vii. Recreational and sports activities: The SWO provides the facility of Holiday Homes for the provision of recreational activities to the Federal Government employees and their dependents at subsidized rates at picnic resorts and places of historic and scenic beauty. The organization is also promoting recreational and sports activities amongst the Government servants through sports clubs formed by the employees themselves.

98. In the light of Federal Government policy, the Industries and Production Division has taken measures for raising the standard of living of the employees by extending various types of loans, good salary packages and the benefit of hire purchase schemes. The Division encourages the employees to improve their educational qualifications for career progression and economic betterment. Rest and Recreational Leave is invariably granted besides leave to participate in social activities/events. The Division has also taken measures to uplift the standard of living of its employees by extending loans for hire-purchase schemes through the Accountant General of Pakistan Revenue (AGPR).

- i. An attractive package was announced for terminal benefits on cessation of employment i.e. Gratuity on gross salary for workers and basic pay for officers, and the Contributory Provident Fund.
- ii. EOBI pension on retirement and invalidation/disability during service and welfare grant to family on death of employees, leave encashment, insurance coverage, welfare grant / loan, compensation on death and scholarship to outstanding children of the employees and Benevolent Fund in case of invalidation of employee/death during service and medical facility for spouse for life after retirement.
- iii. The management of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) also allowed life time medical facilities for mentally retarded children of officers/staff and also contributed @Rs.100 per head in respect of workers/staff to the Sindh Employees Social Security Institute (SESSI), whereby the Government of Sindh

provides books/school bags/shoes/uniforms to the children of workers/staff. However, due to bleak financial position of the PSM the said contribution was suspended temporarily.

- iv. The EPZA takes into consideration the well-being and leisure of its employees. Sick, casual and earned leaves are allocated for all the employees in this regard and they are encouraged to avail Earned Leave. Employees are provided with Benevolent Fund, Provident Fund, Group Insurance and Employees Welfare Fund for maximum social security. In addition hospitalization and medical tests are also provided to employees and their family including parents.
- v. The management of Pakistan Machine Tool Factory (PMTF) has also allowed life time medical facilities for mentally retarded children of officers/staff through insurance policy. A prescribed amount is contributed to SESSI, whereby the Government of Sindh provides medical and educational facilities, books/school bags/shoes/uniform to the children of workers / staff.
- vi. The Engineering Development Board (EDB) provides life insurance coverage to all its regular employees besides benevolent fund schemes etc. Employees are encouraged to increase their educational qualifications. Once a year, outdoor social activities are arranged for enjoyment and recreation of employees.
- vii. For securing the rights of employees of Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC) an employees' union has been registered as CBA. In case of emergency, medical first aid facility is provided to the employees/trainees and official vehicle is also available for shifting the employees/trainees to the nearest hospital in case of emergency.
- viii. A CSD shop has been established at Steel Town where the employees can purchase all things at low rates. Revised pay scales/allowances for officers were implemented w.e.f. 01-07-2011. All adhoc increases announced by the Government were extended to the Pakistan Steel Mills employees on same rates. However, adhoc increases with effect from 01-07-2010 announced by the Government of Pakistan were pending due to financial constraints. All the pay & allowances/perks of workers/staff were continued during the period under review.

Reduction of Income Disparity

99. The Federal Government took the following steps to reduce disparity in the income of individuals including persons in various classes of the service of Pakistan:

- i. The Government revised Basic Pay Scale of all Federal Government employees in BPS 1-22, and introduced Basic Pay Scale 2015 w.e.f. 01-07-2015.
- ii. The Government granted Adhoc relief Allowance @7.5% to all Federal Government employees, w.e.f. 01-07-2015.
- iii. The Government increased Medical Allowance of all Federal Government employees by 25% w.e.f. 01-07-2015.
- iv. All the Federal Government employees in BPS-5 were allowed one premature increment, with effect from 1st July 2015.
- v. A uniform Ph.D. Allowance of Rs.10,000 per month was allowed to Ph.D./D.Sc. degree holders working under Federal Government, with effect from 1 July 2015. This will replace the existing Science and Technology Allowance of Rs.7,500 per month and Ph.D. Allowance of Rs.2,250.
- vi. The rate of special pay to Senior Private Secretary and Assistant Private Secretaries was increased by 100%.
- vii. The rate of orderly allowance and special additional pension was increased to Rs.12,000 per month.
- viii. The Government allowed increase in pension @7.5% of net pension w.e.f. 1st July, 2015 to all civil pensioners of the Federal Government, including the civilians paid from Defence Estimates as well as retired Armed Forces personnel and Civil Armed Forces personnel.
- ix. The Government allowed 25% increase in the amount of medical allowance being drawn by civil pensioners of Federal Government, civilians paid from Defence Estimates and Civil Armed Forces and to the future retirees on the medical allowance admissible to them at the time of retirement, which shall stand frozen at the same level.

- x. The Government allowed the benefit of restoration of commuted value of surrendered portion of pension to those pensioners who retired/would retire on or after 01-12-2001.
- xi. The Government also allowed periodical increases upon the surrendered portion of pension after restoration.
- xii. The Government extended the benefit of family pension for life to the widowed daughter/divorced daughter of deceased pensioners.
- xiii. The Government declared Gawadar as big city for the purpose of House Rent Allowance @ 45% of the minimum of Basic Pay Scale 2008, w.e.f. 01-01-2016.
- xiv. Rate of overtime allowance for Drivers/DRs was increased from Rs. 25 per hour subject to a maximum of Rs. 150 per day to Rs. 40/- per hour subject to a maximum Rs. 240/- per day, w.e.f. 01-07-2015.
- xv. The Government revised Tenure Track Package for Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors, w.e.f. 01-07-2015
- xvi. The Government revised Management Scales 2011 and introduced Management Scales 2015, w.e.f 01-07-2015.
- xvii. Personal Staff subsidy for Management Grade Officers was increased from Rs. 7000 per month to Rs. 12000, w.e.f 01-07-2015.
- xviii. The Government decided that the revision of Basic Pay Scale 2011 and grant of Ad-hoc Relief Allowance 2015 @7.5% would also be applicable to Autonomous/Semi-Autonomous Bodies and Corporations which had adopted the Federal Governments Basic Pay Scale in totality.
- xix. The Government revised compensation in lieu of Bedman to Pak Navy Officers from Rs. 7500 per month to Rs. 10,500, w.e.f. 01-07-2012.
- xx. To raise the morale of SSG/Submarine/Flying Officers fighting against terrorists, Government revised the SSG/Submarine and Flying Allowance @40% of Basic Pay 2011, w.e.f. 30-06-2015.

- xxi. The Government extended admissibility of the Northern Areas Compensatory Allowance to Pak Army Personnel deployed in specified areas of Gilgit Baltistan, for three years, w.e.f. 01-08-2013.
- xxii. The rate of Ration Allowance to Airport Security Force was revised from Rs. 1500 per month to Rs. 2500 per month, w.e.f. 01-07-2015.
- xxiii. The rate of Anti-Terrorist Squad allowance to Anti-Terrorist Squad of ASF was revised from Rs. 1000 per month to Rs. 1500, w.e.f. 01-07-2015.
- xxiv. Admissibility of Special Area Compensatory allowance to the officers, troops and ministerial staff of HQ Frontier Corps Balochistan was extended to Kharan, Awaran, Barkhan and Chaghai districts and Qamardin Karez area of Balochistan.

Improvements in Accounting

100. Following are some of the major activities under taken by the office of Controller General of Accounts during the F.Y 2015-16 to achieve its goals and objectives:

- i. The format of appropriation accounts of the Federal Government, Provincial Governments, District Governments and Self Accounting Entities (SAES) was revised with the approval of Auditor General of Pakistan. The revised format is helpful in achieving more clarity and transparency in the presentation of accounts. It is also likely to facilitate the PAC in the accountability process.
- ii. The implementation of New Accounting Model (NAM) in some of the important organizations of the Government like Pakistan Railways, etc. is in progress.
- iii. Financial Statements of the Federal/ Provincial/ District Governments are approved according to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). This has improved quality and reliability of the Financial Reporting and Financial Information.
- iv. Efforts are underway to capture donors' direct payments relating to the Federal/Provincial Governments in the Accounts through the SAP system.

- v. A uniform solution has been initiated to incorporate third party/direct payments relating to Federal/Provincial Governments in the Accounts through SAP.
- vi. During the F.Y. 2015-16, following Accounting Procedures relating to organizations/funds established by the Federal and Provincial Governments were vetted:
 - a. Accounting Procedure for payment to the beneficiaries through money orders in Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), introduced by the Government of Punjab.
 - b. Accounting Procedure to govern the OICOA fund under Federal Tax Ombudsman
 - c. Accounting Procedure of NAVTEC
 - d. Administration & Financial Rules of Urdu Science Board (USB).
 - e. Accounting Procedure for maintenance of the revolving fund of the Urdu Dictionary Board (UDB).
 - f. Opening of Public Account for Donation Purpose in Pak Rupee, titled “Islamabad Wildlife Management Board” in the NBP, Civic Center Branch, Islamabad.

Sports

101. Sports play an important role in the promotion of social well-being of citizens. During the year 2016-17, the Pakistan Sports Board undertook the following activities with the participation of sportsmen as indicated against each:

S.No.	Activities	Participation
i)	Training camps	1150
ii)	Events organized in Pakistan	2478
iii)	Participation in International events abroad.	1035
Total:		4663

Environmental Protection

102. Pakistan is facing a rapid population growth coupled with unplanned industrial expansion which has placed enormous pressure on

country's natural resource base and has significantly increased the level of air, water and land pollution. The environmental protection cannot be achieved without underpinning economic activity with sustainable development. The Government of Pakistan has a Climate Change Division entrusted with the mandate to protect environment of the country. While climate change is a global phenomenon, its impact is felt more severely by the developing world due to its greater vulnerabilities and lesser capacity to manage the effects of climate change, and within society, by the marginal and vulnerable groups including women and children. Pakistan's emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) are much lower than those of the rest of the world. Environmental degradation along with poor home hygiene, lack of basic sanitation and unsafe drinking water has a huge impact on the health of the population, particularly children under five. The Government has devised Climate Change Policy to ensure that the effort is mainstreamed in the economically and socially vulnerable sectors of the economy and to steer Pakistan towards climate-resilient development. Efforts are underway to attain goals of sustainable social and economic development to meet the needs of present and future generations while ensuring water, food, energy and environment security without over-exploiting forests and ecosystems. Pak-EPA has established a Green Library for public awareness regarding environment where students and general public spend their free time to acquire knowledge and carry out research.

Tree Plantation Campaign

103. Many of the numerous socio-economic problems facing the country are due to fast deteriorating water crisis and environmental degradation along with the rapidly declining tree cover in both the cities and forests of Pakistan, which is exacerbating the water shortage and causing other undesirable changes in the environment, like new extremes in temperature and land erosion.

104. The Higher Education Commission requested all universities to take part in a hands-on campaign to promote a greener Pakistan in 2017-18. Every student and member of the University was expected to plant one tree to contribute to this effort. It was advised that the tree should be tagged with the name of the student or staff member who planted it and they should be responsible for its care for up to 8 weeks. This would ensure better survival of the planted trees and inculcate a sense of responsibility in those required to spend a few minutes of their day to nurture the plants. The universities shall allocate areas for each

Department and ensure that the place and plants were not destroyed during construction activities.

CHAPTER-10

PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE IN ARMED FORCES (ARTICLE-39 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall enable people from all parts of Pakistan to participate in the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

The Pakistan Armed Forces with unflinching resolve, professionalism par excellence and traditions of glorious sacrifices are fully poised to restore peace and security across Pakistan. No stone is to be left unturned to secure borders, safeguard the sovereignty and eliminate the enemies of peoples' peace and security. The firm resolve to serve the motherland continued in the period under review with a new fervour and commitment. The Pakistan Armed Forces are proud of the peoples' trust, love and support, and stand committed to ensure their safety and security under all circumstances.

2. Despite being heavily engaged in the internal security challenges, the Armed Forces are fully cognizant of challenges from across the Eastern and Western frontiers. Pakistan is fully capable to thwart any challenge to its sovereignty. This capability also provides us a pedestal to negotiate a durable peace fully protecting Pakistan's core national interests, honour and prestige.

Equitable Representation in Armed Forces

3. Equitable representation to all parts of Pakistan is ensured in recruitment being carried out in the Armed Forces on the basis of open merit at all levels; no preference is given on racial, tribal, sectarian, religious or provincial bases; no quota system is followed in the Armed Forces. However, according to the existing enrolment policy, the criteria for induction of candidates from remote/backward areas are suitably relaxed to ensure representation of people of all areas. The Armed Forces have relaxed recruitment criteria for the rural areas of Sindh, Baluchistan, AJ&K, Gilgit-Baltistan and FATA/FANA. In order to provide equal opportunity to youth of all the provinces, special incentives, such as waiver of two years in the upper age limit and 10% relaxation in marks, are being provided to the candidates.

4. A vigorous awareness and publicity campaign was organized during the period under reference by the Armed Forces regarding induction in the Armed Forces as officers and soldiers. The recruitment of civilians is strictly based on the provincial and regional quotas prescribed for the civil departments. The following positive effects were observed:

- i. National Integration
- ii. Improved image of Armed Forces.
- iii. Inspiration for potential candidates from backward areas.

Training Programmes for Armed Forces

5. To increase the understanding of the special nature of Armed Forces organizations by civilian managers and develop mutual understanding of roles and duties, officers from various branches of the Armed Forces regularly attend the Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM) trainings under the auspices of Industries and Production Division. This provides an excellent platform for discussions and joint problem-solving between the civilian and Armed Forces officers.

- i. The PIM actively encourages the positive and frank exchange of ideas between Armed Forces officers and its civilian participants.
- ii. There is no bar against participation in the Armed Forces if Government's rules permit them to do so. However, ex-Army officials are facilitated to participate in the events programmed by Pakistan Army as and when convened.
- iii. A Cadet College has been established in the Steel Town whereby children of employees and people from all over the country as well as the Middle East are being enabled to join the Pak Army in case of Pakistani Nationals and the Armed Forces of their respective countries in case of foreigners.
- iv. The Pakistan Machine Tool Factory is a precision enterprise in Pakistan with integrated facilities for production of engineering goods, including armaments, for the Pak Army and the Civil Armed Forces.
- v. The Factory also arranges visits for the officers from various Army schools and training institutions.
- vi. Retired armed services people are given due consideration in security assignments.

Encouragement to join Armed Forces

6. The Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage encourages the youth of Pakistan to join and participate in the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces are responsible for the defense of geographical boundaries of Pakistan and participation in the Armed Forces is a responsibility of all Pakistanis. The PTV televises patriotic and national songs and dramas from time to time to encourage the feeling of pride in being Pakistani and inculcate love for the motherland in people. Participation of the Armed Forces in international peace-keeping etc., ISPR programmes, updates and the *Zarb-e-Azab* efforts to counter terrorism and promote peace are covered adequately. Their sacrifices for the motherland are highlighted. A programme titled *Jagta Pakistan* on the Armed Forces is broadcast on the PBC national hookup on daily basis. The programme encourages people to join the Armed Forces as well as provides a glimpse into the lives and duties of Armed forces personnel. Moreover, the press releases, tweets and other activities of the ISPR are broadcast. The announcements of recruitments in the Civil and Armed Forces of Pakistan, activities and schemes of Fauji Foundation, extracts from the monthly journal *Hilal*, national and Forces songs and interviews of the Retired Army Officers and *Jawaans* are also broadcast on regular basis.

Armed Forces Joint Parade

7. A separate area and building has been allocated by the Interior Division in the ICT for holding the Armed Forces Joint Parade to attract people to join the Armed forces.

Details of Recruitment

8. Details of recruitment by the Armed Forces during the year 2015-16 are as under:

i. PAKISTAN ARMY

Serial	Province/Region	Individuals Enrolled			
		Officers		Soldiers	
		Total	%age	Total	%age
a.	Punjab	1065	60.9	12939	53.96
b.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	319	18.2	1910	7.96
c.	Sindh	105	6.1	4371	18.23
d.	Baluchistan	115	6.6	1957	8.16

Serial	Province/Region	Individuals Enrolled			
		Officers		Soldiers	
		Total	%age	Total	%age
e.	Azad Kashmir & Gilgit-Baltistan	145	8.2	2803	11.69
	Total	1749	100	23980	100

ii. PAKISTAN NAVY

Serial	Province/Region	Individuals Enrolled			
		Officers		Soldiers	
		Total	%age	Total	%age
a.	Punjab	40	48.19	1804	59.9
b.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	17	20.48	599	19.9
c.	Sindh	21	25.30	378	12.5
d.	Baluchistan	03	3.61	129	4.3
e.	Azad Kashmir & Gilgit-Baltistan	02	2.40	103	3.4
	Total	83	100	3013	100

iii. PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

Serial	Province/Region	Individuals Enrolled			
		Officers		Soldiers	
		Total	%age	Total	%age
a.	Punjab	220	63.22	2285	61.0
b.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	50	14.37	573	15.3
c.	Sindh	49	14.08	528	14.1
d.	Baluchistan	10	2.87	113	3.0
e.	Azad Kashmir & Gilgit-Baltistan	15	04.31	168	4.5
e.	FATA	04	1.15	78	2.1
	Total	348	100	3745	100

9. Details of recruitment by the Armed Forces during the year 2016-17 are as follows:

i. PAKISTAN ARMY

S.No.	Province / Region	Manpower enrolled	
		Total	%age
(PMA L/C AND 3rd Course)			
a.	Punjab	587	50.47%
b.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/FATA	257	22.09%
c.	Sindh	100	8.6%
d.	Baluchistan	129	11.1%
e.	Azad Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan	90	7.8%
	Total	1163	100%
(TCC,Conversion,DCCS & VMS)			
a.	Punjab	217	74.57%
b.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	49	16.83%
c.	Sindh	12	4.12%
d.	Baluchistan	5	1.71%
e.	Azad Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan	8	2.74%
	Total	291	100%
(AFNS/GDMOs/Spec/DSSC/Med Cadets/Conversion/VMS)			
a.	Punjab	309	73.92%
b.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa/FATA	46	11%
c.	Sindh	41	10%
d.	Baluchistan	4	1%
e.	Azad Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan	17	4.07%
	Total	417	100%
Pakistan Army			
a.	Punjab	24198	61.42%
b.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	4438	11.27%
c.	Sindh	5489	13.90%
d.	Baluchistan	1691	4.30%
e.	Azad Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan	3587	9.11%
	Total	39403	100%

ii. PAKISTAN NAVY

S. No.	Province / Region	Manpower enrolled				Total
		Officers		Sailors		
		Total	%age	Total	%age	
a.	Punjab	64	4076%	1240	65.23	1304
b.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	33	21.02%	368	19.36%	401
c.	Sindh	32	20.38%	188	9.89%	220
d.	Baluchistan	21	13.38	77	4.05%	98
e.	Azad Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan	07	4.46%	28	1.47%	35
	Total	157	100%	1901	100%	2058

iii. PAKISTAN AIRFORCE

S.No.	Province / Region	Manpower Enrolled				Total
		Officers		Airmen		
		Total	%age	Total	%age	
a.	Punjab	203	66.35%	2358	67.70%	2561
b.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	45	14.70%	639	18.34%	684
c.	Sindh	30	09.80%	82	2.35%	112
d.	Baluchistan	12	03.92%	57	1.64%	69
e.	Azad Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan	06	01.96%	15	0.44%	21
f.	FATA	06	01.96%	53	1.52%	59
g.	Federal	04	01.31%	279	8.01%	283
	Total	306	100%	3483	1	

10. Details of recruitment/selection carried out by the Armed Forces during the year 2017-2018 are as follows:

i. General Headquarters (GHQ)

Category	Officers	%Age	Airmen	%age
Punjab	231	66.96	1191	74.25
KPK	48	13.9	281	17.51
Sindh	31	8.98	25	1.55
Balochistan	14	5.7	46	2.86
K&GB	7	2.02	8	0.49
FATA	9	2.6	37	2.30
Federal/AJK	5	1.5	16	1.00
Min	Open Merit		Open Merit	
Total	345	100	1604	100

ii. Naval Headquarters (NHQ)

S. No	Province	SSC Course		PNCT Cadets		Sailors			
		Enrolment	%age	Enrolment	%age	Tech		Non-Tech	
						Enrolment	%age	Enrolment	%age
1.	Punjab	76	49.03	84	44.44	2199	60.85	405	59.21
2.	Sindh	31	20.00	48	25.40	330	9.13	58	8.48
3.	KPK	31	20.00	22	11.64	737	20.39	133	19.44
4.	Baluchistan	4	2.58	16	8.47	154	4.26	40	5.85
5.	AJK	6	3.87	4	2.12	122	3.38	29	4.24
6.	Gilgit	3	1.94	1	0.53				
7.	Federal / Islamabad	3	1.94	12	6.35	15	0.42	10	1.46
8.	FATA	1	0.65	2	1.06	57	1.58	9	1.32
Total		155	100	189	100	3614	100	684	100

iii. Air Headquarters (AHQ)

S. No	Province	Officers		Airmen		Civilian	
		Enrolment	%age	Enrolment	%age	Enrolment	%age
1.	Punjab	231	66.96	1191	74.25	Civilian Induction Cycle-009 under process.	
2.	Sindh	31	8.98	25	1.55		
3.	KPK	48	13.9	281	17.51		
4.	Baluchistan	14	5.7	46	2.86		
5.	K & Gilgit	7	2.02	8	49		
6.	AJK	5	1.5	16	100		
7.	Federal / Islamabad						
8.	FATA	9	2.6	37	2.30		
Total		345		1604			

CHAPTER-11

STRENGTHENING BONDS WITH MUSLIM WORLD AND PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE (ARTICLE-40 OF THE CONSTITUTION)

The State shall endeavor to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity, support the common interests of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, promote international peace and security, foster goodwill and friendly relations among all nations and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

The defining principle of Pakistan's foreign policy during the period under review remained "peace for development" for which the Government continued its efforts to create a peaceful external environment so that the core national objective of economic development is robustly advanced. Pakistan has formulated its foreign policy keeping in mind its geographical, political and economic interests. Since 2013 Pakistan has witnessed many regional and international challenges. The country continued to grapple with terrorism and extremism. Nonetheless, Pakistan remained steadfast in its resolve and carried out an active foreign policy that sought engagement and cooperation with the international community to fulfill its aspirations for development, peace and security.

2. Economic diplomacy is the moot point in Pakistan's foreign policy objectives. The Government set forth targets and quantifiable but achievable tasks for Pakistan's Diplomatic Missions to promote economic and commercial relations. The Missions have been striving to promote exports and facilitating foreign investment. Pakistan aspires to engage with the world in trade and commerce and seeks market access for its goods through robust economic partnerships.

3. As Pakistan is a state with Islamic ideological moorings, one of the objectives of Pakistan foreign policy is to develop friendly and cordial relations with the Muslim world and the neighboring countries. Pakistan ardently supports the common interests of the Muslim world and the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It endeavored to promote friendly and cordial relations with all nations and contributed immensely

to the cause of international peace and security. At the UN, Pakistan played a pivotal role in encouraging the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

United Nations

4. On the multilateral front, Pakistan continued to play an active and constructive role in the United Nations. On the strategic issues, Pakistan continued to act with restraint and responsibility and strengthen its export control. This will bring Pakistan in line with the best international standards and practices. While seeking regional strategic stability and a level playing field in South Asia, we were supportive of all non-discriminatory measures for non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their means of delivery. Pakistan has remained a member of the United Nations Security Council on seven occasions, where we have consistently played an important role in the preservation of international peace.

5. At the UN, Pakistan has strongly articulated its position on Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan and counter-terrorism; safeguarded and influenced decisions on international peace and security, disarmament, development and human rights issues; effectively projected its position based on national consensus against the use of armed drones in violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity; and successfully countered the G-4 (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) campaign for permanent membership of the UN Security Council in close collaboration with our partners in the 'Uniting for Consensus' (UfC) group.

6. Counter-terrorism has been a major area of engagement at the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement and the OIC. While highlighting Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts and our contribution to the global fight against this menace, Pakistan also stressed the need for addressing the root causes of terrorism. We underlined that addressing protracted unresolved conflicts, unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, denial of the right to self-determination and political and economic injustice was essential to comprehensively rooting out this scourge.

7. As a country whose foreign policy is geared to the pursuit of regional and global peace and stability, Pakistan has always endeavored to contribute to the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation. In the regional context, Pakistan remains committed to the policy of restraint and

responsibility and avoidance of any kind of arms race. Towards this objective, Pakistan has put forward the proposal for a Strategic Restraint Regime, with its three interlocking elements of conflict resolution, nuclear and missile restraint and conventional balance. If favourably responded to by India, this proposal can lay the foundations of lasting peace and stability in the region.

8. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif led Pakistan delegations to the United Nations annual sessions in September 2013, 2014 and 2015. In his address to the General Assembly on 30 September 2015, the Prime Minister laid out the Government's policy of peaceful neighbourhood for economic development, and forcefully stated Pakistan's principled stance on Jammu and Kashmir and the resolution of this dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

9. Pakistan contributed actively to the process leading to the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda including the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in December 2015.

10. In March 2015, the UN accepted Pakistan's claim for extension of outer limits of its continental shelf. As a consequence of this landmark development, Pakistan has been granted an additional area of approximately 50,000 square kilometers.

Kashmir Issue

11. For Pakistan, resolution of the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains one of the top foreign policy priorities. Accordingly, commensurate efforts and measures were undertaken to highlight this internationally recognized dispute at the United Nations and other forums including OIC and NAM. The issue was emphatically raised by the Prime Minister in his statement in the General Debate of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly, in which he strongly condemned the gross violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people by Indian occupation forces especially since the killing of Burhan Muzaffar Wani on 8 July 2016. The human rights violations of the Kashmiris were also raised in a letter addressed by the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs to the UN Secretary-General as well as in the sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. In 2017-18 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sought to enhance the level of engagement and cooperation with the international community at various international forums and

articulation of foreign policy goals through statements, press releases and through public diplomacy measures.

12. At the United Nations, the Prime Minister devoted a substantial portion of his statement to the core issue of Kashmir, followed by Pakistan Missions in New York, Geneva and other Missions in various capitals of the world. The Kashmir issue was given a special focus during the OIC Jammu and Kashmir Contact Group proceedings as well as the OIC Annual Coordination meeting, OIC Ministerial and Summit meetings. Separately, Pakistan Mission in Geneva spotlights this issue at the various sessions of the Human Rights Council.

13. Compared to previous years, the Foreign Office undertook special diplomatic measures in 2017-18 to highlight and build support for the recommendations contained in the first ever UN report on human rights violations in the Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The report by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) called for establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the violations in IoK and for the Human Rights Council to take further action on it. Necessary diplomatic steps have been undertaken since the presentation of report in June 2018. This remains an area of high priority to be executed with requisite attention.

Peacekeeping

14. Pakistan has been and continues to be an ardent advocate of peaceful resolution of all international disputes. This is manifest in Pakistan's statements at the leadership, Parliamentary and diplomatic levels, voting positions and bilateral proposals vis-à-vis India. We underscore this aspect during the deliberations on various agenda items of the UN General Assembly related to this issue as well as in our statements in the General Assembly and the UN Security Council.

15. Pakistan's active participation in UN peacekeeping is the most visible demonstration of Pakistan's unwavering commitment and contribution to promotion of global peace and security. Pakistan has continued to be one of the top five contributors of troops and other peacekeeping personnel to UN peacekeeping missions. Over five decades, 172,000 Pakistani peacekeepers have participated in 44 peacekeeping missions around the globe. More than 150 of our brave peace keepers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. As of April 2018, 5964 Pakistani peacekeepers were deployed in 8 missions around the world.

16. Hence, Pakistan is a major stakeholder in the success of United Nations Peacekeeping. In 2014-15, the United Nations Secretary General appointed Lieutenant General Maqsood Ahmed as the Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations; an acknowledgement of the professionalism and competitiveness of our peacekeepers.

17. During 2016-17 in our various statements in the Security Council and the General Assembly, we called for negotiated settlements in the conflicts in Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen. We also stressed the importance of settlement of the Palestinian issue on the basis of internationally agreed parameters, the pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, which was the only sustainable guarantee for enduring peace in the Middle East. Similarly, we advocated for peaceful resolution of the issues concerning North Korea and Iran's nuclear programmes.

18. The Foreign Ministry continued to accord high importance in extending diplomatic, political and financial support to the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. This policy objective was advanced by way of lending support to their issues of priority such as sustainable development, peace-building, peacekeeping, migration, fair and equitable international trade regime, and candidatures for important global leadership posts and bodies.

19. As a gesture of support to small island states from the Caribbean, Pakistan provided \$100,000 financial support to three countries in the region adversely affected by hurricane and its aftermath. Within the platform of Non-Aligned Movement, Pakistan reaffirmed diplomatic and political support to the collective positions and interests of countries of these continents at the Ministerial meeting held in Azerbaijan.

20. Although Pakistan is not a member of the UN Security Council, Pakistan maintained its proactive approach towards policy debates and deliberations at the United Nations on a range of regional and thematic issues such as addressing complex crisis in Africa, the continuing turmoil in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen, and nuclear and missile issues of DPRK. On the Iranian nuclear issue, Pakistan continued to call for preserving the integrity of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as an agreed international framework to resolve issues. Pakistan advocated strict adherence to the provisions of UN charter and international law and resolution of disputes through peaceful means.

21. Under the overall guidance of the Foreign Ministry, Pakistan Mission in New York actively worked with the Uniting for Consensus grouping and constructively contributed to debates on the UN Security Council reform, which has a direct bearing on the architecture responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

22. Through multifarious modes of engagement i.e. bilateral, regional and multilateral, Pakistan paid special attention to the promotion of principles of policy in this area. This was done by pursuing a policy of peaceful neighborhood, underpinned by the imperatives of development, dialogue and cooperation. Similarly, Pakistan along with likeminded countries continued to present resolution at the General Assembly calling for interfaith harmony across all nations.

23. Similarly, Pakistan Mission in Geneva continued to pilot a resolution on behalf of the OIC at the Human Rights Council underlining the need for combating Islamophobia and hate speech.

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

24. Pakistan's foreign policy on nuclear matters is characterized by restraint and responsibility. We strictly abide by the concept of credible minimum deterrence. Pakistan fully shares the global objectives of disarmament and nonproliferation of WMDs and is willing to further contribute towards achieving these objectives on an equal footing as a mainstream partner of the international community. Our nuclear and missile programme is only aimed at maintaining peace and stability in South Asia and to deter aggression. Pakistan is opposed to a conventional or nuclear arms race in South Asia.

25. At the international level, Pakistan proactively champions the cause of arms control and disarmament at the UN General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. It has been a proponent of comprehensive, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament through negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament. Four resolutions tabled by Pakistan are annually adopted by the UN General Assembly which reflects our abiding commitment to arms control, disarmament and confidence building. These resolutions include “Conclusion of Effective International Arrangements to assure Non-Nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of Nuclear Weapons”; “Regional Disarmament”; “Conventional Arms Control at

Regional and Sub-Regional Levels”; and “Confidence-Building Measures in the Regional and Sub-Regional Context”.

26. India's massive acquisitions of conventional weapons, expansion of strategic assets and pursuance of offensive doctrines continue to pose a serious threat to regional stability. Pakistan as a peace loving country is obliged to develop a full spectrum deterrence capability to maintain regional stability and to deter all forms of aggression.

27. Pakistan takes the national responsibility to ensure the safety and security of our nuclear programme very seriously. A robust command and control system in the form of National Command Authority (NCA) is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprised of senior civil and military leadership.

28. Nuclear power generation, as a clean source of energy, is an important component of our energy policy. Therefore, we seek international community's support on access to technology for peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

29. Pakistan is a party to various international instruments including the CWC, BTWC, PTBT, CPPNM, IAEA Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of radioactive sources, and participates in IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) and Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), and regularly submits reports to the UN Security Council Committee.

30. The Strategic Export Control Division (SECDIV) was set up in 2007 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. An Oversight Board (OSB) was also constituted in 2007. The Act enables the Government to control export, re-export, trans-shipment and transit of goods, technologies, material and equipment related to Nuclear and Biological Weapons and their delivery systems.

31. The Annual Meeting of the Oversight Board (OSB) was held on 11 September 2015 to review the implementation of Strategic Export Control Act-2004 and decisions taken during the previous OSB meetings.

- i. SECDIV representative participated in MTCR Outreach Meeting held on 11 February 2016 at Islamabad and in MTCR Technical Outreach Meeting held on 18 March 2016 at Luxembourg.

- ii. SECDIV official participated in 23rd Asian Export Control Seminar held in Tokyo on 23-25 February 2016.
- iii. Seminar on “Pakistan Non-Proliferation Efforts and Strategic Export Controls” was held for Islamabad-based foreign diplomats on 3 May 2016. The event was jointly organized by SECDIV and Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad.
- iv. Comprehensive “Policy Guidelines on Strategic Export Controls” were formulated and notified through the Gazette of Pakistan vide S.R.O 442(1)/2016, dated 11 May 2016.
- v. SECDIV representative participated in Pak-US Security, Strategic Stability and Non-Proliferation (SSS&NP) talks, held on 17 May 2016.
- vi. SECDIV representative participated in Wassenaar Arrangement Technically-Focused Practical Workshop on Export Controls held on 27-28 June 2016 at Vienna and presented Pakistan's perspective/experience on “Internal Compliance Programme”.
- vii. SECDIV Information Desk has been set up in display halls of Defense Export Promotion Organization.
- viii. Preliminary work on development of SECDIV Licensing and Information Management System (SLIMS) was commenced.

32. Pakistan's export controls are consistent with those being implemented by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and the Australia Group (AG). Pakistan's Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security also continues to grow into a regional and international hub. Our National Control List's classification system, as revised in 2015 is based on the EU-integrated list. Pakistan qualifies and has expressed its interest in joining the four export control regimes. We stress that the membership should be criteria-based and discriminatory exemptions should be avoided. Pakistan has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM).

33. Pakistan submitted its formal application for the membership of NSG on 19th May 2016. It was preceded by Pakistan's declaration of adherence with the NSG Guidelines. Concerted and multi-pronged diplomatic efforts were undertaken to seek the support of NSG member states for Pakistan's membership.

34. We were able to thwart attempts at creating an exception for India's entry into NSG. Pakistan argued for the imperative of a criteria-based approach.

35. Pakistan's active participation in the final Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in 2016; our ratification of the amended CPPNM on 21 March 2016; and the hosting of the annual meeting of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC) in March 2016 helped reinforce our credentials as a confident and responsible nuclear state.

36. Pakistan held the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) from 21 March to 27 May 2016. We were seen as an active President and held numerous informal consultations aimed at facilitating the commencement of substantive work at the CD.

37. Pakistan became an Associate Member of CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) in September 2015 which can be seen as recognition of the major achievements made by Pakistani scientists and technicians in the scientific field, especially in peaceful uses of nuclear energy and research.

38. Pakistan-US bilateral meeting on strategic export controls was held on 16 September 2015. Bilateral consultations on non-proliferation and disarmament issues were also held with Turkey (10 September 2015 & 7 March 2016), Germany (21 January 2016), the Russian Federation (26 April 2015), the European Union (18 April 2016), and with the United States (17 May 2016).

39. Pakistan also hosted an outreach mission of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) on 1 February 2016 as part of our engagement with international non-proliferation regimes.

40. Commodity Identification Training for Pakistan Customs has been institutionalized by introducing two special training modules in regular curriculum of the Customs Training Academy.

41. As mandated by Section 4(2) of the Export Control on Goods, Technologies, Material and Equipment related to Nuclear and Biological Weapons and their Delivery Systems Act 2004, 3rd review process was initiated for the Control Lists of Goods, Technologies, Material and

Equipment related to Nuclear and Biological Weapons and their Delivery Systems. Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Control Lists Review was held on 6 June 2016.

42. In 2017-18 Pakistan remained committed to the global objective of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction which is an essential element of the global security architecture. With a view to contributing towards this objective as a mainstream partner, we continued to expand and deepen our diplomatic engagement through active participation in various international initiatives in the domain of nuclear safety and security as well as strategic export controls. In furtherance of this objective, Pakistan continued its policy of constructive engagement with the international community and by active participation in international initiatives on nuclear safety and security and export controls helped build a positive narrative concerning Pakistan's nuclear programme.

43. Mr. Yukia Amano, Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), visited Pakistan from 12-14 March 2018 and commended the steps taken by Pakistan to strengthen nuclear safety and security. Pakistan hosted an International Export Control Seminar from 9-10 May, 2018 in Islamabad. The Seminar helped Pakistan highlight its credentials as a responsible nuclear state committed to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

44. During the year, bilateral consultations on non-proliferation and disarmament issues were held with Australia, China, Russia and the European Union. These consultations were valuable as efforts to foster a better understanding of Pakistan's security concerns in the regional context, seek support for our mainstreaming into global non-proliferation regimes as an equal partner and to project our achievements and credentials in the field of export controls and nuclear safety and security. Pakistan also hosted an outreach mission of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) on 29th March 2018 as part of our engagement with international non-proliferation regimes.

45. At the international level, Pakistan proactively champions the cause of arms control and disarmament at the UN General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. It has been a proponent of comprehensive, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament through negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament. Four resolutions tabled by Pakistan were adopted during the 72nd Session

of UN General Assembly held in 2017-2018 which reflects our abiding commitment to arms control, disarmament and confidence-building. These resolutions include “Conclusion of Effective International Arrangements to assure Non-Nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of Nuclear Weapons”; “Regional Disarmament”; “Conventional Arms Control at Regional and Sub-Regional Levels”; and “Confidence-Building Measures in the Regional and Sub-Regional Context”.

Pakistan and Muslim World

46. Pakistan is an important founding member of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), which is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations. It was established during the historic Summit of the Muslim Heads of State/Government in 1969 in Rabat, Morocco, after a criminal arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the occupied Jerusalem. The OIC has 57 member states and 5 observers spread over four continents. The OIC is comprised of the Islamic Summit, the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), the General Secretariat, and, in addition, the Al-Quds Committee and three permanent committees concerned with science and technology, economy and trade, and information and culture. There are also specialized organs under the banner of the OIC, including the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as subsidiary and affiliate organs that play a vital role in boosting cooperation in various fields among the OIC member states.

47. The affiliated bodies, inter alia, include, the Islamic Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC), Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF), Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and Association of Tax Authorities of Islamic Countries (ATAIC).

Pakistan’s Active Role in OIC

48. Pakistan has an abiding commitment to the purposes, principles and objectives of the OIC Charter. Pakistan has always supported the cause of Muslim Ummah, particularly the struggle of Palestinians and Kashmiris. Pakistan is a leading voice at OIC against Islamophobia, defamation of religions, and ill-treatment of Muslims in the world. The OIC resolutions on the issues of Muslim minorities, security and disarmament matters also reflect our point of view. The pro-active role of

Pakistan leads to highlight the OIC position on various issues of concern. Pakistan plays the role of OIC Coordinator in Geneva on Humanitarian and Human Rights issues. Pakistan has led the OIC Ambassadors group in Geneva for the last many years. Due to the efforts of Pakistan, the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was formed in 1994. Pakistan is an active member of the OIC Contact Groups on Jammu and Kashmir, Palestine, Somalia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Yemen, Aggression of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Muslims in Europe.

49. In New York the Pakistan Mission takes an active part at UN General Assembly in highlighting the OIC position on important issues. Pakistan has been co-sponsoring various resolutions on Palestine in the recent past. To seek access to international bodies the OIC coordinates its position so that member states get elected to the bodies and exercise influence in the decision-making process.

50. Pakistan has the honor to present resolutions on a wide range of important subjects every year at the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM).

51. Pakistan is also member of the Governing Boards of the several OIC subsidiary organs, including (i) Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Headquarters: Casablanca; (ii) Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Headquarters: Dhaka; (iii) Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Headquarters: Istanbul; and (iv) Islamic Solidarity Fund and its Waqf (ISF).

52. The Headquarters of the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) is located in Islamabad. The President of Pakistan is its Chairman. The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), an affiliated organ of OIC, is based in Karachi.

Visits

53. The following visits during the period under review may be noted:
- i. The Secretary General of OIC Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani visited Pakistan in August 2014, and interacted with our top leadership.
 - ii. The Secretary General visited Pakistan on 26 August 2015 and called on the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign

- Affairs. He appreciated Pakistan's role in the fight against terrorism and its policies for a peaceful neighborhood.
- iii. The Secretary General paid a visit to Pakistan on 31st May 2016 to attend the 15th Session of General Assembly of COMSTECH. The 15th Session of General Assembly and 13th Session of Executive Committee of COMSTECH were held from 30th May to 1st June 2016 in Islamabad.
 - iv. The Secretary General Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimen visited Pakistan on 9-11 April 2017. During his visit, the Secretary called on the President, the Prime Minister, the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. During the meetings a number of issues came under discussion including the human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Kashmir, discrimination against Muslims in India, Islamophobia and the upcoming Science and Technology Summit in Astana. The Secretary General expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the OIC and Pakistan and hoped that mutual ties would further grow in coming the years. The Secretary General also visited the headquarters of COMSTECH and was briefed upon its activities and initiatives.

Kashmir Issue

54. We have always contributed towards forging unity and cooperation among the OIC member states, based on the principles of Islamic faith and Muslim fraternity. These diplomatic efforts have earned Pakistan due respect and acknowledgement from OIC members. The Organization and Muslim countries have also extended support to Pakistan on various issues, particularly the dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

55. Due to Pakistan's efforts, the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was formed in 1994. The Contact Group meets regularly on the sidelines of CFMs, UNGA Sessions as well as exclusively. It comprises Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Niger and Azerbaijan. The Contact Group is the Focal Point of OIC activities concerning Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The Ministerial-level Contact Group meets regularly.

56. The OIC Secretary General's appointed Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir Ambassador Abdullah Abdul Rehman Alim visited

Islamabad and Muzaffarabad from 20th to 23rd November 2013 to identify practical measures to support Jammu and Kashmir cause

57. Secretary General Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani during his visit to Pakistan in August 2014 met with the Kashmiri leadership and reiterated OIC's strong support for the cause.

58. This support was also manifested in the interaction between our leadership and OIC leaders and officials during the period July 2016 to June 2017. On 13th July 2016 the Foreign Secretary briefed the Islamabad-based Ambassadors of the member countries of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir (Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Niger) over the tense situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) and conveyed Pakistan's serious concern over the brutal killings of innocent civilians and violation of their fundamental human rights by the Indian Security Forces.

59. Assistant Secretary General/Special Representative for Jammu & Kashmir Ambassador Abdullah Al-Alim visited Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir from 8-12 May 2016.

60. A meeting of the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was held on the sidelines of Thirteenth Islamic Summit Conference in Istanbul, Turkey on 13th April 2016. The OIC Contact Group held its latest meeting during the period under review Jeddah on 30th April 2018. The meeting was called in the context of killings of 20 innocent Kashmiri civilians at the hands of Indian occupied forces. The Foreign Secretary led the Pakistan's delegation to the meeting.

Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission

61. The 18-member OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) was established in 2011 with working groups on Palestine, Rights of Women and the Child, Islamophobia, Muslim Minorities, and on Rights to Development.

62. A high-ranking 9-member delegation of the IPHRC visited Pakistan and the AJK in March 2017 to gain first-hand knowledge of the Indian brutalities in Indian Occupied Kashmir. The delegation met the President of Pakistan and the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs. The delegation also called on the President and the Prime Minister of AJK. During the visit, the delegation was briefed about the latest

Human Rights situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as they held meetings with leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference.

63. The IPHRC held its 13th Regular Session in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), from 15-19 April 2018. Worsening human rights situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK) also came under discussion. The commission strongly condemned the systematic atrocities of Indian occupied forces especially the killing of 20 innocent Kashmiris and the brutal rape and murder of eight-year-old Muslim girl Asifa Bano in Kathua district of the IoK.

Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Foreign Ministers

64. The Annual Coordination Meeting (ACM) of the OIC Foreign Ministers was held in New York on 1 October 2015 on the sidelines of 70th session of UNGA.

65. The ACM was held on the sidelines of 71st UNGA session in New York on 22 September 2016. The Pakistan delegation was led by the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs. During the session, reports of various Contact Groups of the OIC were adopted, including report of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior Officials Meeting

66. The OIC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) preparatory to the 44th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat from 30 April to 2 May 2017.

Council of Foreign Ministers

67. After the Islamic Summit, the Council of Foreign Ministers is the highest decision making body which meets once a year. The 45th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) was convened in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 4-6 May 2018, under the theme: “Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace and Development.” The Foreign Secretary led Pakistan’s delegation. Some of the prominent issues on the agenda of the conference included Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, countering terrorism, extremism and Islamophobia and the latest developments in the regional and international scenes, particularly the Palestinian question and the situation in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Afghanistan.

68. During the 45th CFM session Pakistan presented, inter alia (i) Resolution on the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute; (ii) Resolution on the Peace Process between India and Pakistan; (iii) Resolution on Protection of Islamic Holy Places; (iv) Resolution on Matters Pertaining to the Work of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission and (v) Resolution on Economic Assistance to OIC Member States and Muslim Communities in Disputed/Occupied Territories and Non-OIC Countries within the OIC Mandate. All the resolutions were accepted by the Council. In the Resolution on Jammu and Kashmir dispute the Council condemned state terrorism in the Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IoK) and called upon India to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

OIC Summit

69. The 13th OIC Summit was held in Istanbul, Turkey in 2016 from 14 to 15 April 2016. President of Pakistan, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain led Pakistan Delegation. The 5th Extraordinary Summit of the OIC was held in Jakarta from 6 to 7 March 2016. The 6th and 7th Extraordinary Summits were held in Istanbul, Turkey in December 2017 and May 2018, respectively. The subject of the 6th and 7th Extraordinary Summits was the Palestine issue. The Summits were called in the backdrop of the dramatic change in the US Administration policy towards Palestine and the ensuing Israeli aggression against the Palestinians. Pakistan participated wholeheartedly in both these Summits.

OIC Ten Years Programme of Action

70. For the socio-economic development of the Muslim Ummah, the OIC Ten Years Programme of Action (TYPOA-2025) primarily focuses on 18 priority areas with 107 goals. The priority areas include issues of Peace and Security, Palestine and Al-Quds, Poverty Alleviation, Counter-terrorism, Investment and Finance, Food Security, Science and Technology, Climate Change and Sustainability, Moderation, Culture and Interfaith Harmony, Empowerment of Women, Joint Islamic Humanitarian Action, Human Rights and Good Governance, among others.

Growing Islamophobia in the Europe

71. The growing Islamophobia and hatred towards Islam and Muslims present a serious challenge to the peaceful coexistence among adherents of different faiths. Incidents like the ban on wearing Islamic veil in France and the Netherlands, arson attacks on mosques, publishing articles against

Islam and Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), are creating a hostile environment for Muslims living in Europe. Recently, Dutch parliamentarian Geert Wilders announced to hold a contest of blasphemous caricatures inside the premises of Dutch parliament. The Government of Pakistan has taken serious notice of this blasphemous act. Ambassadors of the Netherlands and European Union in Pakistan were summoned by the Foreign Office and a strong protest was lodged over holding of such sacrilegious contest inside the premises of Dutch Parliament. Foreign Minister Mr. Abdullah Haroon has also written a letter to the OIC Secretary and requested him on behalf of the Muslim Ummah to raise this issue at an appropriate level with the Dutch Government to stop this appalling contest.

Promotion of International Peace

72. In 2017-18, the Foreign Office actively promoted and strengthened fraternal ties among Muslim countries, particularly through the platform of OIC. Pakistan Mission to the United Nations in Geneva continued to lead the OIC Group in promoting unity and solidarity among Islamic states and safeguard their collective interests through rallying support for Muslim causes of Palestine, Jammu and Kashmir, Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan, among others.

73. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister actively participated, generated support and articulated a united stance in the OIC emergency Summits on Palestine issue in the wake of US decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and relocation of its Embassy there. Pakistan also pledged a special contribution of US\$0.25 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for provision of vital services to around 5.3 million Palestine refugees. Under the guidance of the Foreign Ministry, Pakistan Missions in Geneva and New York spearheaded efforts to safeguard and promote positions and priorities of Muslims at the United Nations on issues such as Islamophobia, rising trends of hate speech against Muslims and protection of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries. Moreover, special efforts were undertaken to protect the rights of Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar through the OIC platform and nationally through policy statements at the highest levels.

Ministerial Conference on Strengthening Marriage and Family Institution

74. The 1st Session of Ministerial Conference on Strengthening Marriage and Family Institution was held in Jeddah on 8-9 February 2017.

Issues/Challenges facing the OIC

75. The major challenges facing the OIC in the period under reference included:

i. *Syrian civil war*

The prolonged civil war in Syria has become a challenge for the OIC. The Saudi-US and Russia-Iran alliance over Syrian crisis has made the solution difficult. There are fears that escalation of conflict on sectarian grounds might engulf the whole region. Pakistan's position on the Syrian crisis is based upon the basic principles of international law. Pakistan calls for the protection of territorial integrity and sovereignty of Syria and cessation of hostilities by all sides.

ii. *Civil war in Yemen*

Today Yemen too has become a battleground between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Saudi air strikes on Yemen since 2015 and Iran's continuous support to Houthis is again giving a sectarian color to the crisis. Pakistan's position on the situation in Yemen is based on principles of international law, UN Charter and rules of inter-state conduct. The resolution passed by the Parliament of Pakistan on Yemen crisis on 10th April 2015 called for protecting the sovereignty of Yemen and cessation of hostilities and violence by all the sides.

iii. *Friction between Turkey and Saudi Arabia*

The friction between Turkey and Saudi Arabia is also making the OIC dormant. This friction got intensified after the Saudi-Qatar crisis. Turkey's open support for Qatar added more bitterness between both important members of OIC. Pakistan has brotherly relations with both countries; therefore extra caution will be required to deal with this situation.

Pakistan's Trade with major Islamic Countries

76. The following table gives an idea of the volume of Pakistan's trade with major Islamic countries during the period under review:

(Value in million US\$)

S. No.	Country	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17(July-Nov)	
		Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
1	Afghanistan	1,962.30	322.75	1,437.83	410.04	581.25	230.62
2	U.A.E.	1,015.92	6,731.93	820.13	5,493.51	293.61	2,919.58
3	Bangladesh	697.56	62.21	693.20	50.68	276.21	17.32
4	Saudi Arabia	449.98	3,598.46	416.99	2,275.79	131.82	804.49
5	Turkey	309.19	191.06	225.17	242.45	92.11	102.16
6	Malaysia	205.12	950.36	159.67	925.42	57.82	402.83
7	Indonesia	143.17	2,069.10	126.70	2,136.30	60.49	770.51
8	Egypt	150.88	136.80	115.63	128.40	39.05	64.79
9	Iran	30.01	239.60	35.49	283.60	12.80	127.01

Afghanistan

77. Pakistan and Afghanistan are brotherly neighboring countries. The peoples of our two countries are intertwined in centuries old bonds of religion, history and geography. Pakistan desires to strengthen bilateral relations through a cooperative partnership and by strengthening connectivity for mutual prosperity.

78. During the period under review, Pakistan remained closely engaged with Afghanistan. Efforts continued for building a friendly and good-neighbourly relationship with Afghanistan on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. Pakistan also participated actively in international, regional and other trilateral mechanisms focused on Afghanistan. Bilateral economic and trade relations also continued to grow during the period.

79. Several high-level visits took place including the visit of former President Hamid Karzai to Islamabad on 26-27 August 2013 and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Kabul on 30 November 2014. During these visits the leadership of the two countries agreed to pursue various economic and connectivity projects. They also agreed on early and full implementation of Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) and in the regional context it was decided to accelerate the progress on energy projects CASA-1000 and TAPI. Pakistan reaffirmed its support for Afghan peace and reconciliation process. As a gesture of

solidarity with the Afghan people, the Prime Minister announced the enhancement of Pakistan's commitment of bilateral assistance for reconstruction and socio-economic development in Afghanistan from US \$385 million to US \$500 million.

Afghan Refugees

80. Pakistan is proud to have hosted three million Afghan refugees for 37 years. Our Afghan brothers and sisters have enjoyed amenities at par with Pakistani citizens. There were still 2.7 million Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan. A total of 1.5 million were Proof of Residence (POR) card holders, 0.9 million were ACC (Afghan Citizen Card) holders while 0.5 million were unregistered.

81. Pakistan desires a time-bound, dignified and complete repatriation of Afghan refugees and other illegally residing Afghans to their homeland. Afghanistan and Pakistan under the refugee working group of APAPPS will work together for a time-bound repatriation plan. The Cabinet approved a policy extending the stay of registered refugees till 31 December 2017 in the belief that they should return to their homeland voluntarily and honorably. The Prime Minister also approved provision of free wheat to the settlements established by Afghan Government for the returning refugees for the next three years.

82. Efforts continued for mobilizing international support for facilitating refugee repatriation and their sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan. SAFRON has introduced measures for visa facilitation to cater for education, medical or business needs of the returning Afghan refugees. Pakistan stresses the need for institutional mechanisms for controlling the movement of people across the border and effective border management.

Education

83. Meanwhile, people-to-people exchanges continued to grow. As many as 3,000 Afghan students had benefitted from scholarships granted by Pakistan. More than 7,000 Afghan students were getting higher education under other arrangements. About 50,000 Afghans who were educated in Pakistani educational institutions were working in Afghanistan's public and private sectors. We consider them our ambassadors in Afghanistan.

84. The second tranche of 3,000 scholarships was announced by Pakistan in the Brussels Conference in October 2016. Responding to a demand from Afghanistan, we have now added categories of Masters and PhD programmes. Another 700 Afghan students started their scholarship programmes in Pakistan in the period under review.

Health Sector Cooperation

85. A large number of Afghans have been availing medical treatment facilities in Pakistan's hospitals. The Government of Pakistan was introducing special facilitative measures for Afghan citizens who wanted to travel to Pakistan for medical treatment, and the existing system was being further improved to facilitate the Afghan people seeking medical treatment in Afghanistan. The Government of Pakistan decided to outsource the visa services at the Pakistan Embassy, Kabul for facilitating the visa applicants.

Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process

86. Pakistan is part of several trilateral and quadrilateral frameworks involving Iran, Turkey, Russia, China and the CARs. In the broader regional context, Pakistan has been actively participating in the Istanbul Process, the Heart of Asia, which has adopted a wide-ranging document with principles and CBMs that constitute an expression of solidarity and support for Afghanistan. The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process – comprising 14 member countries and supported by 16 countries and 12 regional and international organizations – is part of international efforts to help the process of Afghanistan's stabilization through regional cooperation. The Process focuses on political consultations and Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) in six areas. Pakistan is the co-lead on Disaster Management-CBM, along with Kazakhstan.

87. Pakistan's co-chairmanship of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, during 2015, manifested Pakistan's commitment to peace in Afghanistan. Significant meetings took place on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia-Ministerial Conference that led to the setting up of Quadrilateral Coordination Group comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the US.

Trade & Connectivity

88. Pakistan continued to make efforts to build stable relations with Afghanistan. Pakistan and Afghanistan remained each other's major trading partners (total trade volume US \$2.4 billion in 2014). The two

countries are also working on projects related to road, rail, energy and connectivity. The two countries are working to promote energy projects like CASA 1000 and TAPI gas pipeline.

89. Despite financial constraints, Pakistan has committed bilateral assistance of US \$500 million to Afghanistan in infrastructure, health, education and capacity-building projects. For the reconstruction and nation-building of Afghanistan, at Brussels Conference in October 2016, Pakistan announced additional \$500 million assistance, taking our total contribution in development assistance to \$1.0 billion. It is aimed at advancing connectivity with Afghanistan through a network of expressways and railways linking Peshawar to Kabul and Quetta to Kandahar. We intend to undertake some major infrastructure connectivity projects like Peshawar-Kabul expressway, Peshawar-Jalalabad and Quetta-Kandahar rail links and Kunar hydel developments projects to further strengthen our trade relations, facilitate Afghan transit trade and encourage people-to-people contact. Pakistan is interested in the early implementation of energy, connectivity projects, i.e. TAPI, TAP and CASA 1000.

90. Efforts remained underway to increase bilateral trade to US \$5 billion by the end of 2017, resolve transit trade issues, promote investment particularly in free economic zones in Afghanistan, promote customs cooperation, infrastructure development, strengthen energy collaboration, increase connectivity through road and rail links, and accelerate completion of reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in Afghanistan with Pakistan's bilateral assistance.

Counter-Terrorism

91. No country has suffered as much as Pakistan at the hands of this monster. In June 2014, Pakistan launched a comprehensive operation – *Zarb-e-Azb* – against all terrorists in North Waziristan Agency. Pakistan stressed the need for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to take complementary action on their side of the border to block the fleeing terrorists and eliminate terrorists' sanctuaries. In this backdrop, the two sides agreed to establish a Joint Working Group on Security, co-chaired by the Foreign Secretary/Deputy Foreign Minister and also comprising representatives of relevant security institutions.

92. Pakistan has deployed 150,000 troops along its border with Afghanistan. We have set up 1707 border posts to interdict Al-

Qaida/Taliban members. Pakistan is committed to intensifying international cooperation in the security, police, financial and other aspects of the ongoing campaign to prevent and eliminate terrorism and terrorist groups and networks.

93. The military-to-military cooperation was marked by the establishment of a hotline between DGMOs to address common security challenges.

Afghan Peace and Reconciliation

94. Pakistan believes that peace and stability in Afghanistan is in the best interest of Pakistan as we believe that no country from it more than Pakistan; likewise, no country suffers more than Pakistan due to unrest in Afghanistan. We understand that a stable Afghanistan would help us promote our agenda of economic development and regional connectivity.

95. We understand that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. We therefore insist for a politically negotiated settlement under an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process. For politically negotiated settlement under an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process, Pakistan facilitated the peace process through serious efforts for talks between the Afghan Government and the Taliban at Murree in 2015 and in the Quadrilateral Co-ordination Group in 2016 and we have continued to constructively participate in all initiatives and for a for promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

96. In the same spirit, Pakistan has welcomed and supported the peace initiatives by the Afghan Government. Owing to its military presence in Afghanistan, the USA continues to play a critical role in the Afghan peace process.

Bilateral Engagement

97. Pakistan and Afghanistan signed the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS) on May 14, 2018 which is a comprehensive and well-structured framework for institutionalizing bilateral engagement between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It envisages five working groups, namely politico-diplomatic, economic, refugees, military, and intelligence. The inaugural session of the APAPPS was held in Kabul. All the five working groups held their respective meetings and agreed on

the TORs and dates for the second round of meetings scheduled to be held in Islamabad.

98. Then Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi visited Afghanistan on April 6th, 2018. He endorsed President Ghani's offer of talks to Taliban and urged Taliban to shun violence and join peace talks offered by the Afghan President. The Prime Minister announced waiver of regulatory duty on Afghan exports to Pakistan. The two sides signed a document in Islamabad on 11th May, 2018 to give effect to the PM's decision. He also announced a gift of 40 thousand tons of wheat for Afghan people. The two sides also agreed to sign MoUs for connectivity projects (Peshawar-Kabul Motorway and Quetta-Kandahar-Herat Railway), exchange of civilian prisoners and working together for polio eradication.

Iran

99. Iran is a key neighbor with which a stable and cooperative bilateral relationship is of abiding importance. A new phase in our bilateral relations was initiated with Prime Minister's visit in May 2014. The visit deepened mutual understanding and led to a joint commitment to pursue an economic-intensive partnership.

100. The priority of the Government is to enhance bilateral trade which currently stands at US \$300 million. Pakistan and Iran are accordingly working together to intensify economic linkages. The major projects involve import of electricity and gas from Iran and road transport connectivity. The IP gas pipeline is a key project, which would help strengthen Pakistan's energy security. These initiatives would benefit not only Pakistan and Iran but also the whole region, as they would unleash forces of economic integration and will bring prosperity.

101. Pakistan has all along supported a peaceful, negotiated resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue. We welcomed the Joint Plan of Action between Iran and the P5+1 in November 2013. We continue to support the ongoing negotiations to reach a comprehensive settlement.

102. There was a regular exchange of high-level visits between Pakistan and Iran. During the Prime Minister's visit in May 2014, both sides agreed on the need to change the security-driven narrative to an economic-intensive partnership. Bilateral trade plummeted to \$217 million in 2013-14 (Pakistan's exports \$ 53 million; imports \$ 164 million).

103. On border issues, Pakistan has always cooperated, and will continue to work with the brotherly country of Iran. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, in his meeting with the *Rahbar* in 2014, stated that some hidden hands wanted to spoil our relations. Regrettably, there were over forty border violations by Iranian border guards in 2014. Pakistan would also never allow its territory to be used against Iran. We look for similar assurances from Iran.

Energy Connectivity

104. The Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project is the mega commercial venture between the two countries in the energy sector. The projects for import of electricity from Iran in the period under review included:

- i. 74 MW project: At present, Iran is exporting 74MW of electricity per day to the border areas of Balochistan as well as Gwadar;
- ii. 100 MW project: The Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) is supposed to finance 34.7 million Euros for the project (70% of project cost);
- iii. 1000 MW project: The project cost is estimated at US\$ 718 million (Iran portion=US\$ 266.6 million and Pakistan portion=US \$ 451.4 million).

105. In 2017-18 Iran was supplying almost 100 Megawatts of electricity to Pakistan's town of Mand from Jakigur in Sistan-Baluchistan including 2 MW each for Taftan and Mashkail in the Makran Division. Iranian officials were keen to supply 1000MW electricity to Balochistan and increase it up to 3000MW.

Trade Cooperation

106. During 2017-18, the trade between the two countries reached US \$392 million which meant the trade had shown positive signs and improvements. Major exports of Pakistan to Iran are rice, meat, paper and paper board, chemicals, textiles, fruit & vegetables, whereas major import items from Iran are petroleum products, iron ore, hide & skins and chemicals. In addition, there have been multiple visits of trade and business bodies on both sides. The cooperation in trade has translated into further strengthening of ties between Pakistan and Iran. Both sides are also engaged in bilateral trade which is foreseeing a target of \$5 billion by 2021 after the signing of pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Communication and Transport

107. There is an enhanced interaction between the Ministries of Railways of both countries. Both countries intend to resume a train between Pakistan and Iran in order to facilitate travelers and to improve connectivity in transport. Moreover, both countries are engaged in the process of opening two additional border-crossing points at Mand-Pishin and Gabd-Reemdan, which will ultimately benefit the residents of Turbat and Gwadar districts and will also considerably reduce commutation time between Chabahar and Gawadar ports. Pakistan considers the development of Chabahar as beneficial to the region as a whole. The enhanced linkage between the two sister-ports would further deepen our brotherly ties, including enhanced trade and people-to-people contacts.

Exchange of Delegations

108. There is a frequent bilateral exchange of high-level delegations. These visits have paved the way for a more sustained and strong bilateral relationship. The trust level has augmented manifold owing to these visits of Prime Minister, President, Foreign Minister, Foreign Secretary, Chiefs of Armed Forces, and others as well. In addition, there is a frequent exchange of specialized delegations from both sides which include cultural, educational, law enforcement, and scientific delegations.

Middle East

109. Pakistan enjoys fraternal relations with the Middle Eastern countries, which are deep-rooted in shared history, faith, culture and heritage. These ties are important for religious, strategic, political, and economic reasons. Pakistan however, remains concerned with a wide range of regional issues, including the situation in some of the Middle Eastern countries, which are facing political instability and a new wave of terrorism unleashed by Daesh. This has led to extra-regional powers enhancing their military presence in the region.

110. Pakistan has been playing an active role in the multinational counter-terrorism and counter-piracy naval forces operations under the rubric of Combined Task Forces (CTF-150 and CTF-151), which the Pakistan Navy has commanded several times. Our defence cooperation with the GCC Member States is particularly significant in the wake of ever-increasing menace of extremism and terrorism, including the threat from Islamic State. The Prime Minister has, therefore, conveyed our willingness to enhance cooperation among our defence and security

forces, including intelligence-sharing, for making joint efforts to counter the scourge of terrorism and extremism. Our defence and security cooperation is necessary for countering regional and international challenges.

111. Pakistan organized solo demonstrations of its JF-17 Thunder and Super Mashak Aircraft in Qatar and Saudi Arabia during Prime Minister's visit to these countries in 2015-16.

112. Approximately 5 million Pakistanis live in the Middle East and contribute around \$14 billion to the economy in the form of remittances.

Saudi Arabia

113. Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) enjoy special relations that are bonded by common faith and history. The two countries share common perceptions on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Both countries attach great significance to their strategic relations that have continued to gain strength from strength. The bilateral relationship with Saudi Arabia is marked by a high degree of trust and brotherhood. Regular exchange of high-level visits is a hallmark of this relationship. Saudi Arabia is home to 2.6 million Pakistani expatriates.

114. Pakistan extends maximum support for defence and security requirements of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is highly valued by the Saudi leadership. Even in the wake of Yemen crises, Pakistan has reiterated its commitment to protect Saudi Arabia in case of attack. Saudi Arabia is home to the largest number of Pakistani expatriates, approximately 1.7 million. The remittances from Saudi Arabia have registered a tremendous increase, from US \$309 million in 2000 to US \$4.7 billion in 2013-14.

115. Pakistan has supported Saudi Arabia's candidature in multilateral forums for: (i) A non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 2014-15; (ii) Membership to the UN Human Rights Council for 2013-16 and 2017-19.

116. Saudi Arabia supported Pakistan's candidature for: (i) A non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2012-13; (ii) Membership to the UN Human Rights Council for 2012-15; (iii) Post of Assistant Secretary General in OIC in 2014.

117. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by Saudi Arabia in Pakistan decreased by US\$127.9 million during 2014-15. Twenty-five Saudi Companies are operating in Pakistan. Besides, the National Bank of Pakistan has branches in Saudi Arabia.

118. Pakistan maintains decades-old and close military ties with Saudi Arabia, providing extensive support, arms and training to the armed forces of Saudi Arabia. A large number of Saudi personnel continue to avail courses in Pakistan. Training has also been provided to over 8255 Saudi armed forces personnel in Pakistan since 1967. There are established mechanisms of intelligence and information sharing. In the wake of Yemen crises Pakistan is keeping close liaison with Saudi Arabia. HRH Prince Saud Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visited Pakistan from 6th to 7th January 2014.

Visits

119. The following important visits took place in the period under review:

- i. The former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited Saudi Arabia on 12 June 2017 in an attempt to mediate and help defuse tensions in the Gulf Crisis.
- ii. The former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited Saudi Arabia from 19-21 May 2017 to participate in the US-Islamic Summit.
- iii. The former Prime Minister visited Saudi Arabia from 9-11 March 2016 to participate in the closing ceremony of the exercise “North Thunder” held at Al Khalid Military City, Hafar Al Batin.
- iv. Khwaja Muhammad Asif, then Minister of Defence, paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia from 4-8 February, 2017.
- v. On 28 August 2016 HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman, then Deputy Crown Prince and Minister of Defence, visited Pakistan.
- vi. The former Prime Minister visited the KSA and called on Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman on 23 August 2017.
- vii. The Foreign Minister visited the KSA to attend a briefing on the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen on 29 October 2017.
- viii. The Prime Minister and the Chief of Army Staff visited Saudi Arabia on 27 November 2017.

- ix. The Prime Minister and the Chief of Army Staff visited Dammam to attend the concluding ceremony of the exercise “Gulf Shield-I”. The PM also held a bilateral meeting with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques from 15 to 16 April 2018.
- x. Foreign Secretary Ms. Tehmina Janjua visited Jeddah to attend a meeting of the OIC Contact Group of Jammu and Kashmir from 29 to 30 April 2018.
- xi. President Mamnoon Hussain visited Saudi Arabia for Umrah from 13 to 24 May 2018.
- xii. Dr. Majed Abdullah Al Qasabi, Minister of Trade & Investment, visited Pakistan for 11th Session of Joint Ministers Commission held in Islamabad from 16 to 17 January 2018.
- xiii. Talks were held between the delegations of Pakistan Air Force and the Royal Saudi Air Force at Islamabad from 2 to 4 April 2018. Maj Gen Pilot Bader Bin Abdullah Al-Enzei, Assistant Chief of Royal Air Force Operations, led the delegation from the KSA.
- xiv. A 13-member delegation of King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center visited Pakistan from 6 to 12 May 2018.

Commerce and Trade

120. From Pakistan’s perspective, the volume of our bilateral commodity trade with Saudi Arabia during the period under review was as under:

	(1000 US\$)				
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Exports	501,678	496,225	447,103	359,308	316,763
Imports	4,287,704	3,313,040	2,060,205	2,409,211	3,081,447
Total Trade Volume	4,789,382	3,809,265	2,507,308	2,768,519	3,398,210
Trade Balance	-3,786,026	-2,816,815	-1,613,102	-2,049,903	-2,764,684

121. The following major events took place for the promotion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia:

- i. The first meeting of Pak-Saudi Joint Working Group on Trade & Investment was held at Riyadh on 27th February 2018. It

was co-chaired by the Saudi Deputy Commerce Minister and the Secretary Commerce from our side

- ii. The Pakistan Investment Seminar was organized by the Mission on 17th April, 2018 in collaboration with Board of Investment Pakistan at Riyadh Chamber. The chairman BOI and his Saudi counterpart i.e. Governor, Saudi General Investment Authority, were chief guests on the occasion. The seminar was attended by Saudi businessmen, CEOs, executives and representatives totaling 140 in number.
- iii. The seminar on Financial Services in Pakistan was organized on 5th June 2018 at Chancery Hall of the Embassy. It was organized in collaboration with SAMBA Bank and was attended by more than 170 participants of business community from the Central and Eastern regions of KSA.
- iv. An eighteen-member delegation of Saudi businessmen participated in the Expo Pakistan 2017 held in Karachi on 9-12th November 2017. Business worth \$2 million was negotiated by Saudi delegation during the Expo as per feedback submitted by them.

Bahrain

122. The fraternal ties between Pakistan and Bahrain are characterized by close friendship and cooperation based on mutual trust, shared perceptions, common economic interests and development aspirations, and the strong linkage of the sizeable Pakistani diaspora in Bahrain, which includes thousands of bankers and other professional, besides a large number of entrepreneurs and semi-skilled workers. The two countries also boast an enviable record of cooperation in the international fora, and Pakistan has received Bahrain's support for a number of candidatures to international organizations.

123. There are around 100,000 Pakistanis in Bahrain, with a substantial presence in the Bahraini Defense Forces and law enforcement agencies. The remittances from Bahrain were US \$318.8 million in 2013-14.

124. The visit of the King of Bahrain to Pakistan in March 2014 was the first ever visit of Bahraini leader in 40 years after the visit of Amir Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa in the 2nd Summit of OIC held in Lahore on 22-24 February 1974. The MoU on Bilateral Political Consultations between the two Foreign Ministries was signed in December 2006.

125. Both supported each other's candidatures to various international bodies, which include Human Rights Council, CEDAW, ILO, ITU, UNESCO, and ECOSOC.

126. Bahrain National Guards (BNG) cadets have also been regularly trained in Pakistan Kakul Academy, Abbottabad.

127. Around 11 MoUs were signed between the two countries (2014-15) including Agreement on Cooperation between the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), which was ratified on 19 March 2014 during King Hamad's visit to Pakistan.

128. Some of the important events of 2016-2017 are highlighted below:

- i. Lt-Gen. Sheikh Mohamed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Commander National Guards of the Kingdom of Bahrain, visited Pakistan to jointly lay the foundation stone of King Hamad University of Nursing and Allied Medical Sciences with the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Islamabad on 6 January 2017.
- ii. Former Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz visited Bahrain to participate in the IISS Manama Dialogue: 12th Regional Security Summit from 9-11 December 2016.
- iii. The inaugural session of BPC was held in Islamabad on 12-13 July, 2016.
- iv. The 1st Session of Pakistan-Bahrain JMC was held on 5-6 February 2017 at Islamabad during which three MoUs were signed.

Trade & Economy

129. The trade volume between Pakistan and Bahrain remained static during recent years.

- i. Thirteen companies from Pakistan participated for the first time in Bahrain Property Exhibition (BIPEX). BIPEX is a decade old property exhibition in Bahrain. The Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan visited the Pakistan pavilion on 26th October 2017 and inaugurated the event.

- ii. The M/s Cavalier Automotive Corporation Pvt Ltd received an order for supply of six Interceptor Vehicles to Bahrain National Guards, which will result in approximately US\$1.29 million worth of exports.
- iii. A large delegation of Bahraini businessmen from food, construction, property development, marble, rice, textile and garments, fruits and vegetables and jewellery sectors visited Pakistan. As a result of this exposure, traders from Bahrain have expressed interest in doing business with textile export houses, rice suppliers, fashion designers and with the government in livestock and dairy farm projects. They hoped to generate a business of US\$20 million.
- iv. An “Orange Festival” was organized by the Commercial section. The Ambassador of Pakistan to Bahrain, Mr. Javed Malik inaugurated the event. The event was attended by dignitaries, diplomatic personnel from different countries stationed in Bahrain, Officers from Pakistan Navy, Management and staff of Pakistani runs textile mills, engineering firms, software companies, trading houses, and expatriates.
- v. The Autumn Fair in Bahrain is this country’s most popular shopping festival at the end of January every year. Pakistan has been participating in this festival for about two decades now. Special efforts were made to invite good brands of bed sheet, home textile, stone and marble, carpet vendors and silver ware vendors from Karachi to improve Pakistani presentation during the festival.

Oman

130. Oman is considered as our close neighbor located at a distance of only 202 nautical miles. By virtue of shared history and geography as well as maritime boundaries, Oman holds a significant geo-strategic position for Pakistan. Most significantly, 30% of the Omani population originates from Baluchistan and coastal areas of Sindh.

131. Pakistan extended unconditional support to Oman's bid for membership of UNESCO Executive Board in 2013. Oman supported Pakistan's candidature to the non-permanent seat on UN Security Council for the term 2012-13 and to Pakistan's re-election to CERD in 2014 unconditionally.

132. Oman supported Pakistan's candidature for the membership of ECOSOC for the term 2015-2017, elections for which were held during the 69th UNGA Session in 2014.

133. Economic cooperation between the two countries is governed under an Agreement on "Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation" signed in March 1986. The balance of trade was in favour of Pakistan till 2011. The volume of trade has quadrupled in the last five years.

134. Defence cooperation with Oman dates back to 1960. Pakistan and Oman share common maritime borders constituting a large area in the North-West Arabian Sea.

135. According to National Centre of Statistics and Information Oman, 222,355 Pakistanis were employed in different sectors of Oman in 2014. During 2013-14, US \$531 million was remitted to Pakistan.

Visits

136. The following visits were notable:

- i. Dr. Yahya Bin Mahfoodh Bin Mahfoodh Bin Salim Al-Munthir, President of Council of the Sultanate of Oman, visited Islamabad on 11-14 January 2017.
- ii. The Foreign Secretary visited Oman from 15-16 October, 2017 and held the 6th round of bilateral political consultations with Dr. Mohammed Bin Awadh Al Hassan, Undersecretary (Foreign Affairs) of Oman.
- iii. Oman's Minister of Health visited Islamabad to attend the 64th Session of Regional Committee of the World Health Organization in October 2017. On sidelines of the session, he held one-on-one meeting with Pakistan's Health Minister.
- iv. Professor Ahsan Iqbal, then Minister for Interior and Planning, Development & Reform visited Oman on 14-15 January 2018 on the invitation of Sheikh Hatim Taie, Member Upper House and Chairman 'Al-Roya Media Group'.
- v. General Qamar Javed Bajwa undertook a two days bilateral visit to Oman, on 22 March 2018 during which he met with the Omani military leadership as well as the Defence Minister.

Kuwait

137. Pakistan and Kuwait enjoy close and brotherly relations. Kuwaitis appreciate Pakistan's help in 1991 against the Iraqi occupation. A Pakistan army contingent contributed in mine-clearing operations in the strategic Bubiyan Island. Nine Pakistani soldiers embraced martyrdom during these operations. The two countries share common perceptions on most of the international and regional issues. Kuwait supports Pakistan's position on Kashmir at the OIC. The two countries cooperate with each other at the UN, OIC and other forums.

138. Pakistan is Kuwait's third biggest importer of diesel. Kuwait's investment in Pakistan during 2001-2014 amounts to US\$387 million of which US\$324.7 million is FDI and US\$59.6 million is portfolio investment.

139. Pakistan has actively contributed to the evolution of defence capabilities of the GCC countries by helping train their Armies, Air Forces, and Navies both in Pakistan and in their own countries.

140. Kuwait hosts around 114,000 Pakistanis, of which the labour force is 88,000, making 3.22% of Kuwait's total workforce.

Visits

141. High-level contacts remained the hallmark of our close relations. The continued interaction provided an opportunity to have regular discussions on issues of mutual interest. The following important visits took place between July 2017 and June 2018:

- i. The former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, visited Kuwait on 6-7 March 2017.
- ii. Dr. Muhammad Hashim Popalzai, Secretary to the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, visited Kuwait on 12-14 February, 2018 to attend Ministerial Meeting of the global coalition to defeat ISIS and Ministerial Meeting on reconstruction of Iraq.
- iii. Mr. Naeem Y. Zamindar, Chairman BOI, led a delegation on 4-5 March 2018 for an investment conference with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He also had meetings with the Kuwait Investment Authority, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Safat Energy, National

Industries Group and the Noor Financial Investment Company. A business conference was also arranged by the Mission on 5 March in which a large number of Kuwaiti businessmen and investors participated.

- iv. Chief of Pakistan Navy Admiral Zafar Abbasi visited Kuwait on 17-19 March 2018. It was his official visit to Kuwait after assuming the Command of Pakistan Navy.
- v. Kuwait Air Force Commander Major General Abdullah Yaqoob Al-Foudari visited Pakistan on 30 September to attend the PAF passing out ceremony.
- vi. Dr. Jamal M. Al-Harbi, Minister of Health, visited Pakistan on 9-12 October, 2017 to attend the 64th Session of Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean Region of World Health Organization.

Qatar

142. The relations between Pakistan and Qatar are rooted in our common faith, heritage and values. Pakistan's bilateral relations with its traditional friend Qatar continued with the same impetus in 2017-18. The two countries also have cooperated with each other in pursuing common goals in international organizations. In the recent times, bilateral relations between the two sides have become very strong and multifaceted.

143. Pakistanis make up 18% of Qatar's total expatriate population. The present strength of Pakistani expatriate community is around 103,000. The balance of trade is in favour of Qatar. The negative trade balance is balanced by remittances of Pakistanis in Qatar. Remittances since FY 2008-09 are \$347.5 million. Total export of services from Pakistan to Qatar was US \$33.7 million from July 2013 to June 2014. The Federal Minister and Secretary for Petroleum and Natural Resources visited Doha on 08 December 2013 and held important discussions with the Qatar authorities on various aspects of energy (LNG) cooperation between the two countries. Given Qatar's huge gas reserves (26 trillion cubic meters), it presents opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the oil-refining sector.

144. A large number of officers and men from Qatar Armed Forces have attended courses in Pakistan Armed Forces institutions.

145. Pakistan and Qatar have reciprocal arrangement for support to each other's candidature for the membership of the Human Rights Council

(HRC). Qatar supported Pakistan's candidature for the term 2013-15 and Pakistan supported Qatar's candidature to the HRC for the term 2015-17.

Visits

146. The following important visits took place:

- i. The former President of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain, visited Doha on 22-25 October 2016.
- ii. Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Doha on 5-8 March 2017.
- iii. Mr. Khurram Dastageer Khan, former Minister of Commerce, visited Doha on 26-27 February, 2017.
- iv. The Chief of Naval Staff visited Doha on 9-12 January 2017.
- v. The Qatari Minister for Petroleum led his delegation to Islamabad on 22 December 2016 for 4th Session of JMC.
- vi. Visit by the Interior Minister of Pakistan H.E. Ahsan Iqbal to Doha from 7-8 November 2017 for participation in the First Conference on the Safety and Security of Major Events.
- vii. Visit by Pakistan's Minister of Defence Production, H.E. Rana Tanveer Hussain, to Qatar from 12-14 March 2018 for participation in Doha International Maritime Exhibition & Conference (DIMDEX-2018).
- viii. Visit by Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan General Qamar Javed Bajwa to Qatar from 10-11 February 2018 on the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar. He also met with the His Excellency Dr. Khalid bin Muhammad Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State of Defence.

Trade

147. According to the latest figures in the aftermath of the blockade of Qatar, Pakistan's exports had increased to the tune of US\$89.898 million during the period July 2017 to June 2018 as compared to exports of US\$52.719 million during 2016-17. There was an increase of 70.53% in Pakistani exports to the state of Qatar. This significant increase in exports from Pakistan was attributed to the opening of the Qatari food market. Our imports from Qatar had crossed the billion dollar mark and from the

period July 2017 to June 2018, Qatari exports to Pakistan currently stood at US\$1.5 billion. An increase of 37.70% had been witnessed as compared to US\$1.14 billion during 2016-17.

UAE

148. Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates enjoy fraternal relations, which are deep-seated in shared history, culture and heritage. Pakistan and the UAE enjoy close and fraternal bilateral relations based on common faith, deep-rooted cultural affinities and convergence of interests on most international and regional issues of mutual concern.

149. Pakistan extended unconditional support to the UAE's bid to host the World Energy Congress in 2019. The UAE conveyed its support to Pakistan's candidature for membership of ECOSOC for the period 2015-17, elections for which were held at New York in the 69th UNGA Session in November 2014.

150. The UAE is the largest importer from Pakistan in the Arab Region. Several UAE companies are presently working in Pakistan in the fields of aviation, finance, business, telecommunications and real estate. The UAE is one of the largest sources of FDI in Pakistan.

151. On the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE-Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE-PAP) was launched in January 2011 to mitigate the impact of floods by redeveloping infrastructure in the following four areas: health, education, water, and infrastructure.

152. Around 1.3 million Pakistanis are presently living and working in the UAE. The Pakistani expatriate community remitted US \$ 3.11 billion in 2013-14.

Visits

153. The following visits may be noted:

- i. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, visited the UAE in November 2017 to attend the Sir Bani Yas Forum. The Sir Bani Yas Forum is an annual weekend huddle organized by the UAE Foreign Office, which provides a space for frank and constructive conversation among the leading

policy and opinion-makers on critical issues relevant to peace and security in the Middle East.

- ii. Minister for Defence Affairs, Khurram Dastgir Khan, the Federal Minister for Defence attended the 3rd edition of the Unmanned Systems Exhibition and Conference (UMEX 2018) and Simulation Exhibition and Conference (SimTEX 2018), held in Abu Dhabi in February 2018.
- iii. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Defence Production, participated in the Dubai Air Show held from 12th to 16th November, 2017.
- iv. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, the UAE Minister of State for Defence Affairs, attended the National Day parade in Islamabad on 23rd March 2018. The UAE's military contingent also participated in the parade. It was the first time that a military contingent of the UAE attended the Pakistan National Day parade.

Trade

154. The salient details are as follow:

- i. A trade delegation, comprising representatives of leading UAE companies, participated in EXPO Pakistan in November 2017 where a large number of B2B meetings in food, marble, textile, meat, poultry, fruits and vegetables sectors were held.
- ii. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated effective participation of Pakistani delegations in international exhibitions e.g. Gulf Food, Automechanika, Beauty World, Arab Health, ARGA ME, SIAL Middle East, Intersec, International Property Show, GITEX, IREIS, Paper World and Annual Investment Meeting etc.
- iii. A pilot project for skills up-gradation of Pakistani workers was initiated with the collaboration of the UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization.
- iv. The Ministry facilitated the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) in organizing the REAP International Buyers' Recognition Awards 2018 in February 2018 in Dubai.

Yemen

155. Defence cooperation between Pakistan and Yemen has been largely restricted to training of Yemeni officials in our defence training

institutions. In the wake of Yemeni crises Pakistan supported the process of dialogue and reconciliation to end the impasse.

156. Pakistan offers 40 scholarships (20 graduate courses and 20 post-graduate courses) to students from Yemen under Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP) through Economic Affairs Division. The Foreign Service Academy has imparted training to 19 Yemeni diplomats in its Advanced Diplomatic Course (9), Specialised Diplomatic Course for Foreign Service of Pakistan Officers (3), and Junior Diplomatic Course (7).

157. There are around 3,000 Pakistanis presently living in Yemen. Remittances sent during 2013 were US \$1.5 million which declined to US \$1.2 million in 2014.

158. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Yemen visited Pakistan from 12-14 March 2017.

159. Pakistan sent humanitarian assistance of US\$ 1.00 million in the form of wheat for the people of Yemen in March 2017.

Iraq

160. The Speaker of Iraqi Council of Representatives, Osama Abdul Aziz al-Nujaifi, visited Pakistan on 05-08 December 2013. Six Pakistani companies partook in the Project Iraqi Exhibition in Irbil (Kurdistan) on 31 October 2013.

161. Six Iraqi diplomats were imparted training in the context of the 21st Junior Diplomatic Course at the Foreign Service Academy in the spring of 2013. This brings the total participants from Iraq since 2001 to 47. For 2013-14, the EAD allocated for Iraq 05 seats in the MBBS, BDS, D. Pharmacy and B.Sc. Engineering programmes, under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP).

162. The Defence Wing of our Mission in Baghdad was opened in April 2012. The Ministries of Defence of the two countries signed an MoU on Defence Cooperation in April 2014. 80 personnel (40 officers & 40 soldiers) of the Iraqi Army have completed their training in Pakistan. A four-member military delegation headed by Lt. Gen. Mohammad Jawad Khadeem visited Pakistan on 19-24 November 2017.

163. As many as 4,000 Pakistanis are working and studying in Iraq. The Community Welfare Wing in Pakistan Embassy was opened in March 2014.

164. During the calendar year 2014 an estimated 25,000 Pakistani pilgrims visited Iraq. The Embassy provides consular and legal assistance to Pakistanis imprisoned in jails.

Commerce and Trade

165. A multi-sectoral business delegation, led by Director General of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, comprising 33 prominent businessmen, visited Baghdad and Erbil (Kurdistan) from 9-12 May 2017. The delegation held important meetings to promote Pakistan's exports in different business fields like rice, sports, surgical instruments, textiles, leather and food, etc. The delegation also held B2B meetings with business entrepreneurs in Iraq and visited the chamber of commerce in Erbil. They also discussed the issue of non-inclusion of Pakistan in the pre-approved list of supplying countries for rice as the Iraqi government had a potential requirement for 600,000MT rice which the Government would be procuring in phases.

166. The 44th Baghdad International Trade Fair was held in Baghdad from 21-30 October 2017. Twenty-four (24) Pakistani companies, led by AFRO-Pak Group, representing various sectors of mostly consumable items, decoration items of marble, silver and glass ware and clothing, participated in the fair and displayed the country's potential for export of goods.

Jordan

167. Jordan received Pakistan's backing for its candidate to the Executive Board of UNESCO that fell vacant in November 2013. Jordan also supported Ambassador Muhammad Naeem Khan's nomination against the reserved Assistant Secretary General seat for the OIC Secretariat's Asia region at the 40th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held at Conakry, Guinea. In August, 2013, the Jordanian side conveyed their willingness to renew the FTA negotiations process with the next Round in Amman.

168. The balance of trade, which was initially in favour of Jordan, had shifted towards Pakistan since 2006-07. More than a hundred Jordanian students have been coming to Pakistan annually for higher education

mostly in the fields of medicine and engineering. Officers of the Pakistani and Jordanian Armed Forces were attending courses in respective countries on reciprocal basis.

Inaugural Session of Bilateral Political Consultations

169. The inaugural session of Pakistan-Jordan Bilateral Political Consultations was held in Islamabad on 22 November 2016. The Additional Secretary (Middle East & Africa) led the Pakistan delegation while the Jordanian side was headed by Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.

Visit of Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan to Amman

170. The Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan, Admiral M. Zakaullah, visited Jordan from 6-9 March, 2017. During his visit, he met with Chairman Joint Armed Forces of Jordan and Chief of the Royal Jordanian Air Force to discuss measures to further strengthen bilateral relations between the Armed Forces of the two brotherly countries. During his visit, the Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan also called on HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal.

Establishment of Parliamentary Friendship Committees in Respective Parliaments

171. The President of Senate of Jordan constituted the eighth-member Jordan-Pakistan Brotherhood Committee in the Senate of Jordan in January 2017. In April 2017, the Chairman Senate of Pakistan also constituted the Pakistan-Jordan Parliamentary Friendship Group in Senate, with eight members.

Visit of President of Senate of Jordan to Islamabad

172. The President of Senate of Jordan Mr. Faisal Akef El-Fayez visited Pakistan on the invitation of Chairman Senate of Pakistan from 24-27 April 2017. He was accompanied by a parliamentary delegation comprising three parliamentarians. During his visit, the two parliaments also signed an agreement for strengthening of cooperation in the Parliamentary Affairs.

Meeting of World Economic Forum on MENA

173. The Minister for Petroleum & Natural Resources visited Jordan to participate in the meeting of World Economic Forum on Middle East and

North Africa, which was convened under the theme “Enabling a Generational Transformation” at Dead Sea from 19-21 May 2017.

MoUs/Agreements signed with Jordan in 2016-2017

174. The following Agreements between the two countries were signed:
- i. MoU between the Central Bank of Jordan and the State Bank of Pakistan in the field of Banking Supervision, signed in July 2016.
 - ii. MoU between the Associated Press of Pakistan and the Jordan News Agency (Petra) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, signed on 23 August 2016.
 - iii. MoU between the National ICT R&D Fund Company of Pakistan and Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organization Jordan for mutual collaboration for promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship and information technology services development in Pakistan, signed on 19 October 2016.
 - iv. MoU between the Virtual University of Pakistan and Talal Abu Ghazaleh International University, signed on 19 October 2016.
 - v. MoU between the Secretariats of the Senate of Pakistan and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the strengthening of cooperation on Parliamentary Affairs signed on 24 April 2017.
 - vi. Agreement between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on abolition of visa for holders of Diplomatic Passports, signed on 15 June 2017.

Visits in 2017-18

175. Details are as under:
- i. On the invitation of the President of Pakistan, King of Jordan His Majesty King Abdullah II visited Pakistan on 8-9 February 2018. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister H.E. Ayman Safadi and senior members of the Royal Hashemite Court. During the visit, His Majesty held meetings with the President, Prime Minister and Chief of Army Staff.

- ii. A six-member delegation headed by Lt. Gen. Mahmoud A. Frihat, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff of Jordan, visited Pakistan from 21-25 August 2017.
- iii. Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi met His Majesty King Abdullah II on the sidelines of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly at New York on 19 September 2017.
- iv. Chairman Senate of Pakistan H.E. Mian Raza Rabbani led a delegation of Senators to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 4-7 December 2017. The delegation met with the King, Prime Minister, President of the Senate and President of the House of Representatives during the visit.
- v. General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, visited Jordan from 23-27 April 2018.

Lebanon

176. Lebanon continued to utilize training facilities offered by the Pakistan Armed Forces. Pakistan offers about 14 courses on gratis basis for the Lebanese Armed Forces.

177. For the last decade, the trade balance has been tilting heavily in Pakistan's favour. The total number of our community in Lebanon ranges around 500-600.

178. Fuoad Makhzoumi, eminent entrepreneur and head of Future Pipe Industries Group, visited Pakistan on 03-04 October 2013.

179. The MoUs/Agreements signed with Lebanon in 2016-2017 included:

- i. MoU to establish Joint Business Council between the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon, signed in May 2017.
- ii. MoU for Mutual Cooperation between the FPCCI and the Association of Lebanese Business People in the World, signed in May 2017.
- iii. MoU for Trade and Economic Cooperation between the FPCCI and the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and

Agriculture of Tripoli and North Lebanon, signed in May 2017.

- iv. MoU for Trade and Economic Cooperation between the FPCCI and the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Sidon and South Lebanon, signed in May 2017.

180. The highest level visit between the two countries during 2017 was that by Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, on 29-30 September 2017, on the invitation of the Lebanese government. The Senator called on Prime Minister Saad Hariri. Lebanese businessmen/companies participated in 35th Pakistan International Carpet Exhibition 2017 (5-7 October 2017, Lahore) and 10th EXPO Pakistan 2017 (09-12 November 2017, Karachi).

Palestine

181. Pakistan supports the Palestinian and Arab causes at the United Nations and other international fora. We consider the Israeli settlement construction on the West Bank as an unlawful and illegal activity. Pakistan is also opposed to all other measures like the construction of a separation wall, excavations underneath the Al-Aqsa mosque and the eviction of Palestinians from their homes.

182. The Prime Minister's Adviser on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, represented Pakistan at the 20th Al-Quds Committee's deliberations at Marrakech on 17-18 January 2014.

183. Pakistan offers a special quota to Palestinian students for studying in Pakistan in the professional fields of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and engineering under the auspices of the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme. Similarly, with the Special Technical Assistance Programme (STAP), Pakistan has been training Palestinian diplomats at the Foreign Service Academy (FSA). Until the year 2013, Palestine had availed 3 Advanced and 3 Specialized Courses at the FSA.

184. In 1995, in view of financial constraints being faced by the Palestinian Embassy based in Islamabad, the Prime Minister granted approval to the summary designating rental subsidy of US\$ 10,000 per annum. This was increased to US\$36,000 per annum and later to US\$50,000 in September 2013 upon a specific request by the Palestinians. Pakistan granted US\$1 million for the construction of Palestinian Embassy Complex in Islamabad in 2013.

Visit of President of Palestine to Islamabad

185. President of the State of Palestine H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas visited Islamabad from 30 January to 01 February 2017, on his way from Addis Ababa, after attending the African Union Summit. He was accompanied by a 17-member delegation including six Ministers. During his visit, the President jointly inaugurated the newly constructed Palestine Embassy Complex in Islamabad alongwith the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

186. It was followed up by the visit of Dr. Mazen M. A. Shamiya, Assistant Minister of State of Palestine for Asia, Africa and Australia to Islamabad on 27-28 November 2017.

Paris Ministerial Conference for Peace in the Middle East

187. France hosted the second Ministerial Conference for Peace in the Middle East on 15 January 2017 in Paris, to discuss a long-term solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. The Ambassador of Pakistan to France represented Pakistan at the conference. The first such conference was held in Paris in June 2016.

OIC Executive Committee Meeting on the Situation at Al-Aqsa Mosque

188. The Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey represented Pakistan at OIC Executive Committee Meeting on 'Recent Situation in Al-Aqsa Compound in Jerusalem', held in Ankara on 1st August 2017. The meeting was called to discuss the escalating situation in the occupied territories and Jerusalem after Israeli authorities banned Friday prayers in Al-Aqsa Mosque and later installed metal detectors and surveillance cameras on the entrance to the compound.

Syria

189. Pakistan has been supporting the Syrian demand for Israeli withdrawal from Golan. Our trade and economic relationship is below the potential and is one of the lowest for Pakistan in the region. The state-controlled Syrian economy with its tightly regulated trade regime, complicated bureaucratic procedures, rigid currency regulations, complementarities of products, and lack of shipment facilities are major hurdles in promoting bilateral economic links.

190. Mr. Muhammad Jihad Al-Lahham, Speaker of Syrian People's Assembly, along with its 7-member delegation, visited Pakistan to attend

the 6th Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) held in Islamabad on 8-11 December 2013.

191. The two countries extend annual training facilities on reciprocal basis at their respective Command and Staff Colleges. Since the eruption of the conflict in March 2011, Pakistan has reiterated at all forums, including both the Security Council and the UN General Assembly, that we fully endorse the Syrian sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity. It is imperative to seek a peaceful and indigenous solution to the conflict. We call on all parties to exercise restraint and to ensure the safety of civilians.

192. It is estimated that less than 325 Pakistanis are living in Syria.

OIC Executive Committee Meetings on the Situation in Syria

193. The OIC Executive Committee Meetings on the ‘Situation in Syria especially on the Tragic Events in Aleppo’ were held in Jeddah, in October and December 2016, respectively. Pakistan participated in both the meetings at Mission level.

Visit of Speaker of People’s Assembly of Syria to Islamabad

194. The Speaker of People’s Assembly of Syria visited Islamabad from 13-18 March 2017 to attend the meetings of Asian Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Special Committee for Creation of Asian Parliament.

Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria

195. The Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium represented Pakistan at “Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region”, held on 5 April 2017.

Syria-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group

196. In July 2017, the People’s Assembly of Syria constituted the Syria-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Committee in the parliament of Syria.

Egypt

197. Egypt received Pakistan's backing for its candidate to the Executive Board of UNESCO that fell vacant in November 2013. In May 2014, Egypt sought our endorsement for its nominee as Judge in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea due for June 2014.

198. Pakistan-Egypt Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was formally established when the two countries signed an MoU to this effect on 23 April 1989. The total trade volume recorded from July 2013 to June 2014 has been documented at US\$ 252.43 million. The 8th edition of the Expo Pakistan was organized by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in Karachi on 26-29 September 2013.

199. High-level visits/interactions were as follows:

- i. Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif visited Egypt on 24-27 July 2016. During his stay in Cairo, he called on President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi and separately met with the Egyptian Minister of Defence besides holding bilateral talks with his Egyptian counterpart. The two sides reiterated their mutual desire to expand and strengthen bilateral cooperation especially between the Armed Forces of the two countries.
- ii. The Minister of State for National Health Services, Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, visited Cairo for participation in 63rd Session of WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Region in 2016.
- iii. The Minister for Military Production of Egypt participated in the IDEAS exhibition in Karachi in November 2016.
- iv. Pakistan's Minister for Defence Production paid a three-day visit to Cairo from 5-8 December 2016.
- v. The Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Egypt on the sidelines of Manama Dialogue in Oman on 10th December 2016.
- vi. On the sidelines of 8th International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters, held on 22-28 May 2017 in Russia, National Security Advisor held a meeting with the Advisor to President of Egypt on National Security.
- vii. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf participated in the "Al-Azhar International Conference to Support Jerusalem", held on 17-18 January 2018, in Cairo. He again visited Egypt from 25-28 February to participate in the "28th Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs", organized by the

Egyptian Ministry of Religious Endowments on 26-27 February 2018 in Cairo.

- viii. General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), visited Egypt from 28-31 March 2018.
- ix. Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Allam, Grand Mufti of Egypt, visited Pakistan, to attend the “International Seerat Conference on Religious Tolerance and Harmony” on 20-23 March 2018, on the invitation of the Minister for Religious Affairs. He also called on the President, the Chief of Army Staff and the Chief Minister of Punjab.

Commerce and Trade

200. A delegation from Pakistan Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Organization, consisting of 31 members, visited Cairo to attend 29th World Congress of the International Federation for Business and Professional Women, held in Cairo from 23-27 October 2017.

201. Four Pakistani companies participated in Mediconex 2018, an international trade exhibition held in Cairo from 4-6 April 2018.

Turkey

202. The relations between Pakistan and Turkey are based on common faith, culture and linguistic affinities, and shared history. The bilateral fraternal ties between the two countries have traditionally been close, marked by exceptional warmth, cordiality and mutual trust. Turkey believes that the role played by Muslims of the subcontinent during the Turkish War of Independence, the inspirational poetry by Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal to mobilize political support for Turkey among the South Asian Muslims and the financial assistance extended by them – including donations of gold ornaments by Muslim women – are gratefully remembered and acknowledged to this day by the Turkish people. The present leadership in Turkey sees Pakistan as a reliable and trustworthy brotherly Muslim country which has always stood by it. It views Pakistan’s strengths as its own strengths. Both countries closely coordinate with and support each other at multilateral fora. There is an unequivocal support on issues of national interest to Pakistan (Kashmir, NSG, FATF, UNSC Reforms). Pakistan has always taken a strong and

principled position in support of Turkey on the issue of Cyprus. Pakistan remains in abiding solidarity with Turkey in the fight against terrorism.

203. Our endeavor is to transform Pakistan-Turkey cordial relations into a strategic economic partnership. Increased involvement of Turkish companies in energy and infrastructure projects such as wind farms, construction of motorways and metro-bus are contributing to our efforts for economic growth and development. A positive reflection of the excellent bilateral relations can also be seen in the international fora. Turkey and Pakistan are supporting each other on all international platforms.

204. The 10th round of the Pakistan-Turkey High Level Military Dialogue Group (HLMDG) was held in Rawalpindi on 21-23 October 2014. During the talks, the Turkish side evinced keen interest in placing stalls at IDEAS 2014. Turkey and Pakistan have already been cooperating in training and exercises and Turkish Navy's participation in Aman Exercise has been significant. We are keen to take forward our collaboration with Turkey in areas such as low cost housing schemes, skills development initiatives, agriculture and dairy foods sector, communication and transport sector development, strengthening security and counter-terrorism expertise of security officials.

205. The cordial ties between Pakistan and Turkey maintained their positive growth in the period under review, and transformed into a strategic partnership up to the year 2017-18. Pakistan-Turkey High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) was the highest forum between Pakistan and Turkey. Both countries continued their close contact on issues of mutual interest.

Exchange of Delegations

206. The Prime Minister visited Turkey in September 2013 and February 2014. The Prime Minister visited Turkey to attend the 8th Trilateral Summit 2014; the Chief of Army Staff was part of the entourage to attend the Summit. In December 2013, Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Lahore and Islamabad. This was his seventh visit to Pakistan in the last ten years, signifying substantial growth and strengthening of relations under his government. President Mamnoon Hussain participated in the oath-taking ceremony of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on 28th August 2014.

207. Turkish Members of Parliament visited Pakistan in 2014 to attend the Olympiad organized by the Pak-Turk Schools in Islamabad. Another highlight of the year was the visit of Turkish Navy Frigate, TCG Gelibolu, to the port of Karachi.

208. The numerous high-level visits during 2017-18 were an indicator of the growing bilateral relations. Frequent consultations by telephone and visits to and from Pakistan illustrate the closeness that exists and continues to grow with the passage of time. During the exchange of high-level visits, the bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest are thoroughly deliberated upon for finding a common ground and solution. Pakistan actively partook in the D-8 Summit (20th October 2017) and the OIC Extraordinary Summit (13th December 2017).

209. Moreover, traditional close interactions have continued between the armed forces of the two countries. The top leaderships of the two defence forces have exchanged a number of visits. During such defence visits, both sides emphasize that we should benefit from each other's expertise/technology.

Trade Cooperation

210. The leadership on both sides recognizes that Pakistan-Turkey bilateral trade and economic relations are not commensurate with the excellent political ties between the two countries. Efforts are underway to conclude a favorable Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in order to augment the bilateral volume of trade.

Cultural and Educational Linkages

211. Consistent efforts continue on both sides for promoting cultural collaboration as well as people-to-people exchanges. Institutional arrangements between the HEC and Turkish universities, exchange programmes, scholarships offered by the Turkish government and universities, improved international ranking and affordability of Turkish universities are some of the reasons for the increase in number of students from Pakistan. There is a positive image of Pakistan in Turkey and vice-versa. Approximately, 1600 Pakistani students are studying at various Turkish Universities under scholarships provided by the HEC and the Turkish Government as well as on self-finance basis.

Central Asian Republics

212. Pakistan provides the shortest route to sea to these landlocked countries. We have direct stakes in the stability and prosperity of the Central Asian Republics (CARs). Afghanistan's instability has hindered Pakistan's access to this region. Furthermore, energy-abundant Central Asian region is more vital for energy-scarce Pakistan. These states support Pakistan's positions and candidatures at international fora.

213. Politically, Pakistan has been successful in maintaining excellent political relations with all the regional countries. There has been a bilateral exchange of visits at highest levels. Economically, we initially pursued through credit lines extended to CARs to enable them to achieve economic stability. They utilized this facility by purchasing engineering/consumer goods, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, rice, sugar etc, from Pakistan. Pakistan has signed Agreements establishing Joint Economic Commissions with all Central Asian Republics. One reason for the delay in implementation is inadequate capacity of these States to regularly host such meetings. As a result, our economic relations have not had the desired momentum. Lack of proactive policies to develop long-term linkages and connectivity has damaged the scope for business. This has contributed to a decline in our trade with CARs. Non-availability of direct land/air route to Central Asian Republics, outdated banking system (Non-availability of LC), strict visa regimes; and language barrier have also contributed to the fall in trade.

214. Pakistan, geographically serves as a focal point of logistics for Central Asia which needs a corridor and a transit route to export their energy resources to the world. Gwadar Port is a valid hope in this regard. Pakistan's proposed Economic Corridor would connect the country with the region and expand the depth and breadth of our strategic relations. It will open new areas for mutually beneficial cooperation and offer economic integration. Indeed, our commitments with ventures like CASA-1000 power import project, TAPI Gas Pipeline, Joint Commission on Energy and Infrastructure between Pakistan and Tajikistan, Quadrilateral Agreement for Traffic in Transit among Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan are milestones for the future economic integration.

215. The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project aims to bring natural gas from the Yoloten and adjacent gas fields in Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The CASA-1000

Transmission Project envisages the transportation of surplus electric power available in summer months from Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan. The project would be capable of delivering 1300 MW (1000 MW is Pakistan's share & 300 MW is Afghanistan's share). The estimated cost of the CASA-1000 Project is US \$1 billion.

216. Regarding training cooperation, Central Asian diplomats are already being trained free of cost at our Foreign Service Academy. In defence perspective, there have been exchanges of high-level military visits between the two. While in multilateral cooperation, Pakistan is the founding member of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and participates actively in the Organization.

Azerbaijan

217. The following visits and meetings may be noted in the period under review:

- i. Azeri officials participated in the meeting of OIC Contact Group on Kashmir on the sidelines of UNGA session on 25th September 2013.
- ii. A Pakistani parliamentary delegation comprising eight Senators led by Mushahid Hussain Syed visited Azerbaijan in October 2013.
- iii. The former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited Azerbaijan on 13-15 October 2016;
- iv. The President of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ilham Aliyev, visited Islamabad to participate in the 13th ECO Summit held on 1st March 2017. The President of Azerbaijan also held bilateral meetings with the then Prime Minister as well as the President of Pakistan.
- v. Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan, the then Minister for Commerce of Pakistan, visited Azerbaijan from 5-6 December 2016. During the visit, a meeting of the Pakistan-Azerbaijan Business Forum was also held on 5 December 2016.
- vi. A Pakistan delegation, headed by the former Minister for Defence Production, participated in the military exhibition ADEX-2 held in Baku from 27-30 September 2016. The Pakistan Ordnance Factories participated with a wide range

of conventional arms and ammunition. The Pakistan Aeronautical Complex displayed models of JF-17 Thunder fighter and Super Mushak trainer aircraft during ADEX-2016.

- vii. An Azeri delegation led by Mr. Yaqub Eyyubov, First Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, visited Pakistan to attend the IDEAS-2016 Defence Exhibition at Karachi from 21-25 November 2016. Mr. Eyyubov also called on the President and the former Prime Minister.
- viii. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan attended the Trilateral Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Turkey in Baku from 29 November to 01 December, 2017.
- ix. The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Zubair Hayat, visited Azerbaijan on 23-24 November, 2017.
- x. Mr. Samir Rauf Oglu Sharifov, Finance Minister of Azerbaijan, visited Islamabad on 19 February 2018 to deliver a special message from the Azeri President seeking Pakistan's support for hosting EXPO 2025 and the World Bank meeting 2021.
- xi. The CJCSC visited Baku from 25-26 June 2018, to participate in the 100th Anniversary celebrations of the establishment of Armed Forces of Azerbaijan and also paid a courtesy call on the President of Azerbaijan.

Kazakhstan

218. The following visits and meetings were reported:

- i. The former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited Kazakhstan on 8-9 June 2017 to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit and the opening ceremony of Expo-2017.
- ii. Mr. Askar Myrzakhmetov, Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Kazakhstan, visited Pakistan to attend the 13th ECO Summit on 1 March 2017.
- iii. The President of Pakistan, Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, visited Astana on 09-11 September, 2017 to attend the first OIC Summit on Science and Technology and met with President Nazarbayev at the closing ceremony of the Astana International EXPO-2017.

219. Other activities/developments included:

- i. The third Pakistan-Kazakhstan Joint Military Committee Meeting was held from 19-20 December 2016 in Pakistan.
- ii. The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with Haripur Chamber of Commerce and Industry and USAID Pakistan, held first ever Single Country Exhibition in Almaty from 10 to 13 November 2016.
- iii. Five Pakistani officers attended the International Army Games 2017 as observers from 1-9 August 2017 in Kazakhstan.
- iv. A three-member delegation from the National Defence University (NDU) Pakistan visited Kazakhstan on 19-20 October 2017 to deliver a lecture. The delegation also called on the President National Defence University (NDU) Kazakhstan, visited the National Military Patriotic Center and held a meeting with a delegation of Center for Military and Strategic Research (CMSR) Kazakhstan.
- v. The 4th Pakistan-Kazakhstan JMC meeting was held in Astana on 06-08 November 2017.
- vi. A 23-member Kazakh military delegation consisting of officials and officers attended the 1st biennial Pakistan-Kazakhstan joint counter-terrorism exercise (Dostarym 2017) on 10-24 November 2017, in Pakistan at National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) Pabbi near Kharian. Seven other officials of Kazakh Armed Forces attended various courses in the military institutions in Pakistan.
- vii. Ambassador Abdul Salik Khan took part in the national celebrations of Nauroz holiday with the Kazakh Foreign Minister K. Abdrahmanov and guests at Ethno Village, EXPO Site on 21 March 2018.

Kyrgyzstan

Visits and Meetings

220. Details are as follows:

- i. With target of expanding bilateral trade to \$500 million over the next three years and to work for a Preferential Security,

the former Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, visited Kyrgyzstan to represent Pakistan in the SCO Summit in September, 2013. The Adviser held meeting with the Kyrgyz leadership on a wide range of cooperation.

- ii. H.E. Jeenbekov Sooronbai, Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, visited Pakistan to attend the 13th ECO Summit on 1 March 2017. On the sidelines, he held a meeting with the then Prime Minister.
- iii. Mr. Sartaj Aziz visited the Kyrgyz Republic to attend the SCO Heads of Government Council Meeting in Bishkek from 2-3 November 2016. He also held a bilateral meeting and discussed the potential of our relations with Kyrgyz Foreign Minister.
- iv. The Kyrgyz Speaker of Parliament H.E Chynybai Tursunbekov visited Pakistan on 13-15 March 2017.
- v. The Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Kyrgyz Republic Mr. SaparIsakov on the sidelines of the 16th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Governments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States at Sochi, Russia on 1 December 2017.
- vi. The inaugural Round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Kyrgyz Republic was held in Bishkek on 24 January 2018. The Pakistan delegation was headed by the Special Secretary for ME, ECO & CARs, Mr. Aitzaz Ahmed while the Kyrgyz Republic delegation was led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nurlan Asiyinovich Abdrahmanov.

Agreements/MoUs

221. During the visit of the Kyrgyz Speaker of Parliament H.E. Chynybai Tursunbekov on 13-15 March 2017, MoU was signed on Interparliamentary Cooperation between National Assembly of Pakistan and Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic.

222. Other activities/developments included:

- i. The 3rd Session of Pakistan-Kyrgyz Republic Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was held on 11-12 January 2017 in Islamabad. The Pakistani side was led by H.E. Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, former Federal Minister of Water and Power, while the Kyrgyz side was led by H.E. Mr. Arzybek

Kozhoshev, Minister of Economy. The Kyrgyz Minister of Economy also called on the President and the Prime Minister.

- ii. Federal Minister for Climate Change, Mr. Mushahid Ullah Khan visited Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 24-25 August 2017 to attend the Global Forum on Protection of Snow Leopards.
- iii. The Special Secretary (ME, ECO & CARs), Mr. Aitzaz Ahmed during his official visit to Bishkek on 24 January 2018, also inaugurated the Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan Sewing Training Centre as a goodwill gesture. The Center would provide technical skills to the Kyrgyz women.
- iv. Chairman NDMA, Lt. Gen Omar Mahmood Hayat, visited Bishkek from 16-19 April 2018 to explore possibilities for future cooperation under the MoU signed between disaster management institutions of the two countries.

Tajikistan

223. The following visits and meetings took place during the period:

- i. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif official visited the Republic of Tajikistan on 17-18 June 2014.
- ii. The Tajik President Emomali Rahmon visited Islamabad on 28 February to 1 March 2017 to attend the 13th ECO Summit. He also held a bilateral meeting with the former Prime Minister on the sidelines.
- iii. The 4th round of BPC was held in Islamabad on 26th April 2018
- iv. The President of Pakistan paid an official visit to Dushanbe from 19-22nd June and also attended the UN Conference on International Decade for Action on “Water for Sustainable Development”.
- v. During the visit, a Joint Declaration, on “Strengthening the Road to Strategic Partnership for Regional Integration”, and two MoUs, MoU on Cooperation in Auditing in Public Sector and MoU on cooperation in the field of information, were signed.

224. Other activities/developments included:

- i. The then Federal Minister of Water & Power and Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, paid an official visit to Dushanbe,

Tajikistan, from 16-17 March 2017. During the visit, the second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Energy and Infrastructure and inaugural meetings of the Joint Working Group on Oil & Gas Sector and Technical Committee for export of additional 1000 MW by Tajikistan outside of CASA-1000, were held.

- ii. In the aftermath of an avalanche that caused massive damage to Tajikistan in January 2017, Pakistan provided US \$5 million in assistance to Tajikistan for building an avalanche-protection gallery along its highways.
- iii. The 1st meeting of JWG on Trade, Investment and Transport was held on 24-25 July 2017 in Dushnabe, led by Pakistan's Commerce Secretary Mohammad Younus Dhaga.
- iv. The 2nd high-level military leaders' meeting of the Quadrilateral Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism in Counter-terrorism by Afghan-China-Pakistan-Tajikistan Armed forces (QCCM) was held in August 2017 in Dushanbe. The Pakistani delegation was led by Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa. The 1st meeting of JWG on Combating International Terrorism was held on 27 February 2018 in Dushanbe. The Pakistani delegation was led by Mr. Ihsan Ghani, National Coordinator, NACTA.
- v. The 1st meeting of JWG on Finalization of Draft Agreement on International Road Transport was held on 26-27 April 2018 in Dushnabe.
- vi. Defence Minister Engr. Khurram Dastgir led the Pakistan delegation to International Conference on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism held in Dushanbe on 3-4 May 2018.

Turkmenistan

225. The following visits and meetings were reported:

- i. The former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif led the Pakistani delegation to the first ever Global Conference on Sustainable Transport held at Ashgabat on 25-26 November, 2016. The then Prime Minister met with the Turkmen President on the sidelines of the Conference.
- ii. The President of Turkmenistan H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov visited Islamabad from 28 February to 1

March 2017 to attend the 13th ECO Summit. He also held a bilateral meeting with the former Prime Minister on the sidelines.

- iii. The President of Pakistan visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, to attend the opening ceremony of the V-Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games from 16-18 September, 2017.
- iv. Mr. Rashid Meredov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, visited Islamabad from 15-16 January 2018 to participate in the inaugural session of Pakistan-Turkmenistan Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC). Minister Meredov also paid courtesy calls on the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan.
- v. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi undertook a 2-day visit to Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, to participate in the link-up ceremonies of TAPI pipeline and associated projects. During the visit the Prime Minister held a one on one meeting with the Turkmen President followed by delegation-level talks. An Inter-governmental Agreement on Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan electricity transmission line was also signed.
- vi. On the sidelines of the UN Conference on International Decade for Action on “Water for Sustainable Development” on 20-21 June 2018, the President of Pakistan held a meeting with the President of Turkmenistan and discussed matters of bilateral interest including implementation of TAPI and import of 1000 MW electricity.

226. Other activities/developments included:

- i. Chairperson of Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan, Ms. Akja Nurberdiyeva, led a parliamentary delegation to Pakistan on 3-4 August 2016.
- ii. A five-member parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, visited Ashgabat from 26-28 October 2016.
- iii. The 1st Meeting of JWG on Agriculture and Food Security took place in Ashgabat on 19-20 May 2017.
- iv. A delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers’ Association visited Ashgabat on 17-21 October 2016.

- v. The 5th Session of Pak-Turkmenistan Joint Inter-Governmental Commission (JGC) was led by Co-Chairman Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, on 17-18 August, 2017 at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
- vi. The Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, visited Ashgabat to attend the 7th Regional Economic Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA-VII) held on 14-15 November 2017.
- vii. The President of Turkmenistan made a telephone call to the President of Pakistan, on 23rd December, 2017. The Turkmen President conveyed the New Year greetings and expressed his gratitude to the President for witnessing the inaugural ceremony of the V-Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games held in September 2017, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
- viii. The former Minister of State for Energy Mr. Abid Sher Ali visited Ashgabat to participate in the Tripartite meeting on TAP between the Ministries of Energy of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan, held in Ashgabat on 29-30 March 2018.

Uzbekistan

227. The visits and meetings included:

- i. Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Ulugbek Rozukulov visited Islamabad from 22-23 December 2016 to discuss proposals on collaboration in the agricultural machinery sector.
- ii. Mr. Ulugbek Rozukulov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, visited Pakistan for the 13th ECO Summit on 1 March 2017.
- iii. Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif held a bilateral meeting with the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of ECO Summit held on 8-9 June 2017 at Astana, Kazakhstan.
- iv. Former Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs (SAPM), Syed Tariq Fatemi, visited Tashkent on 17-19 October 2016 and led the Pakistani delegation to the 43rd Session of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). He also held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan.

- v. The Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, accompanied by two senior officials, paid an official visit to Uzbekistan from 13-18 March 2017.
 - vi. The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Zubir Hayat, visited Uzbekistan on 19-21 September, 2017.
 - vii. Uzbek Foreign Minister Mr. Kamilov Abdulziz Khfizoveh visited Islamabad on 12 February 2018. He had a meeting with the Foreign Minister during which he handed over an invitation letter for the International High-Level Conference on Afghanistan.
 - viii. Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, visited Tashkent to participate in the International Conference on Afghanistan Peace Process, Security Cooperation and Regional Connectivity held on 26-27 March 2018.
 - ix. President Mamnoon Hussain met his Uzbek counterpart President Shavkat Mirziyoyv on the sidelines of the 18th SCO Summit, held in Qingdao, China, on 09-10 June 2018.
228. Other activities/developments were as follows:
- i. Our National Security Advisor, Lt. Gen. Nasser Khan Janjua, attended the International Conference on Regional Security and Development, held in Uzbekistan's historical city of Samarkand on 10-11 November 2017.
 - ii. CJCSC Gen Zubair Hayat and CAS Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman separately undertook fruitful official visits to Uzbekistan in September 2017.
 - iii. Pakistan's Law & Justice Minister Mr. Zahid Hamid and Supreme Court Justice Gulzar Ahmad participated in the two SCO meetings of Justice Ministers and Chief justices, which were held in Tashkent in October 2017.
 - iv. A high-level seven-member military/security/intelligence and an eight-member trade & investment delegations simultaneously visited Pakistan on 17-19 April 2018. The two delegations were led by Maj Gen. Victor V. Makhmudov, Secretary of Security Council under the President of Uzbekistan and by Mr. Khodjaev Jamshid Abduhakimovich, Minister for Foreign Trade, respectively. The delegations

held high-level meetings with CJCSC, COAS and NSA as well as attended the first meeting of the recently established Pakistan-Uzbekistan Joint Business Council.

- v. The two Foreign Ministers had a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting on 24 April 2018.

Economic Cooperation Organization

229. The 13th ECO Summit was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 1 March 2017. The Summit was chaired by Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister of Pakistan.

230. The “Islamabad Declaration” which was adopted unanimously during the Summit focused on the Summit theme of connectivity as a dynamic concept that encompasses multiple dimensions including transit transport such as rail, road, ports and shipping and cyber linkages. It set the target to double the trade between ECO Member countries within the next 2-3 years.

231. The ECO Vision 2025, another landmark document adopted at the Summit, envisages ECO to pave the way for developing a region of integrated and sustainable economies with a free trade area achieved by highly educated societies and improved governance through enhanced cooperation. The vision sets pragmatic and tangible goals for ECO to be achieved by 2025.

232. The 8th Meeting of the ECO Council of Heads of Customs Administration (CHCA) and the 4th Meeting of the Sub-Committee of Customs Experts (SCOE) was held on 13-14 November 2017 in Islamabad.

233. A photographs and cultural exhibition of ECO Member Countries was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28th November 2017 to celebrate the ECO Day 2017.

234. The 28th meeting of the Regional Planning Council at Ministerial level was held on 11-14 December 2017 in Islamabad. The Ministers of Planning of the respective ECO Member States participated in the 28th RPC Meeting.

235. Pakistan hosted the 3rd Meeting of the Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO member states on 30-31 January 2018 in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by high-level officials from the Attorney General/Prosecutor General Offices of the ECO member states. Senior officials of the ECO Secretariat also attended the meeting.

236. The 9th Meeting of the Road Committee of Transit Transport Coordination Council (TTCC) and the 6th Meeting of the Customs Transit Committee of the TTCC was held in Islamabad from 13-15 February 2018. Senior officials from the ECO member countries participated in the meetings.

237. An event marking *Nauroz* was arranged on the 5th of April 2018. All diplomatic corps in Islamabad participated in the event. The Embassies of the ECO Members States prepared stalls projecting cultural identity of their respective countries.

238. The 23rd Council of Ministers' (COM) meeting was held on 16-17th April 2018 in Dushnabe, Tajikistan. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, led Pakistan's delegation to the meeting. During the meeting Pakistan handed over Chairmanship of the Council to Tajikistan.

Indonesia

239. Relations between Indonesia and Pakistan have largely remained free of any irritants. Indonesia supported us for the ASEAN Regional Forum (MU) membership and also supports our request for Full Dialogue Partnership (FDP) with ASEAN.

240. The year 2014 remained low profile in bilateral political activity due to Parliamentary and Presidential elections in Indonesia which extended from April to October. The Mission therefore focused on trade and commercial activities and public diplomacy initiatives. Trade volume between the two countries increased to US\$ 2.21 billion. Steps were taken for the finalization of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between two countries.

Malaysia

241. Malaysia has played a pivotal role in Pakistan's 'Vision East Asia' policy through its support and guidance in the context of Pakistan's Sectoral Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN. Malaysia lent valuable

support for Pakistan's membership in ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia Cooperation Dialogue and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Malaysia has extended continued support to Pakistan's endeavours in attaining Full Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN.

242. The total trade between the two countries amounted to \$1.446 billion in 2014 with a trade deficit of \$0.993 billion

243. Malaysia offers a number of courses to Pakistani nationals each year in numerous fields ranging from taxation, banking, customs, infrastructure development and capacity building etc. under the umbrella of Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. Similarly, Pakistan offers seven programmes on annual basis for Malaysian students in medical, dentistry, pharmacy, banking and public management. More than 3000 Pakistani students are enrolled in the Malaysian institutions. Pakistani community in Malaysia is estimated to be over 65,000.

Maldives

244. An MoU was signed between the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre and the Maldivian Government on 28th November 2016 to provide training and assistance in cancer research to the Maldivian health practitioners.

Africa

245. Pakistan offers technical assistance to African countries under the Pakistan Technical Assistance programme. Also we are the second largest contributor of peace-keeping operations in Africa.

246. The President visited Nigeria from 9-12 June 2014 during which 4 MoUs were signed. It was also agreed to set up a Pakistan-Nigeria Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PNCCI) that would provide a forum for exploring various opportunities for businessmen of the two countries in areas of their mutual interests.

247. The environment in Libya was characterized by political instability, non-functional institutions and an escalation in the civil war reaching its peak in July 2014. Main thrust of the Government of Pakistan was safety and security of around 18000-20000 Pakistanis residing over widely scattered locations in Libya. 7000 Pakistanis were evacuated. 3310 Pakistanis were evacuated on 13 special chartered flights, including 3

flights of PIA. During the crisis, four relief centers were established by the Embassy for provision of food, shelter and medical facilities to destitute Pakistanis.

248. Since June 2013, defence relations were further strengthened by training of 138 Libyan officers in various defence institution of Pakistan and many other projects of collaboration between the two armies. An MoU was also signed in June 2014 for training of Libyan Air Force personnel at PAF Academy Risalpur that gave impetus to bilateral relations between the two countries in the field of defence.

249. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposed “Look Africa Policy” which aims at promotion of high-level exchanges and more frequent interactions with the leadership of African states to revitalize Pakistan's relations with the African countries.

250. From the African side, the President of Mauritius visited Pakistan from 17-20th April 2016 on the invitation of President of Pakistan. At a lower level, bilateral political consultations with Algeria and Sudan were also held in Islamabad in April and May 2016, respectively. Pakistan also regularly cooperates with the 27 African member states in the OIC. Moreover, on the instructions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, a cash donation amounting to USD \$100,000 was extended to the victims of drought in Niger in 2014. Pakistan again extended aid of 15,000 tons of rice to Niger in February 2016.

251. The Africa Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs oversees 14 resident missions and 39 concurrently accredited Missions in Africa and 11 African Resident Missions based in Islamabad. Pakistan also offers technical assistance to African countries under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP) which is offered to 34 countries of Africa. Various training programmes are also offered annually to 10 diplomats from 06 African countries, at Foreign Service Academy, Islamabad.

252. Over 8000 Pakistani troops were deployed under the UN Peacekeeping Missions, primarily in six African countries, i.e. Central African Republic, Darfur (Sudan), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ivory Coast, Liberia and Western Sahara.

253. The bilateral trade remained low at US\$3 billion. Trade-related exhibitions were held, like TEXPO in April 2016.

India

254. South Asia cannot have durable peace and stability unless Pakistan and India resolve their differences and disputes. This requires building a qualitatively new environment in which mutual concerns are addressed in a credible way and efforts made to promote an agenda of peace and development. Pakistan is pursuing a policy of actively seeking solutions for all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan continues to give its unflinching political, moral and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The issue of Kashmir can be amicably settled only by holding plebiscite in Kashmir by implementing the UN Resolutions.

255. During the period under review, the dialogue process remained suspended between the two countries and the hostilities continued along the Line of Control (LOC) and Working Boundary. The Prime Minister's outreach to Mr. Modi to congratulate him on BJP's electoral victory and participation in the swearing-in ceremony in New Delhi were unfortunately not reciprocated. The onus is on India to take the initiative for cessation of hostilities on the LoC and resumption of the dialogue process.

256. The Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attended the oath-taking ceremony of PM Modi on 26 May 2014. On Pakistan's invitation, the Indian External Affairs Minister attended the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Islamabad in December 2015. During her visit, it was agreed to resume the bilateral engagement as the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue. Pakistan was ready to hold talks with India without any preconditions. Pakistan also released Indian fishermen in its custody as a goodwill gesture.

257. The Government also expressed serious concerns over the involvement of Indian Intelligence Agencies in subversive activities in Pakistan. After the capture of Indian Intelligence Agency RAW's agent Kulbushan Jadev, Pakistan has highlighted this issue through our Missions abroad as well as through engagements with the Foreign Missions in Islamabad.

258. The actions taken by the Government of Pakistan for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Resolutions are detailed above in the sections on the UN and the OIC. The Kashmir Day is observed by Pakistan every year on 27th October and the Kashmir

Solidarity Day on 5th February every year. Our missions abroad hold different events to project the Kashmir cause on both these occasions.

SAARC

259. Pakistan attaches importance to SAARC and is committed to the principles and objectives of the SAARC charter. The organization has still not achieved the desired socio-economic cooperation and prosperity in the region. The gap between the promise of SAARC and the reality of its accomplishments needs to be bridged. We should build on convergences, minimize divergences and most of all seek to augment complementarities for the greater good of the people of this region.

260. The Prime Minister visited Kathmandu, Nepal to participate in the 18th SAARC Summit on 26-27 November 2014. A common point emphasized by the Prime Minister in the meetings was that SAARC processes needed political commitment and fresh impetus to make it a viable organization.

261. Pakistan hosted more than 13 SAARC events in Pakistan and participated in around 33 meetings/events hosted by other SAARC Member States during the period from January 2015 to June 2016.

262. Pakistan won the case of hosting the SAARC Environment component and merging it with the existing SAARC Energy Centre in Islamabad. Similarly, we were also successful to halt Indian attempts to launch an Indian Satellite in the name of “SAARC Satellite”.

263. The President of Pakistan made a transit stopover in Sri Lanka in March 2016 and the Foreign Minister of Maldives visited Pakistan in January 2016. Eighteen (18) MoUs were signed in 2015-16: 14 with Sri Lanka and 4 with the Maldives. Pakistan was among the first few countries to dispatch medical and search and rescue teams to Nepal within hours after the calamitous earthquake hit Nepal on 25 April 2015. Pakistan further provided major relief goods.

MNBBS (Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka)

264. The Prime Minister of Pakistan approved an amount of US \$3.2 million for the renovation of the Parliament building of the Maldives and assistance for a water-related crisis. An amount of US \$1 million for the post-earthquake rehabilitation work was also approved. Pakistan also

imparted training to 8 junior and mid-career diplomats from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka at Foreign Service Academy in Islamabad.

D-8

265. The 34th Session of D-8 Commission (17-18 December 2013) and the 16th Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers (19 December 2013) comprised of the Foreign Ministers of the Member Countries were held in Islamabad. Meeting of the Council was chaired by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs. The Council took important decisions in regard to early implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and activation of the private sector-led cooperation. The Council meeting also adopted a report prepared by Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry containing useful recommendations for the private sector-led cooperation. Pakistan successfully hosted the 35th Session of the D-8 Commission on 10-11 June 2014 in Islamabad. The two-day meeting was inaugurated by Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, and was attended by Commissioners of D-8 member states and the D-8 Secretary-General Syed Ali Mohammad Mousavi. The meeting discussed progress made in the priority areas of cooperation and proposals to implement D-8 agreements on trade visa and customs matters.

China

266. Friendship with China remains a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy. Our "all weather" relationship is based upon shared principles and interests and forms the basis of cooperation in diverse fields. It has been a factor for stability in the region.

267. Pakistan welcomes the Chinese government's outreach to its neighboring countries. President's Xi Jinping's vision for the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" dovetails with Pakistan's own initiatives for fostering regional connectivity, in particular the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC is the foremost symbol of the two Governments' desire for expanding the economic footprint of Pakistan-China relations. It is a transformative project, with the potential to act as a game-changer for South and Central Asia at large.

268. Regular exchange of high-level visits has been a significant feature of our bilateral relations. During 2013-14, the Prime Minister visited China twice, once on 3-8 July 2013 which was his first overseas visit abroad, and subsequently to attend the 14th Boao Forum for Asia (BFA)

Annual Conference on 9-11 April 2014. During both visits commitments were made to enhance the economic and strategic partnership between the two countries. President Mamnoon Hussain also paid an official visit to China from 18-21 February 2014. This was his first state visit to a foreign country. Subsequently, the President also visited Shanghai on 19-22 May 2014 to attend the 4th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). From the Chinese side, visits by the Chinese Parliamentary Delegations led by Ms. Shen Yueyue, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the NPC on 28 November 2013; Mr. Ai Ping, Vice Minister of the Communist Party of China on 17-19 February 2014; and Chinese Defence Minister Genera Chang from 27 February to 1st March 2014 were of great significance.

Russia

269. Pakistan's relations with the Russian Federation have entered a new phase of cordiality and friendship. The visits of Chairperson, Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly (Senate) of Russia to Islamabad and of the Senate Chairman and Speaker of the National Assembly to Russia, gave impetus to the relationship. The visit of the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs to Russia in June 2014 also further strengthened our ties. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visited Pakistan in November 2014 and met with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and other high-level officials. Several issues related to security and defense cooperation between Russia and Pakistan were addressed. The two countries signed an important memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation that has formed the foundation of our growing defense partnership.

Belgium

270. Belgium is the 7th largest importer of Pakistani goods. The current level of bilateral trade stands at US\$824 million with the balance of trade in Pakistan's favour.

271. The Foreign Secretary visited Brussels and held a meeting with his Belgian counterpart Mr. Dirk Achten on 01 June 2016.

272. The Pakistan-Belgium Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly of Pakistan visited Brussels from 18-21 January 2016.

The Netherlands

273. The Netherlands is currently the fourth largest foreign investor in Pakistan and is among its largest trading partners. The Netherlands is Pakistan's fifth largest trade partner in the EU. The current level of bilateral trade is approximately US\$ 910 million, with the balance of trade in Pakistan's favour.

274. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands visited Pakistan as a Special Representative of UN Secretary General on Inclusive Finance on 09 February 2016.

275. The Embassy of the Netherlands in Islamabad and the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) jointly organized a trade event in Lahore on 26 May 2016.

Spain

276. The Third Round of Pakistan-Spain Annual Bilateral Consultations was held in Madrid on 2nd June 2016.

277. The current bilateral trade volume stands at US\$ 912 million with our exports amounting to around US\$ 788 million.

278. Mr. Ashter Ausaf Ali, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Law, Justice and Human Rights, along with the Commerce Secretary, visited Spain in November 2015 to seek support of the Spanish Government and Spanish EU parliamentarians for GSP Plus review.

Portugal

279. Pakistan has consistently maintained a trade surplus. The bilateral trade volume reached US\$ 177 million in 2014-15. A Pakistan-Portugal Business Council was established in October 2015.

European Union

280. Pakistan attaches significant importance to its relations with the EU. The EU is the largest trading partner of Pakistan with a trade volume of over \$11 billion accounting for 25 % of our exports. The GSP Plus status was awarded to Pakistan w.e.f. December 2013. This resulted in an increase of US\$ 900 million in our trade with the EU during the first nine months of 2014. The presence of a large Pakistan diaspora acts as a bridge between Pakistan and Europe. Our community is law-abiding and well

respected. We are working towards strengthening of cultural and educational linkages.

281. The terrorist attacks in Europe and the developments in their aftermath underlined the need for concerted approach towards fighting terrorism and addressing its root causes. Unlimited freedom of expression, which hurts the sentiments of any religious community, needs to be avoided. Pakistan remains deeply concerned over instances of xenophobia, religious or racial profiling and defamation of religions, which stoke violent extremism and terrorism. The need of the hour is to promote inter-faith harmony for world peace.

282. The trajectory of Pakistan-EU relations has been positive.

- i. Third Round of Pakistan-EU Political Dialogue was held in Brussels on 01 June 2016.
- ii. Sixth meeting of the Joint Readmission Committee (JRC) was held on 18-19 July 2016 in Islamabad.
- iii. Fifth meeting of the JRC was held on 1-2 February 2016 in Brussels, during which Pakistan and the EU streamlined the procedures for readmission of deportees.
- iv. Second round of Pakistan-EU Dialogue on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy was held in Brussels on 18 April 2016.

283. The following visits were important:

- i. On the sidelines of the 12th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in Luxembourg on 5-6 November 2015, the Advisor held a meeting with the High Representative of European Union, Mrs. Federica Mogherini.
- ii. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) Mr. Amjad Bashir and Mr. Jan Zahradil called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 June 2016.
- iii. An Electoral Experts Mission of the EU headed by Mr. Michael Gabler, former Chief Observer of the EU Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) to Pakistan, visited the country from 01-21 February 2016. .
- iv. The EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos visited Pakistan.

UK

284. Pakistan's relations with the UK have become stronger and more meaningful over the years. The Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) between the two countries represents a long-term and deep commitment by both countries to work together as equals to create greater prosperity and security for our two peoples.

285. There have been regular bilateral visits between the two countries including the Heads of Government. British Prime Minister David Cameron was the first Head of Government to visit Pakistan after the new Government had assumed office in June 2013. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited London from 30 April-03 May 2014. The visit resulted in roadmaps on security, trade and investment in education and culture. An MoU was signed allowing British Council to continue its work in Pakistan. It was also agreed to enhance current bilateral trade from £2.1 billion to £3 billion by 2015. The UK is Pakistan's largest trading and investment partner in the European Union. Over 100 British companies are doing business in Pakistan.

286. In the year 2015-16, bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom witnessed further progress. The Prime Minister of Pakistan visited the UK from 22-25th September, 2015 and held meeting with the British Prime Minister. The Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz visited the UK from 18-20 April 2016 to attend the third Foreign Minister's level review of the Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) between Pakistan and the UK.

287. Former Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, FCO Minister for Pakistan; Secretary of State for Defence, Tobias Ellwood; UK Prime Minister's Counter-Terrorism Envoy, Clovis Baker; Minister for UK's Department for International Development (DFID), Desmond Swayne MP and Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP visited Pakistan.

Commonwealth

288. From 27 to 29 November, 2015, the Prime Minister of Pakistan attended the Commonwealth Head of the Governments Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta. The Secretary General of the Commonwealth Baroness Scotland expressed gratitude for the support extended by Pakistan during the election.

Italy

289. Pakistan and Italy enjoy cordial and friendly relations which were consolidated during the period under consideration. Italy is an important source for procurement of defence equipment.

290. The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation visited Pakistan on 20-21 April 2016.

291. The Prime Ministers of the two countries also held meetings on two occasions at the sidelines of multilateral forums – at the UNGA session in New York in September 2015 and the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC in Paris in November-December 2015.

Economic Relations

292. Italy is Pakistan's third largest trading partner in Europe. Bilateral trade last year stood at around 1.1 billion USD.

293. The Italian Foreign Minister along with Chairman BOI jointly inaugurated the “Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum” at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome on 5th April 2016.

Switzerland

294. Pakistan-Switzerland relations were reinforced during 2015-16. The Global Head of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) visited Pakistan from 27-30 April, 2016 in order to enhance cooperation within the framework of “Water Governance”.

295. Swiss companies in Pakistan employ around 12000 people.

United States

296. Relations with the United States constitute an important element of Pakistan’s foreign policy. The strategic relationship with the U.S is being reoriented on the basis of mutual interest and mutual trust. The effort is to transform the substantive content of the relationship, and to change the narrative. The US is a key partner in trade and investment, counter-terrorism, and regional stability.

297. The Prime Minister’s visit to Washington in October 2013 and his interaction with President Obama as well as senior Administration officials and key legislators was of far-reaching importance. The Prime

Minister placed his central emphasis on enhanced market access, U.S. investments in energy and other projects, defence and security cooperation, counter-terrorism, and people-to-people exchanges.

298. The Prime Minister's visit was followed by a resumption of the Strategic Dialogue at the Ministerial level, which the Adviser and Secretary John Kerry co-chaired. The work of several Joint Working Groups was reviewed and a new group was created on education. We also agreed to strengthen our dialogue and cooperation on regional issues, particularly working to advance common objectives of peace and stability in post-2014 Afghanistan and sustainable peace and progress in South Asia. The fifth ministerial level Pak-US strategic dialogue took place in Islamabad in January 2015, during which Adviser Sartaj Aziz and Secretary John Kerry had a wide-ranging discussion on sustaining and further building the momentum in bilateral cooperation.

299. The Embassy of Pakistan in Washington projected Pakistan's successful counter-terrorism and law enforcement operations in FATA and other parts of the country.

300. The US leadership affirmed Pakistan's role as a key counter-terrorism partner and recognized the sacrifices of the Pakistani civilians, military, and law enforcement personnel. President Obama personally honoured the sacrifices of the Pakistani security forces in the Operation *Zarb-e-Azb*.

301. Congressional leaders were regularly updated on Pakistan's constructive role in stabilizing Afghanistan including the convening of QCG meetings.

302. The Embassy has been at the forefront to plead the cause of Kashmiris not only at the official level with the US side but also in key think-tanks in the capital, taking up gross human rights abuses by India in Occupied Kashmir with the US Government and human rights bodies.

303. As part of the efforts to reach out to different communities, the Embassy hosted an inter-faith Iftar dinner in Ramadan which brought together leaders of different religious denominations.

304. The Embassy proactively participated in a charity bazaar organized in May 2016 under the auspices of the Muslim Women Association of Washington DC.

Canada

305. After the inauguration of the newly elected members of the National Assembly, Pakistan-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in the National Assembly of Pakistan in 2013. A number of high-level visits took place during the period under report including the visit of former Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani to Canada from 19-22 May 2014; visit of Mr. Tim Uppal, Minister of State for Multiculturalism of Canada, Senator Salma Ataulla Jan, and Senator Nancy Ruth to Pakistan in January 2014 and the visit of the Director, South Asia Relations of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Development, Mr. Andrew Green, to Pakistan in November 2013.

306. Bilateral trade between Pakistan and Canada was estimated at around US \$355.804 million in 2013; our exports were US\$215.814 million while imports from Canada were US \$139.990 million. About 75% of our exports were textile-based and the remainder largely leather garments, carpets, surgical goods, and sports gear and food products. Our imports are mainly machinery, chemicals, edible oil, and sometimes wheat.

307. For the first time ever, two ladies of Pakistan origin, Ms Salma Zahid and Ms Iqra Khalid, were elected to the House of Commons from the Liberal Party in the 2015 federal elections. Ms Salma Zahid visited Pakistan and held a meeting with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi in Islamabad on 12 January 2016.

308. Ms Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister for International Development, attended a Pakistan Day reception in Ottawa as the chief guest. The Minister called Pakistan a 'traditional partner' in economic, trade and development sectors.

309. On the initiative of Pakistan-Canada Business Council of Manitoba and support of the High Commission, the City Council of Manitoba dedicated a Children Park in Winnipeg to Malala Yousafzai in July 2015.

310. The Pakistan-Canada bilateral trade crossed the one billion Canadian dollars mark in 2015.

311. A team of academics from University of Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier University visited Islamabad in February 2016.

312. The Pakistan Machine Readable Passport facility was made operational in Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa and the Consulates in Montreal and Vancouver in 2015, thus covering whole of Canada.

Cuba

313. On the proposal of our Mission in Havana and recommendation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister of Pakistan approved a gift of 15000 MT of Pakistani rice to Cuba. It was announced on 23 December 2015.

314. In the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake, Cuba offered 1,000 fully funded scholarships for Pakistani medical students of the earthquake-affected areas.

315. Cuba has been supporting Pakistan's candidatures to various UN bodies either on the basis of reciprocity or unilaterally. Cuba supported Pakistan in its candidature to the administrative council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for the term 2015-2018 at the elections held in Busan, South Korea. Cuba supported Pakistan's election to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for three years from 1st January 2015.

316. Pakistan welcomed the re-establishment of diplomatic ties between Cuba and the USA. Pakistan has consistently been supporting the lifting of sanctions against Cuba at the United Nations.

Mexico

317. During 2015 and 2016, Pakistan's relations with Mexico and the countries of concurrent accreditation, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama and Belize, were strengthened. The volume of bilateral trade with Mexico and other countries was in Pakistan's favor in a total trade of US \$200 million in 2015.

318. The Senate of Mexico also officially declared "Pakistan Week" to celebrate 60th Anniversary of Pakistan-Mexico relations in 2015.

319. The Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation was signed during 4th meeting of Pakistan-Mexico bilateral consultation on 10 March 2015.

320. The Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Governments of Pakistan and Belize was signed in October 2015.

321. Our Mission in Mexico also arranged various public diplomacy events during 2015-16, which included the Alpine Club events and the annual seminar and celebration of *Nauroz* at the Mexican Senate.

Brazil

322. The third round of Bilateral Political Consultation between Pakistan and Brazil was held on 12 March 2015 in Brasilia.

323. The total bilateral trade between Pakistan and Brazil stood at US\$300 million in 2015.

Argentina

324. The year 2016 marked the completion of 65 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

325. During 2015-16 the trade volume between Pakistan and Argentina was US \$52.7 million. A 15-member delegation comprising 13 companies and one chamber from Argentina and one company from Panama participated in the Expo-Pakistan in February 2015. Thirteen Argentine companies participated in the Expo-Pakistan 2016.

NASA Division

326. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' NASA Division deals with the business in the Parliament i.e. National Assembly and Senate, related to foreign policy issues and that pertaining to expatriate Pakistanis living abroad. This Division works as the focal point for coordination between the Parliament and the Ministry.

327. This Division collates and prepares answers to questions raised by the Parliamentarians as well as briefings by the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs to both the Houses of the Parliament on various bilateral, regional and international issues, particularly those

relating to Muslim causes (in the form of Questions, Calling Attention Notices, Adjournment Motions and Resolutions). These issues are also debated in the various committees of the Parliament i.e. the Foreign Affairs Committees in the Senate and National Assembly, Kashmir Committee in the National Assembly, and Defense Committee of both the Houses.

328. The Division regularly briefed the Parliament on the trade scenario and the steps being taken by the Ministry to promote trade and investment especially with countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.
