



PM chairs meeting on development projects

Prof Ahsan Iqbal briefs about development projects, CPEC

Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited the Planning Commission, and was received by Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal, and senior officers of the Ministry. The Minister briefed the PM on the status of projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other development projects, being completed under the PSDP 2015-16. Prof Ahsan Iqbal said the PSDP allocations had been increased significantly, and, unlike the previous governments, the monitoring mechanism had been made effective to accrue benefits of the infrastructure development, both short and long terms.

Nawaz Sharif approved the proposed reforms for timely completion of the development projects, including creation of the Project Management Units (PMUs) in key ministries, which were undertaking these projects. The PM directed for an effective monitoring and evaluation of the allocations against funds release by the Finance Ministry to gauge the actual progress on ground, and fix the responsibility of delay, if any, on the executing ministries and departments. The PM also directed that he should be kept updated on the execution of projects on weekly basis, and made it specifically clear that he would not compromise on the timely completion of the projects.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar briefed the meeting on the revenue cycle of the PSDP releases. The Premier directed timely releases of allocations for the power and communication sectors. Prof Ahsan Iqbal informed the meeting that for the first time in several years, there was no shortage of releases to the provinces under the PSDP. "The Balochistan government has expressed its gratitude for the releases without any gap for the last two years," the Minister informed.

The PM said the development agenda of the present government would revolutionise lives of the Pakistanis. "Ministries and divisions must ensure utmost transparency in execution of the development projects, and enhance their capacities to realise the development agenda of the government," he said, while adding that the ministries should be accountable for timely and cost efficient execution of development projects, and he would personally monitor performance on monthly basis. The PM issued directions for revision of the Management Professional Pay Scales in terms of high salary incentives and allowing civil servants to compete for positions with other management professionals. The PM also directed for creating separate Management Professional Scale with high salary incentives for heads of



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif being received by Minister for Planning Development and Reform Mr. Ahsan Iqbal at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Islamabad on March 31, 2016



Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif chairing meeting on development projects at Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform in Islamabad on 31st March 2016.

development projects worth more than Rs20 billion. "The civil servants will also be eligible for this separate scale along with other talented management professionals from the private sector through a transparent procedure for recruitment. The MoPD&R should use all the resources at its disposal to achieve the SDGs and Vision 2025," the Premier emphasised.

Nawaz Sharif directed to limit projects under the PSDP as per the spending capacity of the government and devise a mechanism for holding the ministries and divisions answerable for their performance. "The allocations for cost intensive should be made after thorough deliberations, and their progress must be reviewed continuously," the PM stressed.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal also briefed the PM on the proposed allocations for the PSDP 2016-17, and said the estimates had been made to accomplish the development agenda of the present government. The Minister proposed to enhance allocations for

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the next PSDP appropriately to accommodate government's initiatives, undertake projects on EPC mode, and completion of the CPEC and energy projects on time.

The Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA) briefed the PM about the pace of the ongoing as well as future projects of road networks, and said portfolio of the NHA had significantly been raised from Rs45 billion to Rs750 billion for the first time. Appreciating the speedy and cost effective work being done by NHA, the PM directed for completing motorway projects within the next two years. The Chairman NHA apprised the PM that work on the road projects under the western corridor of the CPEC and long neglected dualisation of the Peshawar-DI Khan Section of the Indus Highway was being carried simultaneously with completion of the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway.

Nawaz Sharif said the present government had doubled budgetary allocations for the development projects during the last three years. "There is a positive and significant correlation between investment in infrastructure and economic development. Investment on development projects will increase quality of life of our citizens, and will also generate employment opportunities for our youth," said the PM, while adding that Pakistan's economic turnaround had started, which was irreversible and would make Pakistan an Asian Tiger.

MNA Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Safdar, Senator Saud Majeed and other senior officials of the government were also present during the meeting.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal signs agreement with

US for 250 PhD scholarships in five years

Pakistan signed a document with US for 250 PhD scholarships in five years under the Fulbright Scholarships. Pakistan will contribute \$25 million, equal to the US contribution. The document was signed during a meeting with the Working Group on Education, Science and Technology under the Pakistan-USA Strategic Dialogue. Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal, who led the working group, signed the document. This is in addition to 10,000 PhD scholarships being negotiated with the US. The Minister also discussed expansion of the centres of advance studies in the Pakistani universities and establishment of community colleges to promote technical education. He emphasised closer collaboration between science foundations of both countries.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal discusses collaboration with MIT

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal held meetings with the leading figures at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to discuss collaboration in the science and technology sector, including setting up a state of the art university in Pakistan. His meetings included one with Karachi-born quantum astrophysicist Nergis Mavalvala, Associate Department Head of Physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Mavalvala is a member of the team of scientists that announced the scientific milestone of detecting gravitational waves, ripples in space and time hypothesised by physicist Albert Einstein. He felicitated her on her success, and discussed opportunities of collaboration with the MIT.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal also met Bill Aulet, Managing Director of the Martin Trust Centre for MIT Entrepreneurship at MIT in Boston. The Centre is responsible for entrepreneurship across all five schools at the MIT, starting with education and extending well outside the classroom with student clubs, conferences, competitions, networking events, awards, student trips and most recently accelerators. They discussed ideas to promote entrepreneurship in the Pakistani universities so that the youth become job creators, instead of job seekers. The Minister also met Prof Richard Lester - Associate Provost MIT and oversees international activities of the Institute - to discuss MIT's collaboration in setting up a state-of-the-art university in Pakistan. He presented his book on productivity to Prof Ahsan Iqbal. He apprised Pro Lester that Pakistan was launching a campaign about productivity, quality and innovation for making the country a competitive economy.

Meanwhile, the Minister met the Pakistani students at the Kennedy School, Harvard University. He apprised them about the improvement Pakistan was making. "We need to have confidence in ourselves and keep a sustained effort," he stated. The Minister also highlighted the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Prof Ahsan Iqbal offered them full assistance in working on Pakistan-related projects. Dr Asim Khawaja, Professor of Public Policy at Kennedy School, hosted the meeting. He is one of the few Pakistani American academicians in top US universities.

Economic Sections

Economic Appraisal

The Section analysed and examined 22 PC-Is of different projects, and undertook cost-benefit (economic, financial, unit cost) analyses accordingly for consideration of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and Concept Clearance Committee.

Officers the Section also participated in about 15 pre- and post-CDWP meetings chaired by different Members (Planning Commission) and one CDWP meeting chaired by Minister PD&R Prof Ahsan Iqbal.

The Chief of the Section represented the Planning Commission as a member in two meetings of the AJ&K DWP and one meeting of the FATA DWP.

International Trade and Finance

The Section updated data for an analysis of the External Sector performance of the economy. According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), exports decreased by 13.29 per cent, and stood at \$13,869 million during July-February 2016. In the same period, imports decreased by 5.04 per cent, and stood at \$28,950 million. The average exchange rate in February 2016 remained at Rs104.62 per US dollar against Rs101.36 per US dollar in February 2015.

The Section prepared report on the Balance of Payments for July-February 2016, brief for D-10 plus forum meeting, talking points for the Minister Finance for the World Bank meetings, brief for the second Session of the Pak-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) in Lahore, and presentations on the ITF Section and Turkmenistan Economy. Officers of the Section attended seminar on the Social Accounting Matrix and a meeting on the Trucking Policy, besides furnishing comments and views on the World Bank reports to the Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

Macroeconomic

The government of Pakistan is focussing strengthening of the cross-border relations and connectivity. For this, the government is seeking technical assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a project aimed at mapping potential economic corridors to enhance trade, growth and job creation. The assistance will come under the Pakistan Economic Corridors Programme (PECP) agreed upon by the ADB and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. This assistance is aligned with the ADB's country partnership strategy (2015-19), and is included in the Country Operation Business Plan for 2016-28. The DFID will contribute about £262 million of grant co-financing for the ADB's operations in these areas. A report will be finalised with prioritisation of about four potential economic corridors, which have synergy with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and ADB investments, starting with the investments under the PECP.

Further, the government is committed to upsurge exports amid low international prices. Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has announced zero-rated tax regime for the export

sector to help it overcome liquidity crunch, and eliminate corruption in payment of refund claims. A few years back, the zero-rated regime was introduced for only five export sectors, namely textile, sports, leather, carpet and surgical sectors.

Notwithstanding low international prices, the country managed to export 120,000 tonnes of potato in the last three months. The duty-free exports, government's facilitation to exporters and increased cultivation over 400,000 acres, around 3.5 per cent higher than last year, had helped produce positive results for the commodity.

The Minister PD&R attended the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) on the theme "The Rise of Crowd funding". The Minister was briefed on the theme by the Section.

Moreover, a meeting of Monetary and Fiscal Policies Coordination Board was held under the chairmanship of the Minister Finance. The Finance Ministry sought working paper on one of the agenda items 'Impact of Monetary Policy adopted by the SBP on Investment, Growth and Balance of Payments', from the Planning Commission. This Section drafted the paper for the Board.

The Economic Affairs Division is organising a D-10 Forum in the coming April on different key areas of the economy. The Chief of the Section from the MoPD&R has been nominated to present and discuss details of the Vision 2025 at the Forum.

A one page statement is designed by this Section for the Minister PD&R and other authorities of the MoPD&R to manifest changing macroeconomic indicators. The said statement is being circulated on first working day of every week. This Section has also circulated the regular monthly issue of the 'Economic Outlook' for February. The state of the different sectors of the economy was depicted in the report. This Section is also providing secretariat services for project 'Support and Monitoring of High Impact New Initiatives (HINI) of Vision 2025'.

Money, Prices and Fiscal Policy

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved \$502 million tranche for Pakistan. The government has raised Rs126.4 billion from auction of the Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs), and Rs215.8 billion from the auction of Treasury Bills of different tenors. The private sector credit take-off increased to Rs318 billion in July-February 2016 from Rs159 billion in the corresponding month of the last year.

The Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) market remained bullish during March by gaining 1945 points (5.9 per cent) overall to close at 33,139 by the end of March 2016.

During February 2016, according to the provisional figures, the FBR has made a net collection of about Rs1,954.8 billion for July-March 2016, showing an increase of over 18 per cent from the corresponding period of the previous year.

The Section prepared monthly update on the 'Capital Market Developments' for February 2016. The report included the performance of the PSX, sectoral analysis, trading of the government policies, analysis of Foreign Portfolio Investment and regional comparisons.

The Section also prepared review of the Monetary Developments (M2) during July-February 2015-16, brief for the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) meeting chaired by the

Finance Minister, monthly report on inflation for February 2016 (included an analysis of trends in the CPI, WPI and SPI along with regional and global inflation trend), first draft of chapter on 'Monetary, Fiscal and Capital Market Developments' for the Annual Plan 2016-17, presentation pertaining to the MP&FP section in line with the given template (including vision, mission, core values, functions, KPIs, resource requirement and job descriptions of the Section), and brief on 'Presentation on Consumer Price Index' for the ECC meeting, brief on the 'Crowd funding in China',

The monthly update on the 'Capital Market Developments' for March 2016, monthly report on inflation for March 2016 and review of the Monetary Developments (M2) during July-March 2015-16 are under preparation.

Plan Coordination

The 9th meeting of the Advisory Committee of the MoPD&R was organised, which was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Prof Ahsan Iqbal. For the participants of the 21st Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC), who visited the MoPD&R, a briefing was arranged and presentation was made.

The Minister PD&R directed to seek input in the form of presentation from all Chiefs and Heads of Sections on 'Restructuring of the Ministry'. Accordingly, presentations were collected. A meeting was also arranged under the chairmanship of Chief Economist Dr Muhammad Nadeem Javaid in this regard to check the format and contents of the presentations.

Preparations were made for a meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Briefs on the agenda items were obtained from the sections concerned.

Preparations were made for the Economic Coordination Committee meeting. Briefs on the agenda items were obtained from the sections concerned.

Information and record was provided to the quarters concerned in the 'Inquiry against officers and officials of the Ministry of Special Initiatives and others in the Clean Drinking Water for All (CDWA) Project'.

Preparations were also made for convening the 2nd meeting of the Planning Ministers, scheduled to be held on the coming April 8 at Karachi under the chairmanship of the Minister PD&R. An audit team, from the Auditor General of Pakistan, is conducting audit of the Institutional Cooperation Programme (ICP). The Section is coordinating and facilitating the audit of the ICP Secretariat, different projects at the Survey General of Pakistan, Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI), NUST Islamabad, Pakistan Meteorological Department Islamabad, Federal Directorate of Education Islamabad, Agriculture University Faisalabad, COMSAT Institute Abbottabad and NED University Karachi.

Chief of the Section Dr Muhammad Afzal delivered lectures on 'Overview of Project Management' and 'Introduction to Project Preparation Documents i.e. PC-I to PC-V' at the Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI). He, along with officers of the Section, attended the GRE orientation session for PhD scholarships under the Young Development Fellows Programme. Dr Afzal attended a meeting, chaired by the Member (Infra), regarding construction of three executive floors at the JACC premises.

Poverty Alleviation and MDGs

The Poverty Alleviation and Macroeconomic sections jointly organised a day-long workshop on the 'Social Accounting Matrix' in collaboration with the Pakistan Strategy Support Programme (PSSP) for the mid-career officers of the Economist Group posted in different ministries. The workshop provided basic know-how about the matrix, and will be furthered by a series of such workshops. About 18 officers get hands on training.

Secretary MoPD&R and Chief of the Section attended the 10th Asian Development Forum (ADF) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. A presentation was made on Pakistan's efforts on adopting the SDGs.

Public Investment Programming

Minister PD&R Prof Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting with the secretaries of all the federal ministries and divisions for preparation of the PSDP 2016-17. The Minister directed the sponsoring ministries and divisions to submit only high priority and impact new projects based on pillars of the Vision 2025 for it is country's strategy and future roadmap, analyse the existing portfolio to determine whether the development projects fall under the sectoral priorities set in the Vision and 11th Five Year Plan, identify projects that may be initiated on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) and BOT as the fiscal space is tight due to requirement of the CPEC projects, in pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ministries and divisions may propose development projects aligned with the 17 goals of the SDGs on priority for their achievement by the FY30, instead of allocation-utilisation approach, the ministries and divisions should move to target based budgeting with a clear outcome at the end of each financial year for every development project, and the ministries and divisions may also undergo an exercise to overlook their development projects whether these are in resonance with the manifesto of the present government to achieve the development agenda and envisaged targets by the end of FY18.

As per direction of the Minister PD&R, a meeting was held to discuss the financing issues of the SUPARCO's project 'Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite-1 (PRSS-1)' with stakeholders.

Funds worth Rs54 billion have been released to development projects of the ministries and divisions during March 2016. The information and detail of funds, sanctioned during the month, has also been punched in the SAP system. The foreign aid disbursement position is also being updated on monthly basis as and when received from the Economic Affairs Division in respect of the foreign-funded projects.

An amount of Rs5,466.426 million has been reappropriated to development projects as proposed by the relevant sponsoring ministries and divisions.

Technical Sections

Food and Agriculture

Information and data required for compilation of the Annual Plan 2016-17 was requested for from the ministries concerned. The first draft of chapter on the Agriculture and Food Security, for inclusion in the Annual Plan 2016-17, was submitted to the quarter concerned.

Different PC-Is for the DDWP meeting of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research were examined and comments were prepared for presentation, which were titled as Establishment of Horticulture Research Institute Khuzdar, Balochistan, Establishment of Livestock Research Institute (LRI) at Turbat (Balochistan), Strengthening of Coastal Agriculture Research Institute Bhawani, Hub, Lasbella, Rehabilitation and Strengthening of Summer Agricultural Research Station of PARC, Upgradation and Accreditation of Seed Testing Laboratory, FSC&RD, Karachi, Upgradation of Seed Certification Services in Balochistan, Establishment of WTO Cell in Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Strengthening of Technical Information Support System of Department of Plant Protection (DPP) by Linking Quarantine Outposts with WeBOC System of Pakistan customs and IT Enablement of Animal Quarantine Department and Online Linkage Support with WeBOC System of Pakistan Customs.

Comments on a case regarding 'Proposal for installation of solar tube wells' were drafted for forwarding to the Energy Wing.

Four PC-Is of the ICT were examined and comments were offered. These were: Development of Forest Nurseries and Promotion of Afforestation in ICT, Adoption of Modern Techniques of Organic Farming for Raise up the Livelihood of Farmers of ICT, Development of Fish Culture in Simly Dam ICT and Rehabilitation and Improvement of Fish Seed Hatchery at Rawal Dam, ICT.

Nominations of officers of the Section for multilateral and bilateral training courses, seminars and programmes were forwarded to the Training Section.

Material for the Economic Survey of Pakistan (first instalment) was finalised, and sent to the quarter concerned.

Comments were offered to the Chief Nutrition Section and SUN Focal Point on 'Minutes of the consultative meeting on National Multi-Sectoral Nutritional Strategy for Pakistan' held in the P-Block, Pak Secretariat.

Meetings regarding the Doodh Darya with Secretary and Additional Secretary for filing of the Intra-Court Appeal (ICA), and also with Deputy Attorney General (DGA) Islamabad High Court were attended.

The Section was represented on occasion of visit of the Italian Ambassador in Chakwal regarding Olive Project, funded by the Italian government.

Education

A meeting on restructuring of the MoPD&R, held under the chairmanship of the Secretary PD&R was attended. Also, a meeting to review the latest status of preparedness for launching the National Enrolment Drive (April 1 to 30, 2016) in the country, convened by the Minister PD&R was attended. Representatives from all provinces and area governments participated in the meeting. Prof Ahsan Iqbal issued standing instructions to ensure success of the Drive.

The 9th meeting of the Advisory Committee of the MoPD&R, held under the chairmanship of the Minister PD&R was attended. Status on implementation of the Smart Schools project in the ICT was discussed. Regional Head Southwest region of Ameen Jan made a presentation on the progress. Chief Education Section Tanveer Hussain Bokhari informed that the PC-1 of the project was almost near completion by the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) Islamabad, and would soon be presented in the forthcoming CDWP meeting.

The 53rd meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on the Cabinet Secretariat was held. Tanveer Bokhari represented the MoPD&R. The PSDP 2016-17 of the Cabinet Division was discussed.

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Member (IRC/I&M) to rationalise cost of the project 'Establishment of F.G College of Home Economic and Management Science F-11/1 Islamabad'. Representatives from the CAAD, FEDE, Pak PWD and PD attended the meeting. The issue regarding the unrealistic cost and rates of the project was resolved.

The pre-CDWP meetings on the projects 'Establishment of Smart Schools in ICT' and 'Upgradation of ICT High Schools' were held, which were also attended by representatives from the CAAD, FDE, PWD Islamabad. The Education Section and Chief (Economic Appraisal) also attended the meeting. The Member (SS&D) chaired the meetings.

A presentation by the GEO-Spatial Technology Cell of the Suparco was held in the Committee Room of the MoPD&R. Officers from the Planning Commission attended the presentation. Use of the GPRS technology to locate the project site as well as to monitor progress was demonstrated with the help of slides, etc. It was found to be a very useful presentation. The Education Section attended an orientation and preparatory meeting with the ministries and divisions regarding formulation of the PSDP 2016-17 under the chairmanship of the Minister PD&R.

Two projects 'Upgradation of schools in ICT' and 'Establishment of Smart Schools in ICT' were considered and approved in principle in the CDWP meeting. Projects aim at improving the quality and standard of education in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) through introduction of the IT and missing facilities with better and improved infrastructure to ensure quality education in the ICT.

Governance

The PC-I of the project 'Support Project for Sustainable Development Goals Implementation', sponsored by the Sindh Planning and Development Department, was examined and a pre-CDWP meeting was arranged and its minutes were issued. The working paper of the project was presented in the CDWP meeting and minutes were prepared.

The PC-I of the project 'Pakistan Planning and Management Institute-Centre of Excellence' of the MoPD&R was examined, and the working paper was presented in the CDWP meeting, and minutes were prepared.

The PC-I of the project 'Federal Programme under Access to Justice Programme (Revised)', sponsored by the Ministry of Law and Justice was examined, and the working paper was discussed in a pre-CDWP meeting and minutes were issued.

The PC-I of the project 'Upgradation of Jawaid Azfar Computer

Centre (4th Revision)' of the MoPD&R was examined, and a pre-CDWP meeting was arranged and its minutes were issued. The working paper of the project was presented in the CDWP meeting, and minutes were prepared.

The project 'Centre of Excellence for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CE-CPEC)', sponsored by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), was presented in the CDWP meeting. Also, a meeting of the post-CDWP Committee and a sub-committee were arranged to discuss the modified PC-I of the project.

A case for release of the project 'Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance (Revised)' of the MoPD&R was processed.

The MoU with the Exim Bank of Turkey for a credit of \$300 million for Pakistan was examined, and comments were issued to the Foreign Aid and Employment Research Section.

An advertisement seeking services of individual consultants published under reference number UNDP-IC-2016-013-Consultant for Ministries 'Implementing for Performance Contracting' under the Reforms and Innovation in Government for High Performance for implementing Performance Contracts in Ministries/Divisions was published and circulated to all ministries and divisions.

Two meetings to review the Performance Contracts of 11 ministries and divisions and to discuss the Performance Management System, and progress of the Governance Reforms and discuss future roadmap for 2016 were arranged.

Proposal of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication on provision of the IT manpower to the federal ministries and divisions was examined, and was processed for approval of the competent authority.

A request was forwarded to the foreign office to initiate knowledge exchange programmes among Pakistan and other countries, which have been through a process of governance and civil service reforms to share their experience and expertise with Pakistan as part of the capacity-building component of the 'Reform and Innovation in Government for High Performance' project of the MoPD&R.

The progress report on implementation of the Cabinet decision regarding the reform agenda of the government for February 2016 was prepared and processed for approval.

Proposals of the Sindh Planning and Development Department for provision of the Non-Lending Technical Assistance were examined, and the meeting of the NLTA Committee was attended. Also, a proposal of the Finance Division (Litigation Wing) regarding financial impact of employees working in the PSDP-funded projects was examined, and comment and views were processed for approval of the competent authority.

Advertisement seeking applications against two vacant positions in the Young Development Fellowship Programme of the MoPD&R was published and applications received are being compiled. Also, the GRE Orientation Session for availing PhD scholarships under the YDF Programme was arranged for all officers of the Ministry.

Industries and Commerce

The Section finalised PC-IIs of the feasibility studies of the 'Cluster Development Based Mineral Plan Vision 2025', and 'Cluster Development Based Industrial Development Plan Vision 2025'.

Officers of the Section prepared PC-II for the feasibility study of the 'Prime Minister's Skill Development Programme' of the Ministry of Textile Industry, comments on the Establishment

of Public Private Partnership (PPP-MODE) in the IC&I Department, Construction of Road Network to Facilitate Coal Supply to Power Plant at Pind Dadan Khan, amended draft incentive package for overseas and non-resident Pakistanis and re-appropriation case of the Commerce Ministry regarding 'Purchase of Equipment Furnishing, Curriculum Development and Training of the Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design' and briefs about the commerce and on mineral sector.

The Section was also provided information to the PIP Section regarding the National Assembly Question # 55 for the PSDP projects 2013-14, amended draft frame work agreement of CPEC in light of the feedback received from different stakeholders, attended meeting in the Board of Investment on amendment in the Investment Policy Real Estate 2014 in light of recommendations of the State Bank of Pakistan, offered comments on Part-II of concept proposal of the SMEDA regarding SMEs access to finance through donors support, organised meetings on the Pak-GTI Karachi pertaining to issue of handing over of the Institute to Sindh TEVTA, and Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Development Company (PGJDC) pertaining to issue of funding to the Company from the recurring budget in the FY17, offered comments on the annual review of the Pakistan-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD), and reviewed PSDP 2016-17 and conducted a consultative meeting with the Commerce Ministry.

Nutrition

The International Conference on Global Trends in Safe and Healthy Food was held from March 7-8, 2016 in the Government College University (GCU) Faisalabad. The Member (FS&CC) Planning Commission and Chief Nutrition and National Programme Officer SUN Secretariat participated. They both addressed the forum, and also chaired the designated sessions of the conference. They also attended a meeting – held in the office of the United Nations World Food Programme – to share findings on the Stunting Prevention Project in Thatta and Sajawal Districts, Sindh. This activity was done to assess and evaluate the key findings in the project area, and to get recommendations for moving forward.

The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) arranged a GRE orientation session for availing PhD scholarship under the Young Development Fellows Programme. This session was attended by the Assistant Chief of the Section.

The 3rd Implementation Support Mission De-briefing meeting was held at the Planning Commission – with the Member (FS&CC) in the chair – regarding the Sindh Nutrition Programme and Balochistan Nutrition programme. Both the programmes have the WB IDA and MDTF Grant respectively and mission shared their outcomes.

The newly-appointed Country Director Micronutrient Initiative (MI) held a meeting with the Chief Nutrition Section in the latter's office to discuss partnership of the MI and Planning Commission, and on ways of strengthening it further.

A two-day international conference 'Learning together to improve access to quality care for mothers and children' was organised by the Ministry of National Health Services, regulation and Coordination. The Chief of the Section participated in the inaugural session and delivered a speech on the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN). Another international conference 'Nutrition sensitive Agriculture in Mountain Areas' was convened by the Inter-cooperation Pakistan with the collaboration of the SUN and other development partners. The Member (FS&CC) made a speech on the food security situation, while the Chief

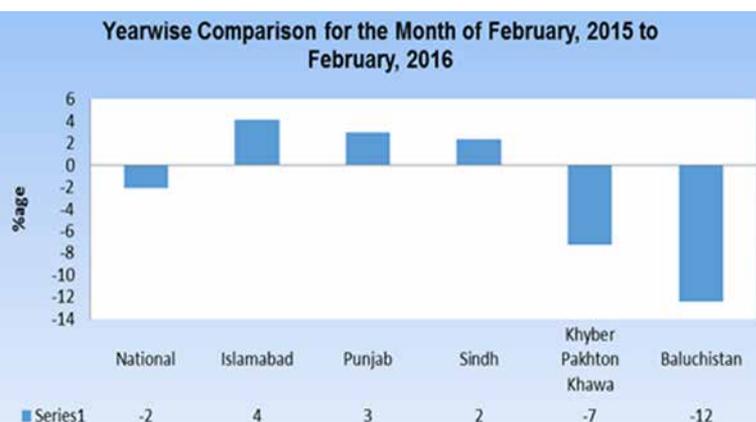
Nutrition Section presented the UN Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, and its activities in Pakistan.



The SUN Business Network Meeting (SBN) was held at Lahore, which was organised by the National SUN Secretariat, Planning Commission and SUN Business Network Secretariat with the support of conveners of the network (WFP, GAIN and MI). Senior Minister Punjab Raja Ashfaq Sarwar was chief guest and Minister P&DD Balochistan Dr Hamed Khan Achakzai was the guest of honour of the forum. Members of the Punjab Assembly, officers from the federal and provincial departments and ministries, representatives from the business community, nutrition development partners and representatives from electronic and print media were present. The main objective of the meeting was formulation of the SBN executive committee and sharing of the Business Engagement Strategy and Roadmap, and moving forward in the SBN, which were all achieved through consensus.

Monthly research activity for March 2016 has been conducted to estimate cost of the food basket, which is based on cost of provision of 2,150 calories. Keeping the national average consumer prices of the essential commodities for basic food basket in mind, the findings are: cost decreased by 2.5 per cent in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 1.5 per cent in Balochistan, 1.3 per cent in Islamabad, 1.2 per cent at the national level, 1.1 per cent in the Punjab and 0.9 per cent in Sindh.

The year wise change is also calculated, which showed the comparison of February 2015 with February 2016. The cost of the food basket decreased with a 12 per cent change in Balochistan, seven per cent in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and two per cent at the national level, while an increase of four per cent has been recorded in Islamabad, three per cent in the Punjab and two per cent in Sindh. These findings are shown in the figure below.



Water

The Section continued working on the financial and physical review of the PSDP 2015-16, and coordination and consultation between all executing agencies regarding the fast-track implementation of the development programme reflected under the PSDP 2015-16. It was also involved in the technical input, and action taken for the timely releases of the third and fourth quarter development budget. Moreover, the Section was involved in the technical scrutiny of the emergent flood schemes and, approval for the new ones, preparation of five working papers for approval of the CDWP forum and two summaries for the ECNEC, briefing and presentation on the Kachhi Canal project for the Minister PD&R and CCI meeting, prepared presentation on all development projects for the Senate Standing Committee on the MoPD&R, and data calculation for the 'Water availability at farm gate'.

Officers of the Section attended a few important meetings, which included: the Kachhi Canal, Raising of Mangla dam, Kurram Tangi Review Committee, progress review on the construction of 20 small dams in the KPK, PSDP review meeting of FY16 and initial guidelines for the PSDP 2016-17, CDWP, Integrated implementation of RBODs, scrutiny committee of the flood schemes, and briefing to finalise the ECNEC agenda.

Environment

Officers of the Section participated in a two-day consultative workshop on 'Disaster Risk Insurance Framework for Pakistan', seminar on 'Baseline Emissions Projection for Low Carbon Scenario Assessment' by Seton Sitebert, orientation-cum-preparation meeting with ministries and divisions regarding formulation of the PSDP 2016-17, meeting on 'Developing Reverse Linkage between the Marmara Research Centre (IMRC) Turkey and Pakistan Met Department', the first meeting of the National Steering Committee of Pakistan's Second National Communication on Climate Change Project, attended the Green Pakistan Programme, and participated in the CDWP meeting, held March 30.

The Section prepared seven working papers, which included: Developing Taxonomic Profile of Mammals of Pakistan in Support of International Agreements, Strengthening capacity for effective implementation of the Pakistan trade control of wild fauna and Flora Act, 2012, Protection & Mainstreaming of vulnerable women, children, elderly and disable in Disaster management, Multi-hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, National Disaster Spatial Data Infrastructure, Establishment of climate change reporting unit in the ministry of climate change, and Implementation of Human Resource Development Plan (HRDP) on Disaster Management for Capacity Building of Government and Other Stakeholders.

The Section prepared comments on 21 PC-Is of the Transport and Communication, Governance, Physical Planning and Housing, Water Resources, Energy Wing, Mass Media and Culture, Sports and Tourism, and Population and Social Planning sections.

PROJECTS, WINGS, ATTACHED CELLS

National Fertilizer Development Centre

Production of all fertilizer products during February 2016 was about 641,000 tonnes. Out of this urea production was 458,000 tonnes (71.4 per cent share in the total production). Other products were: DAP 62,000, CAN 59,000 tonnes, NP 51,000 tonnes, SSP 6,000 tonnes and various grades of NPKs 7,000 tonnes. Imported supplies comprised 38,000 tonnes of DAP, 500 tonnes of SOP and 2,000 tonnes of AS.

Total nutrient offtake during February was about 227,000 tonnes, which was 19.1 per cent less than February 2015. Among the nutrients, nitrogen offtake was 181,000 tonnes, which decreased by 24.8 per cent, phosphate offtake was 431,000 tonnes, which surged 13.6 per cent and potash offtake was 2,900 tonnes, which jumped by 35.9 per cent over February 2015.

Urea offtake during February was 315,000 tonnes, which dipped by 30.9 per cent, while DAP offtake was 71,000 tonnes surged by 12.2 per cent over February 2015.

Officers of the Section were involved in various activities, which included: provided information regarding fertilizer offtake in the FATA for the FATA Secretariat Peshawar, participated in the 16th international congress of the Soil Science at the University of Arid Agriculture Rawalpindi, assisted the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MoNFS&R) in preparation of the working paper regarding DAP subsidy and price situation, prepared brief regarding urea and DAP availability and price situation during the next two growing seasons for the Finance Division, assisted the MoNFS&R for preparation of a briefing to the Minister NFS&R regarding the Kissan Package of Prime Minister, and provided information to the Agriculture Department Sindh regarding fertilizer offtake in Sindh during Kharif 2016. Also, the monthly Fertilizer Review of mid-March 2016 has been published, and issued to all the stakeholders.

Pakistan Planning and Management Institute

Contract management (March 1-4)

The objective of this Course was to give an overview of the contract management and improve knowledge of participants. The contents included: fundamentals of the contract

management, how to develop TORs for hiring services of consultants? preparation of tender documents and post-tendering review. The participants were educated about inflation, escalation of prices and price adjustment formula and procedure as well as awareness about the rules of reconciliation and arbitration. Training on different forms and types of contracts were also imparted. 44 officers from the federal and provincial governments participated in the Course.

Project planning, monitoring, evaluation and development of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (March 7-18)

This two-week training course was for improving performance of the participants by giving a better understanding of the whole process of projects. It was to define and develop an understanding among the participants about the basic concepts of the project planning and management, equipping participants with project identification skills and how to prepare and design projects, explaining the use of project appraisal techniques in project preparation, train participants in implementation and managing projects, develop understanding of the participants regarding purpose and benefits of monitoring and evaluation. The Course was also meant to impart knowledge of how to plan a project using the Logical Framework Approach Analysis (LFA), develop a result-based monitoring and evaluation framework and KPIs. 72 officers from the federal and provincial governments attended the Course.



Financial management procedures and policies in the public sector (March 28-31)

The main objective of this training course was to provide participants with an understanding of the Public Financial Management System and overall economic and fiscal context within which a government makes expenditure decisions. The objective was also to explore common issues, lessons learnt, effective practices and latest reforms to improve the Public Financial Management System to ensure transparency and accountability in the public sector. 51 officers participated in this course.



National Enrolment Campaign launched

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal announced a month-long enrolment campaign, which would be launched from April 1 to achieve 100 per cent enrolment of out-of-school children in the next three years to meet universal primary enrolment targets.

“The Prime Minister and Chief Ministers will lead the campaign to give it the broader national ownership, while academia, civil society, politicians, media and local communities will be engaged to make this drive success,” the Minister stated this at a press conference after chairing a high-level meeting on the national enrolment drive at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister Education and Vocational Training Baleegh-ur-Rahman, provincial education ministers of Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan and higher officials of the education departments of the Punjab, Sindh and AJ&K.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal said 100 per cent primary enrolment was the first phase and upon its completion, the target of 100 per cent enrolment in the higher education would be set up.

He mentioned that the enrolment drive was part of the present government’s efforts to build knowledge economy, envisaged in the Vision 2025 and this aim could not be realised without educating the new generation of the country. He hoped that 100 per cent primary enrolment would be achieved before 2018 and asked the provincial governments to hold higher level meetings in their respective provinces for finalising the strategy within a week. “District governments should also hold meetings to finalise their work plans by March 22. All stakeholders should coordinate and synergise their efforts to achieve 100 per cent enrolment targets,” he said. The Minister noted that this drive would boost the routine enrolment work of the provincial governments, while the federal government would provide a supportive and coordinated role to create national impact of this drive. Prof Ahsan Iqbal said the media, local communities, business fraternity and politicians could be mobilised to make this campaign a success, while the Higher Education Commission (HEC) would also be engaged to motivate university students to act as volunteers for the campaign. The Minister invited the media to play an active role for making the national enrolment drive a success as part of its national obligation to contribute in Pakistan’s development. He noted that though education was devolved under the 18th constitutional amendment, the federal government could not be absolved of its responsibilities to maintain national education standards by playing its supportive role, since the devolved sectors had key role in the national development, and the federal government could play an instrumental role through coordination among various federating units for achieving the targets in these sectors. “The federal government is striving to lay strong foundation of knowledge economy, which cannot be realised without educating the new generation. He also briefed the media about his US visit.



Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chairs Preparatory Meeting on National Enrollment Drive in Islamabad on March 7, 2016. Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Engr Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman is also Present on the Occasion.

Turkish delegation calls on the Minister

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan and Turkey had huge potential for cooperation in the SME sector, and Pakistan could learn from the Turkish business models of the thriving SME sector.

He was talking to a Turkish delegation, led by Turkish Ambassador in Pakistan. The Minister said the Vision 2025 focussed on development of the SMEs because this sector had an important role in the national development. “The government is working on cluster development of many sectors to make its products regionally and globally competitive,” he said, while suggesting that the SME sector in Pakistan and Turkey could do match-making by launching joint ventures, and urged for evolving a mechanism in this regard.

‘Country ready to take off in 2016 after economic stabilisation’

“Pakistan is well-poised to take off in 2016 after achieving economic stabilisation in the last two and a half years due to prudent policies of the present government,” Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal said while opening the 9th meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission. He added that visible improvement had been seen in different sectors from economy to security, but the country had to meet challenges to become compatible with the fast-changing business environment internationally for sustainable and inclusive growth. While maintaining that efforts were being made to make country’s export sector vibrant and more productive, he highlighted structural reforms for enhancing exports, and opined that it would not be possible without a liberal trade regime. He particularly laid emphasis on productivity in the economy, and underlined the need for creating awareness in public and private sector about productivity as well as quality to make the country’s products compatible with international standards and certification. The Minister stressed to nurture dynamic innovation culture to align country’s export sector with the changing requirements of the world. He also underscored the need to further growth in industry by surplus production, and review of the commodity nature of the present export portfolio for value-added products to register quantum jump.

He also highlighted importance of the academia-industry link, and said investment in knowledge was of paramount importance to become part of knowledge platform in the world. He asked the HEC to carryout study of leading PhD programmes in top universities of the world, and prepare strategy for increased share of the Pakistani students to these universities. He also directed to identify top 50 Chinese universities to develop partnership with the Pakistani universities. He also asked the HEC to submit evaluation report on performance of the PhD scholars.

Minister directs for day-care centre for working mothers

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal has said the MoPD&R will be made an ideal workplace for women so that they can contribute effectively in the national development. He also directed to setup day-care centre at the ministry to facilitate the working mothers. He issued instructions to constitute a committee to immediately work for setting up of this centre.

The Minister was speaking at cake cutting ceremony at the ministry to mark the International Women Day. He appreciated the role of women in various spheres of life, and said the government had taken many initiatives for women empowerment. "The national development goals can be achieved only through active participation of women in the development discourse," he added.

Three universities on CPEC's western route will start functioning this year

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal has said universities in the FATA, Zhob and Gwadar, located on the western route of the Chin-Pakistan Economic Corridor will start functioning this year. "These institutes are part of the government's efforts to produce quality human resource along with focusing on infrastructure development and energy production through this mega development project," he said, while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Opportunities and Challenges'.

He described the CPEC as a trans-regional project, which would benefit three billion people through enhanced regional connectivity with Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa playing an instrumental role for integrating the region. He dispelled the impression that the CPEC would benefit one province or region, and said this controversy was political having no reality. "Now, there is complete consensus and all parties support the CPEC, which will benefit the most-backward areas of the country, and this change has started to appear in the form of emerging of human settlements on section of the western route from Quetta to Gwadar, which is scheduled to be completed by end of this year," the Minister said, adding that a new era of development and prosperity would usher in Balochistan when missing links on the western and central routes would be completed.

He underlined the need for developing new mental models through changed thinking and behaviours to make this project a success. "The positive thinking and behaviour can be brought in by focusing on quality human resource development, and the present government is earnestly working on this aspect," he said. He called upon scholars and academia to join hands with the government to tackle challenges confronting the CPEC for optimal utilisation of its potential for economic development of the country.



Australian High Commissioner calls on the Minister

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal has said Australia can help Pakistan in higher education through training of the Pakistani students in PhD programmes in the Australian universities. He was talking to the Australian High Commissioner in Pakistan Ms Margaret Adamson, who called on him at his office. They discussed the avenues of cooperation between the two countries in various sectors, especially higher education.

The Minister apprised her about various initiatives of the present government to bring visible change in different spheres of life, and said the remarkable improvement had been achieved in economy and law and order due to vibrant policies of the government. He particularly apprised her about educational initiatives. He said work had been going on fast track to improve accessibility of the higher education by setting up university campuses in districts. "We also gave a new dimension to Pak-USA Strategic Dialogue by making US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor part of it to train 10,000 PhD scholars from Pakistan in the American universities. I want to have similar arrangement with Australia to train Pakistan students in PhD programmes in the Australian universities," he said.

He apprised the High Commissioner that the government was contemplating to setup skill university, and Australia could be a potential partner through sharing of its expertise in skill development education. Margaret Adamson assured the Minister that her country would explore possibilities of working with Pakistan in the higher education sector. She also appreciated efforts of the government to bring improvements in the social and economic sectors through its Vision 2025 roadmap.

Investors should focus on social uplift of Thar under CPEC projects, Prof Ahsan Iqbal

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal has said Thar will emerge as the 'energy capital' of the country, and will provide opportunities for employment and growth in the backward areas of Sindh. He asked investors to demonstrate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for uplifting lives in Thar. "The economic activity in Thar should not mean to gain profits only, but should

be aimed to uplift the social sector,” he said, while asking the Water and Power Ministry to help the Balochistan government in preparation of the financial feasibility to utilise coal reserves in Harnai to firm up coal-based power project in the area.

He was chairing a high level meeting to review the progress on various projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Officials of the ministries concerned briefed the meeting about projects’ status under the CPEC framework. Prof Ahsan Iqbal directed to undertake construction on the CPEC projects on fast track basis for ensuring completion in scheduled time. The Minister emphasised that smarter and scientific approach should be adopted while carrying out the CPEC projects. He urged mobilising the required financial resources promptly for smooth execution of work on these projects. Ahsan Iqbal also laid great emphasis on environmental aspects of all CPEC projects and observed that precautionary measures should be

adopted to thwart any environmental hazards. For Gwadar, Prof Ahsan Iqbal directed for economical and environment-friendly power projects to cater to power demands of the Gwadar Port City and Makran coastal belt. He emphasised the need to work out a plan to develop the City with an aesthetic look by inviting top architectures to come up with their plans through open competition. He particularly directed to chalk out feasible plans for downstream disposal of ash of coal-based power plants. He asked the authorities concerned to study the best international practices for ash utilisation.

The Minister also directed the National Highway Authority to meet timelines for completion of the missing links on the western route to operationalise it as the first priority under the CPEC framework as part of commitment of the government. “Gwadar will be connected with the rest of Pakistan through three routes, which will bring a transformational change in the area,” he said, while directed to work out a plan for upgradation of the Sust dry port in Gilgit-Baltistan for its proper utilisation in the CPEC framework.



Islamabad (Mar 15, 2016): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chairing a Progress Review Meeting on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Next PSDP must align with Vision 2025 and government’s manifesto, Prof Ahsan Iqbal

Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal has impressed upon the federal ministries and divisions to come up with proposals for the next year’s Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), which are linked with the Vision 2025 and manifesto of the government. “The government will entertain only those projects, which are aligned with the future growth roadmap and will have a higher development impact. The present government is giving priority to energy and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, leaving it with limited financial resources to finance other development projects that require the ministries to present priority projects,” he remarked while chairing a preparatory meeting for the PSDP 2016-17 at the Planning Commission. The meeting was attended by high officials of the federal ministries and divisions. He issued guidelines to the ministries to formulate proposals for next PSDP by keeping management practices, and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), declared as the Pakistan Development by government. He also called upon them to raise their capacity-building to utilise the allocated funds as well as preparation of the PC-1s because of lack of capacity of departments to formulate technically and financially sound PC-1s of the projects was creating bad impact.

The Minister noted that under-utilisation of allocated funds against some projects hinted at serious lacunas in public sector’s capacity to utilise the fund. He also sought details of utilisation of funds so far during the current financial year. He also directed for carrying out the assessment of unapproved projects in the PSDP, and otherwise, he warned, one not approved within March would be discarded. Prof Ahsan Iqbal said due to the financial constraints, the ministries should workout plans to encourage public-private partnerships and BOT models to attract private financing in the PSDP. He urged the ministries to come up with the proposals which would provide relief to the masses in line with manifesto of the government. “The present government has completed half of its constitutional tenure, and will ensure fulfilment of its promises through its development agenda in the remaining tenure,” he maintained, adding that the PSDP proposals should be prepared to give a new look to the public sector development portfolio, and instructed for classification of the project management in terms of utilisation of funds to award grades to the best and poor performing ministries.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal given ‘CPEC’s Star Minister’ title

Vice Chairman National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China Nuer Baikeli has bestowed title of ‘Star Minister of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)’ upon Federal Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal. The NDRC is the focal ministry of China on the CPEC, whereas the Planning Commission of Pakistan is its counterpart.

The Minister was currently on a visit to China to participate in the Boao Forum. On the sidelines of the Forum, he met the Vice Chairman NDRC, and discussed with him the CPEC-related affairs. The NDRC Vice Chairman lauded untiring efforts of the Minister, and gave him title of the ‘Star Minister of CPEC’ to Prof Ahsan Iqbal.

CDWP approves development projects worth Rs218.22 billion

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved development projects worth Rs218.22 billion, including Rs203.49 billion worth seven projects, which were referred to the ECNEC. The recommended projects included construction of motorway from Halka-Burhan on M-1 to DI Khan as part of western route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), to be completed with Rs129.79 billion.

The meeting was chaired by Minister Planning, Development and Reform Prof Ahsan Iqbal, and was attended by senior federal and provincial officials concerned. The projects approved and recommended to the ECNEC related to energy, water, transport and communications, physical planning and housing, higher education, education governance, planning, development and reform sectors. Regarding construction of motorway from Halka-Burhan on M-1 to DI Khan, the Minister said this portion of the western route was being built as per the decision of the All Parties Conference, held in the last May. The meeting also recommended the Land Acquisition Affected Properties Compensation and Relocation of Utilities for construction of the motorway Rs13.67 billion. The CDWP also approved the Installation of Ship Lift and Transfer System and Associated Machinery and Equipment, worth Rs9.82 billion, to provide docking facilities to surface ships, submarines and commercial vessels.

The Party approved construction of a bridge across the River Indus connecting Larkana and Khairpur districts, approach road and river training works at a cost of Rs13.78 billion, Khail Taunsa Road (35 kms) stretch to be constructed and linked with Zhob, which will cost Rs 2.99 billion. The CDWP also gave its nod for the feasibility study of construction of breakwater at the Eastern end of Jabel-e-Nuh at a cost of Rs300 million, development schemes worth Rs319.47 million in district Tor Ghar and district Mansehra with a cost of Rs925.74 million.

For the higher education sector, the CDWP approved Strengthening of Research and Academic Facilities at the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) Nilor Islamabad, to cost Rs1.55 billion with the FEC of Rs633 million, Strengthening of Academic and Research Programmes at the Bahria University, Islamabad and Karachi at the cost of Rs1.53 billion with the FEC worth Rs237 million. It also approved upgradation and strengthening of essential facilities at the IBA Sukkur, which would cost Rs913.16 million with the FEC of Rs64 million.

For the education sector, the CDWP approved Establishment of Smart School, part of the Vision 2025, to cost Rs238 million, and upgradation of the ICT High Schools worth Rs465.27 million. The Minister directed the authorities concerned to make Smart School a flagship project, and developed the education system in Islamabad to be a model for the whole country.

The Party recommended the Golan Gol Hydro Power Project, worth Rs28.40 billion and FEC of Rs10.04 billion, to the ECNEC, and approved 500 Kv Islamabad west project to cost Rs3.62 billion, 30.4 MW Jagran-I Hydro Power Project to cost Rs4.65 billion with the FEC of Rs2.34 billion.

For water sector, the CDWP approved the Raghagan Small Dam Bajur Agency (Phase-II) worth Rs423.98 million, construction of the Bada Dam project in Swabi (KPK) to cost Rs1.18 billion, and construction of small dams in Khaliqabad (Balochistan) at a cost of Rs300 million. It also approved construction of the Judicial and Administration Complex in Mauve Area G10/1 Islamabad, which will cost Rs708.53 million.

Among other projects for various sectors, the CDWP approved the Support Project for Sustainable Development Goals Implementation worth Rs600 million with Rs300 FEC, upgradation of the Jawad Azfar Computer Centre at the MoPD&R worth Rs386.32 million, Cluster Development Based Industrial Transformation Plan Vision 2025 at a cost of Rs1 billion, Cluster Development Based Mineral Sector Transformation Plan Vision 2025 worth Rs500 million, establishment of the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at the MoPD&R worth Rs128.40 million, PPMI Centre of Excellence to cost Rs100 million and establishment of Urban Planning and Policy Centre worth Rs1,500 million. The CDWP also approved concept clearance paper of the Solar Power Park at F-9 Park Islamabad.

