

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE ON THE MATTER TO DISCUSS AND PROPOSE RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA REPORTS THAT HON. SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN DIRECTED THE STATE BANK OF PAKISTAN (SBP) TO RELEASE FUNDS TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN (ECP) FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING GENERAL ELECTION OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

1. Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, have the honor to present this report on the Matter to discuss and propose recommendations in response to media reports that Hon. Supreme Court of Pakistan directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to release funds to Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the purpose of holding General Election of Provincial Assembly of the Punjab without prior approval of the National Assembly.

2. The Committee comprises the following:-

1)	Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh	Chairman
2)	Mr. Nasir Iqbal Bosal	Member
3)	Chaudhary Khalid Javed	Member
4)	Ch. Muhammad Barjees Tahir	Member
5)	Mr. Ali Pervaiz	Member
6)	Syed Ali Musa Gillani	Member
7)	Dr. Nafisa Shah	Member
8)	Syed Hussain Tariq	Member
9)	Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani	Member
10)	Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi	Member
11)	Mr. Salahuddin Ayubi	Member
12)	Makhdoom Syed Sami-ul-Hassan Gillani	Member
13)	Ms. Wajiha Qamar	Member
14)	Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani	Member
15)	Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, <i>Minister for Finance and Revenue</i>	Ex-officio Member

3. The following also attended the meeting on special invitation:-

1)	Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar	Minister for Law and Justice
2)	Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA	Minister for Commerce
3)	Mr. Muhammad Ajmal Gondal	Auditor General of Pakistan
4)	Mr. Mansoor Hussain Akhtar	Minister for Industries

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4. The Committee considered the Matter in its meeting held on 17th April, 2023 and unanimously recommended as follows for consideration and adoption by the National Assembly:-

“After thread bear discussion, the Standing Committee resolved and directed the Finance Division that in order to comply with the orders of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Constitutional scheme provided for authorization and release of funds for the purposes of General Election the matter may be placed before the National Assembly in the form of a Bill through the Federal Cabinet. This has been necessitated because of the fact that the Supreme Court of Pakistan in its order dated 14th April, 2023 had also directed the Finance Division to adopt the constitutional procedure by way of ex-post facto approvals. In order to avoid any future complications whereby the funds are released and ex-post facto approvals are not granted the above course has been recommended. In view of the urgency involved in the matter the Finance Division is further directed to act immediately to do the needful.”

Sd/-
(TAHIR HUSSAIN)

Secretary
Islamabad, the 17th April, 2023

Sd/-
(QAISER AHMED SHEIKH)
Chairman