

**MINUTES OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEE FOR REORGANIZING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
HELD ON 13-09-2019**

The 6th meeting of the Implementation Committee was held on 13-09-2019 at 11:00 am in Institutional Reforms Cell (IRC), the P.M. Office. It was chaired by Dr. Ishrat Husain, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity. The list of the participants is annexed. The agenda of the meeting was as under:

- (i) Objections by Ministries / Divisions.
- (ii) Exit strategy vis-à-vis Garment Cities in pursuance of the directions in 5th Meeting of IC.
- (iii) Comprehensive Briefing on TVO.
- (iv) Proposal of placement of IRS with MoFA.

Objections by Ministries / Divisions

2. The proceedings of the meeting started when the Chair invited Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, Member / Federal Minister for M/o Federal Education & Professional Training, National History & Literary Heritage to share his views regarding the deferred agenda of National History & Literary Heritage Division. With permission of the Minister, Secretary, National History & Literary Heritage Division stated that the Division has no objection on the merger of Urdu Science Board (USB) and Urdu Dictionary Board (UDB) into National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) and the conversion of NLPD into an Autonomous Body having the name as National Language Promotion Authority (NLPA). However, the modalities in this respect are yet to be worked out / finalized by the Division. Regarding the following three proposals, the Secretary requested that they will present their case in the next meeting:-

- (i) Proposed merger of Quaid-e-Azam Academy (QAA) with Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Management Board (QMMB).
- (ii) Proposed merger of Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex (AIC) with Iqbal Academy Pakistan (IAP).
- (iii) Conversion of Aiwan-e-Quaid (AeQ) Building, F-9 Park into an Executive Department.

3. The representatives of the M/o Postal Services showed their reservations as under:-

- i. After becoming an Autonomous Body how they will get subsidy.
- ii. What would be the status of employees?
- iii. Is it a downsizing?
- iv. What would be fate of Postal Group?

To begin with, the Chair commented that Japan Post is the major source of revenue for the country. He further stated that the underlying purpose of declaring any entity as an Autonomous Body is to liberate it from the rules and regulation of the Government so that it could easily compete with the private companies. It was also stated that by this the Government wants to elevate the status of the organization. The Committee suggested that the department can support offices generating revenue below the subsistent level through cross-subsidization. The representatives were also informed that if the organization faces losses in the rural area then the Government may grant subsidy. The representative of the Finance Division updated the members that the overall budget of PPOD is approximately Rs. 23 billion that includes approximately Rs. 12 billion as subsidy from the Government. Regarding the fate of the employees, it was informed that the terms and conditions of the existing employees working in these Autonomous Bodies would not be altered to their disadvantage. It was also informed that it is neither rightsizing nor downsizing rather simply reorganization. The Committee categorically made it clear that nobody will be laid off and no one will go home. As far as the future employment in the organization is concerned, it would be the Board of Director that will take the decision. The Committee appreciated the concerns of the representatives and ensured that they are here to address the concerns as the conversation ventilates reservations. It was also stated that the first step is the acceptance and then comes the implementation. The Committee advised the representatives to come again after examining the proposal keeping in view the parameters of cost-benefit analysis and expected outcome / service delivery as has been directed by the Cabinet. The Committee desired that the proposals of the Ministry should come through the Minister i.e. the Ministry should seek the approval of the Minister.

M/o Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony

4. No representative from the Ministry participated in the meeting. However, the reply of the Ministry was read out to the Committee. It was that the Ministry has no objection on reorganization of Hajj and Umrah Directorate as an Executive Department. Regarding the two proposed Autonomous Bodies, Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) and Pakistan Madrassah Education Board (PMEB), it was stated the first was established as a body corporate through an Act, 1975 while the second was established through an Ordinance on 18-08-2001. The Ministry also pointed out that the case for transfer of PMEB to Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is under process.

Prime Minister's Office

5. The reply of the Prime Minister's Office on the three proposed Autonomous Bodies namely BOI, NDMA and NACTA was also tabled before the Committee. The reply read that these statutory bodies have already been established through Ordinance and Act. These are not categorized as Ministries / Divisions / Attached Departments or Subordinate Offices.

Exist strategy vis-à-vis Garment Cities in pursuance of the directions in 5th Meeting of IC

6. No representative from the Textile Division participated in the meeting. Hence the agenda at Sr.No.ii in para 1 was not discussed.

Comprehensive Briefing on TVO

7. The Chair invited Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation / Chairperson BISP to present the case of TVO. She briefed the Committee. Following are a few highlights of her presentation:-

- TVO was created in 1990 under the Special Development Fund (SDF) Agreement signed between the Government of Pakistan and USA (USAID) in 1988 (*after the closure of USAID office/operation in Pakistan*). TVO became operational in 1992.
- TVO is registered under Charitable Endowment Act 1890.

- An Endowment fund of USD 30 million/PKR 520 million was created for this purpose.
- These funds are invested in banks and their interest/proceeds are used to run TVO operations.
- The status of the organization is that of an NGO created to avoid bureaucratic procedures.
- TVO has a Head Office in Islamabad and nine Regional Offices located at Muzaffarabad, Peshawar, Lahore, D.I. Khan, Multan, Quetta, Larkana, Hyderabad and Karachi.
- Current staff strength of the Trust is 58, of which 54 employees are regular and 4 on daily-wages.
- The last TVO Board of Directors retired en-masse on 31st August 2013, without forwarding nominations for the vacancies on Board as per its by-laws.
- The government nominated the Secretary Economic Affairs Division as acting Chairperson TVO Board of Directors on 30th January 2014, to run its day-to-day operations except grant making activities.
- Nominations for the vacancies on Board remained under consideration with the Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs but were not finalized till in April 2019 TVO was assigned under Administrative Control of the new PASSD.
- As per clauses of MoU signed in pursuance of SDF agreement, the TVO will administer the funds of the SDF in accordance with the precepts of the SDF Agreement and, in doing so, maintain the SDF funds in a non-commingled manner to be utilized only in accordance with the purposes of the SDF Agreement.

8. Regarding the future road map of TVO, it was stated that the Ministry wants to use the infrastructure and human resource of TVO and PPAF for the implementation of *Tahafuz* which is a part of one of the four major components of the *Ehsaas*, poverty reduction strategy. *Tahafuz* is a safety net to protect the vulnerable against the shocks. It has the following four areas through which it would help the uninsured beneficiaries:-

- a. Health shocks
- b. Provision of assistive devices to special person
- c. Extending the legal aid to the women
- d. Aiding the local organization
- e.

9. The bottom line of the briefing was that the TVO has a special status that needs to be kept intact, its existence has absolutely no drain on the Government exchequer and finally its infrastructure / assets are squarely necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives of *Tahafuz*. It was categorically mentioned that while conceiving *Ehsaas*, it was fairly assumed that the infrastructure of TVO and PPAF is available. The Committee appreciated the concerns, efforts and future resolve of Dr. Sania Nishtar to transform the otherwise dysfunctional entities taking due cognizance of not incurring any additional fund.

Proposal of placement of IRS with MoFA

10. The Chair invited the Special Secretary **M/o Foreign Affairs** Mr. Moazam Ahmad Khan to brief the Committee on the possibility and feasibility of merging Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), **M/o Information & Broadcasting** with Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI), M/o Foreign Affairs in order to gain synergy. He stated that M/o Foreign Affairs has not much appetite because the sphere of both the organizations is different. Each has its own ambit. The focus of IRS is on South and South West Asian Region while the perspective of ISSI is global. The Chair also invited Dr. Rukhsana Qamber, President IRS to share her views. She stated that the performance of the Institute is improving and at this juncture she does not support the proposal of merger. The Member from the Cabinet Division was of the view that these are anecdotal character organizations and purpose is almost identical. Therefore, putting the two entities together is not irrational. The Member from the M/o Finance was of the view that IRS can be attached with ISSI as satellite and thereby the research work of both of these Institutes can be utilized by the M/o Foreign Affairs. He further stated that IRS after the disbandment of the secret service expenditure was first shifted to Assignment Account and in the recent past it has been put on pre audit system through AGPR. He further stated that because of the deficiency of requisite documents related to appointment of the researchers, some of the employees of the Institute has not getting their salary. The Chair remarked that he has been visiting both of the Institutes in connection with his own research, therefore, he too has firsthand knowledge about them. The Chair further remarked that we should take the issues beyond our person in the larger nation's interest.

He opined that M/o Information & Broadcasting neither has the capacity nor the direction to guide and harness the potential of such think tank. Mr. Mohammad Shehzad Arbab, Advisor to P.M. on Establishment suggested that for the time being IRS should be transferred to M/o Foreign Affairs within a time line and subsequently be merged with ISSI. He was of the view that the point is that we have to see that where the proper utilization of the resources is more likely.

Decisions

- I. National History & Literary Heritage Division will submit their final views / objections in respect of the Organizational Entities as proposed in Annex-VII (Proposed Executive Departments), Annex-VIII (Proposed Autonomous Bodies) and Annex-III (Organization proposed for Transfer to Provinces, Gilgit Baltistan & ICT).
 - II. M/o Postal Services will submit their views on the proposed categorization of Pakistan Post Office Department (PPOD) as Autonomous Body after due consultation with the Minister.
 - III. The Committee agreed with the proposals by Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Division for not merging TVO with PPAF.
 - IV. Institute of Regional Studies be transferred to M/o Foreign Affairs with timeline for its subsequent attachment or merger with ISSI as the case may be.
11. The meeting ended with a vote of thank to and from the Chair.

**List of participants of the 6th Meeting of Implementation Committee
held on (13-09-2019)**

- i. Advisor to the PM on Institutional Reforms & Austerity
- ii. Minister for Federal Education & Professional Training and National History & Literary Heritage
- iii. The Chairman, Special Committee of the National Assembly on Kashmir, Islamabad
- iv. Advisor to the PM on Establishment
- v. The SAPM on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation / Chairperson BISP.
- vi. The Secretary, Establishment Division
- vii. The Secretary, National History & Literary Heritage.
- viii. The Secretary, Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Division
- ix. The Special Secretary, Foreign Affairs.
- x. The Additional Secretary (II), Cabinet Division.
- xi. The Additional Finance Secretary (Expenditure), Finance Division
- xii. The Senior Joint Secretary, M/o Postal Services.
- xiii. The Director General, PPOD.
- xiv. The Additional Director General, M/o Postal Services.
- xv. The Joint Secretary, M/o Law & Justice
- xvi. The Joint Secretary, National History & Literary Heritage.
- xvii. The Joint Secretary, M/o Information & Broadcasting.
- xviii. The President, Institute of Regional Studies (IRS).
- xix. The Chief Executive Officer, TVO.
- xx. The Section Incharge, HR, TVO.
- xxi. The PC, Project & D.M. *Tahafuz*.
- xxii. The Operation Coordinator, *Tahafuz*.
- xxiii. The Team Leader, *Tahafuz*.