

**Inflation may hit 15pc: Ayesha Pasha**

ISLAMABAD: Punjab ex-finance minister Dr Ayesha Ghaus Pasha has said inflation is likely to reach 15 percent in next few months due to printing of currency notes, borrowing and depreciation of rupee against the US dollar. Dr Pasha said this while exclusively talking to this correspondent after attending the session of National Assembly here on Tuesday. The economy of the country has been badly affected due to unclear policy of the incompetent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, she said, adding that the business community is worried about the uncertain situation of the country.

She said, “There is negative growth of 10 out of 15 large-scale manufacturing sectors. There is negative growth of agriculture sector due to expensive inputs including pesticides and fertilizers.”

She said the govt has further enlarged the debt trap by taking unprecedented loans in just 10 months, adding that it would be difficult to achieve the revenue target of Rs 5,500 billion.

She said economy is showing negative growth in all major sectors and massive taxation would increase miseries of the general public.

Dr Pasha said lives of the deprived and middleman have become miserable in wake of price-hike and lack of govt’s competency. She said industries are freezing and investors are hesitating and fearing to invest in the country due to uncomfortable environment.

Answering a question, she said exports cannot be increased in spite of depreciation of rupee against the US dollar as industries have not any production and growth. She said prices of petroleum products, gas and other commodities have been increased many times so far.

**NAVEED BUTT**