

### **Punjab Cabinet approves labour, industrial policies**

The Punjab Cabinet which met here on Friday accorded approval to drafts of the Punjab Labour Policy 2018, the Punjab Occupational Safety and Health Act 2018, Punjab Domestic Act 2018, Agricultural Policy 2018, Punjab Whistleblower Protection Act and Vigilance Commission Act 2018 and Punjab Prevention of Conflict of Interest Act 2018.

The Punjab Cabinet also approved amendments in the Punjab Right to Information Act 2018, the Punjab Right to Public Service Act 2018, the Police Order 2018 (ADR committees). The draft of law about policy for reallocation of sugar mills in Punjab was also given approval along with a draft law for the establishment of Punjab Skills Development Authority.

The meeting also approved draft law for giving concession on property tax in six computerized districts. Draft amendment in the Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules 1969 under the Provincial Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1965 was approved to introduce automated registration card in Punjab. Amendment draft of the Punjab Restaurant Invoice Monitoring System Rules 2015 and the Punjab Sales Tax for Service Enforcement Rules 2014 were also approved. Draft laws relating to enforcement of provincial sales tax on intercity transportation, transportation of luggage through roads or provision of services through pipelines were also given approval.

The Punjab Cabinet also accorded approval to the draft acts for the establishment of Namal Institute and bifurcation of the Punjab Institute of Neurosciences from Ameer-ud-Din Medical College/Postgraduate Medical Institute Lahore. It also gave approval to the draft relating to the nominations and establishment of search committee for dealing with relevant matters including determination of educational qualification, experience and other matters for filling the post of vice chancellor of Punjab Tianjin University of Technology Lahore.

Notification regarding establishment of Punjab University of Technology Rasool in Mandi Bahauddin was also validated by the Punjab Cabinet. It validated the audit reports of the Auditor General about public sector companies.

The Punjab Cabinet decided to auction the luxury vehicles; 22 such vehicles will be auctioned while six bulletproof vehicles will be given to police for security. It was decided in principle that the policy of vehicles' allotment should be examined. The Chief Minister directed to constitute a high-level committee which will devise a unified policy for the allotment of government vehicles. Supplementary grant for the release of arrears amounting to Rs4.60 billion for 1263-megawatt RLNG power project of Punjab Thermal Power Limited in Jhang was also approved by the Punjab Cabinet.

The Cabinet also decided that recruitment process through the Punjab Public Service Commission will be continued while cabinet committee will present its recommendations on case to case basis for other recruitments. Health and education departments will be permitted for recruitment on priority basis, it decided.

The meeting also validated the reports of Auditor General of Pakistan for Punjab government's civil works departments, commercial audit and evaluation receipt of taxes, forestry department and others for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

The Cabinet decided to constitute a cabinet committee for the construction of Dadhocha Dam on Ling River on BOT basis. Upto 35 million gallon water will be provided to Rawalpindi city from this dam, the meeting was told. It was decided to expand the scope of health insurance program across the province and this

program will soon be started in 19 more districts. The rate of provincial sales tax will be zero for health insurance program. The cabinet meeting also accorded approval to Punjab Industrial Policy 2018 along with procedure of allotment in labour colonies.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Usman Buzdar said that implementation on industrial policy will help to increase investment and employment opportunities. He directed that solid measures should be taken to implement this policy, adding that every step of the Punjab government is taken for public welfare.

The Punjab government is working like a team and targets of 100-day program of the Prime Minister have been achieved, he added. It is for the first time in the history of the Punjab province that a number of draft laws have been approved and we will jointly work for the durable development of the province, he said.

Giving briefing to media, Punjab Minister for Information & Culture Fayyaz ul Hassan Chohan said that such draft laws have been given approval for the first time in the history of the province which will be wholly helpful in solving the basic problems of people.

Giving details of such decisions, he said that health insurance program will be started in 19 more districts while the rate of provincial sales tax will be zero on health insurance program. He said that draft law has been approved to give concession on property tax in six computerized districts of the province.

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