

## **SEMINAR ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT HELD ON 14.11.2015 AT 90-SQA, LAHORE**

In compliance with the directions of the Chief Minister Punjab, a Seminar on public procurement was held at 90-Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam, Lahore. The Chief Secretary, a number of Provincial Ministers, Administrative Secretaries and heads of the attached department participated in the Seminar.

2. Seminar started with recitation from Holy Quran. The Chief Secretary Punjab addressed the participants and formally inaugurated the Seminar. He highlighted the importance of public procurements. He applauded the efforts of the Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority for creating awareness of PPRA Act and Rules amongst the government departments, attached department and autonomous bodies. He expressed hope that the Seminar will further strengthen the knowledge base of policy makers about Public Procurement.

4. After the formal opening of Seminar by Chief Secretary, Mr. Mohsin Abbas Managing Director, PPRA made presentation on public procurement legal system of the Punjab. He explained the meaning of public procurement, procurement cycle, prevalent procurement laws, and salient features of the Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority Act 2009 and rules of 2014. He also explained the sequence of complex procurements and ended his presentation on ten steps summary of procurement process.

5. After Managing Director, PPRA Dr. Muhammad Naiman Jalil, Associate Professor, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) made presentation on procurement planning, specification and market research. He emphasized the need for procurement planning being one the most essential component of procurement cycle. After Dr. Muhammad Naiman Jalil, Mr. Ata-ur-Rehman Director (Procurement) PITB made presentation on e-Procurement. He explained the importance of e-procurement, problem with manual procurement system and benefits of e-procurement system.

6. Then Dr. Ijaz Munir Secretary (Services) gave a comprehensive presentation on procurement issues. He explained that there are issues with the existing procurement laws and there are other issues outside the law. He gave examples of variation in procurement prices of same product on which the goods are procured by different procuring agencies. It was shown through graphs based on the data collected by the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan. He also suggested some solutions of the problems.

7. Participants actively participated in the Seminar. Ministers including Law Minister, Minister for Industries, Minister for Mine & Minerals and Minister for Housing asked very pertinent questions relating to public procurement. Secretaries Health, Mine & Minerals, Special Secretary CMO, Member (PPP), P&D and other participants also asked questions pertaining to procurements. The questions were jointly answered by Mr. Mohsin Abbas MD PPRA and Dr. Naiman Jalil Associate Professor, LUMS.

8. After presentations, summing up and winding up the Seminar, Dr. Ayesha Ghous Pasha, Minister for Finance gave a quick review of presentations. She appreciated the efforts of PPRA for organizing such an informative and fruitful Seminar. She emphasized upon the audience to come forward and help public representatives in forming a definite legal framework which could enhance the public savings through an effective public procurement policy and laws. She emphasized that a rupee saved is a rupee generated. She said that the Government under the able guidance of the Chief Minister is committed to eradicate corruption and loopholes in the system. She said there was huge potential for improvement in the performance of public functionaries regarding public procurement. She ended the Seminar by thanking the participant for their active and effective participation in the Seminar.

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