

PRA registers five percent decline in collection

The Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) has registered 5 percent decline in its revenue collection during first three months of 2017-18 against the corresponding period of 2016-17. Though the PRA revenue collection stayed at Rs 21,233 million during July-September 2017-18, showing an increase of 26 percent, it is down by five percent when compared with the corresponding period of the previous year's (2016-17) collection of Rs 16,904 million.

The collection made during 2016-17 was 31 percent extra against Rs 12,927 million of the corresponding period of 2015-16. The Authority collected Rs 6,703 million in July, Rs 6,255 million in August and Rs 8,275 million in September 2017-18. PRA Chairman Raheed Ahmed Siddiqui revealed these figures in a presentation made during a meeting with the members of the Lahore Economic Journalists Association here Thursday.

He said the PRA was established when the Federal Board of Revenue transferred the Punjab's share in 2011-12. At that time, only 12 services were taxable which were fetching Rs 22 billion. The number of taxable services gradually increased to 21, 37, 47, 59 and 62 in 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively, generating an amount of Rs 33.9 billion, Rs 43.9 billion, 43.6 billion, 61.6 billion and Rs 82.41 billion, respectively, he added.

Raheel Ahmed Siddiqui said the PRA was given the target of revenue collection of Rs 130 billion during the current financial year. "The target should be realistic, he said, adding the Authority took different initiatives during the fiscal 2017-18 including launching of Restaurant Invoice Monitoring System (RIMS) in Faisalabad where 83 restaurants were brought under the RIMS while 83 restaurants would be brought in Rawalpindi under the same system by the end of this year.

Besides, the PRA set up tax clinics to create awareness among the taxpayers of different sectors like beauty parlours and real estate agents besides setting up of appellate tribunal and e-courts to facilitate the business community. To a question, the PRA Chairman said the operational cost of tax collection is around 0.74 percent which is much less than other tax collecting agencies including the FBR.

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