

LAHORE HIGH COURT, LAHORE

No.23/RHC

From

The Registrar,
Lahore High Court,
Lahore.

To,

The Information Commissioner
Punjab Information Commission
Government of the Punjab
14-T, Gulberg-II
Lahore

Dated Lahore **14th July, 2017**

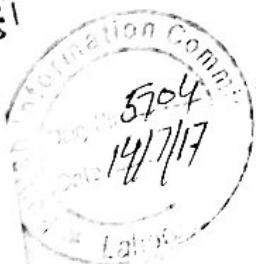
Subject: **DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION REF: COMPLAINT NO. AD(A&C) PIC2-293/2017**

Dear Sir,

Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore High Court, Lahore in response to your letter dated 17-3-2017 issued under The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2013 ("Act") has desired to disclose the following information, subject to the qualification that under the Act, "information" can only be sought from a public body, which does not include the High Court. Even otherwise, only information lawfully maintained by a public body can be sought under the Act and it does not extend to private or personal information of a public officer. In spite of the fact that the law does not obligate his lordship to disclose the information requested, he has desired to release this information voluntarily, in the public interest. His lordship is of the view that the office of a judge and more so the office of a Chief Justice, rests on public confidence, fairness, openness and transparency. As a chief trustee of the Institution, he believes that he is the first one to be accountable in the Institution.

The information required in as follows:


- i. That his lordship while being a student, was appointed a director and issued shares in a family textile business, run and managed by the father of his lordship, under the name and style of *M/s. Mansoor Textile Mills Ltd and M/s. Aaj Textile Mills Ltd* from 11.11.1984 to 16.01.1989.
- ii. That the aforesaid textile mills were subsequently wound up through Court (Lahore High Court) on 23.10.1988 (Reference C.Os. No.22 and 23 of 1987) and the possession of the aforesaid mills was handed over to the Joint Official Liquidators. Under the law (section 402 of the Companies Ordinance, 1984), the applicant ceased to be a director or shareholder of the aforesaid companies on 23.10.1988. As a result, his lordship's association with the



family business came to an end almost 30 years ago.

- iii. That the above textile mills were sold through Court and the possession of the mills was handed over to the purchaser (third party) on 5-4-1990 by the Joint Official Liquidators in consequence of order dated 2-4-1990 passed by the Lahore High Court in the aforesaid cases.
- iv. That the aforesaid companies were finally dissolved after liquidating the financial liabilities vide order dated 09.05.2005 of the Lahore High Court, passed in the abovementioned cases. Pending litigation, if any, against the aforesaid dissolved companies, therefore, has no nexus with his lordship.
- v. That his lordship never played any active role in the family business and continued with his legal education. After obtaining his LLB, his lordship was enrolled as an advocate of the lower court on 2-4-1989 and of the High Court on 1-9-1991. After an active legal practice of almost 18 years, his lordship was elevated to the Bench on 15.09.2009.
- vi. That his lordship ceased to be a director in the aforesaid companies in 1988. That as Judge of the Lahore High Court, his lordship never held the post of a director in any company and as a judge, his lordship never applied for or obtained any loan or got any loan written off regarding the above companies.
- vii. That in the year 2012, being entitled to medical facility, he applied for the treatment of his youngest son, Syed Ismail Ali Shah, who has special needs and had acute medical issues. A special Medical Board was constituted by the Health Department, Government of the Punjab, which recommended that the child should proceed abroad for treatment. Therefore, under the medical entitlement available to his lordship, an estimated sum of Rs.6.4 million was sanctioned. A total sum of Rs.4.4 million was spent on the medical treatment of his son in UK and surgery in USA. On his return from abroad, his lordship returned the balance amount in the sum of Rs.2.0 million to the Government of Pakistan, which was deposited in the Government exchequer vide challan dated 05.12.2012 and confirmed through letter dated 05.12.2012 issued by the Registrar of Lahore High Court.

2. The Hon'ble Chief Justice has also placed his recent Income Tax Return and Wealth Tax Declaration (2016-2017) on the website of the Lahore High Court (www.lhc.gov.pk) setting a new gold standard of accountability.


SHAHBAZ ASHRAF
Public Information Officer
For Registrar