

BUDGETS FOR POLICE ORGANIZATIONS IN PAKISTAN

By

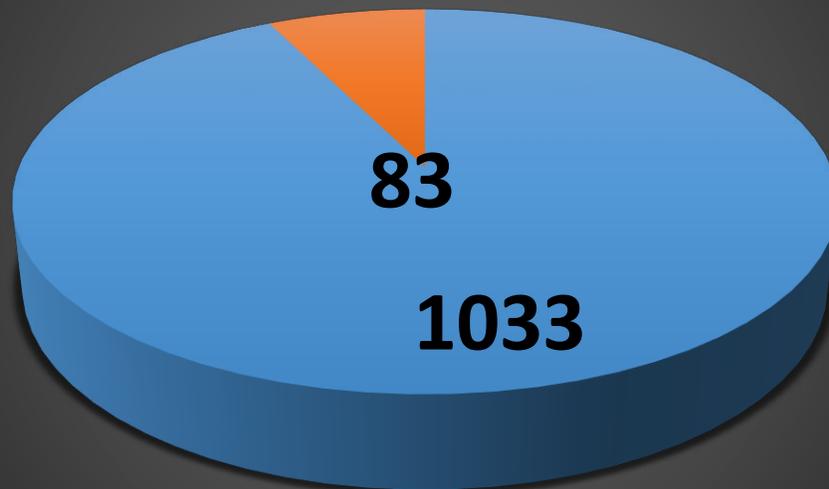
Kamran Adil

The basic instrument through which financial resources are allocated to different entities is a budget within the setup of governance in Pakistan. The process is conceptually based on economics and finance, but has to be legally formalized. Besides, whatever any government may choose to say, the budgetary allocations also reflect the priorities of governance. The Constitution of Pakistan through its Articles 80 and 120 makes it a constitutional obligation of both tiers of government (federal and provincial) to lay budgets before respective legislative assemblies for voting in the form of Annual Budget Statements (ABS). The instant write up is going to present an overview of the budgets allocated to police organizations in Pakistan in the financial year 2014-15. The Constitution of Pakistan, in outlining the spheres of authority through legislative competences of federation and provinces, puts the obligation of maintenance of law and order on the provinces; in order to meet the obligation, therefore, each province has constituted its own provincial police organization. Therefore, in all, there are four provincial police organizations and different federal police organizations. Human Right Commission of Pakistan, in its report on Police Organizations in Pakistan has counted over twenty federal police organizations. With this conspectus of police organizations, it is appropriate now to examine the budgetary allocation to each police organization.

The Punjab Police

According to the Annual Administrative Report of the Punjab Police 2011, it is the biggest police organization in Pakistan with 1, 77,635 personnel who police over 90 million people. The ABS of the Punjab Budget for the year 2014-15 shows Budget Estimates 2014-15 for police at 82,530.390 Million Rupees as against the Budget Estimates 2013-14 of 71,305.410 Million Rupees (1000 Million = 1 Billion). The total outlay of budget of the Punjab was 1033.70 Billion Rupees. The mathematics and the accounting nuisances apart, the above figures show that there is an increase in police budget prima facie.

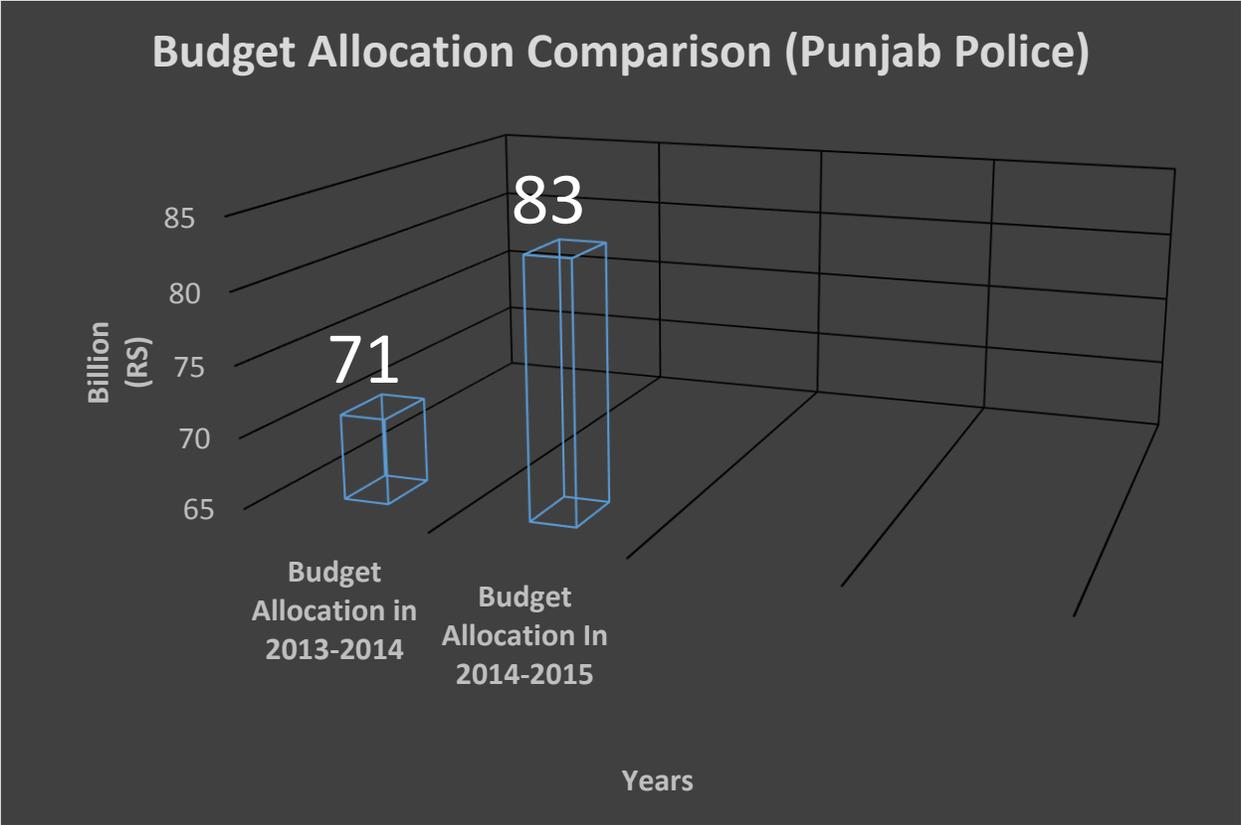
Budget Allocation to Punjab police (Billion) (2014-2015)



■ Total Outlay of Punjab Budget

■ Budget Allocation to Punjab Police

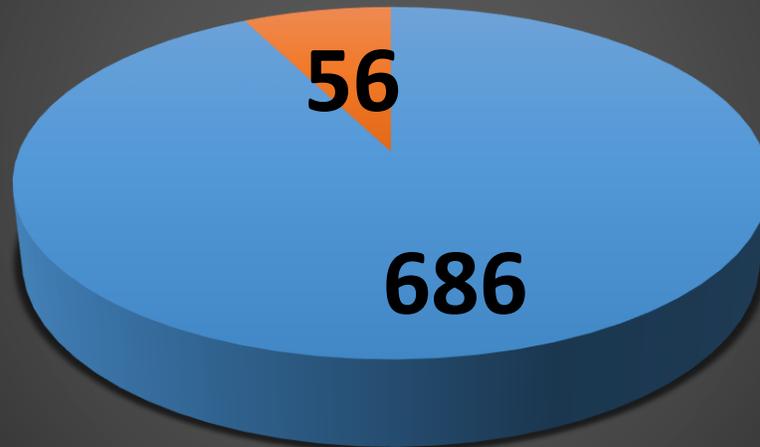
The increase from 71 Billion Rupees to over 82 Billion Rupees must be minutely studied to draw appropriate inferences as many interesting points may emerge from the devil of details. For example, the development and non-development budgets of policing needs to be separated. Likewise, the expenses incurred on VVIP, judicial and security related arrangements need to be worked out separately on the basis to work out the expenses being incurred on the primary law and order function.



The Sindh Police

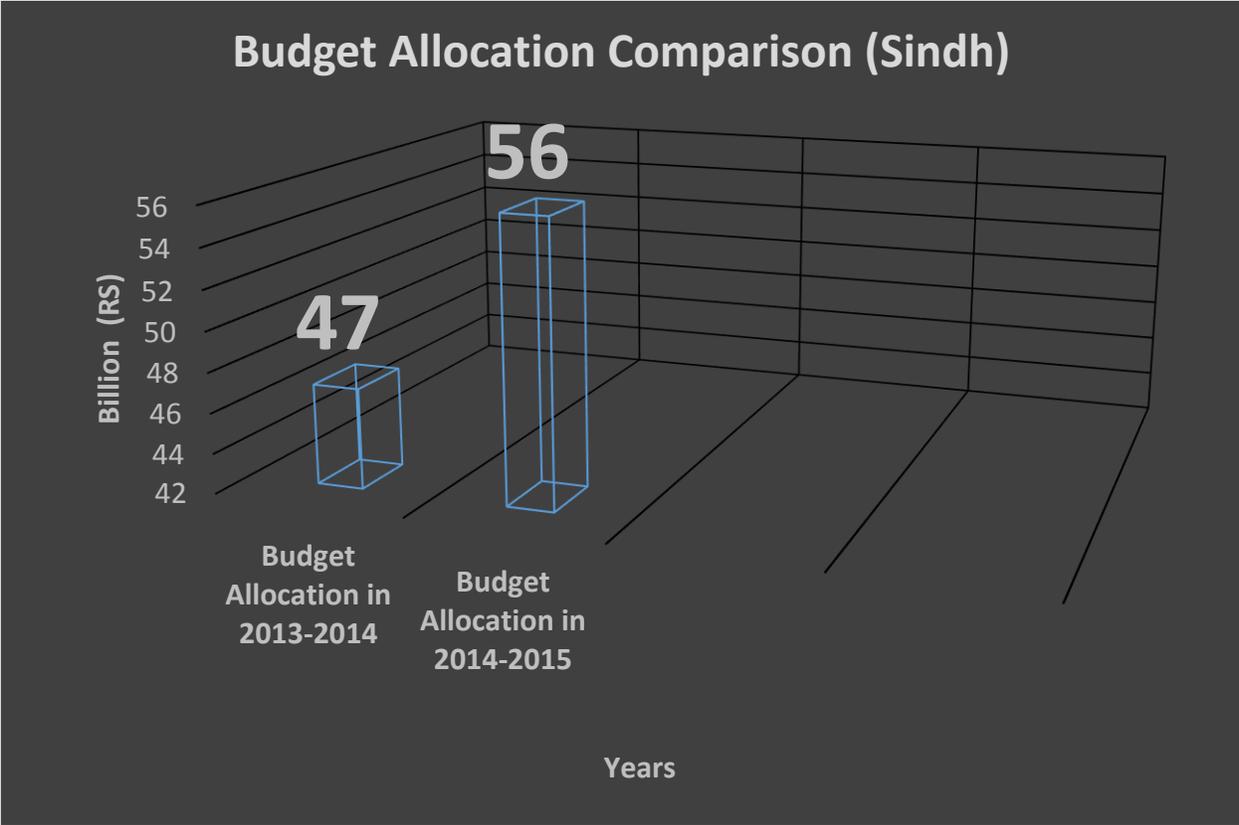
The budget of Sindh was presented by the CM Syed Qaim Ali Shah himself. The total outlay of the budget was 686 Billion Rupees approximately.

Budget Allocation To Sindh Police (Billion) (2014-2015)



■ Total Outlay Of Sindh Budget ■ Budget Allocation To Sindh Police ■ ■

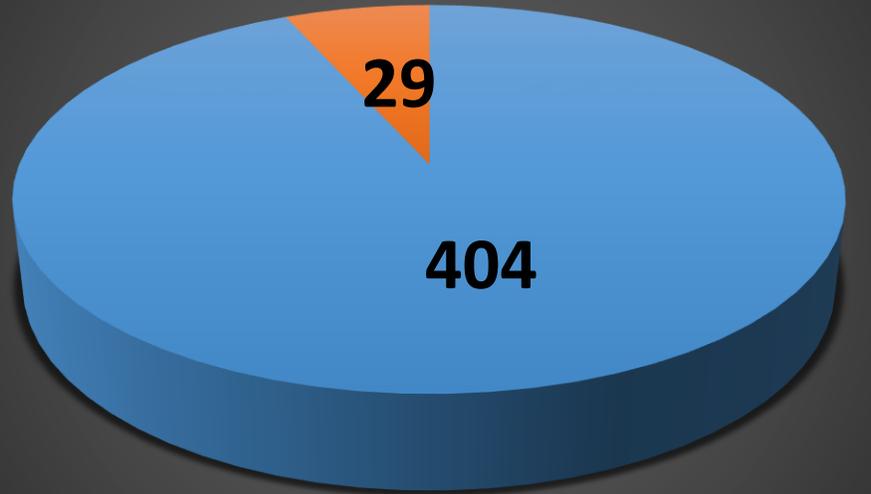
The Budget Estimates for police for the year 2014-15, according to ABS, is 55,693.560 Million Rupees as against 46,164.453 Million Rupees for the year 2013-14.



The KPK Police

The budget of KPK was presented by Finance Minister Sirajul Haq. The total budget outlay for KPK was over 404 Billion Rupees.

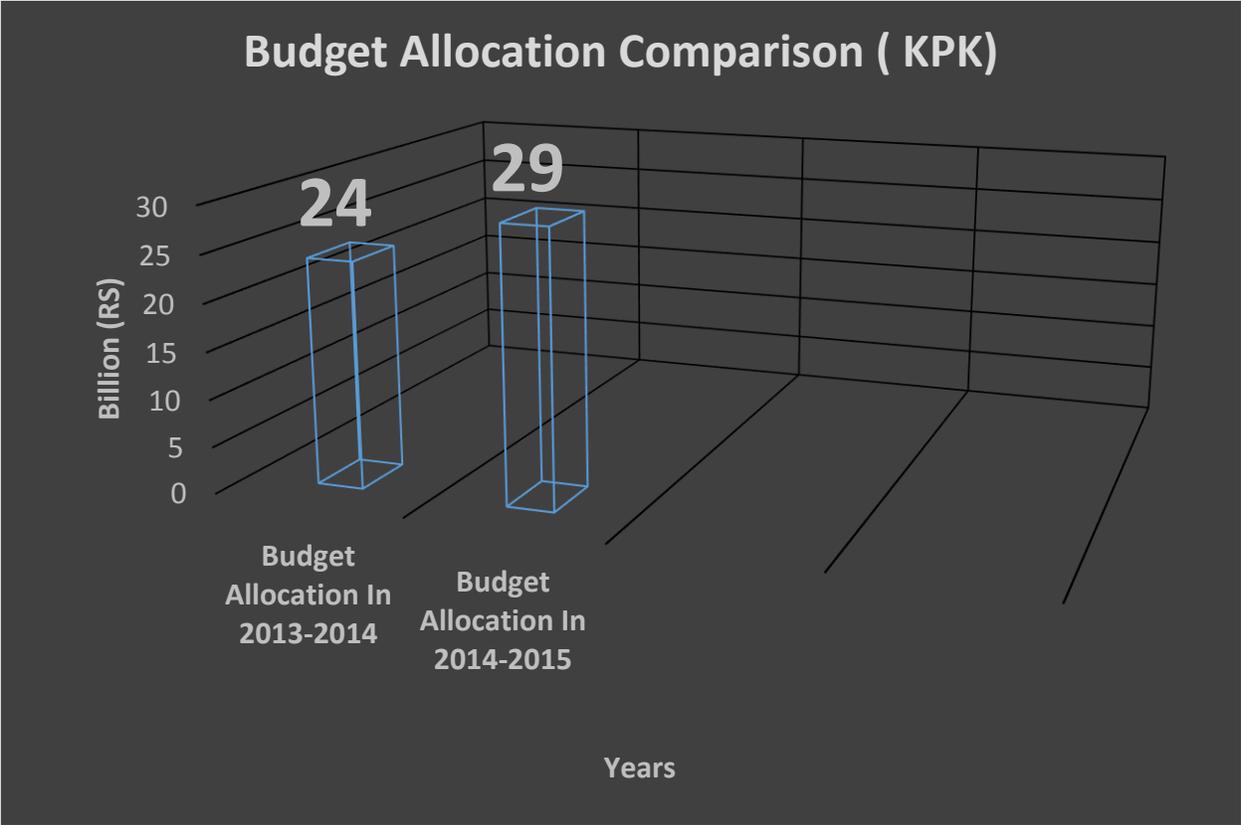
Budget Allocation To KPK Police (Billion) (2014-2015)



■ Total Outlay Of KPK Budget

■ Budget Allocation To KPK Police

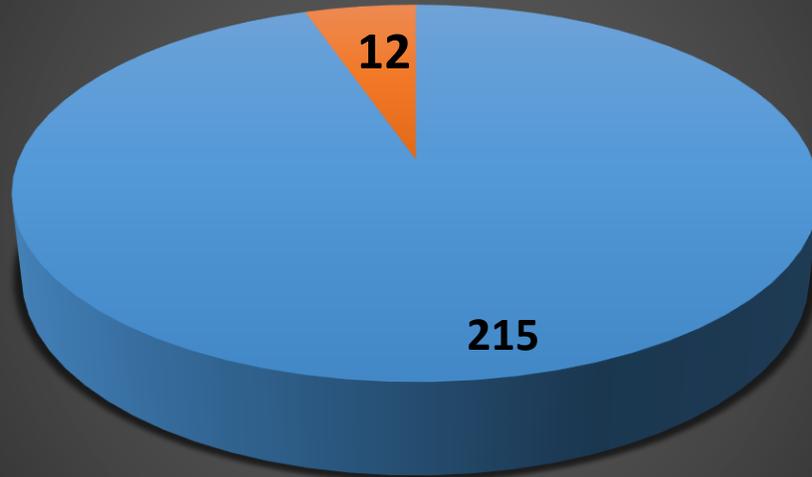
The amount shown for police in ABS is 28,534.630 Million Rupees for the year 2014-15 as compared to 23,781.398 Million Rupees for the year 2013-14.



The Balochistan Police

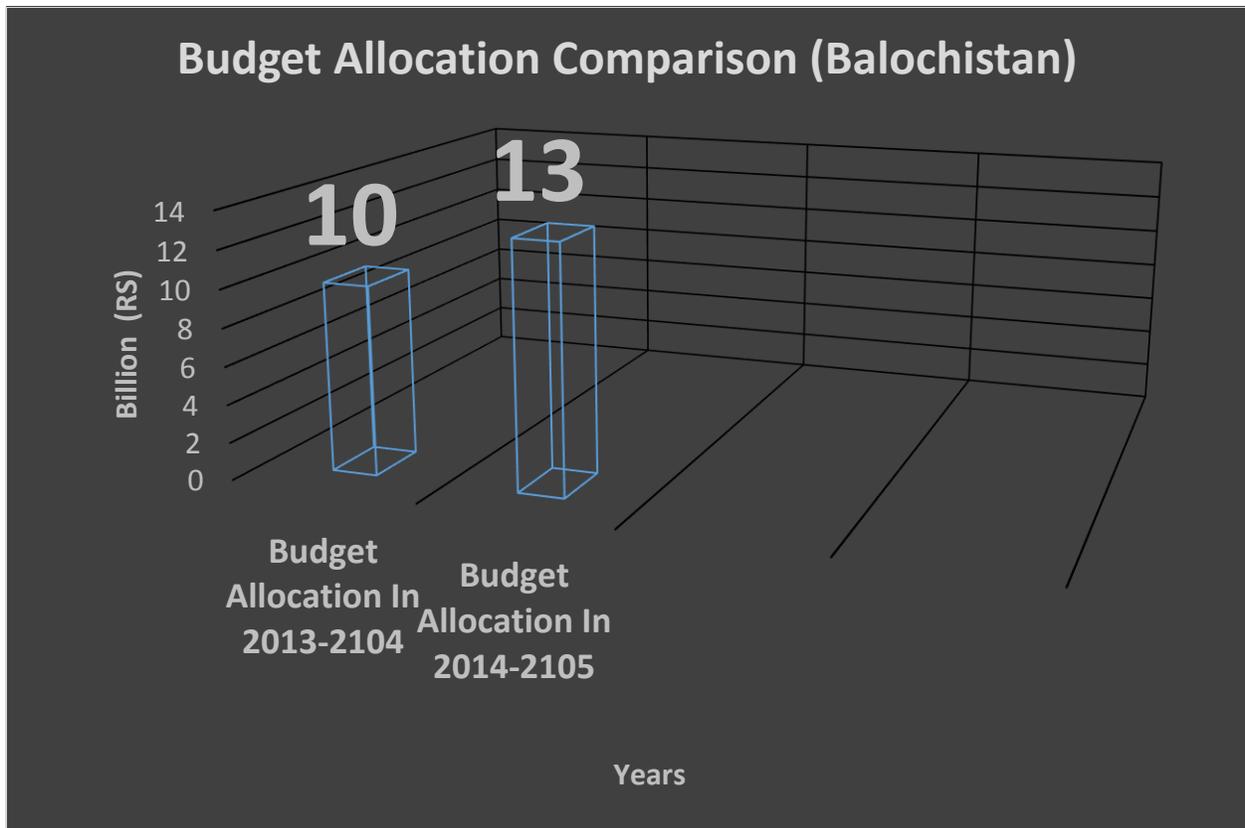
The budget of Balochistan was presented by Khalid Langav, the Finance Minister of Balochistan. The total outlay of Balochistan is over 215.713 Billion Rupees. The amount estimated in the budget for police for the year 2014-15 is 12,197.705 Million

Budget Allocation To Balochistan Police (Billion) (2014-2015)



■ Total Outlay Of Balochistan Budget ■ Budget Allocation to Baluchistan Police

Rupees as against 9,495.757 Million Rupees for the year 2013-14. The strength of Balochistan police is over thirty seven thousand personnel.



Islamabad Police

Islamabad police is not a provincial police organization and gets its funds from federal government. The website of Chief Commissioner Islamabad shows that Islamabad Police has been allocated 1363,910,000 Rupees (1.37 Billion approx.) for the year 2014-15.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police

The AJK police is again not a provincial police organization and may be classed as one of the federal government police organizations. The outlay of AJK budget is over 62 Billion Rupees out of which 3.82 Billion Rupees have been earmarked for police.

Budget Allocation To AJK Police(Billion) 2014-2015



- Total Outlay Of AJK Budget
- Budget Allocation To AJK Police

Gilgit Baltistan Police

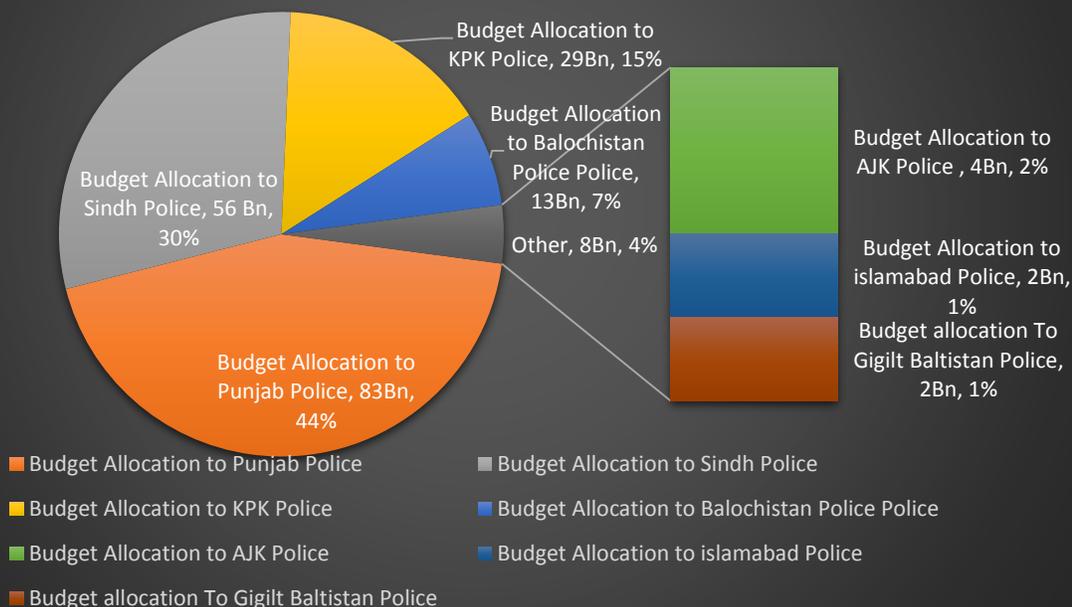
The GB Police may also not be categorized as a provincial police organization. GB government issues Annual Development Programme instead of ABS for allocation of resources for different departments. In case of police, the amount allocated is 218.358 Million Rupees.

ANALYSIS

With an overview of resource estimates as contained in ABS and other sources for different police organizations, it is now appropriate to record general points of analysis with the caveat that the analysis is based on broad points as the subject warrants a detailed statistical research study to form definite findings, which has not been undertaken by anyone and may form a subject of thesis for any serious researcher. Till that happens, the points of analysis may be taken as indicative, at best.

First, it may be noted that the allocation of resources to police organizations is done under the head of 'public order and safety affairs' in the provinces and with different names for federal organizations. The categorization provides space to budget makers to lump non-policing expenses under the head, which makes the study of police budgets less definite, populous and populist.

Total Budget Allocation To Police and Comparison among Provinces and Federally Administered areas (2014-2015) Billion



Second, the details on different policing functions are not fully made available. This is a transparency issue as much of the police budgets contain expenses that have little relevance with citizens' security and with maintenance of law and order issues.

Third, there is no doubt that due to the prevailing situation in the country, more resources of police organizations are being eaten up by security arrangements for preventing terrorist attacks. However, the resources so expended, seldom find place in account books so that they can be counted towards cost of war on terror.

Fourth, the ultimate control of financial resources remains with non-specialists and with bureaucracy. The principle of responsibility with authority is more often than not trampled upon and those having financial authority are almost never held responsible for any shortcomings. This not only frustrates the initiative of top managers of police organizations, but also aggravates the systemic fissures in accounting and auditing procedures.

Finally, the above overview of allocations is based on budgetary estimates, which is a fallacious measure of resource allocation on pragmatic level as 'estimates' are

based on demands. The real measure may be the expenditure done by the organizations coupled with its impact on the public at large (if that can be measured in any way!).