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PTI Criticises Punjab's Rs730m Bulletproof Car Plan

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— *Categories: Crime*

LAHORE — Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has criticized the Punjab government's decision to allocate Rs 730 million for the purchase of bulletproof vehicles, calling the expenditure inappropriate amid ongoing economic challenges in the province.

In a statement released on Thursday, Shayan Bashir, head of PTI Punjab's Media Cell, said the allocation reflects misplaced priorities given the difficulties faced by many citizens. He highlighted widespread shortages of essential goods such as affordable flour, electricity, and medicines affecting millions in Punjab.

Bashir cited data indicating that over 35 million people in the province live below the poverty line. He also pointed to a 15% tax on medicines that has increased financial strain on the public, particularly in accessing basic healthcare. According to PTI, Punjab's maternal mortality rate remains high at 165 deaths per 100,000 births, raising concerns about how public funds are being spent.

The party further criticized the government's handling of the agricultural sector. Bashir mentioned that farmers are struggling with a 25% rise in fertilizer prices, higher water bills, and declining returns on wheat crops. He also stated that the unemployment rate in Punjab has reportedly crossed 7.5%, with many communities still lacking access to clean drinking water and sufficient food supplies.

“In such a context, allocating hundreds of millions for official vehicles sends the wrong message to the public,” Bashir added.

PTI also recalled a previous approval of Rs 7.5 billion for luxury vehicle procurement, expressing concern over a lack of transparency in public spending. Bashir said he submitted a formal request to the Punjab Finance Department on July 7 seeking records related to the purchase and intended use of the vehicles. However, the department responded by redirecting the matter to other government bodies, declining direct involvement.

The party said it would pursue legal and public avenues to challenge the decision and hold officials accountable.

As of now, no official response has been issued by the Punjab government regarding PTI's criticism.

The issue has sparked debate among political observers and the public, who question whether government spending priorities align with the urgent needs of the province's vulnerable populations.