In the past 5 years, there have been several factors that have led to a rise in demand for foreign currency by commercial banks in Pakistan. Some of these factors include:

1. Trade deficit: Pakistan has a significant trade deficit, with imports exceeding exports. This means that commercial banks have to purchase foreign currency to facilitate import payments, which has contributed to the rise in demand for foreign currency.

2. Remittances: Pakistan is one of the largest recipients of remittances in the world. In 2021, the country received over $31 billion in remittances, which was a record high. As a result, commercial banks in Pakistan have had to purchase foreign currency to convert the remittances into Pakistani rupees.

3. Debt servicing: Pakistan has a large external debt, and commercial banks have had to purchase foreign currency to make payments on behalf of their clients for principal and interest on foreign loans.

4. Foreign investment: Pakistan has been attracting foreign investment, particularly in the energy and infrastructure sectors. Commercial banks have had to meet the foreign currency demands of these investors, which has also contributed to the rise in demand for foreign currency.

5. Political and economic instability: Pakistan has faced political and economic instability in the past 5 years, which has led to fluctuations in the exchange rate. This has encouraged some commercial banks to hold foreign currency as a hedge against currency risk.

6. Speculation: Commercial banks may also hold foreign currency as a speculative investment, in anticipation of a potential appreciation in the value of the currency.

7. Market conditions: Fluctuations in the exchange rate or other market conditions could have led to increased demand for foreign currency by Askari Bank Limited, particularly if the bank was looking to manage currency risk on behalf of its clients.

In addition to these factors, the COVID-19 pandemic has also had an impact on the demand for foreign currency by commercial banks in Pakistan. The pandemic has disrupted global supply chains, leading to shortages of some goods and a rise in prices. As a result, commercial banks have had to purchase foreign currency to facilitate import payments for essential goods.

Overall, these factors have contributed to the rise in demand for foreign currency by commercial banks in Pakistan over the past 5 years. While some of these factors may change in the future, it is likely that demand for foreign currency by commercial banks in Pakistan will remain significant given the country's trade deficit, external debt, and large diaspora population.