

# FAFEN Parliament Monitor

## 44th Session

National Assembly of Pakistan  
(July 6 - 13, 2012)



Free and Fair Election Network

### Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
BNPA	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
CAN	Calling Attention Notice
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
HEC	Higher Education Commission
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IND	Independent Member
MMA	Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal Party
MNA	Member of the National Assembly
MQM	Muttahida Quami Movement
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NPP	National Peoples Party
PIAC	Pakistan International Airlines Corporation
PMDC	Pakistan Medical and Dental Council
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PMLF	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
PMLN	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PO	Point of Order
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PPPS	Pakistan Peoples Party (Sherpao)
SEZ	Special Economic Zone



This report is based on direct observation of National Assembly proceedings conducted by CPDI-Pakistan, a member organization of FAFEN.

## Executive Summary

The sessions of the upper and lower houses of the parliament in July were marked by the speedy passage of the contempt of court bill ahead of the hearing on the National Reconciliation Ordinance implementation case amid protests by the PMLN and other members of the opposition.

The 13-clause bill exempting public office holders from contempt of the apex court was passed in the second sitting of the 44th session of the National Assembly, held between 6th and 13th July by simple majority in an hour and eight minutes. A total of 150 MNAs, including 124 treasury and 26 opposition members, were present during the passage of the bill. Despite the Senate's endorsement in its sitting of 11th July, the Chief Justice declared the bill as null and void on 3rd August 2012.

Perhaps because of the inclusion of the contempt bill on the agenda, and given its implications on the powers and rights of members of the Parliament and the judiciary, more members attended the session as quorum was maintained towards the end of each of the six sittings. On average, 124 members were present at the end of the sittings, while 71 were present at the beginning.

In addition to the contempt of court bill, the Validation Ordinance 2012 giving cover to acts, orders, and instruments issued by the ousted prime minister during the period between his conviction and formal disqualification (April 26-June 19, 2012) was also placed before the House.

Other legislative business included the passage of two more treasury backed bills – the Special Economic Zones Bill 2012, and the Medical and Dental Council (Amendment) Bill 2012. Two other ordinances - the Transfer of Railways (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 and the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan Ordinance 2012 were also laid before the House.

Although the government and opposition members were visibly engaged in discussions on the contempt of court bill, the overall participation, whether through submission of agenda items or debates on the floor, was low. Less than a third of legislators (out of the current membership of 340) participated in the six sittings of session.

Since the National Assembly Secretariat does not make members' attendance record public, FAFEN conducts a headcount of at the beginning and end of each sitting and documents the actual time spent on the floor of the House by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

The Prime Minister attended three sittings for 232 minutes (30%) while the Leader of the Opposition did not attend any sitting. The Speaker chaired the proceedings for 16% of the session time and the Deputy Speaker 66%, with the remaining 13% of the time presided over by members of panel of chairpersons.

The session on average met for two hours and 11 minutes per sitting. On average, each sitting was delayed by an hour.

Ninety seven Starred questions requiring oral responses were on the agenda during the session, of which 26 were taken up and responded to by the relevant ministries. Additionally, 53 supplementary questions were also asked. The PMLN legislators asked the most 126 questions, followed by MQM (36), ANP (eight), PPPP (seven) and Independents (six).

## Parliament Watch

An essential component of democracy is publicly accessible information about the political decision-making processes, such as parliamentary deliberations among elected representatives. Citizens must have information about whether, and how their representatives are performing in the Parliament in order to hold those elected leaders accountable.

The Parliament Watch (PW), an initiative of the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), aims to collect and publish information about the job performance of members of the National Assembly (MNAs) by observation of these directly elected representatives' actions. FAFEN intends to foster informed engagement between constituents and elected representatives in Pakistan by providing objective and statistically-sound information on parliamentary processes and decisions.

The methodology of the PW is to deploy trained observers to the National Assembly in order to monitor their performance using a detailed, standardized checklist and reporting forms covering all types of parliamentary business. The information gathered is measured against the neutral and objective framework of the rules of parliamentary procedure.

FAFEN's PW focuses on directly-observed parliamentary procedure in addition to parliamentary output. In other words, FAFEN's criterion for assessing parliamentary effectiveness are primarily process-oriented and secondarily results-oriented.

Most of the questions, 27 in all, were directed to the Ministry of Interior, followed by the Cabinet Secretariat (24), Finance and Revenue (18), Petroleum and Natural Recourses (17), Water and Power (14), Railways (10) and the Ministry of Commerce (eight).

Twenty-eight members – 17 male and 11 female - sponsored eight calling attention notices, out of which six were taken up by the House. The National Assembly also adopted three resolutions on child rights in Pakistan, killings of Muslims in Burma and tribute to Fatima Jinnah.

Fifty-eight points of order consumed 29% of the total session time – 225 of the 785 minutes. No point of order attracted the chair's formal ruling. Without the Chair's formal ruling, these points of order do not lead to any assembly output.

Three walkouts during the session consumed two hours and 43 minutes. The PMLN legislators walked out twice – first for five minutes to protest the reopening of the NATO supplies and again for 132 minutes against the passage of Contempt of Court Bill 2012. During the sixth sitting the ANP legislators walked out for 26 minutes, protesting the blast at their party's rally near Quetta.

## 1.0 Session Time and Members' Participation

This section deals with the duration of the session, the attendance of members and their participation and maintenance of quorum – at least 1/4th (86) of the total membership. The participation of a member is recorded when he or she takes part in the proceedings of the House, or submits an agenda item. It also reviews the presence of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and parliamentary leaders.

### 1.1 Session Time

The 44th session that ran from July 6-13, 2012 consumed 13 hours and five minutes. On average each of its six sittings lasted two hours and 11 minutes. The second sitting, spanning four hours and 57 minutes, was the longest while the first was the shortest, lasting just 45 minutes.

On average, all sittings were delayed by an hour with the fourth facing the longest delay of an hour and 20 minutes.

Sr. No.	Date and Day	Sitting No.	Late Starts	Total Time	
				Hours	Minutes
1	Friday, July 06	1st	43	0	45
2	Monday, July 09	2nd	68	4	57
3	Tuesday, July 10	3rd	49	2	56
4	Wednesday, July 11	4th	80	1	36
5	Thursday, July 12	5th	45	1	15
6	Friday, July 13	6th	70	1	36
			<b>Average delay 60 minutes</b>	<b>13 Hours and five Minutes</b>	

### 1.2 Members' Participation

Participation has been classified into three categories – parliamentarians who only submitted agenda item(s) on the orders of day, legislators who did not submit any agenda item but took part in discussions and deliberations in the House, and members who submitted agenda items and also participated in debates.

During the 44th session only 5% (16 members) out of 340 submitted agenda while 18% (62) took part in assembly discourse and 9% (29) participated in both.

The members of PMLF and NPP did not take part in the proceedings during the session. The party-wise analysis shows that 64% of MQM parliamentarians took part in the proceedings, followed by MMAP (50%), PMLN (46%), ANP (31%), PPPP (23%), INDs (17%) and PML (14%).

Twenty seven (35%) of the 78 women legislators in the House submitted agenda items or took part in the debates or did both. Whereas 80 (31%) of the 263 male parliamentarians took part in the proceedings during the session.

Fifty two legislators from Punjab, 29 from Sindh, 14 from KP, and seven from Balochistan along with four minority and a parliamentarian from ICT participated in the on-floor proceedings. None of the members from FATA took part in the 44th session.

Sr. No.	Political Party	Members Who Only Submitted Agenda Items	Members Who Took Part in Debates	Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Only Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Participated in Debates	Percentage of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items And Participated in Debates	Total Number of Members in Assembly by Party
1	ANP	0	3	1	0%	23%	8%	13
2	BNPA	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%	1
3	IND	0	3	0	0%	17%	0%	18
4	MMA	0	4	0	0%	50%	0%	8
5	MQM	0	8	8	0%	32%	32%	25
6	NPP	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	1
7	PML	2	4	1	4%	8%	2%	51
8	PMLF	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	5
9	PMLN	6	22	14	7%	24%	15%	92
10	PPPP	8	17	4	6%	14%	3%	125
11	PPPS	0	0	1	0%	0%	100%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>340</b>

### 1.3 Members' Attendance

As the National Assembly does not make public the attendance records of members, FAFEN conducts a headcount at the start and end of each sitting. Members' attendance reflects upon their interest and presence in the parliamentary proceedings.

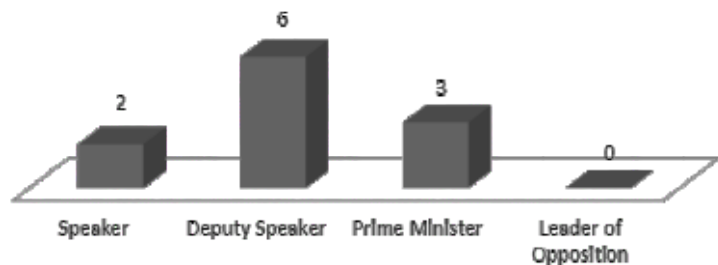
The session was marked by low members' attendance. On average 75 MNAs were present at the beginning and 71 at the end of a sitting.

Sitting No.	Members at the Outset	Members at the End	Maximum Members
1st	134	119	145
2nd	92	98	176
3rd	49	30	116
4th	78	58	108
5th	47	57	95
6th	47	61	106
<b>Average</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>124</b>

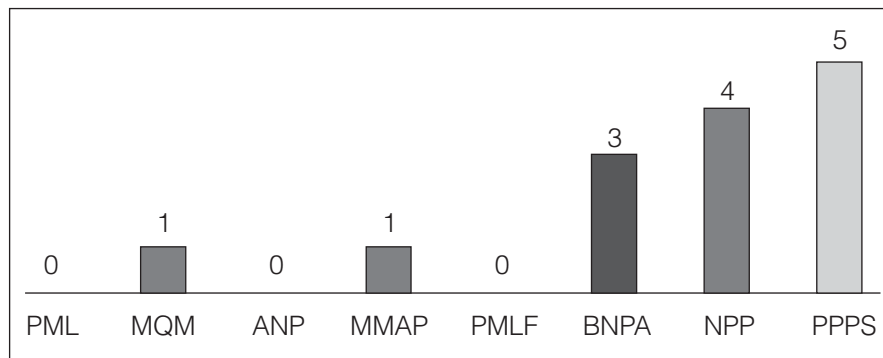
### 1.4 Key Members' Attendance

Attendance in sittings is crucial for members, especially those holding important positions (Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition) to perform their legislative and representative roles.

The newly elected Prime Minister attended only three sittings for 232 minutes - 30% of the total session time. The Leader of the Opposition stayed away from the entire session.



The Speaker presided over the session for two hours, chairing a third of the proceedings, whereas the Deputy Speaker and the Panel of Chairpersons were present for the entire session, chairing for eight hours and 36 minutes and three hours and 52 minutes respectively.



The attendance of parliamentary leaders reflects on a party's participation during a session. The party heads of ANP and PMLF did not attend the entire session. The PPPPS leader attended all but one sitting, followed by NPP (four), BNPA (three), and MMAP and MQM parliamentary leaders attended one sitting each.

A chief whip is appointed to ensure discipline and order of party members. Occasionally, as an observed practice in the National Assembly, a party leader also performs the duty of a chief whip. The chief whips of PPPP and ANP were present in all sittings, followed by PMLN (four), MQM and PML (two each), and MMAP and PMLF (one sitting each).

## 2.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section reviews legislators' efforts to represent the interests of their constituents through calling attention notices (CANs) and to monitor government's performance during Question Hour. It also includes various motions and matters of public importance on the orders of the day.

### 2.1 Questions and Responses

A total of 185 questions, 97 starred (16 per sitting) and 88 unstarred (15 per sitting) were asked during the session. Only 20% of 127 fully answered questions (26) were starred. When a starred question has been answered, a legislator can ask supplementary questions - 53 such questions were asked by the members.

The Question Hour was not held during the third sitting as it was a private members' day (Tuesdays in the National Assembly).

Sitting No.	Starred Questions of the Agenda	Starred Questions taken up	Supplementary Questions
1st	19	0	0
2nd	15	8	21
3rd	Private Members' Day		
4th	14	9	15
5th	24	8	15
6th	25	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>53</b>

The Ministry of Interior received the maximum questions (27), followed by the Cabinet Secretariat (24), Finance and Revenue (18), Petroleum and Natural Resources (17), Water and Power (14), Railways (10), Commerce (eight) and Capital Administration and Development, Housing and Works and Religious Affairs and Zakat and Usher (six each). None of the minority legislators asked any questions.

The following table provides quantitative details of the ministry-wise questions asked during the session.

Ministry	Elected	Reserve	Grand Total
Cabinet Secretariat	13	11	24
Capital Administration and Development	4	2	6
Climate Change	1	3	4
Commerce	4	4	8
Communications	3	2	5
Defense	5	2	7
Defense Production	1	-	1
Finance & Revenue	12	6	18
Foreign Affairs	3	1	4
Housing and Works	6	-	6
Human Resources	-	1	1
Industries	1	2	3
Information and Broadcasting	1	2	3
Information Technology	-	1	1
Inter-Provincial Coordination	-	1	1
Interior	16	11	27
Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas	-	1	1
Law and Justice	2	5	7
National Food Security and Research	-	1	1
National Regulations and Services	-	1	1
Petroleum and Natural Resources	5	12	17
Ports & Shipping	1	-	1
Postal Services	1	-	1
Privatization	1	-	1
Production	-	1	1
Professional and Technical Training	1	-	1
Railways	4	6	10
Religious Affairs	4	2	6
Science & Technology	1	-	1
States & Frontier Regions	1	1	2
Textile Industries	-	1	1
Water and Power	9	5	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>185</b>

The legislators from Punjab who make up more than half of the National Assembly membership (182 out of currently 340) asked the most - 131 or 71% - of the total questions. The MNAs from Sindh (total members 75) asked 36 questions, followed by KP legislators (total members 43) who asked 11 questions while the Balochistan MNAs (total members 17) asked seven questions.

Female MPs, who make up 22% of the total membership, asked 85 or 46% of the questions during the session. None of ANP female and Independent MPs asked any question during the session. PMLN women parliamentarians asked the most 68 questions, followed by MQM 15. Only two questions were asked by the women parliamentarians of PPPP.

On the other hand, male PMLN legislators also asked the most 58 questions, followed by MQM 21, ANP eight, Independents six, PPPP five and MMAP members asked two questions.

## 2.2 Calling Attention Notice

A Calling Attention Notice is raised by a Member to bring to the treasury's notice a matter of urgent public importance, especially issues regarding law and order. Under Rule 88 (chapter XI) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business a Member may call the attention of a minister to such a matter and the minister may make a brief statement or ask for time to make a statement at a later hour or date, provided no more than one notice shall be allowed to a Member per sitting.

Twenty-eight members – 17 male and 11 female – moved eight calling attention notices, six of which were taken up by the House. These were about human trafficking, non-payment of government benevolent fund, deterioration of machine tool factory, escalating transport fares, water supply in Islamabad and delay in release of funds by the government to the Higher Education Commission.

Sitting No.	Calling Attention Notices	Party	Ministry Concerned	Status
6th	Charging high fares from commuters instead of new fares by the transporters in Islamabad	PML, MQM, PPPS	Interior	Taken Up
	Short supply of water to different sectors of Islamabad including sectors G-9/2 and G-11/4 Islamabad	PMLN	Cabinet Secretariat	Taken Up
5th	Downfall of Machine Tool Factory Karachi	MQM	Production	Taken Up
	Non-release of funds by the Government to Higher Education Commission for the last two quarters resulting in a lot of problems for 14000 students sent abroad for higher education by the H.E.C	PMLN	Professional and Technical Training	Taken Up
4th	Non-payment of full amount of benevolent fund to the Government servants on their retirement	PMLN	Cabinet Secretariat	Taken Up
	Suffering of 20 to 40% patients from water related diseases in the hospitals in Islamabad due to their non-accessibility to clean drinking water	PPPP	Capital Administration and Development	Not taken up
3rd	Human trafficking in the country	PMLN	Interior	Taken Up
	Increase in the power tariff by Rs1.51 per unit on account of fuel adjustment charges for the month of May 2012	PMLN	Water and Power	Not taken up

## 3.0 Parliamentary Output

This section relates to legislation and resolutions debated and adopted during the session. Considering legislation on matters of national significance through careful debate and discussion is arguably an assembly's chief function. Legislation comes in the form of government and private bills and ordinances. This section gives an overview of the legislation during the session.

### 3.1 Bills

The session witnessed the passage of three out of six treasury bills appearing on the agenda - the Special Economic Zones Bill 2012, the Contempt of Court Bill 2012 and the Medical and Dental Council (Amendment) Bill 2012.

The Pakistan Engineering Council (Amendment) Bill 2012, the Capital University of Science and Technology Bill 2012 and the Constitution (Twenty-first Amendment) Bill 2012 were introduced and sent to the Standing Committees.

Sr. No.	Government Bills	Debated	Status of Bills		
			Bills Introduced	Bills Passed	Not Taken Up
1	The Special Economic Zones Bill 2012	Debated	-	✓	-
2	The Contempt of Court Bill 2012	Debated	-	✓	-
3	The Pakistan Engineering Council (Amendment) Bill 2012	-	✓	-	-
4	The Capital University of Science and Technology Bill 2012	-	✓	-	-
5	The Constitution (Twenty-first Amendment) Bill 2012	-	✓	-	-
6	The Medical and Dental Council (Amendment) Bill 2012	Debated	-	✓	-



### 3.1.1 Details of government bills

#### *The Contempt of Court Bill 2012*

The highlight of the 44th session - the Contempt of Court Bill – was passed ahead of the Supreme Court hearing on the National Reconciliation Ordinance implementation case. The bill, which exempts “holders of public office” from contempt in “exercise of powers and performance of functions” and allows for suspension of a sentence during the pendency of an appeal, was rushed through amid protests by the opposition PMLN and other parties. Though the law replaced the Contempt of Court Ordinance 2003, it was declared null and void by the Supreme Court on August 3

#### *The Special Economic Zones Bill 2012*

After rejecting two proposed amendments to the legislation from the opposition, the House passed the bill seeking the formation of economic zones. The bill promises a more conducive domestic environment and liberalized policies for attracting foreign direct investment. It allows setting up special economic zones in the county covering minimum area of 50 acres along with 10-year exemption from custom duties and taxes.

#### *The Medical and Dental Council (Amendment) Bill 2012*

The amendment aims to revise and reform the Medical and Dental Council Ordinance 1962, empowering the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) to ensure higher public and private education and practice standards in medicine and dentistry. The treasury bill moved by a PML member seeks more stringent penalties and standards for medical/dental practitioners and newly set up institutions providing such education.

### 3.2 Private Members' Bills

Six of the 10 private members' bills were introduced and sent to the relevant Standing Committees.

The legislation regarding the protection of women against domestic and social violence, tabled in 2008 and already on hold for long, took a back seat to the much-hyped Contempt of Court Bill showing the precedence of political matters over social issues.

Sr. No.	Private Members' Bills on the Orders of the Day	Debated	Status of Bills		
			Bills Introduced	Bills Passed	Not Taken Up
1	The Injured Persons (Medical Aid) (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Amendment of sections 2, 11, 12, 12A, 12B and 12C)	-	✓	-	-
2	The Curative Jurisdiction (by the Supreme Court) Bill 2012	-	✓	-	-
3	The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Insertion of new section 297A)	-	✓	-	-
4	The Defamation (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Amendment of sections, 5, 5A, 5B, 6, 7, 8A, 9, 10, 12 and 12A)	-	✓	-	-
5	The Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Insertion of new sections 33F, 33G, 33H, 33I and 33J)	-	✓	-	-
6	The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Amendment of Article 260)	-	✓	-	-
7	The Political Parties Order (Amendment) Bill 2012 (Insertion of new section 6A, amendment of section 12)	-	-	-	✓
8	The Registration of Hajj /Umrah Bill 2008	-	-	-	✓
9	The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill 2012	-	-	-	✓
10	The Abolition of Discretionary Quotas in Housing Schemes Bill 2011	-	-	-	✓

### 3.3 Ordinances

Under Article 87 of the Constitution, the President has the power to enforce laws in the country by promulgating ordinances, as long as both National Assembly and the Senate are not in session. These ordinances are valid for 120 days, during which the government is bound to lay them before the parliament in the form of bills to seek its approval.

All three ordinances on the agenda were presented before the House - the Transfer of Railways (Amendment) Ordinance 2012, the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan Ordinance 2012, and the Validation Ordinance 2012.

### 3.4 Resolutions

During the session, eight resolutions - all moved during the second and third sittings - were brought on the agenda, of which three were adopted. Two of the treasury resolutions adopted were moved by women PPPP MNAs. The first resolution was about the need for legislation and a parliamentary forum to safeguard children's rights and the second to acknowledge the sacrifice and services of Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah. The resolution on the killings of Muslims in Myanmar, jointly sponsored by male and female ANP legislators, urged the government to lodge a formal protest with the Burmese government.

Sitting No.	Type of Resolution	Resolutions	Status
3rd	Private Member Resolution	The House urges the government should take steps to immediately increase the basic salaries of the federal government employees	Not Taken Up
	Private Member Resolution	The House urges the government to take steps to provide inexpensive and speedy justice to the citizens	Not Taken Up
	Private Member Resolution	The House strongly condemns the derogatory act of burning of the Holy Quran by the personnel of the NATO Forces in Afghanistan	Not Taken Up
	Private Member Resolution	The House urges the government to take steps to promote good governance and corruption-free culture in all the government institutions.	Not Taken Up
	Private Member Resolution	The House recommends the government to take steps to provide funds for the construction of Amir Muhammad Khan Agriculture University Campus at Mardan	Not Taken Up
2nd	Government Resolution	The House is of the opinion that government should take steps to make legislation to ensure survival, development, protection and participation of children without any discrimination.	Adopted
	Government Resolution	The House recognizes the selfless service and sacrifice rendered by Madar-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah	Adopted
	Joint Resolution	The House strongly condemns the killing of Muslims in Burma	Adopted

### 3.5 Standing Committee reports

Six of the 10 Standing Committee reports brought on the agenda were laid before the House.

Sitting No.	Name of Report	Committee/ Department	Status
6th	The Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2011	Interior	Yes
	The annual report along with Audit Accounts of Pakistan Science Foundation for the year 2009-10	Science & Technology	Yes
5th	The Third Quarterly Report for the Year 2011-12 of the Central Board of Directors of the State Bank of Pakistan on the state of Pakistan's economy	Finance, Revenue & Planning and Development	Yes
	The Airports Security Force (Amendment) Bill 2011	Defense	Yes
4th	The Second Quarterly Report for the Year 2011-12 of the Central Board of Directors of the State Bank of Pakistan on the state of Pakistan's economy	Finance, Revenue & Planning and Development	Yes

Sitting No.	Name of Report	Committee/ Department	Status
3rd	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2011	Law and Parliamentary Affairs	No
	The Political Parties Order (Amendment) Bill 2010	Law and Parliamentary Affairs	No
	The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2011	Law and Parliamentary Affairs	No
	The National Database and Registration Authority (Amendment) Bill 2011	Interior	No
	The report of the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges on the amendment in Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007	Rules of Procedure & Privileges	Yes

#### 4.0 Order and Institutionalization

This section deals with issues raised through points of order and the time consumed by them. It also reviews the questions of privileges, the instances of protests, walkouts or boycotts during the session.

##### 4.1 Points of Order

A point of order is raised to address an apparent breach in the rules of parliamentary procedure while an assembly's business is underway, and usually requests the chair's ruling on the issue. However the parliamentarians mostly use points of order to talk about constituency and political issues. As many as 58 points of order, an average of 10 per sitting, were raised during the session consuming 29% (225 minutes) of the session time.

A maximum, 61% percent points of order (34), were raised during the third sitting. Ninety-five percent points of orders (55) were raised by male legislators. None of the female MNAs of BNPA, INDS, MMAP, MQM and PML raised any public issues through points of order. The PPPP legislators raised the most points of order (45) followed by PMLN (12), PPPS (nine), MQM (six), PML (five), ANP (three), MMAP (two) and BNPA (one).

Sitting No	Points of Order	Time Consumed
1st	2	3
2nd	4	66
3rd	34	107
4th	4	10
5th	2	2
6th	12	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>58 POs</b>	<b>225 minutes</b>

Parliamentarians mostly raised issues regarding law and order (seven members), followed by minority rights and perks and privileges of the parliamentarians (six members), new provinces (five members) and three members each spoke about business of the House, criticism of government, education and foreign office.

The three points of order on procedural issues were raised by PPPP and PMLN legislators.

Issues	Total	
	Female	Male
Balochistan Related Issues	0	1
Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)	0	1
Business of the House	1	2
Condolence	0	1
Conduct of the House	0	1
Criticism of the federal government	0	4
Criticism on Opposition	0	3

Issues	Total	
	Female	Male
Drinking Water	0	1
Education	0	3
Elections	0	1
Executive's Privileges	0	1
Finance and Revenue	0	2
Foreign Affairs	0	3
Governance	0	1
Gwadar Water Issue	0	1
Hazara Province Issue	0	1
Housing and Works	1	0
Judiciary	0	2
Judiciary-executive relations	0	1
Law and Order	2	5
Media	0	1
Members Attendance	0	1
Minority Rights	0	6
Missing persons	0	1
New Provinces	0	5
Performance of the federal government	1	0
Perks and Privileges of Members	1	5
Terrorism	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>55</b>

### 4.3 Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

The lower house witnessed three instances of protests that consumed two hours and 43 minutes (21%) of the session time. The PMLN parliamentarians staged two walkouts during the second sitting – once for five minutes to protest the resumption of NATO supply line while on another occasion there was a 132-minute walkout to protest the passage of Contempt of Court Bill. The ANP MNAs protested a bomb blast at a party rally near Quetta by walking off the floor for 26 minutes during the sixth sitting.

Sitting No	Party	Reason	Time (Min.)	Protest/Walkout/Boycott
2nd	PMLN	Against the reopening of the NATO supplies	5	Walkout
	PMLN	Passage of Contempt of Court Bill 2012	132	Walkout
6th	ANP	Against the blast at ANP rally near Quetta	26	Walkout
<b>Total</b>			<b>Two hours and 43 minutes</b>	

## GLOSSARY

### Adjournment Motion

A motion to adjourn the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of recent and urgent public importance.

### Chairperson

In relation to a sitting, any person who is presiding at that sitting.

### Calling Attention Notice

A notice by which a special question of public importance involving law and order may be raised.

### Chair

The Presiding Officer at a meeting of the House.

### Committee

A parliamentary committee constituted under Rules of Procedure, comprising various Members of Parliament.

### Deputy Speaker

When the office of Speaker is vacant or Speaker is absent or is unable to perform his functions due to any cause the Deputy Speaker acts as the Speaker of the House.

### Leader of the Opposition

"Leader of the Opposition" means a Member who, in the opinion of the Speaker, is the leader of the majority of Opposition Members for a certain time period.

### Legislation

The process of crafting law.

### Member

A Member of the Assembly and for purposes of moving or opposing a Bill, an amendment, a motion or a Resolution, includes a Minister.

### Minister

May refer to the Prime Minister a Federal Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary in respect to any function delegated or entrusted to him by a Minister.

### Opposition

The party or parties who do not belong to the governing party.

### 'Orders of the Day'

"Orders of the Day" means the list of business to be brought before the Assembly on any day.

### Point of Order

Relates to the interpretation or enforcement of parliamentary rules of business or articles of the Constitution that regulate the business of the Assembly. The mover of a Point of Order raises a question which is within the cognizance of the Chair.

### Private Member's Bill

A proposed law introduced by a Private Member.

### Proceedings

The actions taken by the House or by a committee, the most important parts of the proceedings are the decisions that are taken.

### Quorum

Quorum is the minimum number of Members of Assembly necessary to conduct the business of the Assembly. Under Article 55 of the Constitution 1/4th of the total Membership of the Assembly is required for Quorum.

### Question Hour

A time fixed under the rules for asking and answering questions.

### Resolution

A motion for the purpose of discussing and expressing an opinion on a matter of general public interest.

### Starred Question

A question that requires an oral answer in addition to a written reply.

### Sitting

A meeting of the Assembly on a day.

### Table

The Table of the House.

# About FAFEN

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), established in 2006, is a coalition of 42 leading civil society organizations, working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan. Governed by Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), FAFEN's key achievements are:

- Observed the public display of Pakistan's draft electoral rolls and conducted the country's first statistically-valid voters' list audit in 2007
- Deployed more than 18,829 trained, neutral Election Day observers nationwide to watch the February 18, 2008 polls and 264 long-term observers to monitor the pre-election process
- Fielded long-term observers nationwide and published 19 pre-election reports
- For the February 18, 2008, General Elections, FAFEN conducted 260 simultaneous Parallel Vote Tabulations (PVTs)- the largest effort in the world
- Conducted its first survey, Constituents Aspirations Survey, in December 2008 with a sample size of 3,124 respondents to get the description of the state of public opinion and also to get a deeper understanding of the values, attitudes and beliefs of people living in the constituencies
- Conducted mapping of organizations working for human rights within Pakistan
- Observed general elections at Gilgit-Baltistan in 2009 and by-elections in various constituencies of the Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2010, 2011 and 2012
- Implemented a unique methodology to observe parliamentary proceedings under its Parliamentary Watch Project
- Monitors public institutions across Pakistan and issues monthly reports on the state and performance of educational, health and other local level institutions. In addition, monthly reports on prices, crimes, incidence of disease, caseload in lower courts and political and electoral violence are issued

FAFEN continues to implement robust programs in-between elections related to monitoring parliamentary affairs, connecting constituents to their elected representatives, monitoring the performance of public and elected institutions and advocating electoral and democratic reforms. FAFEN is also monitoring political and electoral violence, peace activities and promoting active citizenry through ongoing civic education activities across the country. FAFEN is currently implementing Supporting Transparency, Accountability and Electoral Processes in Pakistan in 200 National Assembly constituencies in 119 districts across Pakistan.

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