

FAFEN Parliament Monitor

Senate  
of Pakistan  
85th Session

(3 September to  
7 September 2012)

Free and Fair Election Network

[www.fafen.org](http://www.fafen.org)

## Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
BNPA	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
CAN	Calling Attention Notice
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
ECC	Economic Coordination Committee
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IND	Independent (member)
FAFEN	Free and Fair Election Network
JUI	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam
JUIF	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl)
MQM	Muttahidda Qaumi Movement
NP	National Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PMLF	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
PMLN	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PO	Point of order
POL	Petroleum, oil and lubricants



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

## Executive Summary

The 85th session witnessed an ambitious agenda setting, including issues of national importance such as deteriorating law and order, increase in prices of petroleum products, and the Hindu families' migration. However the Upper House left a little more than half of the overall agenda (52%) unaddressed as the session was marked by low attendance by Senators.

The ECC's decision to review the prices of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) products and CNG on a weekly basis and the recent increases in their prices made its way on the agenda through a motion under rule 218. Debating the issue for an hour and 25 minutes (10% of the session), 11 Senators – four from the PMLN, three ANP and one each from the PPPP, JUIF, MQM and an IND – urged the ECC to revise its decision.

Debate on the law and order situation with particular reference to target killings and sectarian violence in Balochistan, Karachi and Gilgit-Baltistan were discussed for two hours and 35 minutes (18% of the session) during the fourth and fifth sittings. However, Independents and Senators from Balochistan staged a 50-minute walkout to protest lack of discussion on the law and order in Balochistan during the fourth sitting.

Responding to media reports about migration of Hindu families to India, the only calling attention notice was submitted by a PMLN Senator, who accused the government of not providing protection to minorities in the country. Terming it propaganda, the Interior Minister assured the House that the Hindu families travelled to India for religious purposes only.

Out of the 100 starred questions (requiring oral answers) appearing on the orders of the day, 25% were taken up and responded to by relevant ministers. Additionally, 53 supplementary questions were asked by Senators.

Similarly the House only took up one out of the seven resolutions submitted during the session. Though 15 Senators belonging to all parties in the Upper House debated the signing and ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances for 40 minutes (5% of the session time), the resolution regarding the sensitive issue of missing persons was not adopted.

The five-day session from September 3-7, 2012 lasted 14 hours and 13 minutes, as each sitting on average lasted two hours and 51 minutes. All sittings remained, on average, 40 minutes behind schedule. The session's proceedings were stalled for an hour and 32 minutes due to three prayer breaks.

Senators' attendance remained low. In the 104-member House, on average, 10 members were sighted at the beginning, 15 at the end and a maximum 37 at any one time during a sitting. At least two minority Senators attended each sitting of the session.

While the ANP parliamentary leader was present in all but one sitting, those of the PMLF and MQM missed two each and of the JUIF and NP three each. Leaders of the BNPA and the PML did not attend the session.

The Chairman presided for six hours and 52 minutes (48% of the session time) and the Deputy Chairman for five hours and 49 minutes (41% of the session time). The Leaders of the House and the Opposition were present in all sittings.

Three Standing Committee reports were laid before the House – two presented by the Committee on Rules of Procedure & Privileges regarding privilege motions, and another by the Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production.

Fifty two Points of Order raised during the session consumed 20% of the session time. However none of them attracted the Chair's formal ruling.

The House witnessed five instances of walkouts/protests/boycotts during the session, consuming 10% (an hour

### 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 Assembly 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), Provincial Assemblies (MPAs) and Senate 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 criteria for assessing parliamentary effectiveness are primarily process-oriented and secondarily results-oriented.

and 25 minutes) of the session's time. ANP and PMLN Senators separately staged five-minute walkouts over increase in petroleum prices.

Senators of ANP, JUIF, PML and MQM protested for 25 minutes on unsatisfactory responses to questions asked during the third sitting. The omission of discussion on the law and order in Balochistan from the House business was protested by BNPA and IND Senators in a 50-minute walkout. ANP Senators boycotted the fifth sitting over the issuance of the Sindh People's Local Government Ordinance 2012.

## 1.0 Session time and attendance

This section deals with the duration the Senate met for the session. It provides details of Senators' attendance, their participation and maintenance of quorum – at least 1/4th (26) of the total membership. The participation of a Senator 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 Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and parliamentary leaders.

### 1.1 Session time

The 85th session spanning 3-7 September 2012 lasted 14 hours and 13 minutes – an average sitting consuming two hours and 51 minutes. All five sittings witnessed an average delay of 40 minutes. The second sitting – the least delayed – was 30 minutes behind schedule, whereas maximum delay was observed in the last sitting which started 45 minutes late. The proceedings were stalled by three prayer breaks, taken during the first, third and fifth sittings, consuming an hour and 32 minutes - 10% of the session's time.

Table 1: Session time

Sitting No.	Date	Delay	Hours	Minutes
1st	Monday, September 03	40	2	17
2nd	Tuesday, September 04	30	2	39
3rd	Wednesday, September 05	40	3	03
4th	Thursday, September 06	44	2	56
5th	Friday, September 07	45	3	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>Average 40 Minutes delay</b>	<b>14 Hours and 13 Minutes</b>	

### 1.2 Senators' participation

Participation has been classified into three categories – parliamentarians who only submit agenda items on the orders of day; legislators who do not submit any agenda item but take part in discussions and deliberations in the House, and Senators who submit agenda items and also participate in debates.

Two fifths of the total 104 members in the House participated in debates while the remaining both debated and submitted agenda items. At least a quarter of members from all parties in the House took part in debates, while only members of the PPPP, PMLN, ANP, MQM and PML submitted agenda items in addition to taking part in discussions.

Table 2: Party wise participation

Sr. No.	Political Party	Number of Members Who Brought Agenda Items	Number of Members Who Took Part in Debates	Number of Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Brought Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Brought Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Participated in Debates	Percentage of Members Who Brought Agenda Items And Participated in Debates	Total Number of Members in Senate by Party
1	ANP	0	3	4	0%	25%	33%	12
2	BNPA	0	1	0	0%	25%	0%	4
3	IND	0	3	0	0%	25%	0%	12
4	JUIF	0	5	0	0%	71%	0%	7
5	MQM	0	2	1	0%	29%	14%	7
6	NP	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%	1
7	PML	0	3	1	0%	60%	20%	5
8	PMLF	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%	1
9	PMLN	0	7	3	0%	50%	21%	14
10	PPPP	0	16	2	0%	39%	5%	41
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>104</b>

### 1.2.1 Gender-wise participation

Roughly the same proportion of men and women took part in debates, whereas 11% of the total male Senators submitted agenda items as well as taking part in the debates, compared to 6% of their female counterparts.

Table 3: Participation by gender

Sr. No.	Gender	Number of Members Who Brought Agenda Items	Number of Members Who Took Part in Debates	Number of Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Brought Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Brought Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Participated in Debates	Percentage of Members Who Brought Agenda Items And Participated in Debates	Total Number of Members in Senate by Gender
1	Male	0	35	10	0%	40%	11%	87
2	Female	0	7	1	0%	41%	6%	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>104</b>

### 1.2.2 Province-wise participation

With the exception of Senators from ICT, at least a quarter of the 22 members each from every province took part in debates, whereas members from KP, ICT, Punjab and Sindh submitted agenda items in addition to debates.

Table 4: Participation by province

Sr. No.	Province	Number of Members Who Brought Agenda Items	Number of Members Who Took Part in Debates	Number of Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Brought Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Brought Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Participated in Debates	Percentage of Members Who Brought Agenda Items And Participated in Debates	Total Number of Members Senate by Region
1	Balochistan	0	12	0	0%	55%	0%	22
2	FATA	0	2	0	0%	25%	0%	8
3	ICT	0	0	1	0%	0%	25%	4
4	KP	0	6	5	0%	27%	23%	22
5	Minority	0	2	0	0%	50%	0%	4
6	Punjab	0	10	3	0%	45%	14%	22
7	Sindh	0	10	2	0%	45%	9%	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>104</b>

### 1.3 Senators' attendance

As Senators' attendance is not made public, FAFEN's observer conducts a headcount at the start and end of each sitting.

Senators' attendance remained persistently low in this session, a trend observed in previous sessions also. On average a maximum of 37 Senators were present during the sittings, ten at the beginning and 15 at the end of each sitting. In contrast, an average of 22 members was present in each sitting in the previous session of the Senate.

Minorities have been allotted four seats in the Upper House after the passage of the 18th amendment; two of them (on average) attended the session.

Table 5: Senators' attendance

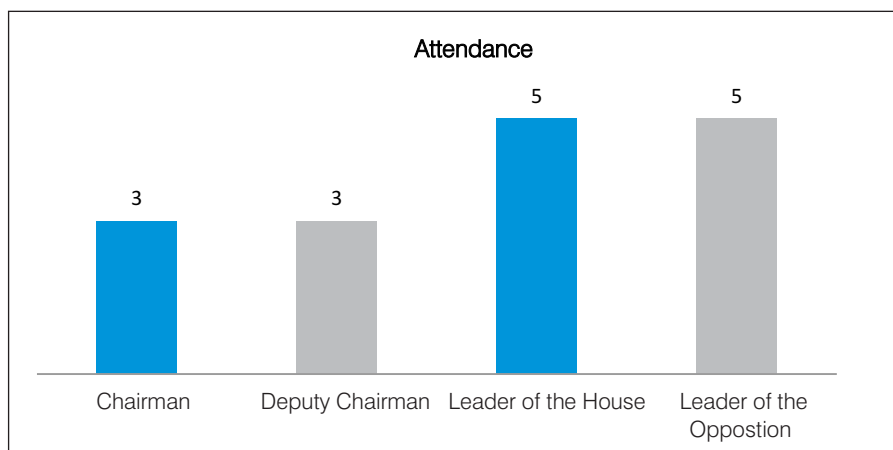
Sitting No.	Members at the Outset	Members at the end
1st	13	21
2nd	11	14
3rd	12	10
4th	6	13
5th	7	16
<b>Average</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>

### 1.4 Key members' attendance

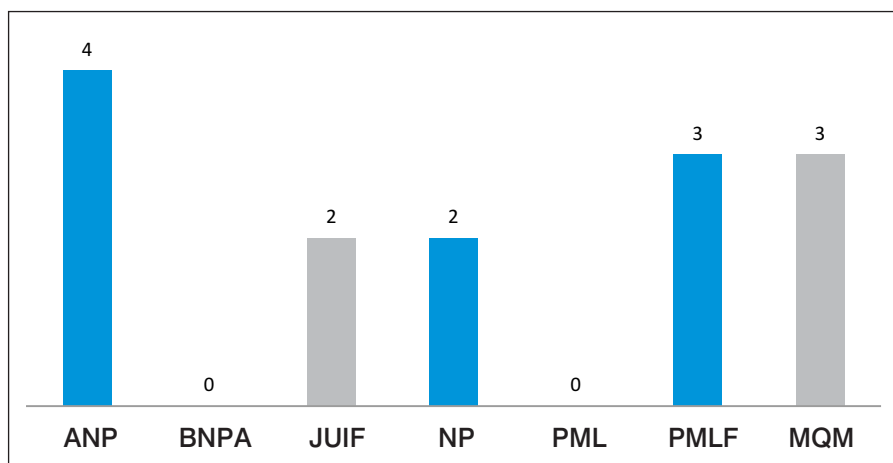
Attendance of Senators is vital, especially those holding important positions (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and parliamentary leaders) to perform their legislative and representative roles.

The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition attended all five sittings, remaining on the floor for the entire session's duration. The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman were present in three sittings each. The

Chairman chaired the House for six hours and 52 minutes (48% of session time) and the Deputy Chairman five hours and 49 minutes (41% of session time).



The parliamentary leader's presence in the House is vital for the effective participation and discipline of their party members. Leaders of BNPA and PML remained away from the proceedings. A maximum four sittings were attended by the ANP leader, followed by party heads of PMLF and MQM who attended three sittings each and two each by JUIF and NP leaders.



## 2.0 Business of the House

Senators table agenda prior to a session in the form of bills, resolutions, various motions, etc. and sometimes during a session in the form of supplementary agenda as and when admitted by the Speaker during a session. A copy of the orders of the day which is prepared by the parliamentary secretary is made available to all members and anyone authorized under the constitution to speak or participate in the Senate's proceedings. The business of the House is transacted in the order of its appearance in the orders of the day.

More than half (52%) of the 21-item agenda, appearing on the orders of the day, remained unaddressed. As in the previous sessions, the agenda for the private members day (Mondays in the Senate) was set ambitiously – only three out of 13 items were taken up.

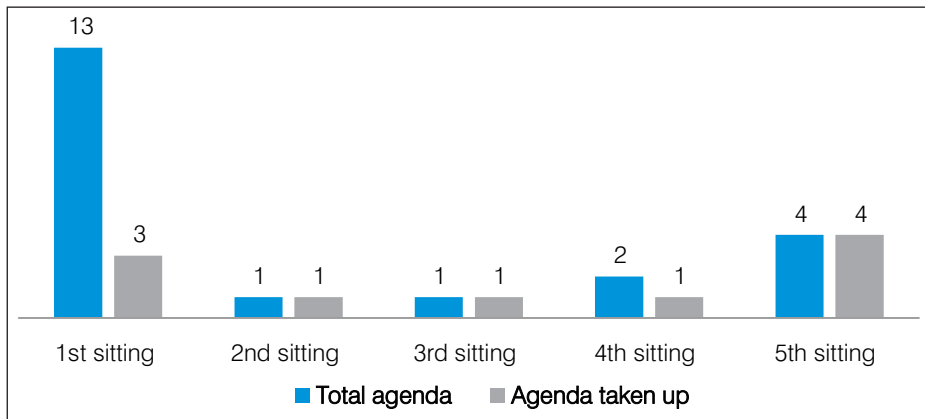
**Table 3: Agenda taken up**

Sitting No.	Total Agenda Items	Agenda items Taken Up
1st	13	3
2nd	1	1
3rd	1	1
4th	2	1
5th	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>

During the private members' day, Senators debated a resolution tabled by a male PPPP Senator urging the government to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

Other agenda included: the housing policy of the government, pre-marriage blood tests of couples for the prevention of dangerous diseases, de-weaponization of Karachi city, issuance of stipends to educated

unemployed persons, establishment of shelter houses for senior citizens, introduction of uniform curriculum in schools and colleges and establishment of boarding and lodging facilities for abandoned children in the Islamabad Capital Territory. All these issues were presented in resolutions which were not taken up. In addition, a standing committee report to probe a senator's privilege motion was also on the agenda during the private members' day.



### 3.0 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.

#### 3.1 Questions

A total of 100 starred questions - an average of 25 in each of the sittings after the first which was a private members' day - were moved during the session. Twenty five of these were taken up and 53 supplementary questions were also asked. According to rules, Question Hour is not held on the private members' day. In the last sitting the Question Hour was not held as the House decided with the approval of the Chair to debate the law and order in the country.

Table 6: Starred Questions

Sittings No.	Starred Questions	Starred Questions taken up	Supplementary Questions
1st	Private Members' Day		
2nd	35	12	19
3rd	19	6	15
4th	21	7	19
5th	25	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>53</b>

A total of 26 legislators submitted these questions – six female parliamentarians submitted 30 questions while 20 male legislators raised another 71. Two PMLN Senators submitted the most 19 questions, followed by seven by two PPPP parliamentarians.

Table 7: Starred questions by gender

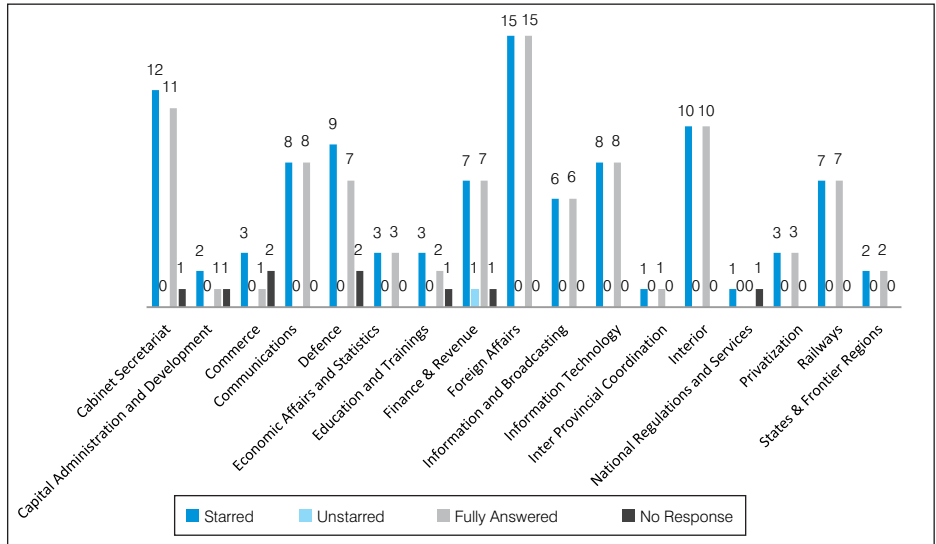
Party	Questions Raised by Female Members	Female Members raising Questions	Questions raised by Male Members	Male Members raising Questions	Total Questions raised by Members	Total Members raising Questions
ANP	-	-	7	4	7	4
BNPA	2	1	-	-	2	1
IND	-	-	4	3	4	3
JUIF	-	-	21	2	21	2
MQM	2	1	7	1	9	2
PML	-	-	1	1	1	1
PMLN	19	2	12	3	31	5
PPPP	7	2	19	6	26	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>26</b>

#### 3.1.1 Ministry-wise Questions

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided complete answers to 15 starred questions put up by Senators, followed by 10 complete replies by the Ministry of Interior. Similarly the Cabinet Secretariat also provided complete

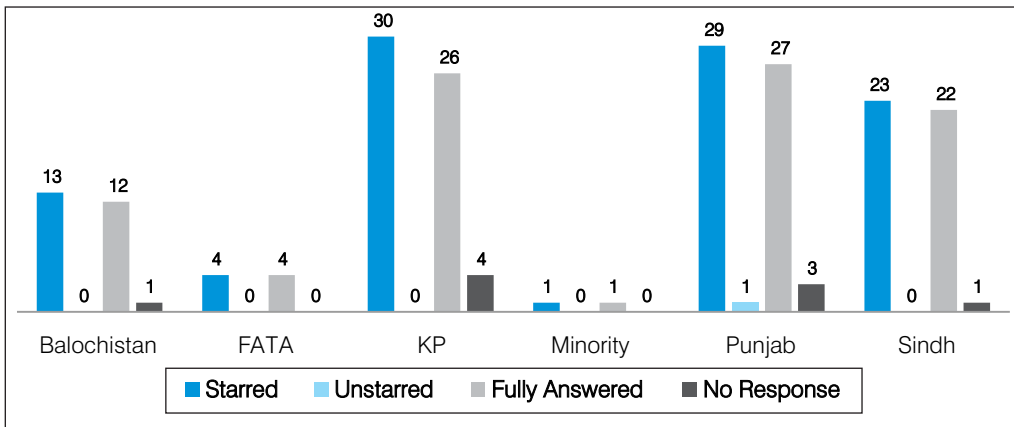
answers to 11 of the 12 questions, and the ministries of Communications and Information Technology replied to all eight questions asked by Senators.

Nine questions were not answered during the session. Of them two each were addressed to the Ministries of Commerce and Defence, and one each to the Ministries of Education and Training, Finance and Revenue, National Regulations and Services, as well as the Cabinet Secretariat and the Capital Development Authority.



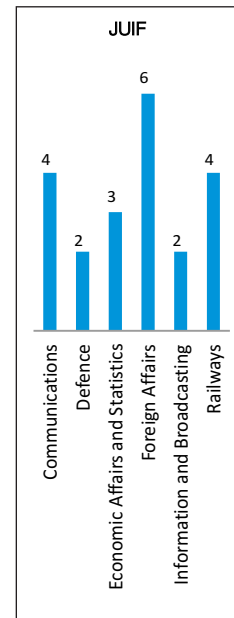
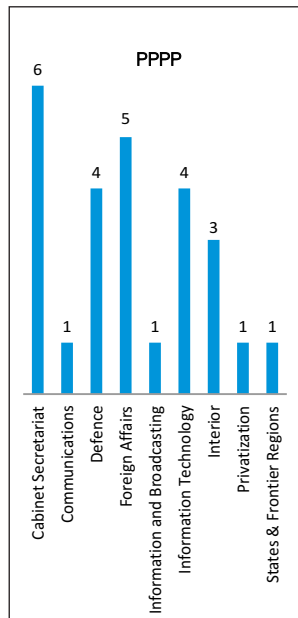
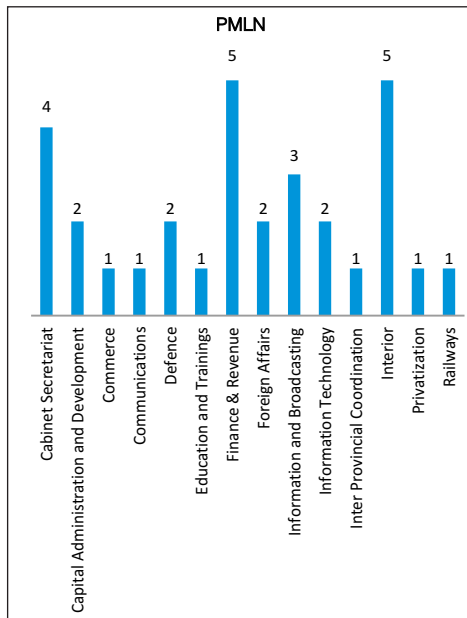
### 3.1.2 Province-wise Questions

The most starred questions were asked by Senators from KP, 30 in all. Senators from Punjab asked 29 questions and of them 27 were replied by the relevant ministers. Ministers did not respond to four starred questions by Senators from KP, three from Punjab, and one each from Sindh and Balochistan.



### 3.1.3 Party-wise Questions

The main opposition party PMLN submitted the most questions – 31 - during the session, followed by the ruling PPPP, and the JUIF. The MQM and the ANP followed with nine and seven questions respectively, Independents with four, the BNPA with two and the PML with one.





### 3.2 Calling Attention Notices

This section highlights the efforts of Senators in raising matters of public interest through calling attention notices. Under rule 64 (chapter XI) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, a Senator may call the attention of a minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the minister may make a brief statement or ask for time to make a statement at a later hour or date provided that no more than one notice shall be allowed a Senator per sitting.

Responding to media reports about migration of Hindu families to India, the only calling attention notice was submitted by a PMLN Senator, who accused the government of not providing protection to minorities in the country. Terming it propaganda, the Interior Minister assured the House that the Hindu families travelled to India for religious purposes.

### 3.3 Motion under rule 218

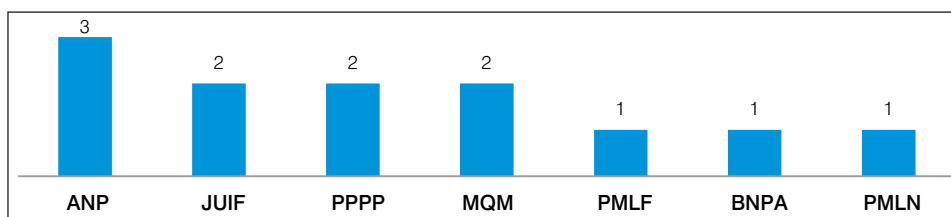
Under rule 218 of the Senate's rules, a minister or member may move a motion for the reconsideration of a policy, situation, statement or any other urgent matter.

The House debated three of seven motions under rule 218. The four motions not taken up by the House appeared on the agenda of the private members' day. All four of the motions raised by MQM Senators were about the government's housing policy, performance of Pakistan Railways, provision of speedy and inexpensive justice and the transport system in the country. Motions debated by the House were about the law and order in various parts of the country, as well as possible increase in the prices of petroleum, oil and lubricants on a weekly basis.

**Table 8: Motion under rule 218**

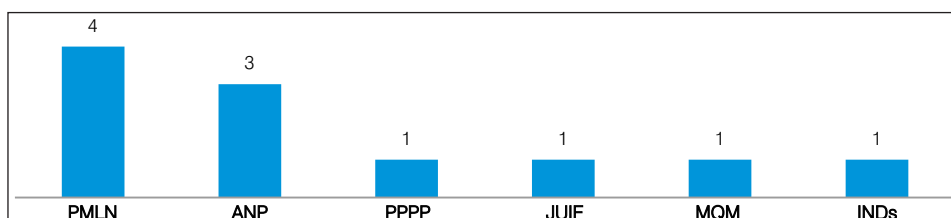
Sitting No.	Motion under rule 218	Status
1st	The House may discuss the Housing Policy of the Government with particular reference to the housing schemes for low paid government employees	Not Taken Up
1st	This House may discuss the performance of Pakistan Railways	Not Taken Up
1st	The House may discuss the steps being taken by the Government to provide speedy and inexpensive justice in the country	Not Taken Up
1st	This House may discuss the existing public transport system in the country.	Not Taken Up
2nd	The ECC decision to review the prices of Petroleum products on weekly basis and the recent increases made in the prices of POL products and CNG	Debated by the House
4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup>	The law and order situation in the country with particular reference to target killings and sectarian violence in Balochistan, Karachi and Gilgit-Baltistan	Debated by the House

Senators deliberated the law and order in the country, consuming two hours and 35 minutes or 18% of the session time. During the fourth sitting only PMLN and MQM Senators discussed the issue for 42 minutes, whereas the debate warmed up during the fifth session lasting two hours and 13 minutes - three ANP Senators, two each from JUIF and PPPP, and a Senator each from MQM, BNPA and PMLF spoke on the matter.



The third motion taken up by the House debated the ECC's decision to review the prices of petroleum products on weekly basis and also increases in their prices. In August immediately after the Eid holidays, the government increased the prices of petroleum products' as well as CNG.

Senators raised their voice on the issue for an hour and 25 minutes (10% of the session). In all 11 Senators – four belonging to PMLN, three ANP, one each from PPPP, JUIF, MQM and an Independent – discussed the increase in POL and CNG prices.



### 4.0 Parliamentary Output

This section is concerned with the resolutions debated and decided during the session.



## 4.1 Resolutions

Through resolutions the House expresses its opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on a definite and important issue. The House can also commend, urge, or request action upon a situation under consideration by the government. Resolutions may be moved by ministers or private members.

In the Senate a minister or a private member may move a resolution, after giving notice (three days in the case of a minister and seven for a private member). However, the Chairman may provide permission to move a resolution on a matter of urgent public importance at a shorter notice.

Of seven resolutions - all moved on the private members' day - only one regarding the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances was debated by the House. Fifteen Senators took part in the 40-minute debate on the resolution. Of the 15 Senators, five were from PMLN, three ANP, and a Senator each from PPPP, JUIF, PML, MQM, NP and an Independent.

**Table 9: Resolutions**

Sitting No.	Resolutions	Status
1st	Government to sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances	Debated by the House
	Government may take effective steps to de-weaponize the city of Karachi in view of prevailing law and order situation in the city	Not taken up
	This House recommends that conducting of blood tests of hepatitis B and C, Aids and Thalassemia may be made compulsory for every couple before marriage to avoid spreading of these diseases	Not taken up
	This House recommends that stipends be granted to all the unemployed educated persons in the country	Not taken up
	This House recommends that the Government may establish shelter houses for senior citizens	Not taken up
	This House recommends that uniform curriculum may be introduced in all the schools and colleges in the country	Not taken up
	The House recommends that the Government may make arrangements for establishment of institute for boarding and lodging of unwanted children in Islamabad Capital Territory	Not taken up

However resolutions on pressing issues such as de-weaponisation of Karachi, compulsory blood tests for every couple before marriage to avoid spreading of diseases, stipends for unemployed educated persons in the country, establishment of shelter houses for senior citizens, introduction of uniform curriculum in all schools and colleges in the country, and provision of boarding and lodging facilities for abandoned children in Islamabad Capital Territory were not taken up. All resolutions were tabled by male parliamentarians – two of them belonging to the PPPP, and one each to the MQM and the ANP.

## 4.2 Parliamentary reports

After a committee report is tabled, the Chairman sets a date for consideration of the report. The chair-person himself or anyone he appoints on his behalf concerned presents the report and may make a supporting statement describing its salient features. The House may pass a resolution to express an opinion, make an observation or recommendations on the report.

All three reports on the orders of the day were laid before the House by the respective committee chairpersons. Two reports on privilege motions were presented by Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges and the Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production presented its "Report 1" for the June-July 2012 period before the House.

**Table 10: Parliamentary reports**

Sitting No.	Report	Status
1st	The report of the Committee on the Privilege Motion regarding privilege motion leveling baseless allegations on a senator by a Government employee	Presented
3rd	The "Report 1" of the Committee for the period June-July, 2012	Presented
5th	The report of the Committee on the Privilege Motion regarding irresponsible attitude of SSGPL Officials	Presented

## 5.0 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 privilege and the instances of protests, walkouts or boycotts during the session.

### 5.1 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.

As many as 52 points of order (average ten per sitting) were raised, consuming 20% (two hours and 52 minutes) of the session time. A maximum of 23 points of order were raised during the third sitting.

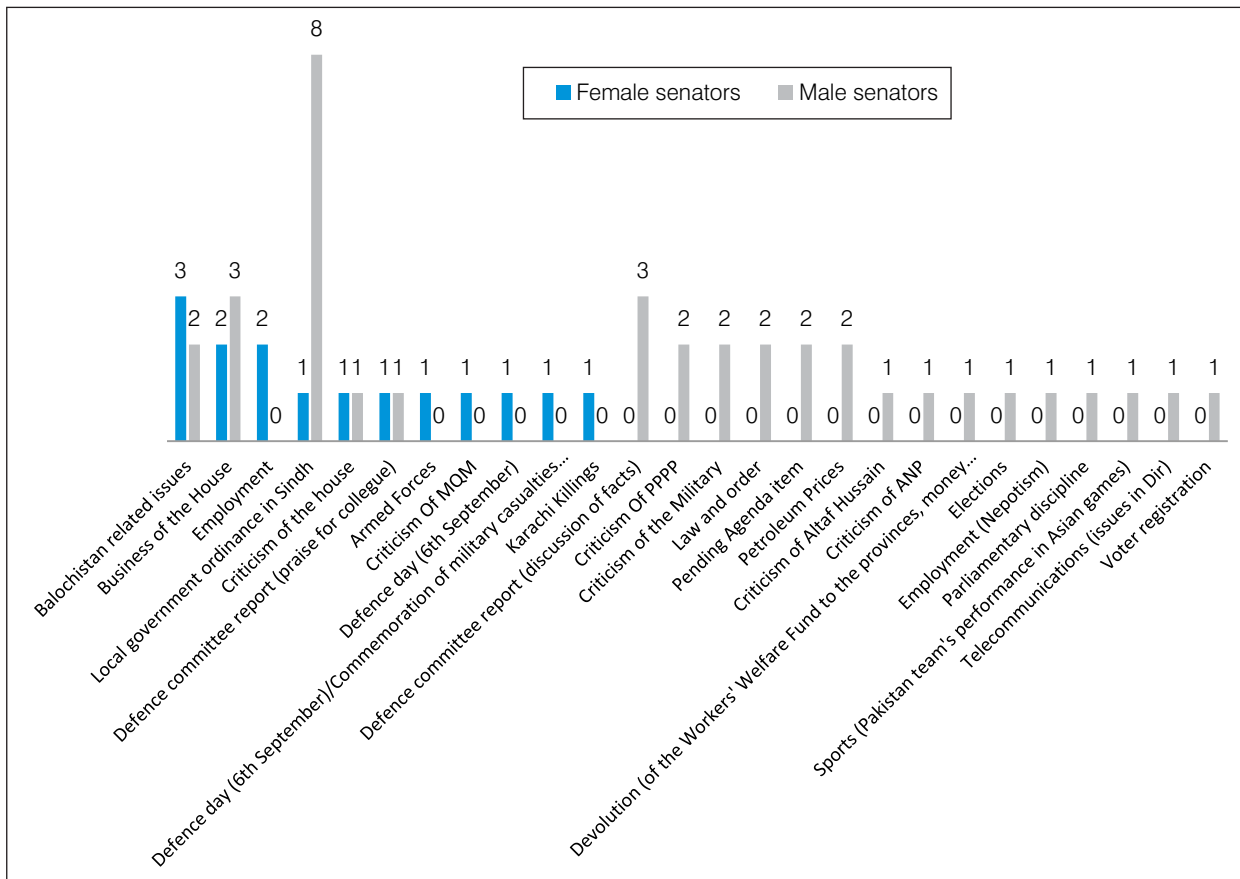
None of the points of order attracted the Chair's formal ruling; in such a case any discussion on the same does not add to the legislature's productivity.

Table 11: Points of Order

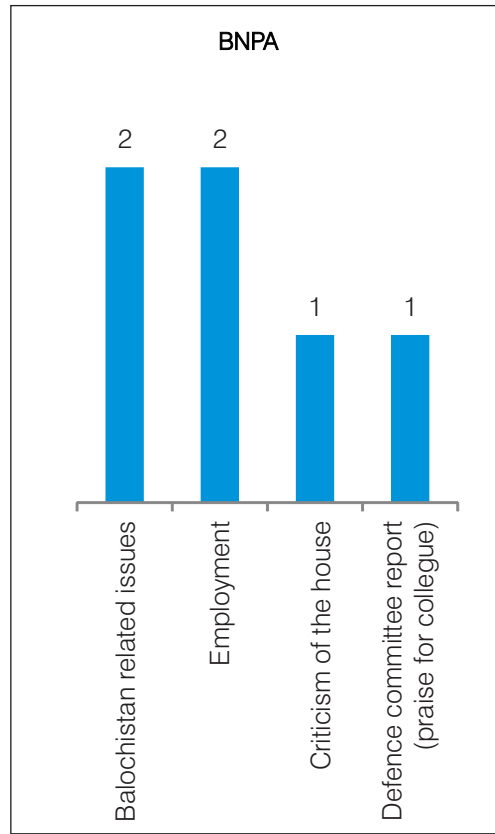
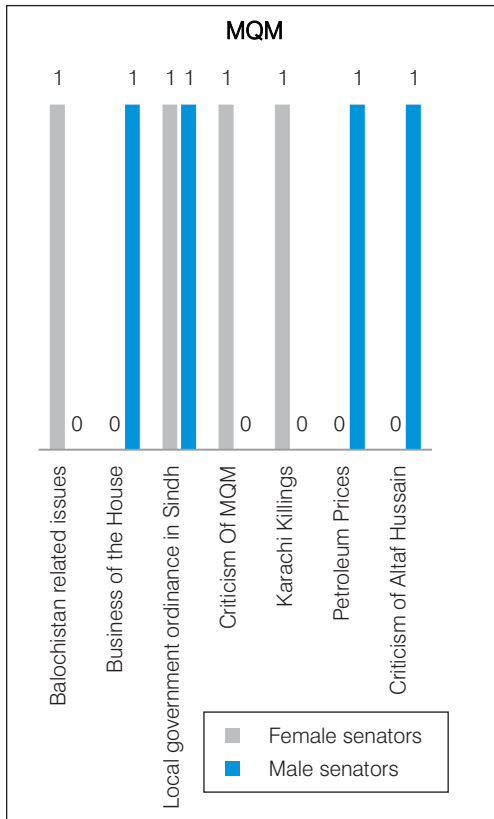
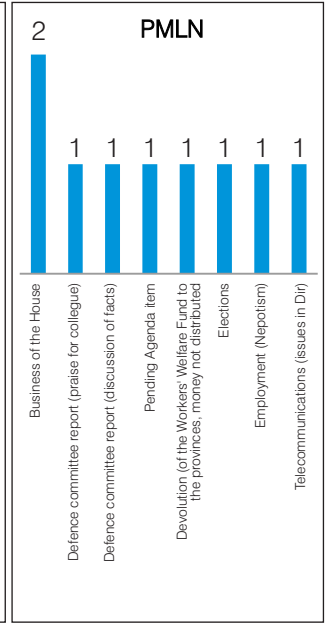
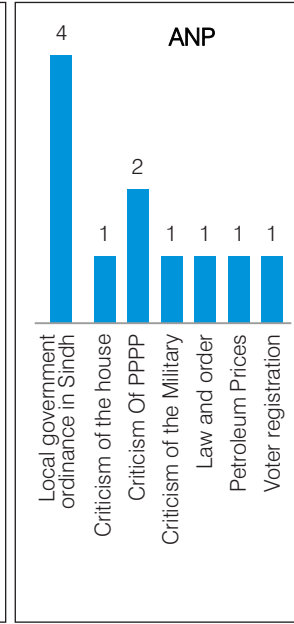
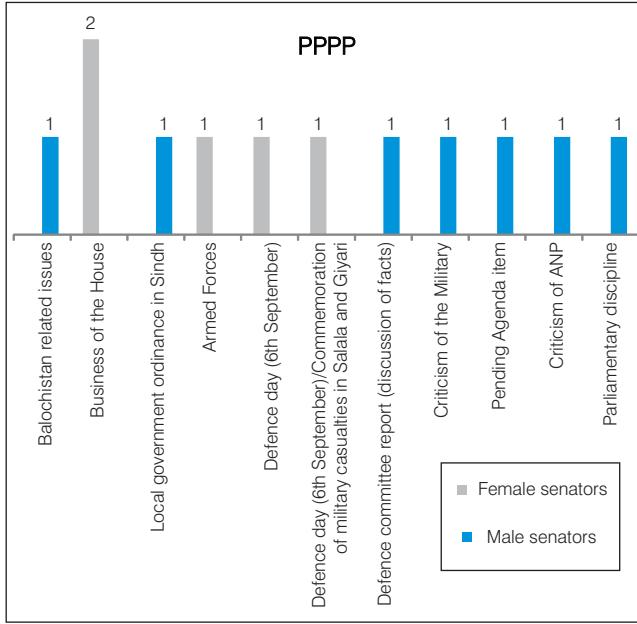
Sitting No.	Number of points of order	Time consumed (minutes)
1st	5	12
2nd	-	-
3rd	23	100
4th	8	20
5th	16	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>172</b>

Senators used points of order to debate the issuance of the Sindh Peoples Local Government Ordinance 2012. Opposing the ordinance, four ANP Senators raised the issue through points of order, followed one Senator each from JUIF, PMLF, PPPP and MQM.

Senators also made speeches on Balochistan related issues, the defence committee report, and business of the house. Female Senators raised points of order about employment, the armed forces, Defence Day (6th September) as well as criticism of the MQM. Male senators mostly spoke on law and order, elections, voter registration, petroleum prices etc.



PPPP senators raised the most points of order – 12 – seven by male and five by female legislators, followed by 11 by male ANP Senators, nine by male PMLN Senators, eight by equal numbers of MQM Senators, six by female BNPA Senators, three by male JUIF Senators, two by male PMLF Senators and one by a male PML Senator.



## 5.2 Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

The proceedings were interrupted on five occasions as Senators staged walkouts, protests and boycotts, consuming 10% (an hour and 25 minutes) of the entire session's time. PMLN and ANP Senators staged walkouts lasting five minutes each against price hike in petroleum products. During the third sitting legislators of the ANP, PML, MQM and JUIF staged a 25-minute protest on receiving unsatisfactory response to questions during the Question Hour.

In the fourth sitting BNPA and Independent Senators from Balochistan walked out for 50 minutes over not debating the law and order in the province.

The government coalition partner ANP boycotted the proceedings in the last sitting against the issuance of the Sindh Peoples Local Government Ordinance 2012.

**Table 12: Protest/Walkouts/ Boycotts**

Sitting No.	Party	Reason	Time (minutes)	Protest/ Walkout/ Boycott
1st	<b>There were no instances of protests/walkouts/boycotts</b>			
2nd	ANP	The increase in the prices of petroleum products	5	Walkout
	PMLN	The increase in the prices of petroleum products	5	Walkout
3rd	ANP, JUIF, PML, MQM	Unsatisfactory response to the questions during "Question Hour"	25	Protest
4th	BNPA, IND (Balochistan)	The House did not debate the law and order in Balochistan	50	Walkout
5th	ANP	Issuance of the Local Government Ordinance 2012 for Sindh	-	Boycott
<b>Total</b>			<b>85</b>	

# GLOSSARY

## **Adjournment Motion**

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

## **Amendments**

A motion to amend an earlier motion before that earlier motion is put to the assembly for its decision.

## **Assent**

Refers to the power of the President to assent the bill passed by the house or return the same to the house for reconsideration.

## **Chairperson**

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

## **Calling Attention Notice**

A Senator who wishes to raise a matter of sufficient public importance can call attention of the minister to such matter by giving notice in writing. The Chairman would select one of them but not more than two notices in a week for a statement by the minister.

## **Chair**

The presiding officer at a meeting of the house or a committee.

## **Chamber**

The place where the Senate meets to transact its business.

## **Deputy Chairman**

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

## **Election**

The process of choosing a representative by vote.

## **Leader of the Opposition**

"Leader of the Opposition" means a Senator who, in the opinion of the Chairman, is the leader of the majority of opposition senators for a certain time period.

## **Legislation**

The process of crafting law.

## **Legislative Process**

The processes by which bills are approved by assembly.

## **'List of Business'**

The 'List of Business' includes the business scheduled for an assembly sitting.

## **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.

## **Member-in-Charge**

In the case of government bill, a minister or a parliamentary secretary acting on behalf of the government and in the case of a private member's bill, the member who has introduced it or any other member authorized by him in writing to assume charge of the bill in his absence.

## **Minister**

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

**Motion**

A proposal made by a member or a minister relating to any matter, which may be discussed by the house and includes an amendment.

**Mover**

The mover of a bill, a resolution, a motion or an amendment of a bill, a resolution or a motion and in the case of a government bill, a resolution, a motion or an amendment, a minister or a Parliamentary Secretary acting on behalf of the government.

**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 house on any day.

**Point of Order**

A member can raise a point of order relating to the interpretation or enforcement of the rules or such articles of the constitution as regulate the business of the Senate, and are in the cognizance of the Chairman. A point of order can also be raised in relation to the business before the Senate at the moment.

**Private Member**

A member who is not a minister or a Parliamentary Secretary.

**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 Senate necessary to conduct the business of the assembly. (one-fourth of the house)

**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.

**Senate**

The upper house of Majlis-e-Shoora (parliament) known by that name.

**Table**

The table of the house.

**Unstarred question**

"Unstarred Question" means a question for a written answer.

# 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 and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2010
- 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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