



FAFEN Parliament Monitor

42nd Session

Provincial Assembly of Punjab
(November 5-8, 2012)

Free and Fair Election Network
www.fafen.org

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|---|
| AM | Adjournment Motion |
| CAN | Calling Attention Notice |
| DMG | District Management Group |
| FAFEN | Free and Fair Election Network |
| IND | Independent Member |
| IT | Information Technology |
| MMAP | Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Party |
| PML | Pakistan Muslim League |
| PMLF | Pakistan Muslim League (Functional) |
| PMLN | Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) |
| PMLZ | Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq) |
| PO | Point of Order |
| PPPP | Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians |
| PW | Parliament Watch |
| QoP | Question of Privilege |
| PCS | Provincial Civil Services |
| WASA | Water and Sanitation Agency |
| XEN | Executive Engineer |



This report is based on direct observation of Punjab Assembly proceedings conducted by **PATTAN Development Organization**, a member organization of FAFEN

Executive Summary

The brief 42nd session of the Punjab Assembly that passed six pieces of legislation was marked by the disinterest of MPAs in sessions' proceedings. The session witnessed low attendance of members in each of the four sittings and persistent lack of quorum. On average, only 36 out of 371 members were present at the beginning of each sitting while 55 at the end.

The session, which met between November 5th and 8th, lasted 12 hours and 20 minutes with each sitting lasting, on average, three hours and five minutes. Each sitting was delayed on average by 113 minutes.

The Punjab Assembly is the largest legislature in the country with a membership of 371. Despite their responsibility to represent such a vast number of people, the attendance of members especially at the beginning and the end of each sitting remained significantly lower than the minimum required one-fourth (93) of the total strength (371) for passing bills. The lack of quorum was pointed out on four occasions, while at many other occasions the lack of quorum went unnoticed.

The presence of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the parliamentary leaders in the house highlights their interest in the proceedings. The Chief Minister did not attend the session while the Leader of the Opposition attended one sitting for 20 minutes. The Speaker chaired all but one sitting, which was presided over by the Deputy Speaker. The MMAP parliamentary leader attended three sittings while the PML and PMLF party heads attended present in one sitting each. The parliamentary head of PMLZ did not attend the session.

While the attendance of members remained low, the assembly managed to pass six bills – four new pieces of legislation and two amendments to existing laws.

None of the seven resolutions appearing on the orders of the day were taken up by the house.

In the legislature's oversight over the government, which is mainly carried out through putting questions, a total of 112 starred questions (requiring oral reply) - 45 by women and 67 by men members - were asked during the session, with the most directed to the Punjab Ministries of

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 Parliamentary Watch and Reforms Program (PWRP), 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 PWRP 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 PWRP 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.

The PWRP employs direct observation as one of the tools to evaluate parliamentary proceedings with the following indicators:

Transparency: Government's accountability requires transparency in decision-making and policy implementation. Transparency refers to the amount and quality of information available to the public as well as timely and clear information communicated within legislative bodies themselves. Inclusive and strong decisions can only be made when all legislators are well-informed about parliamentary proceedings.

Participation: Only the active and responsible participation of all the members can make the business of parliament meaningful. The participation can be judged through various indicators like attendance of parliamentary leaders and other members and their active involvement in parliamentary discussion and activities.

Responsiveness: Parliament's responsiveness means members' collective actions on the issues of public interests which are raised and discussed on the floor of the house through legislation, resolutions or any other agenda item. Responsiveness of government to the public is measured in terms of parliamentary oversight and effective implementation of policy decisions. Parliament's executive oversight function is mainly carried out through questions and parliamentary committees.

Parliamentary Output: Parliamentary output primarily comes in the form of Legislation and Resolutions. The quantity of such output is indicative of parliament's efficiency. The quality of output is equally important. Considering legislation on matters of national significance through careful debate and discussion is arguably a parliament's chief and most important function.

Order and Institutionalization: Order and institutionalization of members are important for an efficient and productive parliament. Order may be measured, for example, by the conduct of members and the chair's effective management of parliamentary business. Institutionalization refers to members' understanding and compliance with rules of procedure for parliamentary business.

food, health, livestock and diary development, youth affairs, sports, archaeology and tourism departments. Women legislators were observed to be more proactive in holding the executive accountable to the legislature with each woman MPA, on average, asking 0.5 questions¹. No unstarred questions (requiring written reply) were raised during the session.

Calling attention notices are also a tool of oversight of executive through which the attention of a minister is drawn towards a matter of urgent public importance. Through this notice, a member can request a minister to pay attention to a particular matter and take necessary steps to address it. Two law and order issues were raised through these CANs - members called the attention of the house towards murders cases in district Kasur and Lahore.

Among other agenda items, a total of eight adjournment motions were raised and taken up during the session. The house took up adjournment motions regarding conveyance allowances for provincial government employees, water shortage, theft of fuel, restoration of heritage sites, education, provincial budget and construction of prisons.

Speeches by members and treasury rejoinders on points of order took 13% of the total session time, dipping into the time otherwise allocated for agenda items on the order of the day. Unless the speaker gives a formal ruling on a point of order, speeches and rejoinders do not contribute to any assembly output and only provide media with news pegs.

The house witnessed two walkouts during the 4th sitting. A PML female MPA walked out of the house protesting against the non-parliamentary behavior demonstrated by law minister. On another instance PML and PPPP legislators protested against the inclusion of bills on agenda at the eleventh hour.

¹ See the Punjab Assembly website at http://www.pap.gov.pk/index.php/members/party_pos/en/19 for details.

1.0 Session Time, Members' Participation and Attendance

This section deals with the duration the Punjab Assembly met for during the session, the attendance of members, their participation and quorum – at least one-fourth (93) 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, Chief Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and parliamentary leaders.

1.1 Session Time

The brief Punjab Assembly's session met for 12 hours and 20 minutes, from November 5 – 8, with each sitting, on average meeting for three hours and five minutes and witnessing an average delay of 113 minutes.

The 1st sitting was the shortest which adjourned only after an hour while the 4th was the longest, lasting six hours and 25 minutes.

Table 1.1: Session Time

| Sr. No. | Day and Date | Sitting No. | Late Starts | Total Session Time | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| | | | | Hours | Minutes |
| 1. | Monday, November 5, 2012 | 1st | 135 | 1 | 0 |
| 2. | Tuesday, November 6, 2012 | 2nd | 95 | 2 | 0 |
| 3. | Wednesday, November 7, 2012 | 3rd | 150 | 2 | 55 |
| 4. | Thursday, November 8, 2012 | 4th | 70 | 6 | 25 |
| Total | | | Average 113 Minutes Delay | 12 Hours and 20 Minutes | |

1.2 Members' Attendance

Only active participation and attendance of members in assembly sessions can make the business of the house meaningful. As the Punjab Assembly Secretariat does not make public the attendance records of its members, FAFEN conducts a headcount of legislators at the beginning and end of each sitting and documents the actual time spent on the floor of the house by Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition.

The Punjab Assembly is the largest legislature in the country with a membership of 371. Despite their responsibility to represent such a vast number of people, an average 36 (only 10% of the total membership) MPAs were present at the beginning and 55 at the end of each sitting.

According to Chapter II, Article V, of the Rules Of Procedure and Conduct Of Business of the Punjab Assembly, if at any time during a sitting, the attention of the chair is drawn to the fact that less than one-fourth of the total members of the house are present, he can suspend the sitting and/or order the bells to be rung for five minutes. If lack of quorum persists after the said period, he can adjourn the assembly for 15 to 30 minutes. If the quorum is lacking even after the expiry of this period, the chair adjourns the sitting till the next working day or *sine die*.

The quorum was visibly lacking at various stages of the session. It was pointed out in all the four sittings.

Table 1.2: Members' Attendance

| Sitting No. | Members present at the outset | Members at the end | Quorum |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1st | 34 | 51 | Sitting adjourned as quorum was called by a PPPP member |
| 2nd | 22 | 29 | Sitting adjourned as quorum was called by a PPPP member |
| 3rd | 63 | 86 | Sitting suspended for 25 minutes as quorum was pointed out by a PML member |
| 4th | 24 | 53 | Sitting suspended for 25 minutes as quorum was pointed out by a PML member |
| Average | 36 | 55 | |

1.3 Key Members' Attendance

The Chief Minister did not attend the entire session, while the Leader of the Opposition attended one sitting for 20 minutes (3% of the session time).

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Panel of Chairpersons, in order of precedence and availability, preside over the assembly ensuring the business of the house is conducted in accordance with the constitution and rules of the house. The Speaker chaired all but one sitting, while the Deputy Speaker presided over one.

The MMAP parliamentary leader was present in three sittings while the PML and PMLF parliamentary heads attended one sitting each. The PMLZ leader did not attend the entire session.

1.4 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.

Overall 21% of the members – 48 male and 28 female - participated in the session by submitting agenda items on the orders of the day or by taking part in debates. Male parliamentarians appeared to be less active than their female counterparts. Their participation remained 17% of their total membership of 263 while female participation was 37% of their total membership of 78.

A party-wise analysis shows that 50% of the PMLF parliamentarians took part in the proceedings. They were followed by PPPP 28%, PML 25% and PMLN 14%. The two MMAP members did not take in any form of parliamentary business conducted during the session.

2.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section details members' efforts to represent the interests of their constituents through calling attention notices (CANS) and to monitor government accountability, especially through questions submitted during the question hour, and government ministers' responsiveness to those questions. In this report, FAFEN observers monitored the question hour but did not observe the functioning of the parliamentary committees, which are another important mechanism of executive oversight.

2.1 Questions and Responses

Question hour provides legislators, especially those in the opposition, an opportunity for executive oversight. Answers to questions may be demanded in written or oral form, referred to as unstarred or starred questions respectively.

On an average 28 starred questions (requiring oral responses) were asked per sitting during the session. Thirteen percent of the total 112 starred questions were taken up and responded to by the relevant ministry.

A member seeking further clarification on answer to his question may ask supplementary questions from the relevant minister. On average 11.5 such questions were put up per sitting during the session.

Table 2.1: Questions

| Sitting No. | Starred questions of the agenda | Starred questions taken up by the house | Supplementary questions |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1st | 31 | 1 | 5 |
| 2nd | 27 | 5 | 16 |
| 3rd | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| 4th | 28 | 9 | 25 |
| Total | 112 | 15 | 46 |

The majority of questions were directed to the ministry of health – 31 questions. The legislators of the PPPP asked 45 questions, followed by PML (35), PMLN (31) and Independents (one). No unstarred questions appeared on the agenda.

Table 2. 1a: Ministry-wise Questions

| Ministry concerned | IND | | PML | | PMLN | | PPPP | | Total |
|--|--------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | |
| Food | - | - | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 28 |
| Health | - | - | 6 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 31 |
| Livestock and Dairy Development | - | - | 5 | 5 | 2 | | 4 | 10 | 26 |
| Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology and Tourism Departments | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 27 |
| Total | - | 1 | 18 | 17 | 13 | 18 | 14 | 31 | 112 |

Female MPAs submitted 40% of questions as compared to their male counterparts who asked 60% of the questions during the session.

Table 2.1b: Gender-wise Questions

| Party | Questions asked by female members | Female membership | Questions asked by male members | Male membership | Total questions asked | Total membership |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| IND | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PML | 18 | 6 | 17 | 9 | 35 | 15 |
| PMLN | 13 | 5 | 18 | 8 | 31 | 13 |
| PPPP | 14 | 5 | 31 | 13 | 45 | 18 |
| Total | 45 | 16 | 67 | 31 | 112 | 47 |

2.2 Calling Attention Notice

A member may, with the consent of the chair, call the attention of a minister to any matter involving the law and order situation in the province, through a calling attention notice. Two CANS were raised and taken up by the house.

Two law and order issues were raised through these CANS - members called the attention of the house towards murder cases in district Kasur and Lahore.

2.3 Adjournment Motion

A motion for an adjournment of the business of an assembly for discussing a matter of urgent public importance may be made with the chairs' consent. An adjournment motion, under Rule 80 of the assembly, is moved by giving a notice in writing to the secretary not less than an hour before the commencement of a sitting and the secretary thereupon brings it to the cognizance of the chair, the minister of law and parliamentary affairs and the minister concerned.

The house took up adjournment motions regarding conveyance allowances for provincial government employees; water shortage; theft of fuel; restoration of heritage sites; education; provincial budget and construction of prisons.

Table 2.3: Adjournment Motions

| Sr. No. | Adjournment Motion | Party | Gender |
|---------|--|-------|-----------------------|
| 1 | The issue is that due to increasing inflation the federal government, in order to give relief to the government servants, has given a 100% increase in conveyance allowance from July 2012. However, Punjab government has deprived its employees of such a relief. | PML | Joint Male and Female |
| 2 | The issue is that WASA has failed in planning, there is a great fall in underground water table and the expenditures have exceeded in terms of <i>crores</i> . In 2020 we will be in need of boring as deep as 1400 feet underground. Three <i>lacs</i> of consumers are stealing water whereas the diesel from the generators is also being stolen. The recovery officers are also unable to do recoveries. | PMLN | Single Female |
| 3 | According to a well reputed newspaper "the archeology department has forgotten Mahabat Khan's tomb...neither there is any tombstone nor any board." The tomb of the army chief of Mughal emperors Jehangir and Humayun is in dilapidated condition. | PML | Joint Male and Female |
| 4 | The government's failed policies are the reason behind the difficulties faced by general public in the acquisition of education. | PML | Joint Male and Female |
| 5 | The residents of Moza Harbans Pura urge the higher authorities to take notice of the growth of land mafia and <i>patwari</i> culture due to the dishonesty of the revenue officials and slack of the higher officials of finance department. | PML | Joint Male and Female |
| 6 | The monthly budget of jails in every districts of Punjab ranges from 10 <i>crores</i> to 15 <i>crores</i> and it takes about 50 <i>crores</i> to build a new jail. This huge burden on the province's budget can easily be lessened. Reform | PPPP | Single Male |
| 7 | Hundreds of thousands of students of 9th grade are worried for not being registered by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Lahore. | PML | Single Female |
| 8 | Substandard building material is being used in the construction of boundary wall of the central jail, Kot Lakhpat. The bid is reported to be granted to the favorite contractor with the collusion of the stakeholders and the respective superintendent and XEN have received bribery to let the substandard material be used. | PML | Joint Male and Female |

2.4 General Discussion

Eleven MPs – five PPP, three PML, two PMLN and one MMAP – took part in the general discussion on the Supreme Court verdict in the Asghar Khan case for 72 minutes.

3.0 Parliamentary Output

This section deals with legislation and resolutions debated and/or passed/introduced during the session.

3.1 Legislation

Considering legislation on matters of national significance through careful debate and discussion is arguably an assembly's chief and most important function. Legislation comes in the form of government bills, private-member bills and ordinances. This section is concerned with the presentation, introduction, passage and subject-matter of bills and ordinances.

3.1.1 Government Bills

Six of seventeen bills - four new pieces of legislation and two amendments to existing laws - were debated and subsequently passed. Seven bills were introduced and sent to the relevant standing committees for further deliberations.

Table 3.1.1 : Government Bills

| Sr. No. | Sitting No. | Bills on the Orders of the Day | Bills Debated | Status of Bills | | |
|---------|-------------|--|---------------|-----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | | | Introduced | Passed | Not Taken Up |
| 1 | 4th | The Government College For Women University, Sialkot Bill 2012 | - | - | - | Not Taken Up |
| 2 | | The Government College Women University, Faisalabad Bill 2012 | - | - | - | Not Taken Up |
| 3 | | The Government Sadiq College Women University, Bahawalpur Bill 2012 | - | - | - | Not Taken Up |
| 4 | | The Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2012 | Debated | - | Passed | - |
| 5 | | The Public Sector Universities (Amendment) Bill 2012 | Debated | - | Passed | - |
| 6 | | The Punjab Local Government (Fourth Amendment) Bill 2012 | Debated | - | Passed | - |
| 7 | | The Punjab Metro bus Authority Bill 2012 | Debated | - | Passed | - |
| 8 | | The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Bill, 2008 | Debated | - | Passed | - |
| 9 | | The University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore (Amendment) Bill, 2012 | Debated | - | Passed | - |
| 10 | | The Punjab Building Control & Housing Schemes Regulatory Authority Bill 2012 | - | Introduced | - | - |
| 11 | | The Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill 2012 | - | Introduced | - | - |
| 12 | | The Punjab Livestock Breeding Bill 2012 | - | Introduced | - | - |
| 13 | | The Punjab Partition of Immovable Property Bill 2012 | - | Introduced | - | - |
| 14 | | The Punjab Private Education Commission Bill 2012 | - | Introduced | - | - |
| 15 | | The Lahore Canal Heritage Park Bill 2012 | - | Introduced | - | - |
| 16 | | The Punjab Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Bill 2012 | - | Introduced | - | - |
| 17 | 3rd | The University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore (Amendment) Bill 2012 | - | - | - | Not Taken Up |

Details of Passed Bills

1. The Public Sector Universities (Amendment) Bill 2012

The bill aims to amend the laws of various public sector universities in the Punjab. It proposes substitutions, insertions

and removal of various sections of the bill and also overhauls the procedure of the appointment of the vice chancellor and pro vice chancellor of several public institutions.

2. The Punjab Local Government (Fourth Amendment) Bill 2012

The amendment in the Punjab Local Government Ordinance, 2001 allows the government to delay holding local elections for another six months.

3. The Punjab Metro bus Authority Bill 2012

The bill seeks the establishment of a metro bus system in the major cities of the Punjab, starting from Lahore. This is a new initiative in Pakistan which requires special measures to construct, operate and maintain such system. The government has decided to establish the Punjab Metro Bus Authority for provision of safe, efficient and comfortable intra-city urban transportation for the people. The proposed authority shall own, control, maintain and develop the MBS corridors and ancillary facilities.

4. The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Bill, 2008

This Bill has been drafted to remove lacunas in the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Ordinance, 2007. The ordinance was promulgated by the President and as a result of steps taken on 3rd November, 2007, became a permanent law without being presented in and debated by the assembly.

5. The University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore (Amendment) Bill, 2012

This bill was tabled to further amend the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore Ordinance, 2002. The proposed amendments seek the addition, substitution and insertion of various sections of the ordinance and also outline the procedure of appointment of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore.

6. The Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2012

This bill will help the buses - metro bus service and school buses - to acquire the route-permit in Punjab.

3.3 Resolutions

Through resolutions, the house expresses its opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on a definite and important issue. Resolutions may be moved by ministers or private members. This section contains information on the types and amount of resolutions considered or adopted by the assembly during the session.

None of the seven resolutions appearing on the orders of the day were taken up by the House

Table 3.3: Resolutions

| Sr. No. | Resolution |
|---------|--|
| 1 | This House calls upon the provincial government to introduce all the necessary information about Dengue i.e. preventive and precautionary measures, awareness etc. |
| 2 | This House is of the opinion that advertisements of bogus <i>Pirs</i> , <i>Aamils</i> , and Doctors should be banned in print and electronic media all over the province |
| 3 | This House is of the opinion that water treatment plants should be installed in Bhera and Miani of district Sargodha so that clean drinking water is available to the citizens |
| 4 | This House strongly condemns the permission granted by a German court regarding blasphemous sketches. |
| 5 | This House calls upon the federal as well as all the provincial government to get the nationality of all the DMG and PCS officers verified and also dismiss the dual nationality holder officers from their job |
| 6 | This House is of the opinion that an IT University should be set up at Faisalabad on the name of Arfa Karim, Randhawa. |
| 7 | This House is of the opinion that keeping in view the increasing number of electronic and print media, an extension plan of the Journalist Housing Societies of Rawalpindi and Lahore should be devised so that new journalists can receive plots without discrimination |

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

4.1 Points of Order

Points of order are raised on the floor of the house when a member has to highlight a breach in the assembly rules and procedures and code of conduct. APO's admissibility in the assembly output is subject to the chair's ruling.

The business of the house was interrupted by 61 points of orders, on average 15 per sitting, consuming more than 13%

of the total session time. None of the points of order attracted the chair's formal ruling. Unless the chair gives a formal ruling on a point of order, it does not lead to any assembly output.

Table 4.1: Points of Order

| Sitting No. | Points of Order | Time consumed |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1st | 12 | 24 |
| 2nd | 16 | 24 |
| 3rd | 14 | 22 |
| 4th | 19 | 27 |
| Total | 61 | 97 |

Thirty-two members - 23 male and nine female – raised the points of orders. Thirteen PMLN legislators raised 32 issues through POs, followed by ten PPPP members (17 issues), six PML members (eight issues) while two members of PMLF and a single member of MMAP raised two issues each.

Members mostly highlighted issues regarding business of the house, criticism on the Punjab government and ministerial absence during the question hour. Some important matters such as dual nationality, agriculture and development funds were also raised through points of order.

Table 4.1.1: Gender-wise break up of members raising POs

| Party | Female | Male | Total |
|--------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| MMAP | - | 1 | 1 |
| PML | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| PMLF | - | 2 | 2 |
| PMLN | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| PPPP | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| Total | 9 | 23 | 32 |

4.2 Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

The house witnessed two walkouts during the 4th sitting. A PML female MPA walked out of the house protesting against the non-parliamentary behavior demonstrated by law minister. On another instance PML and PPPP legislators protested against the inclusion of bills on agenda at the eleventh hour.

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.

Amendment

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

Assembly

National assembly or a provincial assembly

Assent

Refers to the power of the Governor to assent the Bill passed by the assembly or return the same to the assembly for reconsideration.

Chairperson

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

Chair

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

Committee

A parliamentary committee constituted under Rules of Procedure, comprising of various members of parliament.

Constitution

Means the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973.

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.

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 assembly 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.

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 Speaker.

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.

Quorum

Quorum is the minimum number of members of assembly necessary to conduct the business of the assembly. Under Article 55(2) 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.

Speaker

The Speaker of the assembly, including the Deputy Speaker or any other member acting as the Chairperson on a particular sitting or number of sittings.

Starred Question

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

Sitting

A meeting of the assembly or that of a committee on a day.

Table

The table of the house.

Unstarred Question

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

We wish to extend our acknowledgment to the Punjab Assembly Website for material contributions presented in the Glossary.

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, 2011 and 2012
- Implemented a unique methodology to observe parliamentary proceedings under its Parliament Watch and Reforms 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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