



FAFEN Parliament Monitor

Senate
of Pakistan
88th Session

(12-21 December, 2012)

Free and Fair Election Network

www.fafen.org

Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
BNPA	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
CAN	Calling Attention Notice
FAFEN	Free and Fair Election Network
FIA	Federal Investigation Agency
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
IND	Independent Member
JUI	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam
JUIF	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal)
KESC	Karachi Electric Supply Company
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MQM	Muttahida Quami Movement
NP	National Party
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PMLF	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
PMLN	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
PO	Point of Order
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians



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

Executive Summary

The 88th session of the senate witnessed senators' low attendance, absence of ministers and agenda movers and persistent lack of Quorum as 53% of the business of the house remained unaddressed.

The session spread over 12th till 21st of December, 2012, comprised of seven sittings lasting 16 hours and five minutes. Each sitting, on average, met for two hours and 18 minutes and started 45 minutes late.

Senators' attendance was observed low, as on average, only six were present at the beginning and 19 at the end of each sitting and a maximum, 34 senators (a third of the 104-member house) attended the session, per sitting. The lack of quorum was not pointed out at any occasion during the proceedings.

The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition attended the entire session. The Chairman chaired 67% of the session time, the Deputy Chairman 24%, while the remaining time (9%) was presided over by the members of the Panel of Chairpersons.

The parliamentary leaders of PMLF and BNPA did not attend the entire session while those of ANP attended all seven, JUIF six, NP four, and PML and MQM leaders one sitting each.

Only 47% of the business of the house was addressed during the session. The absence of relevant ministers and the members who had submitted agenda were the important factors in the low disposal of agenda. About 91% of the agenda on the 4th sitting (which was a Private Members' Day) was not addressed because of absence of agenda movers and the relevant ministers.

Overall, two bills: The Trade Organizations Bill 2012 and The Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill 2012 were introduced; five resolutions were adopted; six standing committee reports were presented; and two calling attention notices, a motion under rule 60 and an adjournment motion were taken up during the session. One of the adopted resolutions condemned attacks on polio workers in Karachi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and another recommended establishment of shelter houses for the senior citizens.

Out of 85 starred questions on the agenda, 20 were taken up during the question hour and received oral responses on the floor of the house besides the written replies. Additionally, 44 supplementary questions were asked. Fifty-two starred questions received written replies only.

A total of 70 points of order were raised which consumed 21% of the session time. None of the points of order attracted the chair's formal ruling and unless the chair gives a formal ruling on a point of order, it does not lead to any assembly output.

The ANP senators staged a 20-minute walkout during the third sitting over non-appearance of the executive director of Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) before the Standing Committee on Water and Power.

Based on the findings of its observation, FAFEN recommends that:

1. Senate sittings should be open to citizen observers, who should be given accreditation through a standardized process. FAFEN takes this opportunity to reiterate its request for permanent accreditation to observe the proceedings. So far, FAFEN has had to acquire ad-hoc measures to observe the sessions of the house.
2. The senate should consider keeping a public record of parliamentary business similar to that presented in this report so that the constituents can be informed about the performance of their elected representatives.
3. Complete information (and relevant documents) about the senate business should be available to all members, especially regarding the progress of legislation, CANs and other key policy decision-making

Parliament Watch Project

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 Project (PWP), 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 PWP 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 PWP 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.

processes. Such information should also be available to the public on the senate's website.

4. The senate secretariat should keep record of the actual time spent by the members in the house, especially about lack of quorum. This information should be available to the public.
5. No vote should be allowed by the chair, especially on legislation, when the house lacks quorum. The issue of lack of quorum has persisted for a long time. It seems that the opposition and treasury have reached an unwritten understanding of not raising this issue.
6. All ministers (or a designated representative of each ministry and the cabinet) must be required to be present during question hour. All questions must be responded to within the stipulated timeframe. Transcripts of all questions, including the ones that the senate secretariat finds admissible, and responses should be made available to the members and public.
7. The Chair should be responsible for ensuring that business planned on the orders of the day is accomplished during each sitting or at least during a full session, particularly with regard to consideration of legislation, resolutions and CANs. These policy matters are among the primary methods for elected legislators to represent their constituents' needs and concerns in the house.
8. The senate secretariat should develop a publicly accessible mechanism to track government assurances given to the house and progress made in this regard.

Table: Comparison of Agenda Items Taken up/Not Taken up in 87th and 88th session

Sr. No.	Agenda items	Status	87th session	88th session
1	Starred Questions	Taken up	31	20
		Not Taken up	95	65
2	Un-Starred Questions	Taken up	1	1
		Not Taken up	1	1
3	Calling Attention Notices	Taken up	0	2
		Not Taken up	2	2
4	Legislative Business	Taken up	4	4
		Not Taken up	12	4
5	Standing Committee Reports	Presented	4	6
		Not Taken up	0	0
6	Motion Under Rule 218	Taken up	5	0
		Not Taken up	11	5
	Motion Under Rule 60	Taken up	0	1
		Not Taken up	0	0
7	Resolutions	Taken up	4	1
		Not Taken up	11	5
9	Privilege Motion	Taken up	1	0
		Not Taken up	0	0
8	Points of Order Raised		61	70

1.0 Session Duration and Members' Participation

This section of report deals with the duration the senate meets during the session; attendance and participation of the senators; and maintenance of quorum (1/4th of the total membership – 26 in case of senate). It also reviews the presence of key members i.e. the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, and the parliamentary leaders and the time they spent on the floor of the house.

Forty-six percent of the total membership did not participate during the session in which more than half of the agenda items were not taken up because of absence of relevant members and ministers and late starts. The agenda of private members' day (Monday) was ambitiously set as per the practice. Quorum was visibly lacking at various occasions during the session but it was not pointed out by any lawmaker.

1.1 Session Time

The session spanned from 12th till 21st December 2012, for a duration of 16 hours and five minutes. Each sitting, on average, lasted two hours and 18 minutes and started 45 minutes behind the scheduled time. Twelve percent (one hour and 57 minutes) of the sitting time was consumed by four breaks.

Spanning over three hours and 34 minutes, the 6th sitting was the longest, while an hour and 35 minute long 3rd sitting was the shortest.

Table 1.1 : Session Time

Sitting No.	Date of sitting	Total time		Delay	Break (minutes)
		Hours	Minutes		
1st	Wednesday, December 12, 2012	1	45	35	32
2nd	Thursday, December 13, 2012	2	48	30	33
3rd	Friday, December 14, 2012	1	35	51	-
4th	Monday, December 17, 2012	2	7	41	29
5th	Wednesday, December 19, 2012	2	26	53	23
6th	Thursday, December 20, 2012	3	34	41	-
7th	Friday, December 21, 2012	1	50	64	-
Total		16 hours and five minutes		Average 45 minutes	117

1.2 Senators' Attendance

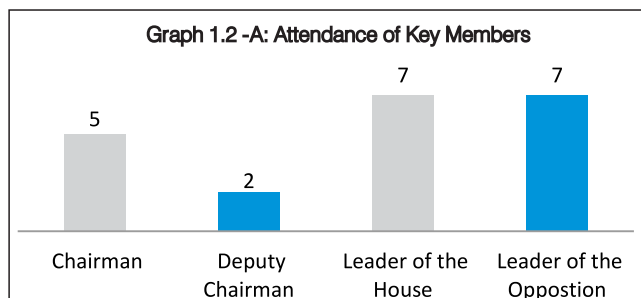
Since the senate secretariat does not make members' attendance record public, the FAFEN observer conducts a headcount of legislators at the beginning, at the end, and at the time when maximum members are present in each sitting. The actual time spent on the floor of the house by the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition is also documented.

In each sitting, on average, a maximum of only 34 senators (a third of the 104-member upper house) were observed to be present while only six were sighted at the beginning and 19 at the end. Four senators represent minorities in the senate after the 18th amendment; two of them, on average, attended the session.

Table 1.2: Senators' Attendance

Sitting No.	Members at the outset	Members at the end	Maximum members	Minority members
1st	6	15	28	1
2nd	5	26	38	2
3rd	11	21	32	3
4th	4	15	28	2
5th	6	22	42	2
6th	5	16	39	1
7th	6	21	32	1
Average	6	19	34	2

The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition attended the entire session. The Chairman attended and presided over five sittings (67% of the proceedings), whereas the Deputy Chairman attended and chaired two sittings (24% of the session) the remaining proceedings were presided over by members of the Panel of Chairpersons.



A parliamentary leader's presence in the house is vital for representation of his party and participation of his colleagues in the proceedings. The parliamentary leader of ANP attended all the seven sittings, followed by the JUIF head who attended six sittings and a single sitting each was attended by the party heads of MQM and PML. The sole member of NP attended four sittings.

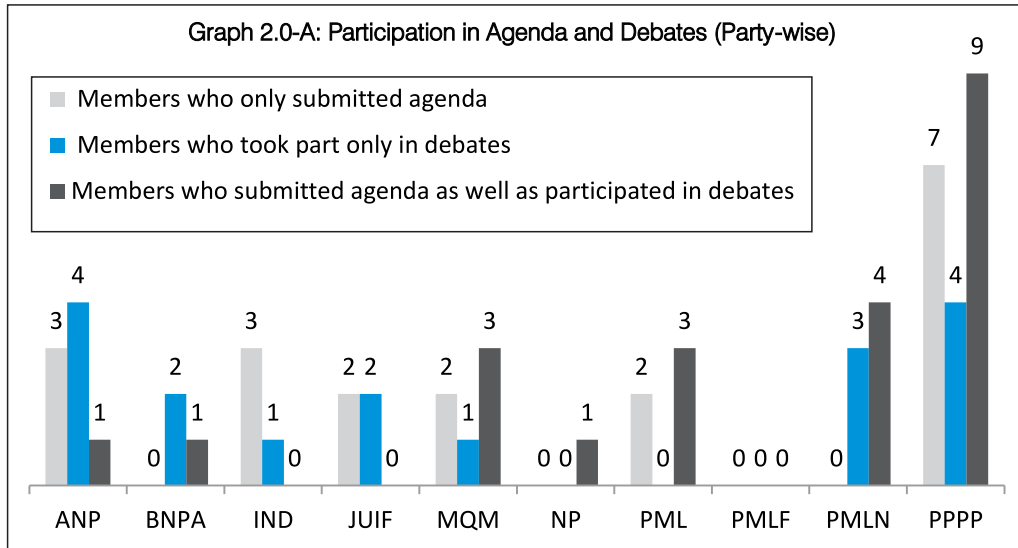
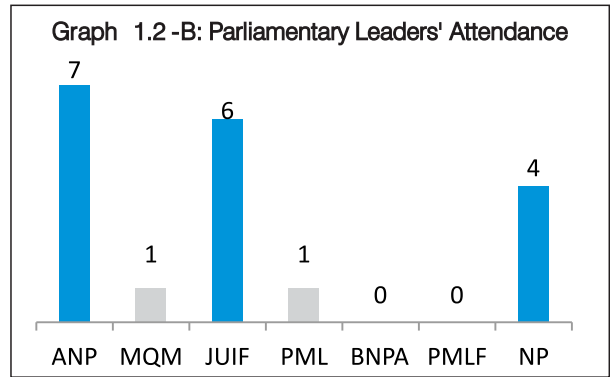
The senators of BNPA and PMLF (single member party) did not participate during the session.

2.0 Senators' Participation

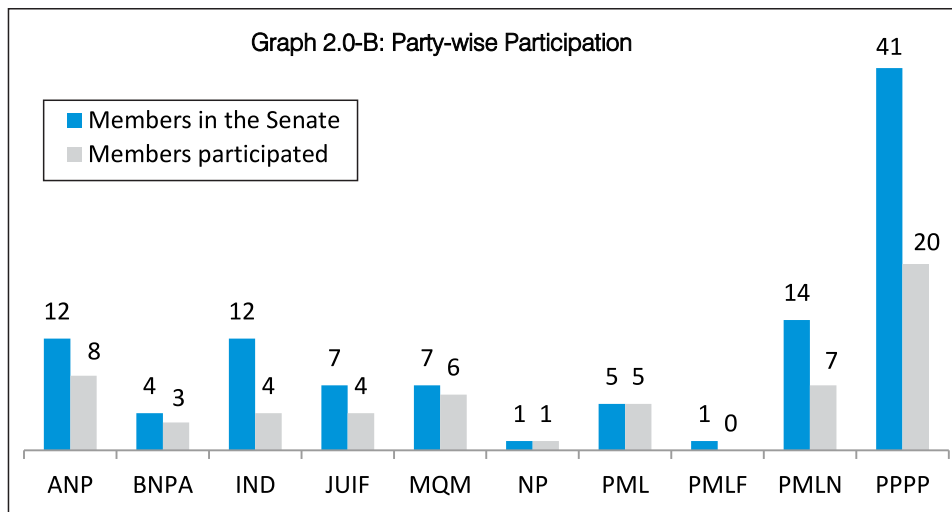
Participation has been classified into three categories: the senators who only submit agenda, those who do not submit any agenda item but take part in discussions and deliberations in the house, and the senators who both submitted agenda items as well as participated in the debates.

Overall 58 legislators participated during the session, a figure nearly similar to the previous sessions' trend. Nineteen out of 104 senators submitted agenda items only; 17 took part in debates; and 22 legislators both submitted agenda items as well as participated in debates.

There are 87 male and 17 female senators in the upper house. The participation of the female senators was comparatively higher as 65% of the female legislators and 54% of the male legislators participated during the session.



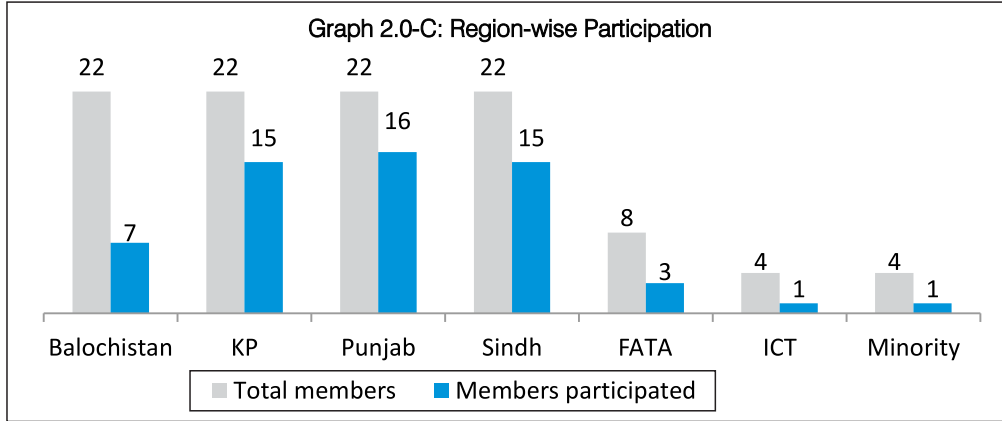
The participation of the senators belonging to PPPP, the largest party in the upper house was 49%, and that of members from the PMLN, the 2nd largest party, 50%. All the members belonging to PML and NP (a single member party) participated in this session while the lone PMLF senator remained absent from the entire session.



From a region-wise perspective, the participation of legislators from Punjab remained the highest (73%) followed by their colleagues representing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh (68% each). Participation of the lawmakers from Balochistan was the lowest (32%) as only seven of the 22 senators participated in one way or the other.

Two of eight senators from FATA submitted agenda items and another participated in the debates.

There are four seats to represent the minority community and as many for the capital territory in the senate. Only one senator from each category participated in this session.



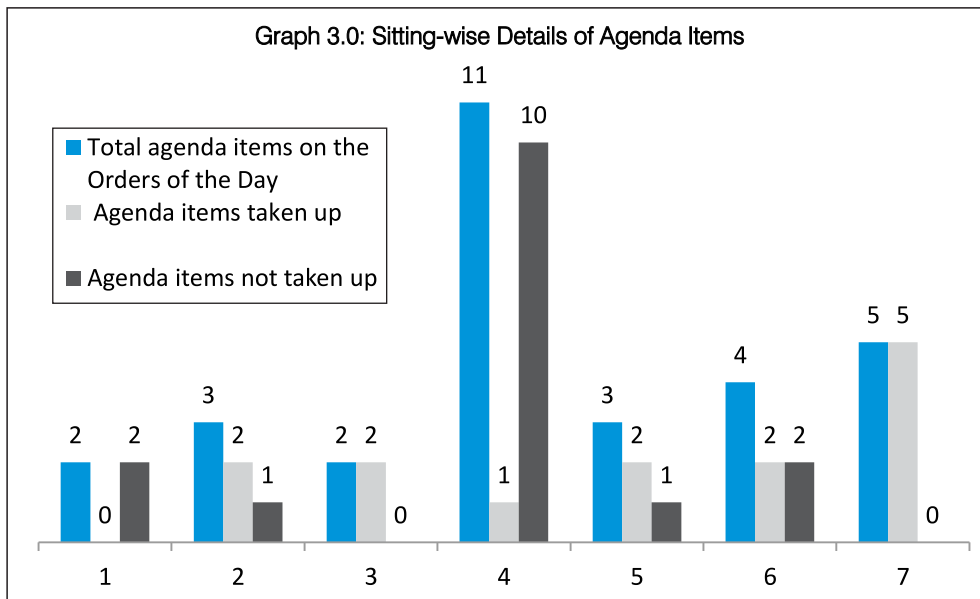
3.0 Orders of the Day

The orders of the day were available to the senators as well as uploaded on the official website of the senate [www.senate.gov.pk] in each sitting. More than half of the agenda items appearing on the orders of the day were not taken up due to lack of time and absence of the agenda movers and the relevant ministers.

The business of the house to be considered in a sitting is a numbered list of agenda items on the 'Orders of the Day', which are laid before the senators in each sitting. The items on this list include not only the interventions to be considered by the house, such as bills, calling attention notices etc., but also the motions to be introduced, considered and passed, as the case may be.

Only 14 out of 30 agenda items appearing on the orders of the day were addressed in this session. Of the 16 not addressed, 10 appeared on the agenda of the 4th sitting which was a private members' day. These were not taken up because of either the absence of the agenda movers and the relevant ministers.

Overall, two bills were introduced; five resolutions adopted; six standing committee reports were presented; two calling attention notices, a motion under rule 60 and an adjournment motion were taken up in this session.



4.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section is concerned with senators' efforts to represent the interests of general public by raising calling attention notices (CANs), monitoring government performance through questions submitted during the question hour and government ministries' responsiveness to those questions. FAFEN observer monitored the question hour but did not observe the functioning of the parliamentary committees, which are another important mechanism of the parliament's oversight of the government.

A sixth of the senators submitted questions in this session; the bulk of which were addressed to the Ministries of Cabinet Secretariat, Interior, Railways, Communications, Defence, and Finance and Revenue. Legislators from Khyber Pakhthunkhwa and PMLN senators submitted maximum questions during the session. A higher percentage of women lawmakers submitted questions in comparison to their male counterparts.

In the backdrop of the ongoing energy crisis in the country, the opposition and the government parties moved a joint calling attention notice regarding pricing and scarcity of CNG.

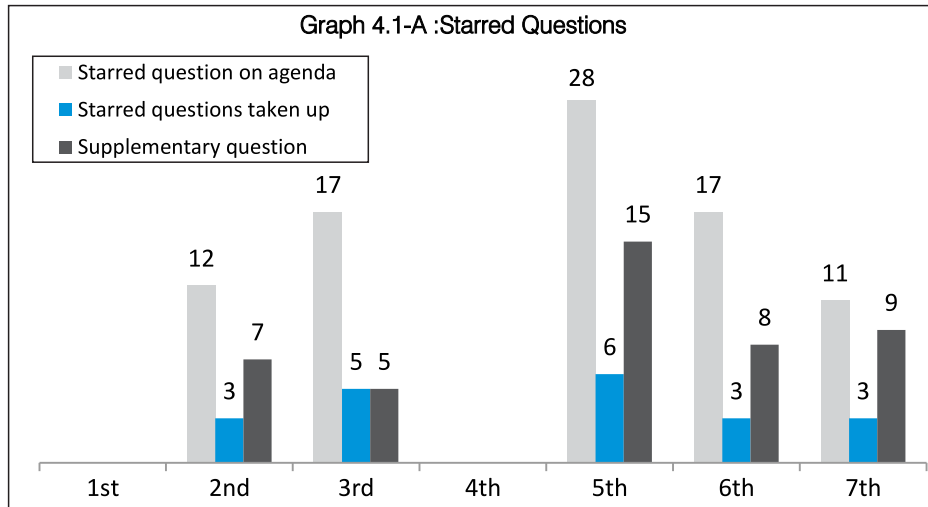
4.1 Question Hour

Question hour is a means of government oversight where the senators can submit questions addressed to any ministry or department seeking information regarding its area of expertise (foreign affairs, interior, law and justice etc.) and/or its performance. Senators can submit starred questions (requiring both oral and written answers) or un-starred (requiring written answers only).

Senators submitted 87 questions - 85 starred and two un-starred – during the session. Twenty starred questions (24%) were taken up and given oral replies and 52 starred questions received written replies only. Additionally, 44 supplementary questions were asked during the question hour.

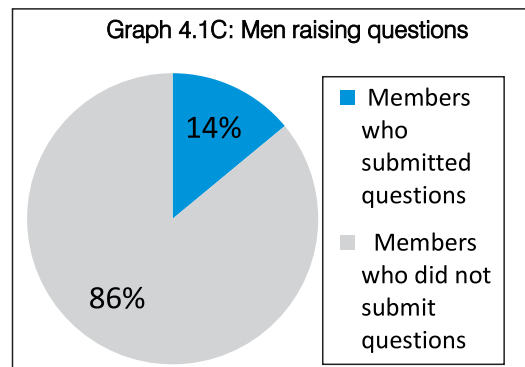
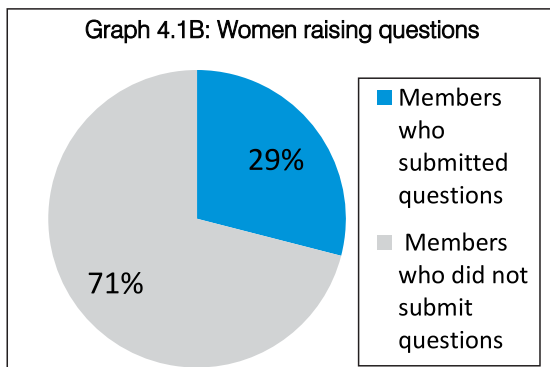
One of two un-starred questions asked in this session was replied by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, it was about the number of persons appointed in PTV on regular, contract and daily wages during the last five years.

Question hour was not held in the 1st and the 4th sitting as per the rules and procedures of the senate as these were private members' days.



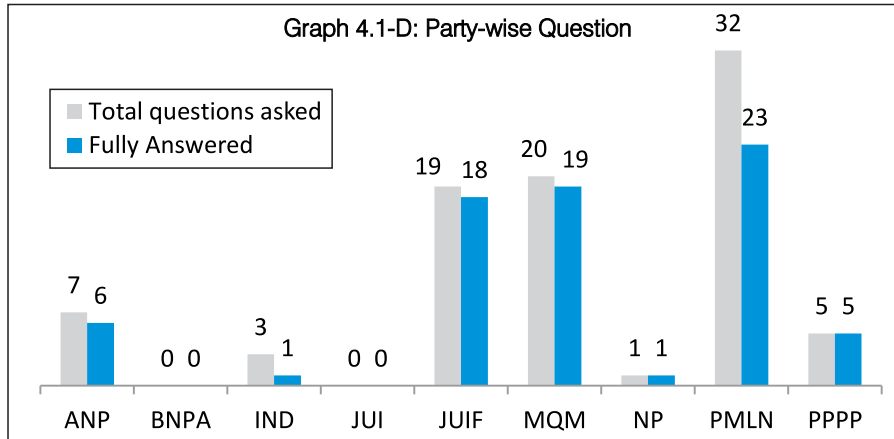
A larger proportion of women, of their total strength, participated as compared to the men. Five of 17 female legislators in the upper house asked 27 questions as compared to 60 questions asked by 12 of 87 male legislators.

Women legislators representing PMLN, PPP, MQM and ANP submitted the questions.

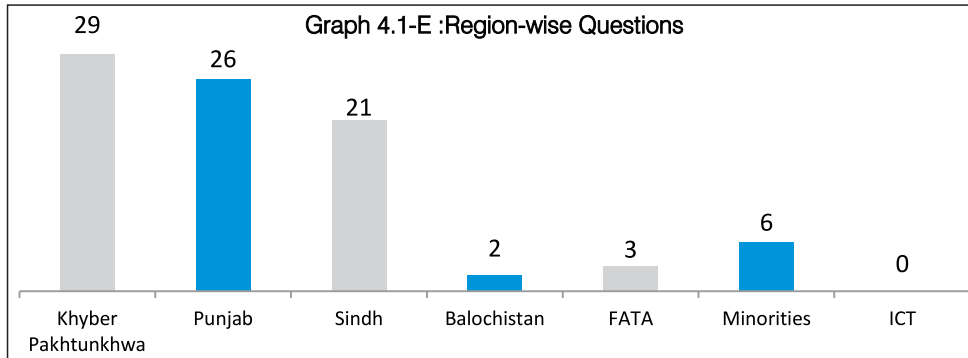


Maximum questions were asked by the legislators belonging to PMLN followed by the MQM, JUIF, ANP, PPPP and NP lawmakers, respectively. Three independent senators also submitted as many questions.

BNPA and JUIF (a single member party) were the only parties whose members did not submit any question.



The legislators belonging to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa submitted the maximum number of questions, followed by their counterparts from Punjab, Sindh, FATA and Balochistan, respectively. Legislators representing non-Muslims asked six questions in this session while those representing the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) did not ask any.



About half of the questions asked in this session were submitted to six ministries i.e. Ministries of Interior, Railways, Communication, Defence, Finance and Revenue, and Cabinet Secretariat.

Table 4.1 :Ministry-wise Questions

Concerned ministry	Questions asked
Cabinet Secretariat	10
Interior	8
Railways	7
Communications	6
Defence	6
Finance & Revenue	6
Commerce	5
Foreign Affairs	5
Education and Trainings	4
Industries	4
Information Technology	4
National Food Security and Research	4
Production	4
States & Frontier Regions	4
Capital Administration and Development	2
Climate Change	2
Information and Broadcasting	2
Law and Justice	2
Overseas Pakistanis	1
Science & Technology	1



4.2 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. Two calling attention notices were raised in this session.

A calling attention notice (CAN) sponsored jointly by the male and female senators representing ANP, PMLN and MQM about government's failure to devise a CNG price formula as per directives of Supreme Court was not taken up twice during the session because of absence of advisor to the Prime Minister on Petroleum and Natural Resources. It was finally taken up in the 7th sitting.

Moved by an MQM male senator, the other CAN was about the KESC tariff increase of 18 paisas per unit for the month of June, 2012 by NEPRA. It was taken up and responded to by the Ministry of Water and Power.

Table 4.2 : Calling Attention Notices

Sr. No.	Call attention notices	Concerned ministry
1	Rise in tariff of KESC @ 18 paisas per unit by NEPRA for the month of June, 2012.	Water and Power
2	Failure of government to devise a formula for CNG prices as per directives of the Supreme Court of Pakistan resulting in non-provision of CNG to transport sector by CNG stations as well as discrepancy in the prices and volume of gas to different sectors i.e. CNG, IPPs, fertilizers and industrial etc.	Petroleum and Natural Resources

4.3 Motions under rule 218

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

Sponsored by the male senators, five motions under rule 218 were tabled in this session. Two of these were raised by an MQM legislator, two by a JUIF legislator, and one by an ANP lawmaker. All these appeared on the agenda of 4th sitting - which was a private members' day - and were disposed of by the house as the movers were absent.

Table 4.3: Motion under rule 218

Sr. No	Motion under rule 218	Party
1	This house may discuss the situation arising out of exorbitant fee being charged by the private educational institutions in Islamabad.	MQM
2	This house may discuss the affairs of Pakistan Railways with particular reference to its present financial position and the condition of its locomotives and other infrastructure.	JUIF
3	This house may discuss the overall performance of Ministry of Ports and Shipping and its attached departments.	ANP
4	This house may discuss the UN Commission's Report on assassination of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed and the progress made so far in this regard.	MQM
5	This house may discuss the overall performance of OGDCL with particular reference to the discovery of petroleum and gas reservoirs in the country.	JUIF

5.0 Parliamentary Output

Lawmaking is one of the most important functions of the parliament. This section evaluates the presentation, introduction, passage and subject-matter of legislation, resolutions and the parliamentary reports during the session.

Legislation comes in the form of government bills, private-member bills, and ordinances. Only government bills were on the agenda in this session. Resolutions regarding various national issues and standing committee reports were presented before the house.

5.1 Government Bills

Two treasury backed bills – the Trade Organizations Bill 2012 and the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill 2012 – were introduced during the session. The earlier bill was sent to the relevant standing committee. Both the bills were moved by single male members belonging to PPPP.

Table 5.1: Details of Bills

Sr. No.	Title of bill	Status
1	The Trade Organizations Bill 2012	Sent to the standing committee
2	The Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill 2012	Introduced

5.2 Resolutions

The house expresses its opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on important issues through resolutions. The house can also commend, urge, or request action upon a situation under consideration by the

government. In 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 Chairperson may provide permission to move a resolution pertaining to a matter of urgent public importance at a shorter notice.

The house unanimously adopted a supplementary resolution condemning attacks on polio workers in Karachi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and another calling upon the government to establish shelter houses for the senior citizens. Three resolutions to convey condolences on the demise of former senators Malik Sallah-ud-Din Dogar, Mir Wali Muhammad Badini and Jam Haji Kararuddin were also adopted.

The resolution regarding establishment of institute for boarding and lodging of children of unknown parentage in Islamabad as well as a resolution calling upon the government to carry out performance based financial audit of power distribution companies in the country were deferred because of the absence of relevant ministers.

Table 5.2: Resolutions

Sr. No.	Resolution	Party	Status
1	This house expresses its profound grief and shock on the sad demise of Senator Malik Sallah-ud-Din Dogar who passed away on 8th December, 2012.	PPPP	Adopted
2	This house expresses its profound grief and shock on the sad demise of Senator Mir Wali Muhammad Badini who passed away on 9th December, 2012	PPPP	Adopted
3	This house expresses its profound grief and shock on the sad demise of ex-Senator Jam Haji Kararuddin.	PPPP	Adopted
4	This house recommends that the Government may establish shelter houses for senior citizens.	PPPP	Adopted
5	This house recommends that water filtration plants may be installed in each city and village of the country to save the people from water borne diseases.	JUIF	Not taken up
6	This house recommends that uniform curriculum may be introduced in all schools and colleges in the country.	MQM	Not taken up
7	Government may take immediate steps to carry out performance based financial audit of power distribution companies in the country.	PMLN	Deferred
8	Government may make arrangements for establishment of institute for boarding and lodging of children of unknown parentage in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).	PPPP	Deferred
9	Government may take steps for exploring alternative energy sources to overcome energy crisis in the country.	MQM	Not taken up
10	Condemnation of attacks on the polio workers in Karachi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.	PPPP	Adopted

5.3 Parliamentary Reports

Once a standing committee report is tabled, the Chairperson stipulates a date for consideration of the report. The minister concerned presents the report and may make a supporting statement describing its salient features. The house may pass a resolution to express an opinion, or make an observation or recommendation on the report.

As many as five standing committee reports and five reports of Council of Islamic Ideology were presented before the house in this session. The standing committee reports were about the question of privilege raised by a member, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan Bill, public hearings held by the Committee of Defence and Defence Production in the months of September and November¹, and the purchase of land for housing scheme at Bara Kahu. All reports were presented by single male legislators.

Table 5.3: Standing Committee Reports

Sr. No.	Name of report	Party	Name of committee
1	The report of the Committee on the question of Privilege raised by Senator Abdul Nabi Bangash in the sitting of the senate held on 13th November, 2012, on the irresponsible attitude of Inspector General of Police, Punjab, Lahore	MQM	Rules of Procedure & Privileges
2	The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan Bill, 2012	PMLN	National Regulations and Services
3	The Report No.3 on "Public Hearings" of the Committee	PML	Defence Production
4	Report of the Committee on purchase of land for housing scheme at Bara Kahu	ANP	Housing & Works
5	The Federal Public Service Commission's Annual Report for the year 2011, Section 9 (1) of the Federal Public Service Commission Ordinance, 1977 (XLV of 1977)	PPPP	Cabinet Secretariat
6	The annual reports of Council of Islamic Ideology: 1. The Annual Reports, 1997-1998 to 2008-2009. 2. The Review Report of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1898 3. The Review Report of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 4. Qawaneen ki Islami Tashkeel (Volume – I) and (Volume – IV 5. The Report on Islah-e-Qaidiaan and Jail Khananjaat	PPPP	Religious Affairs

¹ This Report contained details of the two Public Hearings, the first on September 28, which was on the theme "Towards a new Defence Policy" and the second on November 28, which was on "Civil-Military Relations". Retrieved from the website of Standing Committee on Defence & Defence Production: <http://www.senatedefencecommittee.com.pk/newsdetail.php?pageid=news-detail&newsid=Nzg=>

6.0 Order and Institutionalization

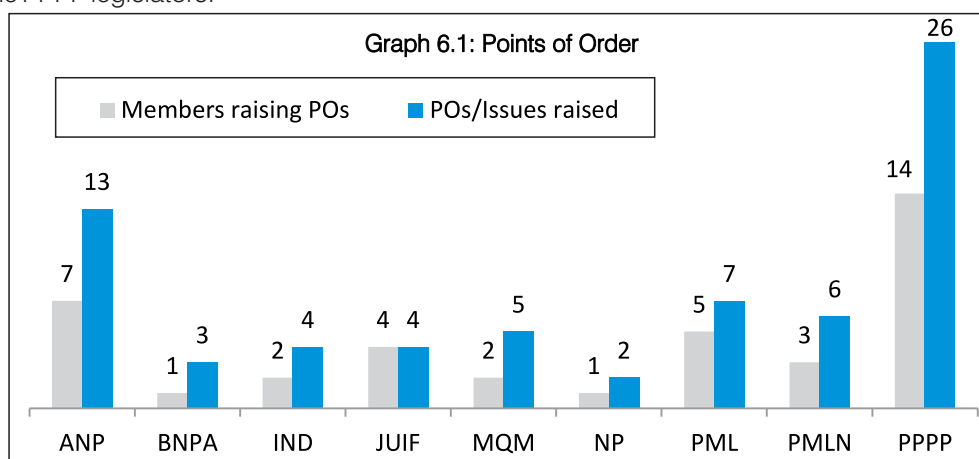
This section reviews the parliamentary instruments employed to maintain order and institutionalization in the house. These include points of order (POs) raised to highlight out any breach in the rules and regulations during proceedings, questions of privileges, and the instances of protests, walkouts and/or boycotts during the session. Legislators from all the parties pointed out various national issues by raising POs. A walkout was also observed during the session.

6.1 Points of Order

A point of order is raised to address an apparent breach in the rules of parliamentary procedure while the house business is underway and usually requires the chair's ruling on the issue.

Seventy points of order (POs) were raised in this session which consumed 21% (three hours and 18 minutes) of the session time. The first sitting was the only sitting in which no PO was raised.

A total of 39 senators – 33 men and six women – raised issues through POs. The highest number of POs was raised by the PPPP legislators.



News appearing in national media about non-payment of taxes by a majority of lawmakers led senators to raise 15 POs. Terming the media reports as baseless; the senators criticized the allegations of tax evasion. The recent wave of killing of polio workers in the country was the other issue raised by lawmakers, who condemned the attacks in 11 POs.

Business of the house, rules and procedures of the senate, ministerial absence during question hour, parliamentarians' discipline, and terrorism were among the other issues which were raised through POs.

Table 6.1: Issues Highlighted through POs

Sr. No.	Issues	POs
1	Criticism of media (allegation of tax default)	15
2	Law and order (killings of polio workers)	11
3	Business of the House	10
4	Rules and procedures of the senate	7
5	Ministerial Absence	6
6	Minority affairs	4
7	Terrorism	3
8	Parliamentarians' discipline	2
9	Miscellaneous Affairs	2
10	Natural resources	2
11	Criticism of government	2
12	Punishment for treason	1
13	Natural resources (Pak- Iran gas pipeline)	1
14	Foreign tours (Rehman Malik's tour to India)	1
15	Criticism of Prime minister	1
16	Dual Nationality	1
17	Corruption	1

6.2 Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

A 20-minute walkout was staged by the ANP legislators to protest over the continued absence of executive director of Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) in the Standing Committee on Water and Power.

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.

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 include:

- Observed the public display of Pakistan's 2007 draft electoral rolls and conducted the country's first statistically-valid voters' list audit
- Deployed 18,829 trained, neutral Election Day observers nationwide to monitor the February 18, 2008, General Elections
- Fielded 264 long-term observers nationwide and published 19 pre-election reports
- Conducted 260 simultaneous Parallel Vote Tabulations (PVTs)- the largest PVT effort in the world
- Conducted a Constituent Aspirations Survey in December 2008 with 3,124 respondents regarding attitudes and beliefs of people living in the constituencies
- Observed Gilgit-Baltistan 2009 General Elections and 2010-2012 By-Elections in various constituencies of the Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Implements a unique methodology to observe and report on legislative proceedings and performance under a Parliament Watch Project
- Monitors public institutions across Pakistan and issues monthly reports on the state and performance of educational, health and other local institutions as well as reports on prices, crimes, incidence of disease, caseload in lower courts, and political and electoral violence

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 and promoting active citizenship through ongoing civic education activities across the country. FAFEN is currently implementing Supporting Transparency, Accountability and Electoral Processes (STAEP) in 200 National Assembly constituencies in 119 districts across Pakistan.

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