

FAFEN Parliament Monitor

TWENTY EIGHTH SESSION
National Assembly of Pakistan
January 24, 2011 – February 4, 2011



FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK
www.fafen.org

Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
BNPA	Balochistan National Party-Awami
CAN	Calling Attention Notice
FATA	Federally Administrated Tribal Areas
INDP	Independent
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
MMAP	Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan
MQM	Muttahida Quami Movement
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NICL	National Insurance Company Limited
NPP	National People's Party
NPL	Non-Performing Loans
PHA	Pakistan Housing Authority
PIA	Pakistan International Airlines
PM	Prime Minister
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PMLF	Pakistan Muslim League-Functional
PMLN	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
POs	Points of Order
PPPP	Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
PPPS	Pakistan People's Party-Sherpao



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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is based on findings of direct observation of the proceedings of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the National Assembly held between January 24 and February 4, 2011.

The session was marked by unfinished agenda, low attendance of Members, persistent lack of quorum and Points of Order interrupting the itemized proceedings. The National Assembly met for 27 hours and 20 minutes for 10 sittings at an average of two hours and 44 minutes per sitting. Each sitting started with an average delay of 51 minutes.

The House could take up only 36% of the agenda items that appeared on the Orders of the Day, primarily due to 182 Points of Order that consumed more than one-third of the total session time – 603 of 1,640 minutes. None of the POs required the Speaker's formal Ruling. The National Assembly did not take up for discussions 10 Motions under Rule 259, 10 Resolutions, seven Government Bills, five Private Members' Bills and two Matters of Public Importance.

The Points of Order pertained to law and order situation in the country, the business of the House, PIA, perks and privileges of Members, etc. As many as 63 POs were raised by PPPP, 46 by PMLN, 25 by PML, 24 by MQM, 11 by Independents, five by MMAP, and four each by ANP and PPPS Members. In line with the trend observed in the previous sessions, the agenda for Private Members' Day was over-ambitious.

As many as 60% of Members participated in the session either by bringing agenda items on the Order of the Day or by actually participating in the debates on the floor of the House. A total of 206 Members – 162 male Members and 44 female Members – participated. Male Members were more active than their female counterparts, with participation recorded at 61% of their total Membership (264) and female participation at 58% of their total Membership (76).

According to the party-wise analysis of participation, PMLN Members showed the highest participation in proportion to their Membership. As many as 78% of PMLN Members took part in the proceedings, followed by 76% of MQM's Members, 57% of PPPP Members, 52% of PML Members, 46% of ANP Members and 25% MMAP Members. None of the five PMLF Members participated in the proceedings. Among single-Member parties, the only PPPS Member participated in the proceedings, while the NPP and BNPA Members did not take part.

While the Members participation registered a slight improvement, the attendance of Members remained low. Since the National Assembly Secretariat does not make attendance records of its Members public, FAFEN conducts a headcount of Members at the beginning and end of each sitting and documents the actual time spent on the floor of the House by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition. During the 28th session, on an average 65 Members were present at the start of each sitting and 72 at the end. The lack of Quorum was called only once during the entire session by a female parliamentarian of the PPPP. The particular sitting remained adjourned for 35 minutes. The Member attracted ire from her party for her action.

The Prime Minister attended all ten sittings for 328 minutes or 20% of the total session time. The Leader of the Opposition was absent during six sittings, but attended four sittings for 233 minutes or 14% of the total session time. The Speaker chaired the proceedings for 499 minutes during the session, while the Deputy Speaker presided over the session for 976 minutes. The remaining 165 minutes were chaired by Members of the Panel of Chairpersons. Parliamentary Leaders of ANP, NPP and BNPA did not attend any of the sittings. The Parliamentary Leaders of PPPS, MQM, PML, MMAP and PMLF attended 10, five, two, one and one sittings, respectively.

The session passed three Government Bills and one Private Members' Bill. Of 20 Calling Attention Notices listed on the Orders of the Day, the House took up 15 that were raised by 32 male and 19 female Members – eight sponsored by the PMLN Members, three each by MQM and PPPP Members, two by PML Members and four jointly tabled by PPPP, ANP, MQM, PMLN, PML and Independent Members.

As many as 191 starred questions (requiring oral answers) were put forth by Members during the 28th session. A total of 64 of 191 starred questions were taken up in the Assembly at an average of 6.4 questions per sitting. The Members asked a total of 171 supplementary questions. On three occasions, Ministers to whom questions were addressed were not present in the House.

The Adjournment Motion on the increase in the prices of items of daily use was admitted for debate on the initiative of the PMLN Members and

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 their duties in Parliament in order to hold the country's elected leaders accountable for their job performance.

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) by observation of the directly elected representatives' actions in the legislatures. 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 is not the first effort in Pakistan to monitor the Parliament, but it is unique in that it 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 result-oriented.

was debated for 112 minutes during the fifth and sixth sitting.

All of the Standing Committees Reports on the agenda were presented to the House. The report on National Assembly Employees Housing Society was presented during the last sitting.

The House witnessed three walkouts during the course of the entire session. The Parliamentary Party of the PMLN protested as one of their Members was not allowed to raise a Point of Order. 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. At another instance, Members of the MQM and PMLN got into a brawl, after one of the MQM Members raised some concerns over the law and order situation in Punjab on a Point of Order. Both the Parliamentary Parties started sloganeering against each other, which forced the Deputy Speaker to adjourn the proceedings of that particular sitting. ANP Members staged a walkout on non-allocation of development funds to KP.

FAFEN hopes this report will be a valuable contribution to creating both a more informed citizenry and an increasingly responsible Parliament. On the basis of its ongoing observation FAFEN recommends:

1. National Assembly sittings should be open to citizen observers who apply for accreditation through a standardized process. FAFEN takes this opportunity to reiterate its request for permanent accreditation to observe all Assembly's proceedings. FAFEN had to acquire ad-hoc measures to observe the proceedings of the 28th session.
2. The Assembly should consider keeping a public record of parliamentary business similar to that presented in this FAFEN report so that constituents can be informed in time about the job performance of their elected representatives. Recently, the website has been updated with the House debates, but these debates are available on the website after the session is adjourned. The information regarding the House debates should be made public as soon as the sitting is adjourned.
3. Complete information (and relevant documents) about all Assembly's business should be available to all Members, especially regarding the progress of Legislation, Calling Attention Notices (CANs), and other key policy decision-making processes. Such information should also be available to the public on the Assembly's websites and/or at the Assembly's Secretariat.
4. Transcripts of all substantive discussion in the Assembly on policy matters – especially debate on legislation – should be available on the Assembly's websites immediately after it takes place. Most of the times, vital pieces of legislation are passed without the mandatory three readings of the Bill. During the course of the 28th session, a total of one Private Members' Bill and three Government Bills were passed. The information regarding the voting and the readings is still not updated on the Assembly's website.
5. Assembly Secretariat should keep records of actual time spent by Members in the Assembly chamber; especially whether there is a Quorum. This information should be publicly available. FAFEN has made repeated attempts to get the attendance document of the Members. During this session, the Members participation registered a slight improvement, while the attendance of Members remained low. On average, 65 Members were present at the outset of each sitting, and 72 were present at the end.
6. No vote should be allowed by the Assembly's Speakers, especially on legislation, without a quorum. The issue of lack of Quorum has persisted for a long time. It seems that the opposition and the treasury have reached an unwritten understanding of not raising this issue. The lack of Quorum was pointed out once during the entire session.
7. Efforts should be made to understand and address why approximately 40 percent Members of the National Assembly did not participate actively in the Assembly's 28th session and to track whether this problem continues in future sessions.
8. All Ministers (or a designated representative of each Ministry and the Cabinet) must be required to be present during Question hour at each relevant Assembly sitting. All questions must be responded to within a stipulated time frame. Transcripts of all questions, including the ones that the Assembly Secretariat finds inadmissible, and responses should be made available to Members and to the public and for monitoring historical record. During the 28th session, only 64 out of the total 191 starred questions on the agenda were answered by the relevant Ministers.
9. Almost 64% of the agenda items were not taken up during the course of the entire session. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker should be responsible for ensuring that business planned in 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 constituents' needs and concerns.
10. Additional orientation and training of Assembly Members is needed regarding their fundamental responsibilities especially to their constituents as well as basic parliamentary procedures, particularly those that are commonly misused, such as Points of Order. During this session, Points of Order consumed 603 minutes (37% of the total time). None of the Points of Order raised attracted formal ruling of the Chair.
11. The National Assembly Secretariat should develop publicly accessible mechanism to track government assurances given to the Assembly and progress made against each assurance.
12. A full-day sitting should be allotted to issues related to constituencies at least once in a session as the existing half an hour of each sitting allowed for this purpose by the Rules of Business is inadequate, compelling the Members to raise constituency issues on Points of Order. During this session, Members were observed to be more active in bringing forth their concerns through raising POs, rather than debating on other parliamentary agenda items.

Session Duration and Members' Participation

1.1 Session Time

The 28th session of the National Assembly lasted 10 working days, which started on January 24, and prorogued sine die on February 4, 2011.

The Lower House held 10 sittings during the Twenty-eighth session for a total of 27 hours and 20 minutes and at an average of 2 hours and 44 minutes each day. Each of the sitting started later than the stipulated time, beginning with an average delay of 51 minutes.

The shortest sitting lasted an hour and 40 minutes (January 25th, 2011) and the longest sitting lasted 4 hours and 10 minutes (February 2nd, 2011).

Table 1.1: Session Duration

Date	Sitting No.	Delay	Hours	Minutes	
Monday	January 24, 2011	Sitting No. 1	60	3	28
Tuesday	January 25, 2011	Sitting No. 2	65	1	40
Wednesday	January 26, 2011	Sitting No. 3	60	3	9
Thursday	January 27, 2011	Sitting No. 4	42	3	8
Friday	January 28, 2011	Sitting No. 5	45	1	55
Monday	January 31, 2011	Sitting No. 6	35	2	55
Tuesday	February 1, 2011	Sitting No. 7	40	2	45
Wednesday	February 2, 2011	Sitting No. 8	55	4	10
Thursday	February 3, 2011	Sitting No. 9	55	2	15
Friday	February 4, 2011	Sitting No. 10	55	1	55
Total			Average 51 minutes	27 hours and 20 minutes	

1.2 Member Participation

The Members' participation has been classified in three categories. The first category comprises of Members who only submitted agenda item(s) on the Orders of the Day. The second category includes Members who did not submit any item for the Orders of the Day, but participated in discussions and deliberations. Members who submitted items on the Orders of the Day as well as participated in the debates have been placed in the third category.

During the course of the 28th session of the National Assembly, a total of 16% of the Members brought items on the Orders of the Day. As many as 24% Members participated in debates on various agenda items, while 20% of the Members brought agenda items on the Orders of the Day and actively took part in the parliamentary discussions.

Table 1.2: Members' participation by Party

Political Party	No. of Members Who Participated in the Twenty-Eighth Session						Total No. of Members in Assembly by Party
	No. of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items	No. of Members Who Took Part in Debates	No. of Members Who Participated in Debates as well as Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items	Percentage of Members Who Participated in Debates	Percentage of Members Who Submitted Agenda Items and Participated in Debates	
ANP	0	5	1	0%	38%	8%	13
BNPA	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	1
INDP	1	7	1	6%	39%	6%	18
MMAP	0	2	0	0%	25%	0%	8
MQM	3	8	8	12%	32%	32%	25
NPP	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	1
PML	9	11	6	18%	22%	12%	50
PMLF	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	5
PMLN	27	13	31	30%	14%	34%	91
PPPP	15	36	21	12%	28%	17%	127
PPPS	0	1	0	0%	100%	0%	1
Total	55	83	68	16%	24%	20%	340

1.2.1 Members Participation by Gender

A total of 55 Members submitted agenda items for discussions during the 28th session, while 83 Members only took part in the debates during the session. Moreover, as many as 68 Members actively took part in the debates and also introduced items on the agenda.

Among 55 Members whose items appeared on the agenda, 51 were male and four were female MNAs belonging to various political parties. Similarly, out of 83 Members who only took part in the debates, 68 were male and 15 were female. There were 43 male MNAs and 25 female MNAs who not only submitted agenda items but also participated in debates during the session.

Table: 1.2.1: Members Participation by Gender

Gender	Number of Members Who Brought Agenda Items on the Orders of the Day	Number of Members Who Took Part in Debates	Number of Members Who Participated in Debates Besides Bringing Items on Orders of the Day	Total
Male	51	68	43	162
Female	4	15	25	44
Total	55	83	68	206

1.3 Members' Attendance

The Members' attendance remained low during the course of the session. On average, 65 Members were present at the onset and 72 Members at the end of each sitting. The lowest attendance of Members was observed to be in the eighth sitting with only 61 Members present at the start and 24 Members present at the end of the sitting.

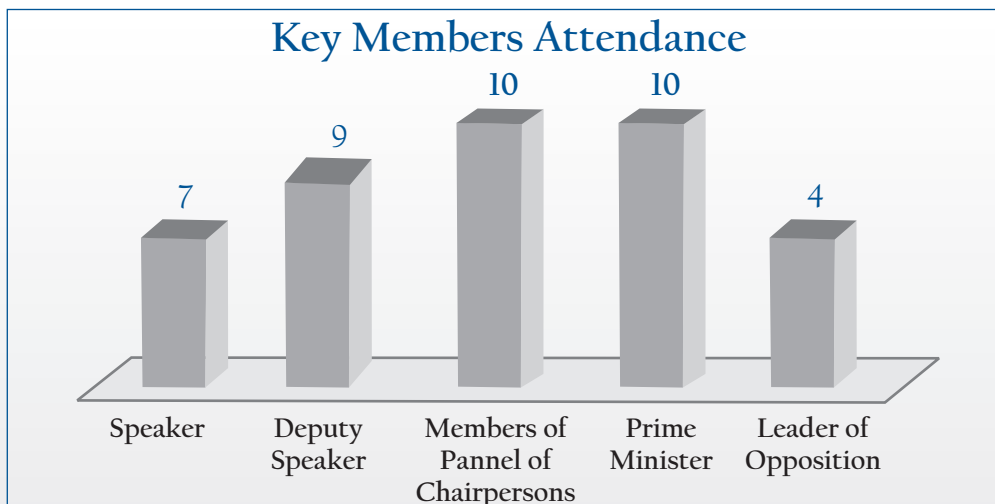
Table: 1.3: Members' Attendance

Sitting No.	Number of Members Present at the Outset of the Sitting	Number of Members at the End of the Sitting
Sitting No. 1	61	42
Sitting No. 2	66	85
Sitting No. 3	105	79
Sitting No. 4	46	39
Sitting No. 5	56	72
Sitting No. 6	63	95
Sitting No. 7	47	87
Sitting No. 8	61	24
Sitting No. 9	72	105
Sitting No. 10	74	95

1.4 Key Members' Attendance

The Speaker was present during 7 out of 10 sittings; the Deputy Speaker was present during 9 out of 10 sittings; the Prime Minister attended all the sittings; and the Leader of the Opposition attended 4 out of 10 sittings.

The Members of the Panel of Chairpersons were present during the entire session. (Refer to the following graph).



1.5 Time Spent by Key Members

The Prime Minister attended all ten sittings for 328 minutes or 20% of the total session time. The Leader of the Opposition was absent during six sittings, but attended four sittings for 233 minutes or 14% of the total session time. The Speaker chaired the proceedings for 499 minutes during the session, while the Deputy Speaker presided over the session for 976 minutes. The remaining 165 minutes were chaired by Members of the Panel of Chairpersons.

Table 1.5: Time Spent by Key Members

Sitting No.	Speaker	Deputy Speaker	Members of Panel of Chairpersons	Prime Minister	Leader of Opposition
Sitting No. 1	47	161	Did Not Chair	52	65
Sitting No. 2	90	10	Did Not Chair	15	Not Present
Sitting No. 3	49	140	Did Not Chair	27	58
Sitting No. 4	82	Not Present	106	44	Not Present
Sitting No. 5	Not Present	115	Did Not Chair	9	Not Present
Sitting No. 6	Not Present	116	59	32	Not Present
Sitting No. 7	15	150	Did Not Chair	15	Not Present
Sitting No. 8	135	115	Did Not Chair	66	80
Sitting No. 9	81	54	Did Not Chair	39	Not Present
Sitting No. 10	Not Present	115	Did Not Chair	29	30
Total	499	976	165	328	233

1.6 Parliamentary Leaders' Attendance

The Parliamentary Leader of the PPPS attended all the sittings of the 28th session. The Leader of the MQM was present during five (50%) out of the total 10 sittings, while the Parliamentary Leader of the PML attended two sittings. MMAP and PMLF leaders attended one sitting each. The Parliamentary heads of the ANP, BNPA and NPP did not attend the entire session.

The Chief Whip of the PPPP attended the entire 28th session; the Chief Whips of the PMLN was present during nine sittings; the MQM and ANP Chief Whips were present during five sittings each; and the Chief Whip of the PML remained present during two sittings.

1.7 Orders of the Day

The Orders of the Day were made available for each sitting of the 28th session to Members of the National Assembly as well as posted on the official website of the National Assembly of Pakistan [www.na.gov.pk]. However, approximately 64% of items on the Orders of the Day were not taken up during the course of the session, probably due to lack of time or because the relevant Ministers or other government representatives were not present to respond.

Table 1.7: Orders of the Day

Sitting No.	No. of items on Orders of the Day	No. of items taken up by the House	No. of items not taken up by the House
Sitting No. 1	6	2	4
Sitting No. 2	31	11	20
Sitting No. 3	10	6	4
Sitting No. 4	9	8	1
Sitting No. 5	5	0	5
Sitting No. 6	9	3	6
Sitting No. 7	26	5	21
Sitting No. 8	9	4	5
Sitting No. 9	8	4	4
Sitting No. 10	12	2	10
Total	125	45	80

1.8 Member Applications for Leave

As many as 67 Members of the National Assembly appealed for leave during the course of the National Assembly's 28th session. A total of 24 Members were affiliated with the PPPP, 18 with the PMLN, 15 with the PML, four with the MQM and three with the ANP. Three Independent Members also applied for leave during the session. Refer to table 1.8

Table: 1.8 Member Applications for Leave

Parliamentary Party	Male	Female	Total
ANP	2	1	3
INDP	3	0	3
MQM	4	0	4
PML	12	3	15
PMLN	16	2	18
PPPP	18	6	24
Total	55	12	67

1.9 Quorum

Although the quorum was visibly lacking at various stages during the sittings of the 28th session, the lack of a quorum was only pointed out once during the 7th sitting by a representative of the PPPP. The particular sitting remained adjourned for 35 minutes. The Member attracted ire from her party for calling the lack of Quorum.

Calling Attention Notice

Calling Attention Notices (CANs) are a method of drawing the attention of a Minister towards a matter of urgent public importance. Through this notice, a Member can request a Minister to attend to a particular matter and take necessary steps to address it.

2.1 Issues Raised through CANs

A total of 15 Calling Attention Notices were discussed in the House during the 10 sittings of the 28th session. There were 20 CANs on the Assembly's Orders of the Day for the session. The CANs for the second, fifth and eighth sitting were deferred and were taken up in the subsequent sittings. The following table shows the number of CANs taken up and the issues that were addressed.

As many as four CANs were jointly moved by multiple parties, while the remaining 11 CANs were raised by single parties.

Out of the total 15 CANs that were taken up by the House, as many as 14 CANs were jointly sponsored by male and female Members; while one CAN was moved by all male Members.

The tender for maintenance and contraction of Motorway M-9 was the only issue which was not taken up during the proceedings. This CAN was put forth on the Orders of the Day during the last sitting and was directed to the Ministry of Communications.

Table: 2.1: Issues Taken up

Sitting No	Gender	Party	Issue Raised	Ministry Concerned	Taken Up/ Not Taken Up
Sitting No. 1	All Males	PPPP	Sacking of 4,500 employees of KESC	Water and Power	Taken Up
	Joint Male and Female	PMLN & INDP	Sale of profitable routes of U.S.A., Europe and London to Turkish Airlines by PIA.	Defence	Taken Up
Sitting No. 2	Joint Male and Female	PML	Non-utilization of huge funds for rehabilitation of the flood affectees.	Cabinet Secretariat	Taken Up
Sitting No. 3	Joint Male and Female	PPPP & ANP	Payment of tax by 35% traders and recovery of only 700 million rupees from 36 Posh Markets.	Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning and Development	Taken Up
	Joint Male and Female	PMLN	Rapid increase in the number of polio cases and ineffectiveness of polio vaccines.	Health	Taken Up
Sitting No. 4	Joint Male and Female	PPPP	Poor condition of Super Highway passing through Sindh.	Communications	Taken Up
	Joint Male and Female	PMLN	Irregularities in the purchase of land worth Rs. 750 million for the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Islamabad.	Education	Taken Up
Sitting No. 6	Joint Male and Female	PMLN	Unprecedented rise in Non-performing Loans (NPLs) of banking sector to Rs. 494 billions at the end of third quarter of the current fiscal year.	Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning and Development	Taken Up
	Joint Male and Female	PMLN	Massive increase in the cancellation and change of booking charges by the PIA.	Defence	Taken Up
Sitting No. 7	Joint Male and Female	PMLN	Increase of more than Rs. 140 billion in the circular debt of PSO resulting in its poor financial condition.	Petroleum and Natural Resources	Taken Up

Sitting No	Gender	Party	Issue Raised	Ministry Concerned	Taken Up/ Not Taken Up
Sitting No. 7	Joint Male and Female	PML	Unchecked import, manufacturing and sale of unregistered syringes resulting in spreading deadly diseases like aids and hepatitis.	Health	Taken Up
Sitting No. 8	Joint Male and Female	PPPP	Shortage of urea fertilizer and increase in its prices in the country.	Industries and Production	Taken Up
Sitting No. 9	Joint Male and Female	PPPP & MQM	Establishment of Masroor Cantonment Board and extension in the limits of Manora Cantonment Board Karachi.	Defence	Taken Up
	Joint Male and Female	MQM	Difficulties being faced by the pensioners in getting pension.	Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning and Development	Taken Up
Sitting No. 10	Joint Male and Female	PPPP, PMLN & MQM	Increase in the import of medicines, i.e. Ephedrine and Amphetamine over and above the sanctioned quota.	Health	Taken Up

2.2 CANs Taken Up by the House

The greatest number of taken-up CANs were directed to the Ministries of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning and Development and Health (3), followed by two CANs directed to the Ministry of Defence and one CAN each to the Ministries of Communications, Water and Power, Defence, Education, Petroleum and Natural Resources, Industries and Production and the Cabinet Secretariat. Refer to the following table.

Table 2.2: CANs Taken Up by the House

Ministry Concerned	No of CANs
Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning and Development	3
Health	3
Defence	2
Communications	1
Water and Power	1
Defence	1
Cabinet Secretariat	1
Education	1
Petroleum and Natural Resources	1
Industries and Production	1
Total	15

2.3 Members Raising CANs

There were 48 Members whose CANs were taken up during the course of the 28th session. A total of 19 Members out of 48 were of the PMLN; 15 of the PPPP; nine of the PML; six of the MQM; and one of the ANP. One Independent Member also participated in bringing forth a Calling Attention Notice.

Table 2.3: Members Raising CANs

Parliamentary Party	Male	Female	Total
ANP	0	1	1
INDP	1	0	1
MQM	4	2	6
PML	6	3	9
PMLN	10	9	19
PPPP	11	4	15
Total	32	19	51

Question Hour

A total of 191 starred questions (requiring oral answers) were put forth by Members during the 28th session. A total of 64 of the 209 starred questions were taken up in the Assembly (refer to Table 3.0), which yields an average rate of approximately 6.4 starred questions taken up per sitting. The highest number of questions taken up in the Assembly on any given sitting was 10. As many as 171 supplementary questions were raised during the course of the 10 sittings.

Table 3.0 Question Hour Summary

Assembly session Sittings	Starred Questions of the Agenda	Starred Questions taken up by the House	Supplementary Questions
Sitting No.1	22	6	14
Sitting No.2	Private Members' Day		
Sitting No.3	23	9	24
Sitting No.4	21	7	27
Sitting No.5	22	9	18
Sitting No.6	24	6	11
Sitting No.7	Private Members' Day		
Sitting No.8	24	10	32
Sitting No.9	27	8	22
Sitting No.10	28	9	23
Total	191	64	171

3.1 Ministerial Absence in Question Hour

On three occasions, Ministers to whom questions were addressed were not present in the House. However, in all the sittings, a substitute was present to respond (refer to Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Ministerial Absence in Question Hour

Minister Not Present During the Question Hour	Sitting No.	Date of Absence	Minister's Substitute, if Present
Minister of Food and Agriculture	3rd	January 26, 2011	Yes
Minister of Commerce	5th	January 28, 2011	Yes
Minister of Ports and Shipping	8th	February 2, 2011	Yes

3.2 Party-wise Breakup of Starred Questions

Members belonging to the PMLN were responsible for putting forth the greatest number of starred questions (150, or 76% of the total), followed by the PPPP (16, or 9%), PML (15, or 8%), MQM (9, or 5%) and MMAP (one or 0.52%). The ANP, PPP-S, PML-F, NPP and BNP-A did not table any starred questions. Refer to Table 3.2 for a break-up of questions put forth by each party.

Table: 3.2 Party-wise Breakup of Questions

Parliamentary Party	No. of Starred Questions
MMAP	1
MQM	9
PML	15
PMLN	150
PPPP	16
Total	191

Legislations

Considering Legislation on matters of national significance through careful debate and discussion is arguably a Parliament's chief and primary function. Legislation comes in the form of Government Bills, Private-Member Bills and Ordinances. This section concerns procedures regarding legislative deliberation and examines the stages followed in the drafting and consideration of Bills.

4.1 Government Bills

As many as three out of 14 Government Bills were passed by the National Assembly during the 28th session. There were three Bills which were deferred, while seven Bills were not taken up during the course of the session.

Table 4.1: Government Bills

Sr. No.	Government Bills on the Orders of the Day	Bills Debated	Status of Bills		
			Bills Introduced	Bills Passed	Bills Rejected/ Not Taken Up/ Deferred
1.	The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2010				Not Taken Up
2.	The Pakistan Energy Efficiency and Conservation Bill, 2011	Debated	Introduced		Sent to the Standing Committee
3.	The Boilers and Pressure Vessels (Amendment) Bill, 2009	Debated	Introduced		Passed
4.	The Recognition and Enforcement (Arbitration Agreements and Foreign Arbitral Awards) Bill, 2010	Debated	Introduced		Passed
5.	The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2010				Deferred
6.	The Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill, 2009				Not Taken Up
7.	The Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2009				Not Taken Up
8.	The Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University Islamabad Bill, 2011				Not Taken Up
9.	The National University of Modern Languages (Amendment) Bill, 2011				Not Taken Up
10.	The Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority Bill, 2010	Debated	Introduced		Passed
11.	The National Defence University Bill, 2009				Deferred
12.	The Rulers of Acceding States (Abolition of Privy Purses and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2009				Deferred
13.	The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2011				Not Taken Up
14.	The Banking Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2010				Not Taken Up

4.2 Private Members' Bills

As many as nine Private Members' Bills were itemized on the Orders of the Day. Only four Private Members' Bills were taken up by the House, while the remaining five were not addressed.

Of the four Bills which were taken up by the House, one Bill was passed; two Bills were introduced and sent to respective Standing Committees, while one Bill was instantly rejected.

Five Bills were introduced by single female Members; three were jointly sponsored by male and female Members and one by a single male Member.

Table 4.2: Private Members' Bills

Sr. No.	Private Bills on the Orders of the Day	Member's Political Party	Gender of Member Who Introduced Bills	Status
1.	The Abolition of Discretionary Quotas in Housing Schemes Bill, 2011		Joint Male and Females	Sent to the Standing Committee on Housing
2.	The Right to Information Bill, 2011	PPPP	Single Female	Deferred
3.	The Civil Aviation Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2011	PML	Joint Male and Female	Rejected
4.	The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2011. (Substitution of Article 251)	PPPP & PML	Joint Male and Females	Sent to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice
5.	The Pakistan Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2010	PPPP	Single Female	Deferred
6.	The Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Bill, 2008	PML	Single Female	Deferred
7.	The Privatization Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2009	PML	Single Female	Passed
8.	The Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2009	PPPP	Single Female	Deferred
9.	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2010	PMLN	Single Male	Deferred

4.3 Standing Committee Reports

There were five Standing Committee reports presented to the House during the 28th session of the National Assembly. As many as three reports of the Standing Committee on the 'Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs' were presented to the House, followed by one report each of the 'Human Rights' and the 'House and Library'. See table 4.3 for details.

Table 4.3: Standing Committee Reports

Sr. No.	Reports from the Standing Committee on the Orders of the Day Presented to the House	Standing Committee
1.	The Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2009	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
2.	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2010	
3.	The Islamabad Consumers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2007	
4.	The National Commission for Human Rights Bill, 2008	Human Rights
5.	National Assembly Employees Housing Society	House and Library

Adjournment Motions

Adjournment Motions are raised by Members wishing to temporarily adjourn the business of the Assembly to address a matter of immediate importance. This section addresses the reasons for which Adjournment Motions were made during this session, the movers of the motion and the House's reaction to the motion.

The increase in the prices of items of daily use was debated upon during the 5th and 6th sittings. The Adjournment Motion consumed an hour and 52 minutes (7%) of total session time. Refer to table 5.

Table 5: Issues Raised through Adjournment Motion

Sr. No.	Sitting No.	Party Affiliation of Member who raised the AM	Issue raised in AM	Time Consumed
1.	5th	PMLN	Increase in the prices of items of daily use	One hour and six minutes.
2.	6th	PMLN	Increase in the prices of items of daily use	Forty-five minutes
Total				One hour and 52 minutes

Resolutions

Through Resolutions, the Parliament (or its Houses) expresses an opinion, makes recommendations, or conveys a message on a specific and important issue. Through Resolutions, the House can also commend, condemn, urge or request an action by the government. Resolutions can be moved by ministers or by private Members.

As many as 10 Resolutions were tabled on the Orders of the Day. None of the Resolutions were taken up by the House. All the Resolutions were tabled by Members in their private capacity. All the Resolutions were tabled by Members of the PMLN. One Resolution was jointly sponsored by male and female Members, while the remaining nine were tabled by single female Members.

Table 6.0: Resolutions on the Orders of the Day

Sitting No	Party & Gender	Resolution	Taken up/ Not Taken Up	Government/ Private
Sitting No. 2	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should make immediate arrangements for free and complete medical treatment of the patients in all Federal Government Hospitals.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should take immediate steps to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in order to rescue the industries of the country.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Joint Male and Female Members of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should take immediate steps to evolve a long lasting and integrated prices formula for POL products in the country.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to provide inexpensive and speedy justice to the citizens.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to fix the consultation fee of private doctors.	Not Taken Up	Private
Sitting No. 7	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to provide inexpensive and speedy justice to the citizens.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to provide housing facilities to all Federal Government employees through PHA irrespective of their cadre.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to promote domestic tourism in the country.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to do away with load shedding of Gas in the country.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House is of the opinion that the Government should take steps to monitor fees of all private schools, colleges and universities.	Not Taken Up	Private

6.1 Members Raising Resolutions

These 10 Resolutions were moved by 11 parliamentarians belonging to the PMLN. There were eight female and three male parliamentarians who put forth these Resolutions.

Table 6.1 Members Raising Resolutions

Parliamentary Party	Male	Female	Total
PMLN	3	8	11

Motions Under Rule 259

Any minister or a Member may give notice of a motion pertaining to any policy, situation, statement or any other matter that may be taken into consideration. No question shall be put at the conclusion of the debate unless any minister or a Member, with the consent of the Speaker, moves a substantive motion immediately after, in appropriate terms in which case, a question shall be put.

7.1 Motions Under Rule 259 on Orders of the Day

As many as 10 Motions Under Rule 259 were tabled on the Orders of the Day. None of these motions were taken up by the House. All of these motions were moved by Members in their private capacities.

There were three Motions Under Rule 259 which were jointly sponsored by male and female Members, while the remaining seven were tabled by single female Members

Table 7.1: Motions Under Rule 259 on Orders of the Day

Sitting No.	Party and Gender	Motions Under Rule 259	Taken up/ Not Taken Up	Government/ Private
Sitting No. 2	Joint Male and Female Members of the PMLN	The House may discuss law and order situation in the country particularly in Balochistan and Karachi.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Joint Male and Female Members of the PMLN	The House may discuss the price-hike in the country .	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House may discuss the situation arising out of unemployment in the country.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House may discuss the problems arising out of adulteration in edible items in the country.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House may discuss the situation arising out of non-fixation of maximum upper limit of fee by the private educational institutions in Islamabad.	Not Taken Up	Private
Sitting No. 7	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House may discuss the situation arising out of withdrawal of subsidy on items of daily use at the utility stores.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Joint Male and Female Members of the PMLN	The House may discuss the situation arising out of non-fixation of maximum upper limit of fee by the private educational institutions in Islamabad.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House may discuss the problems arising out of non-repair of heavy vehicle lane on Islamabad- Lahore motorway.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House may discuss the loss to the economy due to writing off of loans by the .National Banks.	Not Taken Up	Private
	Single Female Member of the PMLN	The House may discuss the situation arising out of shortage of hostels for working women in Islamabad.	Not Taken Up	Private

7.2 Members Raising Motions Under Rule 259

A total of 20 Members of the PMLN sponsored these Motions Under Rule 259 during the course of the entire session.

Table 7.2: Members Raising Motions Under Rule 259

Parliamentary Party	Male	Female	Total
PMLN	10	10	20

Matters of Public Importance

Under Rule 87 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly 2007, the Speaker may allot, before taking up the last Calling Attention Notice, half an hour of a sitting on Private Members' Day for discussion on a matter of urgent public importance, including matters which have been the subject of a recent Question, starred or unstarred.

8.1 Matters of Public Importance on Orders of the Day

Three Matters of Public Importance were raised by Members of the PMLN, which were not taken up by the House. These Matters of Public

Importance were regarding the rapid increase in the ratio of T.B. patients in the country and the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement-2010 and its effects on the economy of Pakistan.

There were 14 Members (eight males – six females) who participated in bringing forth these Matters of Public Importance.

Table 8.1: Matters of Public Importance on Orders of the Day

Sr. No.	Matters of Public Importance	Status	Party
1.	Rapid increase in the ratio of T.B. patients in the Country	Not Taken Up	PMLN
2.	Illegal sale of duty free items in the country, passing through Pakistan under Afghan Transit Trade Agreement	Not Taken Up	PMLN

Points of Orders

Under the Assembly rules, a Member can raise a Point of Order only to point out any violation of the rules and procedure or to seek enforcement of certain rules required to regulate the business of the House. The Speaker is required to give a ruling on it. During the session Members continue to raise issues of their respective constituencies or some important national matters through the POs.

9.1 Time Consumed by Points of Order

A total of 182 Points of Order were raised during the session which utilized 603 (37%) minutes. However, none of the Points of Orders raised by Members attracted Speaker's ruling. Refer to the following table.

Table 9.1: Number of Points of Order

Sitting No.	Number of Points of Order	Time Consumed
Sitting No. 1	15	102
Sitting No. 2	16	49
Sitting No. 3	22	33
Sitting No. 4	9	94
Sitting No. 5	18	40
Sitting No. 6	8	25
Sitting No. 7	28	80
Sitting No. 8	49	140
Sitting No. 9	2	24
Sitting No. 10	15	16
Total	182	603

9.2 Themes Raised in Points of Order

The MNAs raised a total of 182 POs during the course of the 28th session on issues, which can be categorized in 45 broader themes.

Law and Order situation was the most frequently discussed subject during Points of Order. A total of 18 POs were raised to highlight general law and order situation in various parts of the country.

The Members interrupted the regular business of the House to raise a total of 16 POs either to complain about the non-inclusion of their submitted agenda items on Orders of the Day or to seek attention of the Chair regarding other irregularities in business of the House.

There were 14 POs through which the Members drew the attention of the House towards matters related to the Pakistan International Airlines Corporation (PIAC). PIA related issues were also put forth in two Calling Attention Notices during the course of the session.

A total of 12 POs were raised pertaining to perks and privileges of Members. The Members raised issues such as parental health insurance for Members, allotment of Parliamentary Lodges, etc.

The Members used 11 POs as an opportunity to criticize the performance of the Government. Most of this criticism was put forth by the Opposition Leader and his fellow PMLN colleagues, while the Government responded to all of their concerns.

Similarly, the case of Raymond Davis remained the subject of concern in nine Points of Order. The Members of National Assembly stressed on the point that he should not be handed over to the American authorities and should be tried in Pakistani courts.

Energy issue was brought forth through nine Points of Order. Other issues taken up in the form of Points of Order include the Kashmir issue (seven POs), employment (seven POs), communications (six POs), FATA (six POs), etc. Refer to table 9.2

Table 9.2: Themes Raised in Points of Order

Sr. No.	Themes	No. of POs	Sr. No.	Themes	No. of POs
1.	Law and Order	18	24.	NICL Scam	2
2.	Business of the House	16	25.	Inter-Provincial Harmony	2
3.	PIA	14	26.	Development Funds	2
4.	Members Perks and Privileges	12	27.	Rule of Law	2
5.	Performance of the Government	11	28.	NADRA	2
6.	Raymond Davis Case	9	29.	Request for Fateha	1
7.	Energy	8	30.	Criticism on the President	1
8.	Kashmir Issue	7	31.	Environment	1
9.	Employment	7	32.	Taxation	1
10.	Communication	6	33.	MQM-PMLN Relations	1
11.	FATA	6	34.	Education	1
12.	Karachi Killings	5	35.	Tribal Areas	1
13.	Minorities	5	36.	Pak-Afghan Relations	1
14.	Media	4	37.	Drone Attacks	1
15.	Quorum	4	38.	Bait-ul-Mal	1
16.	Housing and Works	4	39.	Inflation	1
17.	Industries	3	40.	Drinking Water	1
18.	Balochistan Issue	3	41.	Women Rights	1
19.	Gilgit Baltistan	3	42.	Ministerial Absence	1
20.	Health	3	43.	Railways	1
21.	By-Elections	3	44.	Agriculture	1
22.	Trade	2	45.	Development Works	1
23.	Flood IDPs	2	Total		182

9.2.1 Issues Raised by Members of PMLN

A total of 46 Points of Order were raised by Members of the PMLN during the 28th session. A total of POs (seven) raised by the PMLN Members were regarding the law and order condition in the country; followed by four POs each regarding Performance of the Government, PIA and energy; and three each pertaining to the Raymond Davis case and Housing and Works. See table 9.2.1

Table 9.2.1: Issues Raised by Members of PMLN

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No. of POs	Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No. of POs
1.	Law and Order	7	13.	Trade	1
2.	Performance of the Government	4	14.	Industries	1
3.	PIA	4	15.	Karachi Killings	1
4.	Energy	4	16.	Minorities	1
5.	Raymond Davis Case	3	17.	Education	1
6.	Housing and Works	3	18.	Balochistan Issue	1
7.	Kashmir Issue	2	19.	Inter-Provincial Harmony	1
8.	Quorum	2	20.	Health	1
9.	Members Perks and Privileges	2	21.	Communication	1
10.	Media	2	22.	Employment	1
11.	Request for Fateha	1	23.	Agriculture	1
12.	Criticism on the President	1	Total		46

9.2.2 Issues Raised by Members of PML

A total of 25 POs were raised by Members of the PML during the course of the entire session. They mostly raised issues pertaining to the business of the House (five POs), followed by PIA related issues, Minority rights, NICL scam and Members' perks and privileges (two POs each). Refer to table 9.2.2

Table 9.2.2: Issues Raised by Members of PML

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No. of POs	Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No. of POs
1.	Business of the House	5	10.	Women Rights	1
2.	PIA	2	11.	Ministerial Absence	1
3.	Minorities	2	12.	Law and Order	1
4.	NICL Scam	2	13.	Inter-Provincial Harmony	1
5.	Members Perks and Privileges	2	14.	Communication	1
6.	Karachi Killings	1	15.	Health	1
7.	Taxation	1	16.	Employment	1
8.	Gilgit Baltistan	1	17.	Development Works	1
9.	By-Elections	1	Total		25

9.2.3 Issues Raised by Members of MQM

Members of MQM raised their matters of concerns on various issues during the ten-sitting long session. They mainly stressed on the issues related to PIA, communications, law and Order, business of the House, etc. They raised a total of 24 Points of Order. Refer to table 9.2.3.

Table 9.2.3: Issues Raised by Members of MQM

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No. of POs
1.	PIA	4
2.	Communication	2
3.	Law and Order	2
4.	Business of the House	2
5.	Energy	2
6.	NADRA	2
7.	Karachi Killings	1
8.	Kashmir Issue	1
9.	Tribal Areas	1
10.	Gilgit Baltistan	1
11.	Health	1
12.	Bait-ul-Mal	1
13.	Media	1
14.	Employment	1
15.	Railways	1
16.	Rule of Law	1
Total		24

9.2.4 Issues Raised by Members of ANP

Members of the ANP raised a total of four issues through Points of Order. The issues were pertaining to by-elections, FATA and development funds. Refer to table 9.2.4

Table 9.2.4: Issues Raised by Members of ANP

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No of POs
1.	By-Elections	2
2.	FATA	1
3.	Development Funds	1
Total		4

9.2.5 Issues Raised by Members of MMAP

Member of the MMAP raised a total of five Points of Order. They pressed on the issues related to environment, the law and order condition in the country, business conducted in the House, the performance of the Government and development funds. Refer to table 9.2.5

Table 9.2.5: Issues Raised by Members of MMAP

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No. of POs
1.	Environment	1
2.	Law and Order	1
3.	Business of the House	1
4.	Performance of the Government	1
5.	Development Funds	1
Total		5

9.2.6 Issues Raised by the PPPS

The sole Member of the PPPS raised three Points of Order. He emphasized on the issues related to Kashmir, Karachi killings, Pak-Afghan relations and issues faced by the industries in Pakistan

9.2.7 Issues Raised by Independents

A total of 11 POs were raised by Independents during the course of the entire session relating to the issues of FATA, Kashmir, Karachi killings, Balochistan, drone attacks, business of the House and prevailing law and order conditions in the country. Refer to table 9.2.7

Table 9.2.7: Issues Raised by Independents

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No. of POs
1.	FATA	5
2.	Kashmir Issue	1
3.	Karachi Killings	1
4.	Balochistan Issue	1
5.	Drone Attacks	1
6.	Business of the House	1
7.	Law and Order	1
Total		11

9.2.8 Responses and Issues Raised by PPPP Members

PPPP Members took the floor 63 times on Points of Order, generally to respond to opposition Members' criticism and clarifications. As many as 22 responses were given by the PPPP Members holding Treasury Benches. (Five Responses to issues related to performance of the government; three each related to business of the house and PIA; two each related to Members' perks and privileges and the Raymond Davis case; and one each related to the law and order situation, employment issues, Kashmir Issue, Quorum of the House, trade and the Balochistan issue).

Table 9.2.8: Responses and Issues Raised by PPPP Members

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No. of POs
1.	Members Perks and Privileges	8
2.	Business of the House	7
3.	Performance of the Government	6
4.	Law and Order	6
5.	Raymond Davis Case	6
6.	PIA	4
7.	Employment	4
8.	Kashmir Issue	2
9.	Flood IDPs	2
10.	Communication	2
11.	Minorities	2

Sr. No.	Issue Raised	No. of POs
11.	Minorities	2
12.	Quorum	2
13.	Energy	2
14.	Trade	1
15.	Industries	1
16.	MQM-PMLN Relations	1
17.	Media	1
18.	Balochistan Issue	1
19.	Inflation	1
20.	Drinking Water	1
21.	Gilgit Baltistan	1
22.	Rule of Law	1
23.	Housing and Works	1
Total		63

9.3 Members Raising Points of Order

As many as 107 Members raised 182 Points of Order during the course of the 28th session. These included a total of 37 Members of the PPPP (29 male and nine female), 28 of the PMLN (24 male and four female), 15 of the MQM (12 male and three female), 14 of the PML (seven male and seven female), two of the MMAP (two male), three of the ANP (one male and two females) and one of the PPPS (one male Member). There were seven male Independent Members who also participated in raising Points of Order.

Table 9.3: Members Raising Points of Order

Parliamentary Party	Male	Female	Total
ANP	1	2	3
INDP	7	0	7
MMAP	2	0	2
MQM	12	3	15
PML	7	7	14
PMLN	24	4	28
PPPP	29	8	37
PPPS	1	0	1
Total	83	24	107

Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

The House witnessed three walkouts during the course of the entire session. The Parliamentary Party of the PMLN protested as one of their Members was not allowed to raise a Point of Order. At another instance, Members of the MQM and PMLN got into a brawl, after one of the MQM Members raised some concerns over the law and order situation in Punjab on a Point of Order. Both the Parliamentary Parties started sloganeering against each other, which forced the Deputy Speaker to adjourn the proceedings of that particular sitting. ANP Members staged a walkout on non-allocation of development funds to KP. Refer to the following table for details.

Table 10.0: Protests, Boycotts and Walkouts

Sitting No.	Party	Reason	Time	Protest/Walkout/ Boycott
Sitting No. 1	PMLN	Formal ruling by the Speaker to raise concern through a Point of Order.	3 minutes	Protest
Sitting No. 2	MQM & PMLN	Members of the MQM and PMLN got into a brawl, after one of the MQM Members raised some concerns over the law and order situation in Punjab on a Point of Order. Both the Parliamentary Parties started sloganeering against each other, which forced the Deputy Speaker to adjourn the sitting's proceedings.	10 minutes	Protest
Sitting No. 8	ANP	Non-allocation of funds to KP.	55 minutes	Walkout
Total	One hour and eight minutes			

GLOSSARY

Adjournment Motion

A motion seeking adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussion on a definite Matter of an urgent Public Importance.

Amendment

"Amendment" means a motion to amend an earlier motion before that earlier motion is put to the Assembly for its decision.

Assembly

"Assembly" means the National Assembly.

By-Elections

A by-election is held when a seat in the National Assembly becomes vacant during the lifetime of a National Assembly (i.e. between general elections) due to death, resignation, unseating or disqualification of a member.

Chairperson

"Chairperson" in relation to a sitting means any person who is presiding that sitting.

Call Attention Notice

A notice through which a special question of public importance may be raised.

Chair

The Presiding Officer at a meeting of the House or a Committee.

Chamber

The place where the Assembly meets to transact business.

Committee

"Committee" means a Committee constituted under the rules.

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 a Speaker.

Leader-of-the-Opposition

"Leader of the Opposition" means a Member who commands the support of the majority of the Members in the Opposition.

Legislation

The law-making process.

Member

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

Minister

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

A Member who moves a Bill, a resolution, a motion or an amendment to 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 which do not belong to the government party or parties.

Orders of the Day

The list of business brought before the Assembly on any day.

Point of Order

A point of order shall relate to the interpretation or enforcement of the Assembly rules or such Articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the Assembly and shall raise 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 is introduced by a private Member.

Proceedings

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

Quorum

Quorum is the minimum number of members of Assembly necessary to conduct the business of the Assembly. Under Article 55(2) of the Constitution 1/4th of the total membership of the Assembly is required for Quorum.

Question Hour

The first hour 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 and includes a resolution specified in the Constitution.

Speaker

The Speaker of the Assembly and includes the Deputy Speaker or any other Member for the time being acting as a Chairperson.

Starred Question

A question for an oral answer.

Standing Committee

Standing Committee is a subunit of Assembly established in a permanent fashion to aid the parent Assembly in accomplishing its duties. A standing committee is granted jurisdiction over a particular area of legislation by the Assembly.

Sitting

A meeting of the Assembly or that of a Committee on a day.

Unstarred Question

A question for a written answer.

About FAFEN

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), established in 2006, is a coalition of 35 leading civil society organizations, working to strengthen all forms of democratic accountabilities in Pakistan. Governed by Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability, 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 Democratic Governance Program in 150 National Assembly constituencies in 108 districts across Pakistan.

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