

FAFEN Parliament Monitor

47th Session

National Assembly of Pakistan
(November 12 - 20, 2012)



Free and Fair Election Network

List of Abbreviations

ANP	Awami National Party
BNPA	Balochistan National Party-Awami
CAN	Calling Attention Notice
CDA	Capital Development Authority
FATA	Federally Administrated Tribal Areas
IND	Independent
MMAP	Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan
MQM	Muttahida Quami Movement
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPP	National Peoples Party
PIA	Pakistan International Airlines
PIMS	Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences
PM	Prime Minister
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PMLF	Pakistan Muslim League-Functional
PMLN	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PO	Point of Order
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
PPPS	Pakistan Peoples Party-Sherpao



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

Executive Summary

The 47th session of the National Assembly did not address 64% of the agenda items listed on the orders of the day as it witnessed low attendance, lack of quorum, late starts and excessive use of points of order interrupting the regular proceedings.

However five bills were passed during the session, including the one calling for free and compulsory education in the federal capital. Eighty two points of order were raised consuming 37% of the session time.

The 14 hours and 38 minutes session spread over seven sittings from November 12-20 did not take up 63 of the total 99 agenda items appearing on the orders of the day. Four supplementary agenda items in the form of resolutions and privilege motions were taken up.

Four government-backed bills – the Pakistan Academy of Letters Bill 2010, the Trade Organizations Bill 2012, the Validation Bill 2012 and a criminal law amendment bill were passed during the session. The opposition PMLN opposed the bill validating the official steps taken by former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani between April 26 and June 19, 2012 after the Supreme Court convicted him in the contempt of court case.

The lower house also passed a private member bill - the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill 2012. The bill has already been passed by Senate.

Members' attendance continued to be low. On average 55 members were present at the beginning and 43 at the end, while a maximum of 119 were present at one point during each sitting. These figures are based on headcounts taken by FAFEN observer since the National Assembly does not make attendance record of legislators public.

The attendance of key members was also low. The Speaker was absent throughout the session while the Deputy Speaker attended two sittings. The Prime Minister attended two out of seven sittings, while the Leader of the Opposition remained away from the entire session.

No parliamentary leader of the parties in the house – ANP, MMAP, MQM, PMLF, as well as single-member parties such as PPPS, BNPA – was present for more than two sittings. The legislator representing the single-member NPP did not attend the session. However attendance of chief whips was relatively better. The chief whips of PPPP and ANP attended all sittings, followed by MMAP four, while PMLN chief whip attended three sittings.

Three resolutions were adopted during the session. Male MQM and PMLN members jointly moved a resolution to condemn Israeli attacks on Gaza. Amid debate in the house over law and order in Karachi, male MQM legislators moved a resolution on de-weaponization of the country, while a female PML parliamentarian's resolution condemned violence against journalists, especially the murder of journalist Rehmat Ullah Abid in Panjgur on 18 November 2012.

Thirteen motions under rule 259 on the orders of the day and a standing committee report on the National Database and Registration Authority (Amendment) Bill 2011 were not taken up. However, four other reports of the Standing Committees on Defence, Interior, Law and Justice, and Commerce were presented before the house.

Out of the 127 starred questions asked by legislators on the floor of the house, the ministers responded to 42, while 82 supplementary questions were also asked.

Seven of the 14 calling attention notices appearing on the agenda about health, environment, development funds, taxation, education, communications and drinking water were taken up.

The session witnessed two walkouts. MQM members walked out over the target killings in Karachi and the PMLN legislators over unavailability of development funds.

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 this session as well.

Parliament Watch

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

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

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

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

2. The National Assembly should consider keeping a public record of parliamentary business similar to that presented in this FAFEN report so that constituents can be informed over time about the performance of their elected representatives.
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 website immediately after it takes place. Most of the times, vital pieces of legislation are passed without the necessary three readings of the bill. During the course of the session, a total of five bills were passed. The information regarding the voting and the readings is still not updated on the assembly's website.
5. The secretariat should keep records of actual time spent by members in the assembly chamber and 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. Low members' attendance was observed during the session. On average, 55 members were present at the outset, and 43 were present at the end of each sitting.
6. No vote should be allowed, 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 benches have reached an unwritten understanding over not pointing out quorum.
7. Efforts should be made to understand and address why 60% of the members did not participate actively in the 47th session.
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 sitting. All questions must be responded to within a stipulated time frame. Transcripts of all questions – including the ones that the secretariat finds inadmissible – and responses should be made available to members and to the public. During the session, only 42 out of the total 127 starred questions on the agenda were answered by the relevant ministers.
9. The chair 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.
10. Additional orientation and training of 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. A total of 82 points of order were raised, which consumed 37% of total time. None of the points of order raised attracted formal ruling of the chair.
11. The 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 Procedures and Conduct of Business is inadequate, compelling the members to raise constituency issues on points of order.

Comparison with the previous session

Sr. no	Agenda items	46th session	47th session
1	Starred Questions Taken Up	53	42
2	Starred Questions Not Taken Up	99	85
3	Un-Starred Questions	138	132
4	Calling Attention Notices Taken Up	9	8
5	Calling Attention Notices Not Taken Up	7	6
6	Legislative Business Taken Up	10	17
7	Legislative Business Not Taken Up	33	11
8	Standing Committee Reports Presented	3	6
9	Standing Committee Reports Not Presented	26	5
10	Motion Under Rule 259 Taken Up	0	0
11	Motion Under Rule 259 Not Taken Up	20	20
12	Resolutions Taken Up	1	3
13	Resolutions Not Taken Up	12	12
14	Matter of Public Importance Taken Up	0	0
15	Matter of Public Importance Not Taken Up	0	0
16	Amendment to the Rules and Procedure Taken Up	0	0
17	Amendment to the Rules and Procedure Not Taken Up	4	4
18	Points of Order	85	82

1.0 Session Duration and Members' Participation

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

1.1 Session Time

The 47th session that comprised seven sittings started on November 12, and *prorogued sine die* on November 20, 2012.

The assembly met for 14 hours and 38 minutes at an average of two hours and five minutes each day. All sittings started an average 47 minutes late.

The shortest sitting lasted an hour and 49 minutes (November 16), while the longest spanned two hours and 47 minutes (November 19).

Date	Sitting no.	Delays	Session time	
			Hours	Minutes
Monday, November 12, 2012	1st	62	2	3
Tuesday, November 13, 2012	2nd	39	2	0
Wednesday, November 14, 2012	3rd	71	2	27
Thursday, November 15, 2012	4th	30	1	35
Friday, November 16, 2012	5th	50	1	15
Monday, November 19, 2012	6th	43	2	47
Tuesday, November 20, 2012	7th	35	2	31
Total		Average delay 47 Minutes	14 Hours and 38 Minutes	

1.2 Members Participation

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

Thirty-four members brought items on the orders of the day while 85 participated in debates on various agenda items. Sixteen parliamentarians submitted agenda items on the orders of the day and actively took part in the house discussions.

The members of PMLF, BNPA, NPP and PPPS did not take part in the proceedings during the session. The party-wise analysis shows that 88% of MQM parliamentarians took part in the proceedings, followed by PMLN 65%, MMAP 50%, PPPP 25%, and PML 20%.

Five percent of the 263 male members submitted agenda items on the orders of the day, 25% participated in debates while 2% submitted agenda items besides taking part in discussions. Male parliamentarians seemed to be less active than their female counterparts. Their participation constituted 32% of their total membership of 263 while female participation remained at 64% of their total membership of 78.

Legislators on reserved seats were found to be more active than the members on directly elected seats. Forty women out of 60 on the reserved seats for women, took part in either submitting an agenda item or participating in on-floor discussions. Three out of 10 minority members actively took part during the session.

Sr. No.	Party	Members who only submitted agenda items	Members who only took part in debates	Members who participated in debates as well as submitted agenda items	Percentage of members who only submitted agenda items	Percentage of members who only participated in debates	Percentage of members who submitted agenda items and participated in debates	Members in assembly by party
1	ANP	0	3	0	0%	21%	0%	14
2	BNPA	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	1
3	IND	0	5	0	0%	28%	0%	18
4	MMAP	1	3	0	13%	38%	0%	8
5	MQM	5	17	0	20%	68%	0%	25
6	NPP	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	1

Sr. No.	Party	Members who only submitted agenda items	Members who only took part in debates	Members who participated in debates as well as submitted agenda items	Percentage of members who only submitted agenda items	Percentage of members who only participated in debates	Percentage of members who submitted agenda items and participated in debates	Members in assembly by party
7	PML	3	6	1	6%	12%	2%	50
8	PMLF	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	5
9	PMLN	15	34	10	16%	37%	11%	91
10	PPPP	10	17	5	8%	13%	4%	127
11	PPPS	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	1
Total		34	85	16	10%	25%	5%	341

According to the region-wise allocation of National Assembly seats, a total of 70 (38%) members from Punjab - who occupy 54% of the seats - actively took part during the session, followed by Balochistan 47%, Sindh 45% Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 35% and FATA 27%. Both ICT members marked their participation by taking part in on-floor debates.

Sr. No.	Region	Members who only submitted agenda items	Members who only took part in debates	Members who participated in debates as well as submitted agenda items	Percentage of members who only submitted agenda items	Percentage of members who only participated in debates	Percentage of members who submitted agenda items and participated in debates	Members in assembly by party ¹
1	Punjab	17	41	12	2%	13%	10%	183
2	Sindh	10	20	4	9%	23%	11%	75
3	FATA	3	12	0	2%	21%	0%	43
4	Balochistan	3	5	0	0%	29%	0%	17
5	ICT	0	3	0	0%	18%	0%	11
6	KP	1	1	0	0%	0%	0%	2
7	Minorities	0	3	0	0%	10%	0%	10
Total		34	85	16	3%	17%	8%	341

1.3 Members' Attendance

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

The National Assembly currently has a total membership of 341. Despite their responsibility to represent such a vast number of people, low attendance persisted during the 47th session as on average only 55 members were present at the outset and 43 at the end of each sitting.

According to clause (2) of Article 55 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the National Assembly, if at any time during a sitting, attention of the chairperson is drawn to the fact that less than one-fourth of the total membership of the assembly is present, he shall either suspend the business of the assembly until at least one-fourth of such membership is present, or cause the bells to be rung for five minutes, but if no quorum is available even on resumption of the proceedings after suspension or, when the bells stop ringing, he shall adjourn the sitting for the next working day: provided that the suspension of the business of the sitting shall not be for more than one hour.

The quorum was visibly lacking at various stages of the sitting. However it was not pointed out by any of the legislators.

Sitting no.	Members present at the start	Members at the end
1st	68	46
2nd	54	40
3rd	87	44
4th	28	30
5th	50	65
6th	50	32
7th	48	45
Average Attendance	55 Members	43 Members

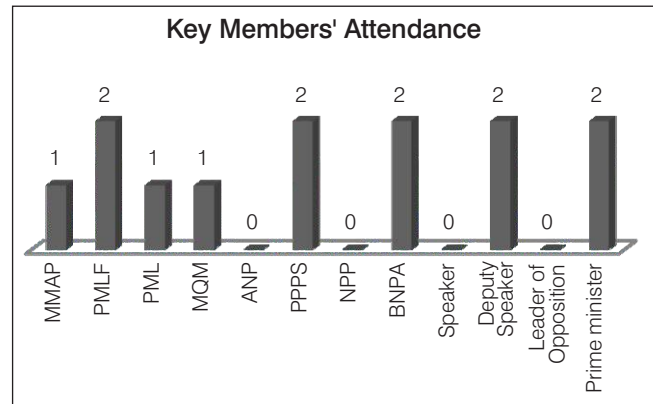
¹ The figure includes the women on reserved seats

1.4 Key Members' Attendance

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

The Prime Minister attended two sittings for 8% (67 minutes) of the total time, and the Leader of the Opposition remained absent during the entire session. The Deputy Speaker chaired the proceedings for 15% of the session time while the remaining 85% of the time was presided over by members of Panel of Chairpersons.

The parliamentary leader of the ANP and NPP did not attend the entire session. However, the party heads of PPPS, PMLF and BNPA attended two sittings each, and MQM, PML and MMAP leaders attended one sitting each.



2.0 Representation, Responsiveness and Government Oversight

This section is concerned with legislators' efforts to represent the interests of their constituents through calling attention notices and to monitor government accountability, especially through questions submitted during the question hour, and the ministers' responsiveness to those questions.

2.1 Questions and Responses

Question hour gives the legislators opportunity to monitor the government's performance. Answers to questions may be demanded in written or oral form, referred to as un-starred or starred questions respectively.

As many as 127 starred questions (requiring oral replies) - on average 18 per sitting - were raised during the session; of them 42 (33%) were taken up. An additional 82 supplementary questions were also asked.

Similarly, 132 unstarred questions (requiring written replies) appeared on the agenda. On a private members' day- according to the rules and procedures of National Assembly- the question hour is not held.

Sitting no.	Starred questions of the agenda	Starred questions taken up by the house	Supplementary questions	Unstarred questions
1st	30	9	10	23
2nd	Private Member's Day			
3rd	31	5	12	27
4th	22	6	18	29
5th	20	11	18	24
6th	24	11	24	29
7th	Private Member's Day			
Total	127	42	82	132

The majority of questions were directed to the Ministry of Water and Power – 30 questions. The legislators of the PMLN asked 181 questions, followed by MQM 62, PPPP 13, ANP two and Independents asked one question.

Ministry	ANP		IND		MQM		PMLN		PPPP		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Cabinet Secretariat					1	2	10	5			18
Capital Administration and Development	1				1		3	1			6
Climate Change							1				1
Commerce			1		2	1	14	2	1		21
Communications						2	3	1			6
Defence						3	11	3	1		18
Economic Affairs and Statistics					2	1		1			4

Ministry	ANP		IND		MQM		PMLN		PPPP		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Education and Trainings								2			2
Establishment Department								1			1
Finance & Revenue					3	2	7	11		3	26
Foreign Affairs						1	5	2			8
Housing			1		2		4		1		8
Human Resources					1		1				2
Industries					1	1		1			3
Information and Broadcasting					1		1	1			3
Information Technology					1		2	1	1		5
Inter Provincial Coordination					3	2	2	2			9
Interior					2	2	12	2	1		19
Law and Justice							4		1		5
National Harmony						1	2				3
National Food Security and Research						1	2		1		4
National Heritage and Integration								1			1
National Regulations and Services						1	1				2
Parliamentary Affairs							3				3
Petroleum and Natural Resources					2	3	4	7			16
Postal Services					1		2	1			4
Privatization						1		1			2
Production							2				2
Railways					3	5	2	1	1		12
Religious Affairs						2	3	1			6
Science & Technology						1					1
States & Frontier Regions							1				1
Textile Industries							1				1
Water and Power					1	3	13	11	2		30
Works							3	3			6
Total	1	0	2	0	27	35	119	62	10	3	259

2.2 Calling Attention Notices (CANS)

This section highlights the efforts of members in raising matters of public interest through calling attention notices. Under rule 88 (chapter XI) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, a member 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 to a member per sitting.

Eight out of 14 CANS appearing on the Orders of the Day were taken up by the House. Four taken up CANS were directed to the cabinet secretariat, two to the ministry of finance and revenue, and one each to the ministries of education and trainings and national regulation and services.

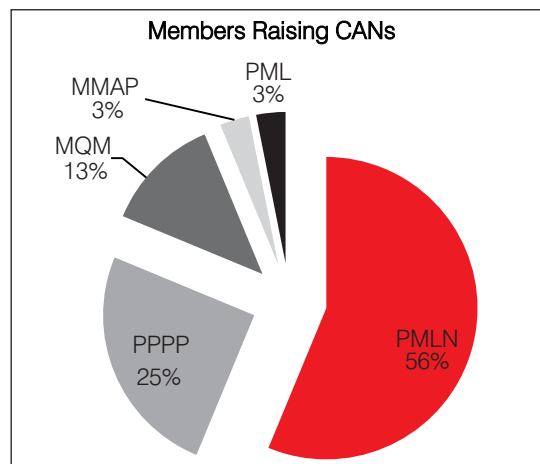
The notices called for debate on increase in the number of hepatitis patients, installation of big billboards in Islamabad, and the legislators not getting funds for development schemes. Legislators also wanted to know if the target for annual tax collection will be achieved as they expressed concern over delay in releasing funds for Pakistani students studying abroad on scholarship. Similarly

the parliamentarians also inquired about the pace of work on the Kashmir Highway, water shortage in Islamabad and cut in profits of saving schemes

Sitting no.	Calling Attention Notice	Ministry	Brief statement
7th	Rapid increase in the number of hepatitis patients	National Regulation and Services	The people should be made aware of hepatitis as the disease is spreading alarmingly. Like polio, we will make every effort to eradicate this disease.
6th	Rapid increase in number of hoardings in green areas and parks of Islamabad, damaging their beauty	Cabinet Secretariat	The CDA has granted permission to install 54 hoardings on the highways, generating annual revenue of Rs 17.4 million.
	Non-revalidation/release of funds for PWP-I and surrendered funds for PWP-II for the year 2010-11 despite approval of development schemes by the Cabinet Division	Cabinet Secretariat	Only 30% of the assembly members' Rs 30 crores fund has been released. The rest is yet to be release.
4th	Collection, revision and cut in tax target	Finance & Revenue	For the year 2013 the target for taxation is Rs 2381 billion. In the last four months, Rs 548.8 billion has been received in taxes.
3rd	Delay in the payment of scholarships to Pakistani students studying abroad	Education and Trainings	The government has allocated Rs 6.25 billion for students studying in foreign countries. So far Rs 4.3 billion has been released.
	Slow pace of work on Kashmir Highway Mega Project in Islamabad due to delay in shifting of the services and non-provision of funds by CDA	Cabinet Secretariat	The Kashmir Highway project was authorized in 2005. In 2011 tenders of Rs two billion were issued. Of the funds for the project, so far Rs 40 million had been released.
2nd	Insufficient provision of potable water to the residents of Islamabad	Cabinet Secretariat	There is 75 million gallon water available for the consumption of population of one million in Islamabad. However the demand for the capital city is 175 million gallons.
1st	Low profits on the National Savings Schemes and Behbood Certificates	Finance & Revenue	The State Bank has reduced the profit in saving schemes but still it is 2% more than other banks.

2.2.1 Members Raising CANs

A total of 34 members - 16 male and a similar number of female MNAs – sponsored 14 CANs. Eighteen legislators belonging to the PMLN, eight PPPP, four MQM, and one each of MMAP and PML sought attention of various ministries.



3.0 Parliamentary Outputs

This section deals with legislation and Resolutions debated during the session.

3.1 Government Bills

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

Four of eight bills - all new pieces of legislation - were debated and subsequently passed by the house. Two bills were introduced and sent to the relevant standing committees for further deliberations.

Sr. no.	Sitting	Government bills	Status
1	1st	The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2012	Introduced
2		The Pakistan Academy of Letters Bill, 2010	Passed
3	3rd	The Federal Public Service Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2010	Not Taken Up
4		The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2011]	Passed
5	4th	The Gwadar Port Authority Bill, 2012	Not Taken Up
6	5th	The Equity Participation Fund (Repeal) Bill,2012	Introduced
7	6th	The Trade Organizations Bill, 2012	Passed
8		The Validation Bill, 2012	Passed

3.2 Private Members' Bills

Ten private members' bills appeared on the orders of the day. The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill 2012 was passed by the house

Sr. no.	Sitting	Private bills	Status of bills
1	2nd	The Control of Narcotics Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2012	Introduced
2		The Pakistan Food Security for Poor People Bill, 2012	Introduced
3		The Federal Pension Bill, 2012	Not Taken Up
4		The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2012	Introduced
5		The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2012	Introduced
6		The Pakistan Psychological Regulatory Authority Bill, 2012].	Introduced
7		The Protection and Welfare of Khawaja Saras Rights Bill, 2012	Introduced
8		The Registration of Hajj Bill, 2008	Not Taken Up
9		The Charter of Child Rights Bill, 2009	Not Taken Up
10		The Right to free and Compulsory Education Bill 2012	Passed

Details of Passed Bills

1. The Trade Organizations Bill, 2012

The bill aims to provide gender based representation through women chambers, give representation to small business and cottage industry and services sector. It also proposes to formulate rules for effective implementation of law, define territorial jurisdiction of all trade bodies, elimination of fake/bogus trade bodies, introduction of specific period licensing and to formulate a built in mechanism for trade dispute settlement etc.

2. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2011

The bill seeks to criminalize illegal business of and dealing in fake prize bonds. It aims at preventing financial loss to innocent public and securing increased investment in the national saving schemes. The bill further seeks to specify the penalty and forum for the adjudication of the offence of illegal dealings in prize bonds.

3. The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill 2012

This bill aims to provide free education to all children of ages five to 16 as a fundamental right and deems its provision a responsibility of the state in schools established by the federal government and local government in Islamabad Capital Territory.

4. *The Validation Bill, 2012*

Under the provisions of the bill the acts done, orders passed and instruments, etc. issued by the Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani during his tenure from 26-04-2012 to 19-06-2012 should be given protection and validity to avoid adverse and legal consequences.

5. *The Pakistan Academy of Letters Bill, 2010*

The bill states that keeping in view the objectives of the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) and effective discharge of its functions the Ministry of Education considered it necessary, in the public interest, to maintain the status of the academy as an autonomous body. It also lays down recommendations for the appointment of the chairman of the academy.

3.3 Standing Committee Reports

Three standing committee reports were presented to the house during the session.

Sitting no.	Standing Committee Report	Name of Committee	Status
7th	The National Database and Registration Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2011	Interior	Not Presented
4th	The Maritime Security Agency (Amendment) Bill 2012	Defence	Presented
	The Validation Bill 2012	Law & Justice	Presented
	The Trade Organizations Bill, 2012	Commerce	Presented

3.4 Resolutions

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

Three of the 13 resolutions appearing on the orders of the day were taken up by the house.

During the 7th sitting, a resolution condemning Israel's attack on Palestine was moved and unanimously passed by the house. This was moved jointly by the legislators of MQM and PMLN. Similarly, an MQM legislator moved another resolution - during the same sitting - regarding de-weaponization of the country. It was passed by the majority vote.

The house also unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the murder of a journalist in Balochistan.

Sitting no.	Resolutions
2nd	The government should take steps to construct more government hostels for working women in the federal capital
	The government should take steps to regulate and control the NGOs working in the capital.
	The government should take immediate steps to restore all trains discontinued earlier in the country.
	The government should take steps to increase the emoluments of daily wages employee.
6th	The house strongly condemns the brutal murder of journalist Rehmat Ullah Abid by terrorists in Panjgur on 18 November 2012. It expresses solidarity with journalists throughout the country and urges the federal and provincial governments to take immediate and effective measures to provide security to journalists.
7th	The government should take steps to immediately make increase in the basic salaries of the federal government employees according to the ratio of the price hike.
	The government should take immediate steps to lower the increasing deficit of PIA.
	The government should take steps against the sellers of spurious drugs in the federal area.
	The government should take immediate steps to decrease the price of cement.
	The government should take steps to abolish all duties and taxes on medicines in the country.
	The government should take steps to control narcotics.
	The government should take effective measures to de-weaponise the country.
	This house strongly condemns the barbaric attacks by Israeli armed forces on the besieged territory of Gaza, as a result of which hundreds of innocent men, women and children have been killed or wounded.

4.0 Order and Institutionalization

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

4.1 Points of Order

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

Speeches by members and treasury rejoinders on points of order consumed 37% of the total session time otherwise allocated for the regular agenda. Unless the Chair gives a formal ruling on a point of order, speeches and rejoinders do not contribute to any assembly output.

Sitting no.	Points of Order	Time consumed
1st	5	34
2nd	14	65
3rd	20	65
4th	0	0
5th	5	15
6th	14	26
7th	24	120
Total	82	325

Fifty-five members – 44 male and 11 female – raised the points of orders. Nineteen PPPP legislators raised 37 issues through POs, followed by 14 PMLN members (25 issues), seven MQM (12 issues), five PML (seven issues), four Independents (four issues), and three members each of ANP (14 issues) and MMAP (four issues).

Members mostly highlighted issues regarding business of the house, Hajj, law and order, deweaponisation of Karachi and education.

Party	Female	Male	Total
PPPP	4	15	19
PMLN	2	12	14
MQM	1	6	7
PML	2	3	5
IND	-	4	4
ANP	1	2	3
MMAP	1	2	3
Total	11	44	55

4.2 Motion under rule 259

Any minister or a member may give notice of a motion that any policy, situation, statement or any other matter 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 chair, moves a substantive motion immediately after in appropriate terms in which case, a question shall be put.

None of the thirteen motions under rule 259 appearing on the orders of the day were taken up by the house. These motions were sponsored by 10 members – six female and four male.

Sitting no.	Motion under rule 259	Party	Gender
7th	This House may discuss the situation arising out of non-provision of security in and around the graveyards in Islamabad	MQM	Male
	This House may discuss the performance of Pakistan International Air Lines (P.I.A.)	MQM	Male
	This House may discuss the situation arising out of non-functioning of Liver Transplantation Department in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS)	PMLN	Female
	This House may discuss the increasing prices of medicines in the country	PMLN	Female
	This House may discuss the situation arising out of the rapid increase in the number of beggars in the Federal Capital Area	PMLN	Male
	This House may discuss the situation arising out of sale and purchase of wine in the hotels of Islamabad	PMLN	Female
	This House may discuss the situation arising out of non-payment of increase in the salaries to the Federal Government daily wages employees made in the budget 2012-13	PMLN	Female
	This House may discuss the law and order situation in the country	PPPP	Male

Sitting no.	Motion under rule 259	Party	Gender
2nd	This House may discuss the situation arising out of non-provision of security in and around the graveyards in Islamabad	MQM	Male
	This House may discuss the situation arising out of sale and purchase of wine in the hotels of Islamabad	PMLN	Female
	This House may discuss the delay in construction of National Highway/Motorway from Hassan-Abdal to Abbottabad	PMLN	Male
	This House may discuss the problems being faced by the Textile Industries due to gas load shedding in Punjab	MQM	Female
	This House may discuss the performance of Pakistan Post	PMLN	Female

4.3 Walkouts Boycotts and Protests

During the 2nd sitting, MQM legislators walked out of the house over the target killings in Karachi. Their walkout lasted 19 minutes. In the 6th sitting, PMLN legislators staged a two-minute walkout over non-releasing of development funds.

GLOSSARY

Adjournment Motion

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

Chairperson

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

Calling Attention Notice

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

Chair

The presiding officer at a meeting of the house.

Committee

A parliamentary committee constituted under rules of procedure, comprising various members of parliament.

Deputy Speaker

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

Leader of the Opposition

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

Legislation

The process of crafting law.

Member

A member of the assembly and for purposes of moving or opposing a bill, an amendment, a motion or a resolution, includes a minister.

Minister

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

Opposition

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

'Orders of the Day'

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

Point of Order

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

Private Member's Bill

A proposed law introduced by a private member.

Proceedings

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

Quorum

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

Question Hour

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

Resolution

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

Starred Question

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

Sitting

A meeting of the Assembly on a day.

Table

The table of the house.

About FAFEN

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

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

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

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